

THE WESTERN FRONT

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Local immigrant rights activist continues the fight against ICE



Despite the postponement of her second court hearing, Maru Mora-Villalpando continued the rally against ICE along with fellow activists and supporters in Seattle. // Photo by Samuel Fletcher

Samuel Fletcher
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham immigrant rights activist Maru Mora-Villalpando stood in front of Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices in Seattle

along with fellow activists and supporters on Tuesday, May 22 to rally for the second court hearing of her deportation trial.

The problem: the hearing was postponed because of the judge's undisclosed personal

reasons, Mora-Villalpando said. Since January, the group of protesters rallied in front of the building at least once a month and vowed to continue doing so until ICE is dismantled.

Participants of the

rally chanted, "Down, down with deportation. Up, up with liberation!"

"They're just going around and doing the business that they do best, which is destroy families and hide from us," Mora-Villalpando

said. "ICE hides what they do. They do it behind doors. They do it behind the detention center, behind walls. And we will not stop until this is not only exposed, but it ends."

see *ACTIVIST*, page 4

Bellingham's main water source suffers from recreational use



Lake Whatcom serves as a source of drinking water for about 96,000 people in the Bellingham area. // Photo by Alison Eddy

Alison Eddy
THE WESTERN FRONT

The toxicants and pollutants in the Lake Whatcom reservoir continue to impact water quality, treatment of water found in the tap and the cost to treat the water so it is safe to drink.

Lake Whatcom serves as a source of drinking water for about 96,000 people in the Bellingham area, but it has been on the state's list of polluted water bodies

since 1998, according to the Washington Department of Ecology.

Galen Herz, Bellingham Tenants Union organizer, said he is concerned about the pollution in Lake Whatcom and the cost it takes to treat the water so it is safe to drink.

"All of us, whether we are homeowners or renters, pay for the cleaning and drinking of the water

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University Police

investigate report of sexual assault on campus

Stella Harvey
THE WESTERN FRONT

A rape was reported in Birnam Wood Apartments at 7:40 p.m. on Saturday, May 26, according to a Western Alert advisory email.

A female student and resident of Birnam Wood Apartments reported she was raped by a man in her apartment at around 5 p.m., according to the Western Alert. The man is not a Western student and was visiting the woman as an acquaintance when the sexual assault occurred,

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Students gather on the Communications Facility lawn at dusk on Tuesday, May 29, to watch a screening of the film "Black Panther." In spite of the cold and windy conditions, several hundred students wrapped in blankets with kettle corn in hand attended the event organized by Associated Students. // Photo by Mathew Roland

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according to the campus-wide email. The Western Alert said the man was no longer on Western's campus. In an email to The Western Front, Paul Cocke, director of communications and marketing, said the university has offered the survivor support services. Cocke said the man

has not been arrested or charged. University Police interviewed and trespassed him from Western's campus, he said. University Police will present the case to the Whatcom County Prosecutor where possible charges can be made, Cocke said.

**This story will be updated as more information becomes available.*



The suspect is no longer on campus, but UP are aware of the man's identity. // Photo by Kevin Lake

AS Board approves purchase for KUGS automated selection system

Max Brunt
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Associated Students Board of Directors approved three proposals, including the purchase of a new automated selection system for KUGS, at its meeting on Friday, May 25.

The board unanimously approved the purchase of the new automated selection system for KUGS. The new system will allow for KUGS to continue playing music when it isn't operated by a live disc jockey.

KUGS Program Manager Jamie Hoover said at the last AS board meeting on May 18 that the automation wouldn't take live DJ opportunities away from students in any way. It would just allow KUGS to maintain some programming when there isn't anyone on campus to operate it. The board also approved recommendations for the

Student Technology Fee, which include live-streaming capabilities at the Performing Arts Center, expanded 3D printing capabilities and voted to approve the continuation of the \$35,000 annual allocation to the Student Enhancement Fund.

After action items, AS VP for Academic Affairs Hunter Eider read a draft of a resolution against anti-Islamic rhetoric on campus. The resolution referred to three anti-Islamic messages that were seen on campus between August and October 2017.

Eider said the resolution was made in light of recent positions that the AS has taken against antisemitism on campus.

"While it is really important that we create programs that work on deconstructing antisemitism on campus, [it's important] that we also have the same energy for deconstructing anti-Islamic sentiment," Eider said.

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Have story ideas?
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Corrections:

In last week's issue, Hafthor Yngvason's name was misspelled.

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Cinnamon roll tradition kicks off reopening of North Cascades highway



Don Becker, WSDOT maintenance supervisor, said the North Cascades Highway and west side gate is reopened every year once roads are safe for cars to pass through. // Photo by Kenzie Mahoskey

Kenzie Mahoskey
THE WESTERN FRONT

Warm, gooey cinnamon rolls were shared as the community celebrated the reopening of North Cascades Highway on May 11.

The tradition of baking cinnamon rolls at the west-side gate has happened since 1972, when the gate first opened, Washington State Department of Transportation spokesman Jeff Adamson said.

Richard Buller, the first owner of Clark's Resort in Rockport, started the tradition, Adamson said.

"Buller, being imaginative, thought, 'Well wait a minute, we run a resort in Rockport, we make great breakfasts and people love our cinnamon

rolls,'" Adamson said.

Buller and his daughter, Tootsie Clark, then baked up a bunch of cinnamon rolls, went up to the gate at 6 a.m. and served them to everyone in line who was waiting for the gate to reopen, Adamson said.

Buller continued the tradition for 10 years until he passed away, and then Clark took over until she passed away last year at 95 years old, Adamson said. This year, Clark's granddaughter baked cinnamon rolls along with the new owners of the resort. The highway gates are

closed every year from Diablo Lake on the west side to Mazama on the east side of the mountains, according to

every winter is different," Don Becker, WSDOT maintenance supervisor in Twisp, said. "We close when the road slides shut or if there is a high avalanche danger."

The gate is reopened whenever the roads are safe for cars to pass through, Becker said.

"When we get everything cleared, we do some stabilization testing with explosives into the slide starting zones," Becker said. "Depending on the reaction, if the snow comes down it means the slopes aren't very stable yet."

Adamson said when the gates open people enjoy camping and hiking, including

himself and his dog. Junior Allie Klimke has enjoyed many of the highway's adventures.

"The hot springs were somewhat difficult to find by Baker on the west side, but that kind of made it more fun and special," Klimke said. "I might have trouble telling someone how to get there, but if you find a park ranger they can help you."

Klimke said she had also been to Baker Lake and the Dock Butte trails. She has driven by Diablo Lake on the way to Twisp, but has never gone to the lookout.

Once the gates are open, the snow melts rapidly. This is good news for those looking for new adventures, Becker said.

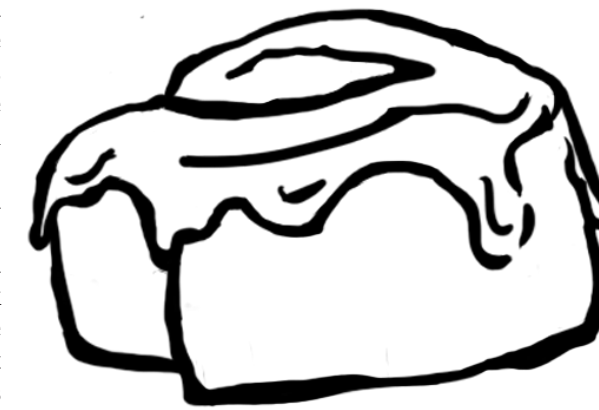
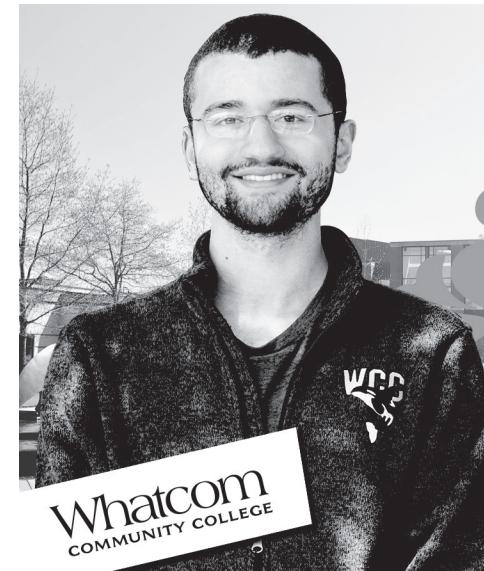


Illustration by Sophia Greif



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whatcom.edu/beginhere

ACTIVIST
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Since Mora-Villalpando's first hearing on March 15, the immigration court denied the motion to dismiss the case, Seattle Attorney Devin Theriot-Orr said.

The team wished to terminate the case based on the belief that Mora-Villalpando is being targeted because of her outspokenness and activism. This deliberate targeting would be a violation of her First Amendment rights.

The judge's decision left Mora-Villalpando's team to return to the drawing board for options, Theriot-Orr said.

Josefina Mora, Western junior and daughter of Mora-Villalpando, said even exemplary citizens are not free from injustice.

"[Mora-Villalpando] has her own business. She pays her taxes," Mora said. "She is really involved in the community, does a lot of civic engagement. And a lot of people really admire her for her community work."

"I am a college student. I get all scholarships. I have a really high GPA, and yet that's not enough because she is dissenting against the U.S. government."

While Western has released a statement vowing to protect students against ICE, that is not enough to make students feel safe, Mora said.

The Department of Licensing has been giving photos and identification information to ICE for a long time without public awareness. Without a consequence in place for campus police going against the statement, Western could easily do the same without student knowledge, she said.

Western does not enforce immigration law nor give information to federal immigration authorities, Director of Communications and Marketing Paul Cocke said in an email, reiterating a recent statement by President Randhawa enforcing student safety. Also attached were Western's policies against providing student immigration information.

Mora reflected on missing school for various community involvements with her mother and being sick from the stress of the constant worry for her family's safety.

She said Western needs a protocol to protect students from ICE via University Police, but also one to assist students who are missing class by going through this process.

"People are really nervous, and they don't necessarily trust that they are safe on campus. And there are very few places where students of color feel safe," Mora said.

On Feb. 23, Mora-Villalpando filed a lawsuit to the federal court challenging ICE's refusal to respond to their request for her case documents under the Freedom of Information Act, Theriot-Orr said. Since then, they received a confirmation letter but have not received the documents.

The law requires them to do so within 25 business days, he said.

"We're not going to let them scare us. We are not going to let them intimidate us. We are not victims," Mora-Villalpando said. "We are going on the defensive. That's what we're doing here. So as ICE is taking me to court, I'm taking them to court as well."

Throughout the lawsuit, Theriot-Orr said ICE will fol-



With a crowd of about 50 supporters and fellow activists, Mora-Villalpando said, "We are not going to let them scare us. We are not going to let them intimidate us. We are not victims." // Photo by Samuel Fletcher

low the law and release the documents, which will likely reveal a lot of the lies against targeting activists like Mora-Villalpando.

"U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement does not target unlawfully present aliens for arrest based on advocacy positions they hold or in retaliation for critical comments they make," ICE Public Affairs Officer Carissa Cutrell said in an email. "Any suggestion to the contrary is irresponsible, speculative and inaccurate. [Mora-Villalpando] has been charged by ICE with being unlawfully present in the United States and her case is currently under legal review. The agency issued the [Notice to Appear] in accordance with federal immigration law."

No comment was provided on Mora-Villalpando's case documents.

Nikkita Oliver, a supporter

of Mora-Villalpando, spoke to the crowd of over 50.

"We have to remember that these borders that have been created, they're not real," she said. "They're fake. They've been created under capitalism to ensure that a few people, a few white, cisgender, Christian men who speak English, can all keep the wealth to themselves."

Oliver told the crowd that they stood on Duwamish land. Settlers used genocide to erase their existence and then tried to capitalize on their culture, she said.

Deportation is just another offspring of capitalism, she added.

"Are there public officials here today? No. But I guarantee you if it was their family member going through with these proceedings they would be leveraging their social capital, their political capital to en-

sure that their family member is not moved," Oliver said.

When it was Mora-Villalpando's turn to speak, she did so in both English and Spanish.

The rally was not just about her and her family, but for all families who are being unfairly targeted by ICE, she said.

"I'm used to being the organizer and I'm used to being the one asking for the support of you all and to all people, and for this time to actually receive the support it feels quite overwhelming," she said. "Muchas gracias from my daughter and I, our family, we thank you so much."

As the leader of the Northwest Detention Center Resistance, her heart went out to the families of detainees, she said.

Right now the detention center in Tacoma is not giving its inmates toilet paper, she said. New inmates have received unwashed underwear.

Mora-Villalpando was excited to announce the success of the ICE on Trial campaign, which was a mock trial starting in Tacoma which exposed many systematic issues of various detention centers. The most recent trial, ending the campaign, was last week in Aurora, Colorado, she said.

Activist Ivy Nightscales considers the detention center to be a concentration camp. She said she has lost three friends with substance addiction problems who were put in jail and abused as opposed to receiving the help they needed.

"It is personal. And I think that this is medieval and cruel and it's there to control us," Nightscales said. "If we don't have a lot of money, we are subject to the fact that we could become homeless and go to jail, and it's there all the time."

According to the rally's event page on Facebook, typically three hearings take place before an order of removal or detention is issued. Mora-Villalpando's second hearing was moved to June 26.

Chocolate company aims to help women-owned cooperatives

Nicole Martinson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham-based BIIA Chocolates is being recognized nationally for its support of women-owned cacao-processors.

The Today Show featured BIIA Chocolates on their "Small Business Week" segment as one of the most innovative small businesses in America. BIIA was recognized for ethical sourcing and social entrepreneurship to elevate communities around the world.

Co-founders Paul Newman and Ariana Lee-Newman said they chose chocolate because it tends to be a highly-exploited commodity that many people enjoy every day. By directly working with female cacao farmers and processors in the equatorial belt, they are able to create and sell a popular product with a sustainable business program and smaller environmental footprint.

"We came to a place where we decided, 'We want to find a way to couple what we love [organic foods] with a product that gave back to the community,'" Lee-Newman said. "We recognize that products have a real opportunity to help change the world for the better."

"If we could connect people to a product that they love and in the process help support communities around the

world, then that's something we would try to do."

One way BIIA Chocolates helps women do just that is by helping them obtain organic certification through a program they developed called "24 x 25 Organic Certification."

The program's goal is to help one to two, women-owned, cacao-processing cooperatives become organically certified every year. This certification helps provide growers and processors with a premium they didn't have before. It increases their profitability and enables them to sell processed cocoa at a global scale.

"The 24 x 25 program is a target that we set where we want to help 24 women's cooperatives in the equatorial belt by the year 2025," Newman said.

BIIA Chocolates works with cooperatives located mostly in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere along the equator.

Partnering with women is important to them because it will help improve the communities their cooperatives are in. These 5- to 20-acre, women-run processing plants are also close enough to cacao growers that it reduces their environmental footprint substantially.

"The farmers can almost walk their product to the place that the product is processed," Lee-Newman said.

She said family members



BIIA Chocolate for sale at the Bellingham Food Co-op. The company helps women obtain organic certification, enabling them to sell processed cocoa globally. // Photo by Nicole Martinson

don't have to travel to work, which is sustainable for working families in these regions. Jobs from these plants are centered locally and provide financial viability for the community.

Lee-Newman said she finds it important for their customers to know about BIIA's ethical sourcing. She said they use the packaging to tell the story of their product, including the

direct trade aspect and highlighting the partners working behind the chocolate bars, such as growers or processors.

The BIIA Chocolate website lists their nine flavors: Burnt Maple Crunch, Cherry Chia Crunch, Dark Chocolate Adventure, Espresso & Cacao Nibs, Himalayan Sea Salt, Pure Dark, Sea Salt Almond, Tart Citrus Incaberry, Toasted Co-

conut and Wild Ginger & Cayenne. They contain five ingredients or less and can be ordered and shipped from their website.

BIIA Chocolate bars are also available at local natural grocery stores throughout Bellingham. Store locations carrying chocolate bars can be found at www.bijachocolates.com

Class sends out survey about campus sexual assault to university employees

Drew Stuart
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western students from a human services course sent out a survey through MyWestern on Saturday, May 19, gathering opinions from all university employees on how they define and categorize sexual assault.

Recent incidents of voyeurism and stalking in

Wilson Library, and Western readmitting a student who violated the conduct code for sexual misconduct, have spurred many to vocalize their frustration with the administration.

Assistant Professor Brett Coleman instructs the class and said he saw these incidents as at least partially responsible for galvanizing these surveys.

"There was a palpable sense of frustration because of those [incidents]," Coleman said.

The survey was sent out as a part of the human services class HSP 455. Coleman said HSP 455 is a student-led, data-driven class focusing on issues relevant to students.

Coleman described the course as a "participatory action" class. "The research is to inform some kind of action," Coleman said. "We do a cycle of gathering data, analyzing it, drawing certain conclusions and then raising new questions."

The survey asked participants to label different scenarios as sexual assault, sexual misconduct, lewd conduct or voyeurism, he said.

Coleman said after their surveys are completed, his fall quarter class will use the data as a foundation for taking action against sexual assault.

Instead of their teacher decid-

ing the topic, students in HSP 455 from winter quarter selected sexual assault as their topic of research.

Coleman said this course is iterative and each quarter students build on the research done before them.

Coleman said the survey is one of four different questionnaires that the class is conducting as part of their course curriculum. Each survey shares the focus on sexual assault, but they are executed differently, he said.

Junior Sabrina Vlad is a student in HSP 455, and has created a survey focused on definitions of sexual violence.

"Ours is figuring out how Western defines those four categories, and how they go about responding to those," Vlad said.

Vlad's survey has received 56 responses so far. At the end of the week, the students will collect data from their surveys and compile what they've learned. But even now, trends are beginning to emerge in the data.

Both Coleman and Vlad said women were better at recognizing sexual assault on the survey than men. "I definitely already see that," Vlad said in response to a question about possible lack of knowledge among male participants.

Vlad said men were more likely to ask specific questions about drug and alcohol use, when the scenario presented did not mention any use of drugs or alcohol.

Vlad and Coleman hope they can pinpoint Western's understanding of sexual assault once the surveys are completed.



Nikkita Oliver, a supporter of Mora-Villalpando, said, "We have to remember that these borders that have been created, they're not real." // Photo by Samuel Fletcher



Assistant Professor Brett Coleman has helped guide students in creating surveys addressing sexual assault. // Photo by Kevin Lake

Students introduce new environmental justice minor

Samuel Fletcher
THE WESTERN FRONT

At the end of spring quarter, the student-designed curriculum for an environmental justice minor will be submitted to Western faculty.

The new minor will explore issues of diversity and social injustice in environmental education.

The effort to launch this minor began in 2015, led by a group of passionate students, environmental studies assistant professor Kate Darby said. They put together an intensive proposal, drawn from surveys and studies from around campus.

When it came time to submit, the students involved graduated, Darby said. The papers were lost, but their efforts weren't.

When junior Samara Almonte came to Western, she thought it would be more radically involved in social justice, she said. Huxley, the first environmental college in the nation, was formed in the 1960s during a wave of social movements. In her classes, on the other hand, she found a lot of repetitive information focusing only on the Pacific Northwest, she said.

"According to what Western, what Huxley and what just, in general, U.S. culture labels an environmentalist, I can't name myself that because I am not those things," Almonte said. "But according to what people of color in my community have been saying what environmentalism

is and what sustainability is, then I can define it myself. I just don't think Huxley is leaving room for all of those different definitions."

Noticing this evolving passion among the student body, a group of 30 students, Huxley and otherwise, started meeting weekly, Darby said. Along with a single-credit reading group to discuss environmental justice issues, they delegated tasks to manage what it would take to launch the minor.

One of these tasks was writing a grant proposal to the Sustainable Action Fund, junior Alyssa Webster said. Webster took much of this work on.

The grant writing process was challenging because it required the formulation of a lot of concrete details, Webster said. Much of what they discuss weekly is conceptual.

The group ended up receiving \$40,000 to launch an environmental justice community engagement series, Webster said. Starting this fall, guest speakers will be brought in once per quarter for two years to spread awareness of environmental justice issues and engage all students in the curriculum's ideas.

Webster, an environmental science major, just recently discovered how important the social ramifications of her field were, she said. It helped her see the greater picture of what she was learning.

"I care more about trying to engage in the work in the future that's still envi-



Environmental studies Assistant Professor Kate Darby meeting with a graduate student. Students will be able to declare the minor starting fall 2019. // Photo by Samuel Fletcher

ronmental science but more directly helps people and communities — not just collecting data," Webster said.

Much of her hometown of Orting, Washington is low-income housing, she said. Smoke from residential wood stove fireplaces has reduced the town's air quality and drastically increased the chances of developing asthma. Many families in Orting don't have the money to move away from this issue.

Asthma is still something Webster struggles with, she said.

"I think we are at a point

in terms of a social justice crisis and a sustainability crisis where we have to start thinking about how these sets of concerns are interconnected," Darby said.

Darby seeks to revert the notion that the environment is something that is "out there," she said. People tend to think environmentalists care about plants and animals but not people.

"Decisions around the environment and understandings around the environment, just like everything else, are imbued with power dynamics and that's what we

want to highlight and give students the opportunity to explore and dive into," she said.

The curriculum will involve Darby's class, "Power, Privilege, and the Environment," as well as multiple reading groups, she said. It will involve classes in and out of Huxley on identity and experience as well as tools for engagement.

Students can declare their EJ minor starting in fall 2019.

Erosion, loose sediment at Locust Beach worry residents

Kenzie Mahoskey
THE WESTERN FRONT

Dirt crumbles from the touch of a hand at the bottom of the bluff near Locust Beach, raising concerns of erosion for



Locust Beach on a sunny day. On the bluff, sediment and dirt are starting to give way. // Photo by Kenzie Mahoskey

community members.

Paul Thomas, senior geology instructor, said the bluffs northwest of Bellingham are so erodible because they're composed of loose sediments that don't have the internal cohe-

sion and the strength of solid bedrock that lies under the soil.

The railway is right on the edge of the bluff, but it keeps on track with the erosion.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company inspects the rails each week and measures erosion activity, Gus Melonas, BNSF Northwest public affairs director, said in an email.

The company has done some stabilization enhancement along the shoreline near Locust Beach. This location meets BNSF's engineering safety guidelines, Melonas said.

Residents who live above the beach may be the cause of the erosion because they may not be handling their stormwater correctly, Andy Wiser, Whatcom County geologist and planner, said.

According to Whatcom County's Stormwater Facilities website, houses near the edge have a high amount of stormwater because the rain runs right off their roofs and seeps

into the cliff, causing erosion.

Locust Beach shows signs of erosion on the cliffs, and people who visit the beach can see it.

"If you go down the trail to Locust Beach and then turn left and walk a ways to the old concrete factory, you will see pipes sticking out of the ground," junior geology major Austin Bolstad said.

Erosion near the houses could happen fast, or it could be over time that the house would physically start to sink, Wiser said.

"You'll get a period of accelerated erosion or slope failure, maybe you could lose 5 to 10 feet of the cliff in one event," Wiser said. "Then you could go 15 to 20 years without anything happening."

Sometimes the erosion can happen every year at a slow pace like one inch annually, or it could be as much as 12 inches annually, Wiser said.

It also depends on how far the house is from the bluff. It's not a great practice to build

on unconsolidated sediments that are actively being eroded, Thomas said.

In order to reduce the erosion, residents of the area need to manage their property correctly, Wiser said.

"There's various things you can do. It's going to range from massive things like managing your stormwater [to] making sure it's not saturating the edge of the bluff," Wiser said.

There are other ways to reduce the erosion, too.

"Reducing erosion with vegetation can be a long process to occur naturally, so adding a geofabric on the slope to help the topsoil for the vegetation can help," Wiser said. "In some circumstances, people spend a lot of money putting tiles in, building a wall or regrading a slope to fix the configuration."

Building on the bluffs makes for great views, but eventually the bluffs will retreat and reach the houses, Thomas said.

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from Lake Whatcom," Herz said.

He said he has to pay additional utility fees to his landlord in order to support the cost of treating the water.

City of Bellingham Engineering Technician Eli Mackiewicz said in an email that the city's watershed fund collects a \$14 monthly fee from all water users for protecting water quality in the Lake Whatcom reservoir.

He also said the total utility bill that contributes to the Storm and Surface Water Utility is between \$7-10 per month for all city residents. He said this utility fee funds projects and programs that protect water quality in the Lake Whatcom reservoir.

April Markiewicz, Huxley College Institute of Environmental Toxicology associate director, worked for three years in the Institute for Watershed Studies, served for six or seven years on the city's Lake Whatcom Land Acquisition Program Committee and was a member of People for Lake Whatcom.

Markiewicz said her biggest concern was pollutant trihalomethanes in the water that were created during the treatment of the raw water at Whatcom Falls Park.

She said the trihalomethanes are formed when the city bubbles the filtered water with chlorine gas to sterilize it, so the water stays disinfected in our pipes and taps. She said the chlorine attaches itself to carbon in the water.

"You get these trihalogenated carbons with chlorines

motorized watercrafts on the lake.

Herz said he does not think people should use the same lake Bellingham's drinking water comes from as a source for recreational activity.

"I want clean drinking water, and I don't think somebody's desire to play around

terway, boats cannot be removed from the lake. She said the city banned the use of two-stroke engines, which dump gasoline products in the water, in 2009.

Markiewicz and Herz both said the people who live on the watershed contribute more pollutants and toxicants into the lake.

supported creating a graduated fee structure where people closest to the watershed pay more and fees decrease as you get farther away from the lake.

Mackiewicz said in an email that the city's filtration system is robust, addresses pollutants of concern and, as a result, the City of Bellingham has won a number of "taste tests" held by various water providers.

Markiewicz said the city signed an agreement with the Department of Ecology, Whatcom County and the sewer district that stated they will strive to get the lake to where it should be, or at least stabilized, within 50 years.

"It's a great step in the right direction in terms of at least protecting those people who drink the water from the tap," Markiewicz said. "It also buys us time to work with the inhabitants around the lake."

For more information about the watershed fund and rate information about the Storm and Surface Water Utility, check out the Lake Whatcom Watershed Management News, Information and Resources website and the 2018 Bi-Monthly Utility Billing Rates.

"A very small portion of the Bellingham population uses motor boats on the lake and dumps fertilizer on their lawns by the lake, but the actions of that very small population affects the larger community," Herz said.

Markiewicz also said she

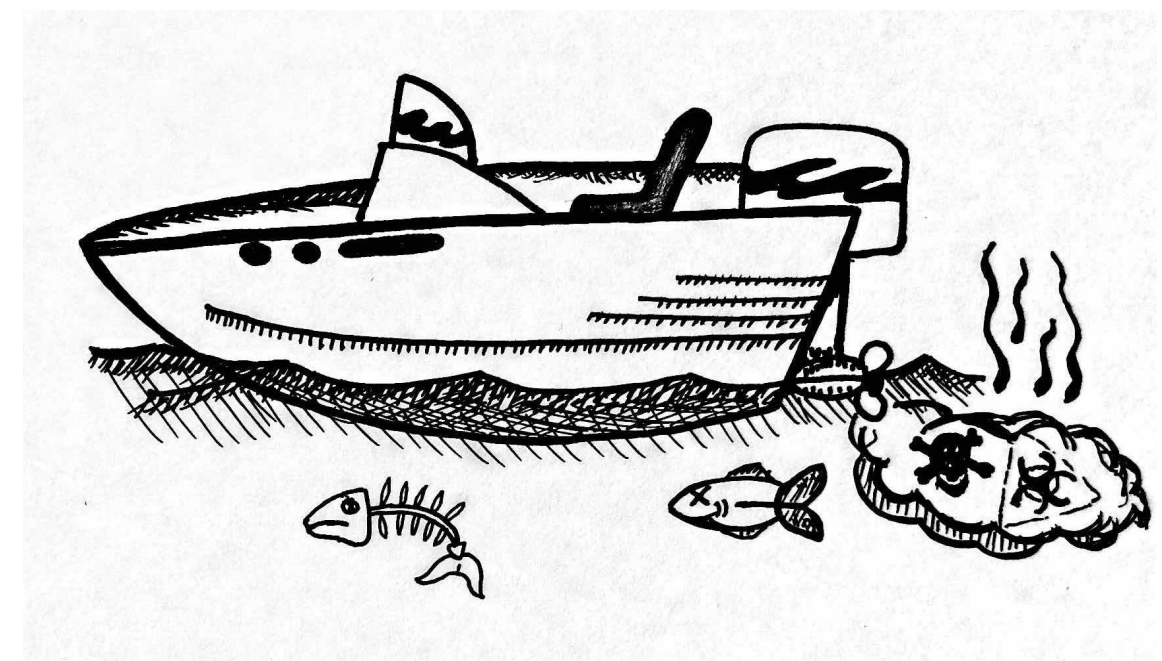


Illustration by Julia Furukawa

coming off from it, and those can cause cancer in human beings," Markiewicz said.

Not only do toxicants contaminate Lake Whatcom, but Markiewicz said the city found gasoline in the raw water due, in large part, to

with a motor boat on the source of our drinking water should jeopardize our health and safety," Herz said.

Markiewicz said that because Lake Whatcom is listed by the federal government as a navigable wa-

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SNIPPING SAVES LIVES!



Rhubarb the bull terrier gives those puppy dog eyes. // Photo by Mysti Willmon

By Mysti Willmon
THE WESTERN FRONT

Barking filled the air and cats slept or hid from the noise as people wandered the hallways and rooms of the Whatcom County Humane Society, imagining each animal as a new member of their family.

The Whatcom Humane Society takes in all sorts of animals, from dogs and cats to fish and peacocks, Director Laura Clark said in an email. She said the shelter "turns no animal away."

This acceptance policy means that the shelter takes in a lot of animals each year, some of them not in the best condition.

Clark said despite the fact the shelter tries to care for every animal that comes in, sometimes the animal's condition is so poor that it must be euthanized. Space is also another cause for euthanization.

However, in the last seven years, the cases of euthanasia at the Humane Soci-

ety

have dropped by more than half. Clark said the credit goes to organizations, like nonprofit WeSNiP, that help the community spay and neuter not only pets, but also stray animals.

Yet, one category of euthanasia within the shelter has increased.

Euthanasia by owner request has increased from 218 animals in 2010 to 318 animals in 2017, according to the Whatcom Humane Society website. In a case of euthanasia by owner request, many animals are brought in by owners who don't have the means to care for their pet anymore.

For many, this is due



A husky ready for adoption flashes a smile. // Photo by Mysti Willmon



Andy the cockatiel stares fearlessly at the camera. // Photo by Mysti Willmon

STRAY ANIMALS IN WHATCOM COUNTY ARE BEING GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE WITH FREE SPAY AND NEUTER SERVICES

to the high cost of living in Whatcom County and veterinary services, Clark said.

"The increase is most likely due to the rising cost of living in our community," Clark said. "And the fact that people continue to struggle with providing care for their animals."

Clark credits the decrease in general euthanasia numbers to various local programs that help spay and neu-

ter animals.

The Humane Society Spay and Neuter Assistance Program offers pets of Lummi and Nooksack tribal members free spayings and neuterings, as well as low-cost services to other Whatcom County residents.

In addition, the society partners with local nonprofit organization WeSNiP. WeSNiP helps low-income members of the community get

their animals spayed or neutered, WeSNiP Executive Director Audrey Seaholm said. "We are focused on removing the barriers to access spay and neuter [services] for citizens of Whatcom County," Seaholm said. "We are [run] by donation and if someone is unable to pay the surgery cost, they won't be denied the appointment."

WeSNiP has spayed and neutered over 18,000 cats and dogs since their opening in August 2008, according to its website. Seaholm said in 2017 alone they spayed and neutered 1,288 animals, 205 of those being feral cats.

"Our goal is to eliminate euthanasia in order to control pet overpopulation," Seaholm said.

According to Clark, the program has helped.

"Working together with organizations like WeSNiP, our statistics prove the success that spaying and neutering has on reducing euthanasia in our shelter," Clark said.

Euthanasia has dropped from 1,629 animals in 2010 to only 783 animals in 2017, a decrease of over 50 percent.

"We always appreciate it when Laura Clark gives us the credit," Seaholm said. "But the credit also goes to the community. They understand that the problem is fixable and they are willing and able to help. It's commendable of Whatcom County."

Sally the chihuahua smiles eagerly, looking for a potential new home. // Photo by Mysti Willmon



It's hard to resist the deep green eyes of Mimzy the tabby cat. // Photo by Mysti Willmon



Boost the pitbull wags his tail at the sight of a potential new owner. // Photo by Mysti Willmon

ADVOCATING FOR HOMELESS YOUTH IN BELLINGHAM

Local nonprofit Northwest Youth Services provides a safe space for teens experiencing homelessness in Whatcom County

By Isabel Lay
THE WESTERN FRONT

"Even if you have all the privilege in the world, being 15 is still really hard," Jenn Daly, director of development and communications at Northwest Youth Services, said.

The local nonprofit was founded 41 years ago by three community members: a police officer, a social worker and a teacher. It was meant to be a place specifically for young people experiencing homelessness to get help, said Northwest Youth Services community relations coordinator Sigourney Gundy.

"[The founders] saw a need within the community just through their own work," Gundy said. "They saw there wasn't a place for young people experiencing homelessness to go to receive services that were developmentally appropriate."

In the years since the founding of the organization, the services they provide have changed to meet the evolving needs of the youth they dedicate their time to.

"Our long-term forever mission has been to support young people and build collaborations with them to best understand where they're at and what they need," Daly said.

Today, Northwest Youth Services provides not only housing for homeless youth, but also resources like "Street Outreach," which connects teens on the street with resources like food, places to sleep and showers. Additionally, "Teen Court" is another resource. It is a court run by teens for teens, where young homeless people are held accountable for their actions in front of a jury of their peers as an alternative to juvenile detention. Finally, support for LGBTQ youth is given through the Queer Youth Project, which supports young people who are struggling with their identity or have simply been kicked out by their parents.

The Queer Youth Project, which first started as just a gathering of LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness six years ago, has grown into a large part of the organization.

"[The project] started as identifying that this is a common thread that the youth we serve tend to have," Daly said. "We saw that a lot of youth had a similar story of not being able to feel safe at home."

Queer Youth Project Coordinator Lisa Page said 30 percent of homeless youth in Whatcom County identify as LGBTQ. Roughly 7-10 percent of youth identify as queer. Adding the ostracization that comes with being a part of the LGBTQ

community to already being homeless makes it especially difficult for youth to feel accepted, Page said.

The Queer Youth Project works to connect homeless LGBTQ youth with resources like access to family reunification services, programs that allow youth ten free family counseling sessions and a queer youth gathering every month.

Additionally, the project provides resources like the "Trans-Fashion Treasury," which gives transitioning youth access to resources they might need to be comfortable with their identity, Page said.

She keeps a file cabinet stocked with chest binders, which restrict a person's breasts to make them appear less prominent. The treasury also contains makeup, padded bras, concealing underwear and packers, which are used to give the appearance of having a penis.

Page also provides help to individual youth with specific requests like bigger, looser-fitting clothes. The organization also helps trans youth with legal name change fees.

These fees can reach up to \$150 to \$200 and require the youth to file a petition to their district court and additionally require them to complete an Order for Name Change, which a judge is then required to sign, according to the University of Washington website.

Page said the treasury serves the needs of the trans community that might not otherwise be met.

These resources are vital to queer youth, Page said. She said 83 percent of LGBTQ youth reported that they "feel alone in the world" and 70 percent of bisexual youth said they were experiencing depression.

Page said the top driver of youth homelessness is parent or guardian rejection or neglect.

"First and foremost, we try to make [LGBTQ youth] understand that what they're going through is normal and awesome," Daly said. "We believe in them and we support them in figuring out their path."

The project is mostly prevention focused, with advocacy as an aspect of it as well. Volunteers, along with Page, help youth advocate for themselves.

Page said the project's goal is to



Lisa Page, coordinator for the Queer Youth Project at Northwest Youth Services, smiles warmly, wearing a message that reflects the organization's mission on her shirt. // Photo by Isabel Lay

make sure the program won't segregate queer youth from their peers and to train other adults to be as aware and compassionate as possible.

"On the prevention side, it's a lot of support to help youth feel seen and comfortable and to confirm their identity and help with experiences of gender dysphoria," Page said. "For homeless youth, it might be the difference between being able to survive or stay safe. It's a safety mechanism."

In addition to the treasury, the goal of the Queer Youth Project and Northwest Youth Services is to ultimately get youth back in a more supportive environment, Page said.

To do this, the Queer Youth Project provides ten free counseling sessions with a queer-affirming therapist. In the session the therapist and youth talk about gender identity exploration and navigation, coping skills, communication skills, mental health issues and whether or not to come out or how to come out.

"It also gives them another supportive adult in their life who they can trust and talk to," Page said.

The two additional parts of the Queer Youth Program are trainings taught by Page and a group that allows LGBTQ youth from all over the county to convene and talk about their shared experience the third

Friday of every month from 4-6 p.m. in the youth room at First Congregational Church in Bellingham.

"When I talk to youth about that they're like, 'At a church?' and I say, 'Yeah, totally at a church.' There are lots [of] queer-affirming churches, and two of their pastors identify as queer," Page said. "That's kind of a beautiful open door to another community that might be supportive for them outside of their family and outside of school."

As for trainings, Page said they have been successful in helping adults in the community learn how to help homeless youth.

"There are a lot of adults out there who want to be supportive, but they're afraid of saying or doing the wrong thing," Page said.

Northwest Youth Services is just one of many youth organizations across the nation battling homelessness head-on.

"All communities are facing the issue in a different way, we're definitely not alone in fighting this fight," Daly said.

However, all hope is not lost yet, Page said.

"Individuals are going through transitions and communities are going through transitions," Page said. "We are all part of that and it's on us to educate ourselves and to be good advocates, to stay open to learning from other people."

Meditating for mindfulness

Resources abound in Bellingham to help clear the heads of stressed-out students

By McKinley Kellogg
THE WESTERN FRONT

Between studying for the inevitable next exam, holding down a job and maintaining a social life, many college students struggle to handle the stress of daily life.

Practicing yoga and mindful meditation are excellent tools in lowering stress and anxiety levels while also improving focus,

according to the Harvard Gazette. Many students around the world are using these techniques to help cope with the daily stresses of school and their often hectic schedules.

Sondra Matara, marketing director and community builder of 3 OMS Yoga in downtown Bellingham, said she has used the benefits of meditation in her practice and personal life. Matara said she's been practicing

yoga for the past 12 years and learning how to be in touch with her body and connect with herself inwardly through meditation has provided great benefits for her.

"I started yoga my senior year in college," Matara said. "I thought that it would be a really good thing to help reduce my stress and anxiety about finishing school and what was going to happen next. It's been a

life-changer for me personally."

Matara said learning how to properly breathe deeply through her core instead of her chest, a technique used in meditation, has helped control her stress levels.

She said this practice stimulates the parasympathetic nervous system and lowers levels of cortisol, the hormone which causes stress. Matara said even if this method isn't effective

for an individual, there are a variety of other tools and approaches to meditation available, so there's always more to try.

"Some of the meditation techniques can help with focus and keeping your mind in one place," Matara said. "There's really simple things like focusing on your breath, but there's also guided visualizations and full-body relaxation."

However, it's not just yoga instructors who meditate to de-stress. In fact, many college students, including athletes, use it as a tool to strengthen their focus.



Yoga students at 3 OMS Yoga center themselves during a workout. // Photo courtesy of 3 OMS Yoga Studio



The serene interior of 3 OMS Yoga in downtown Bellingham greets students. // Photo by McKinley Kellogg

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FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

Changing views in U.S. parallel Ireland's shift in politics

Last Friday, Ireland took a huge step in the right direction for human rights. For the first time in 35 years, women have more rights than an embryo.

Citizens of Ireland voted to repeal the Eighth Amendment, a restrictive law allowing abortion only when a woman's life is at risk.

Two Irish archbishops saw the vote as evidence of a societal pull away from the church-dominated past. They weren't the only ones to note the shift away from Catholic traditions.

"No single moment better captures the quiet but rapid revolution in social attitudes that has taken place in less than 40 years — one that has turned a closed, conservative Catholic country into one of Europe's most liberal, outward-looking states," the editorial board of The Irish Times wrote Sunday.

This comes two years after Ireland became the first country to legalize gay marriage by popular vote — another significant step away from conservative Catholic ideology.

While Ireland takes one step forward for human rights, it seems the United States has taken two steps back. Earlier this month, President Trump proposed cutting federal funding to any clinic that provides abortions or refers patients

somewhere where they can (RE: Planned Parenthood).

Ireland has shown the world the liberal opinions of its people, while our administration is taking fearful steps in a more conservative direction. It seems we as a country become more polarized by the day.

Ireland national broadcaster RTE reported support for the repeal was strongest among young voters ages 18-24 and decreased with age. The only age group with a majority "no" vote for the appeal was voters 65 and older.

This shows a general shift in ideologies that is mirrored in the United States. A study released in April by the Public Religion Research Institute shows one-third of Americans ages 18-29 say their views on abortion have changed in recent years.

The study showed 25 percent of young adults said they have become more supportive of abortion rights, while 9 percent have become more opposed.

The institute found that generally, young people in the U.S. view abortion favorably. The institute found they're more likely to agree that abortion should be legal, that health care professionals should provide abortions and that abortions should be covered by most health care plans.

The shift to more liberal ideas isn't limited to reproductive rights. Young people are becoming more vocal about their left-leaning views across the board. We've seen a wave of activism for gun control from high schoolers in recent months. Teens who survived the Parkland, Florida shooting were key in stirring support for stricter gun control and are still acting today to push public opinion.

The key component of Ireland's big change? Votes.

Many Irish citizens living abroad cared so much about voting, they traveled across the globe to cast their ballots. Thousands of people shared images on social media of themselves on airplanes, passports in hand, using the hashtag #HomeToVote.

Social media was a key tool in mobilizing Millennial voters for the 2016 U.S. election. The Pew Research Center reported Millennial voters nearly doubled since the 2008 election, stopping short of surpassing the Generation X vote. The center projected it's

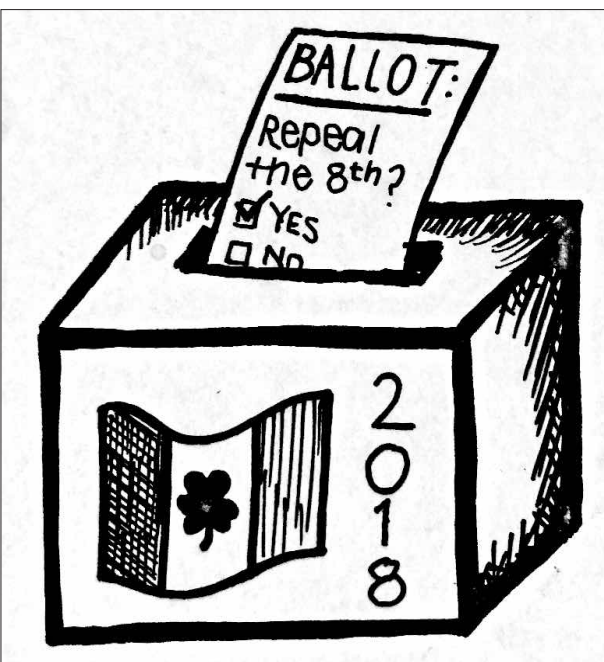


Illustration by Julia Furukawa

likely to do so in 2020, they wrote.

The repeal of the Eighth Amendment in Ireland symbolizes a shift away from conservative traditional beliefs toward a fresh revival of liberal ideas. Historically, young people in the U.S. have not turned out to vote as much as older generations have. But in 2020, many of those young adults developing liberal opinions will be eligible to cast their ballot, and will already be #HomeToVote.

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Taylor Nichols, Kira Erickson and Eric Trent

Viking Voices

Should the federal government continue to fund Planned Parenthood?



Greta Clogston Junior

"I think it's very important for people to have access to all of the things like contraception. Even if you are not counting abortion, which is the main thing people get mad about, they offer a lot of things that are beneficial to women's health in general."



Brandon Smith Junior

"I don't know a whole lot about Planned Parenthood. I don't like that the federal government funds abortions, but from what I've heard, Planned Parenthood provides a lot of services besides abortions that deserve funding."



Ronja Vaitaitis Freshman

"I think the federal government should be funding universal healthcare, because health care is a fundamental right. Planned Parenthood is just trying to provide those fundamental rights."



Casey Funk Sophomore

"I think that the functions that it serves are pretty convenient for society as a whole, but obviously there's differing opinions about that, which is why there's controversy."

Compiled by Sam Fletcher

Cutting Title X funding for clinics like Planned Parenthood won't just be harmful. It will be ineffective, too. Read more on our editorial page at www.westernfrontonline.com

Softball coach stepping down

Amy Suiter announced after eight seasons as Western's head coach that she wants to spend more time with her family

Naomi Schapiro THE WESTERN FRONT

There wasn't a dry eye in the room when Amy Suiter told her team she was stepping down as head softball coach, sophomore softball player Anna Kasner said.

Suiter, who coached Western for eight seasons, said on May 3 that she would be stepping down as coach to spend time with her family.

She has three kids, including a baby born last August. While Suiter said she could not feel any more fortunate to work with the softball program at Western, she feels this is the best time to move on.

"I really feel like our program, right now, could not be in a better place," Suiter said. "The student athletes currently on the team and the recruits that are coming in are fantastic people and athletes. I knew that when I did leave, this is where I wanted it to be."

Suiter played softball at the University of Washington for four years before getting a job at Texas Tech University as the assistant softball coach. While at Texas Tech, Suiter pursued a doctorate in sports psychology. She fell in love with it, she said.

After getting pregnant with their first child, she and her husband moved back to Skagit Valley, where they are both from. The softball head coaching job at Western had just opened up, so everything fit into place, she said.

For Kasner, who just finished her second season at Western, Suiter was like a parent figure, she said.

"I look up to her a lot," Kasner said. "She is always asking me questions, not just about softball but about life. 'How did your job interview go? What is going on with your family?' Whenever I needed a



Former Western softball coach Amy Suiter (left) played softball at the University of Washington for four years, where she was the catcher. // Photo courtesy of WWU Athletics

shoulder to cry on, she was always there."

Kasner said during winter quarter she and a few teammates had a lot going on in their personal lives. They went to meet with Suiter before practice. When Suiter heard how overwhelmed they were, Kasner said, she canceled practice to take them on a hike.

Kasner said Suiter was always telling them to put their health and happiness first. This is why Kasner believes that while it is sad for the players to watch their coach go, she

knows this is the best decision for Suiter.

"I think it is important for her to spend time with her family," Kasner said. "She would be more happy spending time with her kids. It is for the best."

Junior pitcher Shearyna Labasan said Suiter was special because of her ability to make lasting relationships with the players.

Labasan is from Hawaii and said being far away from home has been difficult, but Suiter has helped her feel comfortable in Bellingham.

"There was some things going on that I probably wouldn't have gotten through if [Suiter] hadn't cared about me as a person," Labasan said. "Her helping me get through those tough times, especially being far away from my family, has really helped me."

"I really feel like our program right now could not be in a better place.

The student athletes currently on the team, and the recruits that are coming in are fantastic people and athletes. I knew that when I did leave this is where I wanted it to be."

Amy Suiter Former softball coach

The process for finding a new coach has begun, Suiter said. She said the applications will be open for a couple more weeks before the interviews will start.

Labasan is hoping for a coach that has similar qualities to Suiter, and she believes they will find a good replacement.

"Anyone who really cares for the sport and their players, that is what I am looking for [in a coach]," Labasan said. "Next year I am looking forward to using all the lessons we have learned this year and just going out on the field and having a good senior season."

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Working toward inclusive intramurals

Western advocates are pushing for transgender and non-binary options in intramural environments

Molly Workman
THE WESTERN FRONT

Athletics are a big deal for many colleges, whether they are varsity teams, club teams or intramurals.

However, students wanting to participate in intramural sports at Western are forced to make a decision about their identity before they can start: male or female.

So, what does this mean for students who identify as non-binary?

The rules for each intramural sport are clearly laid out on the Wade King Student Recreation Center website. In each set, parameters for male and female representation on the field or court are listed. This is to ensure equal and fair playing time for the co-ed leagues, according to Title IX's guidelines.

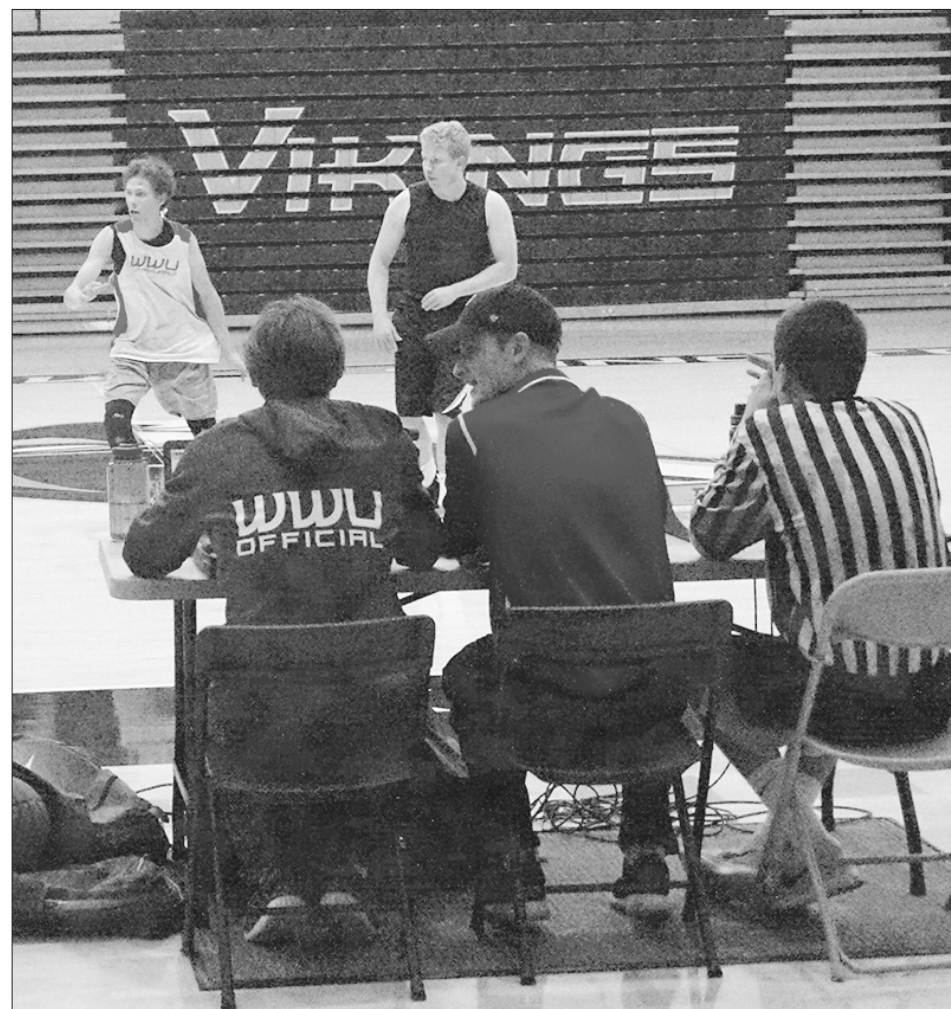
The Title IX office on campus, located in Old Main 345, is dedicated to overseeing and responding to discrimination against sex on campus in campus culture and programming.

"It was clear to me from the beginning of our communication that Caitlin [Sommers] and intramurals take the issue seriously."

L.K. Langley

Equal Opportunity Office programs manager

Caitlin Sommers is the sports club coordinator for Western and has been spearheading the effort to change this in the recent weeks of



Dylan Hayes, Chris Peroni and Tony Lentz sit at the officials table during the 9 p.m. co-ed basketball league night on Monday, April 30. // Photo by Molly Workman

receiving feedback on the registration software that Western uses.

"The biggest challenge we are facing is the software program itself," Sommers said in an email. "We are working with the company to make sure options are made available."

Jason Barrett, an employee at the Student Technology Center, said he recognized the difficulty behind providing that option in the software from an administrative standpoint.

He said one of the roadblocks would be the website itself. Given that the website used for intramural registration is used by many schools, it would be hard to make one specifically for Western.

"Western wouldn't have the ability to make the decision for every college unilaterally," Barrett said. "They would have to come to an agreement across all the different campuses."

Gender disparities appear to reach further than just registration.



Intramural co-ed basketball team Air Bud's players switch in and out quickly and watch from the sidelines, waiting to enter back into the game. // Photo by Molly Workman

shots and three-point shots to four-point shots.

Dylan Hayes is the Sam Carver Gymnasium Supervisor during the intramural games. He said he wasn't quite sure why this was an official regulation.

"It's just in the rules," he said. Sarah Quiring, a participant in intramurals, said she's frustrated by exceptions like these in the rule book.

"I don't know why that would be a factor," she said. "I am a firm believer in earning your stripes and not being given a free point. I'm not the best basketball player, but honestly I feel like it's a little bit demoralizing."

However, it seems gender inclusivity seems to be an increasing priority of Western's. The Equal Opportunity Office works to combat discrimination both in the workplace and in general campus culture.

L.K. Langley is the programs manager at the EOO and has been working in conjunction with Sommers to provide a neutral option.

"[Caitlin Sommers] raised the concern to me for input very soon after first receiving feedback from a student about it," Langley said. "It was clear to me from the beginning of our communication that Caitlin and intramurals take the issue seriously."

Langley said they are strongly in favor of requiring extra trainings for referees and intramural sports officials following the implementa-

tion of a non-binary option.

"Caitlin has asked me if I would provide some training for refs and others who are really out there on the field or in the game with our students and also for staff within our rec center," they said.

Langley said they are happy to provide training for referees per a request from the athletic department.

"That would be training not just about our systems and how to improve our systems, but also just about how to create intramural environments that are really welcoming to and inclusive of trans and non-binary students," Langley said.

The rec center works to resolve this issue, but there are many things to take into consideration. Among other changes, rules about equal gender representation on the court or field would have to be modified to include gender non-conforming individuals.

Langley mentioned that Western has the ability to communicate with the registration website, imleagues.com, and express the opinion that if Western has a demand for a gender neutral option that it's likely other schools do as well.

In the meantime, Sommers offered the option for students to forego the binary gender identification choice. She said students who wish to skip the gender identification question may contact the intramurals staff at intramurals@www.edu.

Bells add video scoreboard

The Bellingham Bells baseball team replaces its 30-year-old scoreboard just in time for the first game of the season on Monday, June 4

Naomi Schapiro
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham Bells fans will have an easier time keeping up with the score this season. The Bells' ballpark will inaugurate a new scoreboard at their first game of the season on June 4.

The old scoreboard was about 30 years old, so it was time for an upgrade, Bells Assistant General Manager Haily Tift said.

"A couple of ballparks in our league already had one, and it just adds an extra level of professionalism," Tift said. "We take this really seriously, and [the new scoreboard] adds to the great atmosphere for families."

Ownership is also changing this season as Glenn and Jennifer Kirkpatrick of White Rock, British Columbia, purchased the team.

"I don't think fans will see a lot of changes, but when they do it will be for the better," General manager Stephanie Morrell said. "Every time you have new ownership they have different perspectives, but they bought the team because they liked what we were doing."

Morrell and other Bells employees have been working all year to make sure it is an amazing season. Jim Clem, pitching coach and recruiting coordinator, said he started recruiting players for this season last August, right after the 2017 season ended.

The Bells have two returning players this year. Ernie Yake is a Bellingham native who now plays third base for Gonzaga. Clem said Yake was a terrific player last season, and he will be great for the team this year. He said it was fun for the fans to have a local player on the team and someone people watched grow up.

Trevor DeLaité is also returning for his second summer with the Bells. DeLaité is a left-handed pitcher from University of Maine.

"He did a great job as a relief pitcher for us [last year]," Clem said.



Austin Shenton, Bellingham Bells third baseman, batting at Joe Martin Field on July 16, 2017. He is a Bellingham High School graduate and a Bellevue College attendee. // Photo by Kevin Lake

"He embraced being a Bell, and that is why we asked him back."

Typically, there are five or fewer returners each season. Clem said since playing for a summer team is such a special experience, he likes to give as many people the opportunity

as possible. He said they liked to have a few returning players to help lead the rest of the team.

Clem also said it was important to his players that Western students attend the games.

"There aren't many communities

that get a team like this," Clem said. "We love to see college kids come and root for the team because they bring a great energy. It is fun for the players to play in front of anyone, but especially people their own age."

"A couple of ballparks in our league already had one, and it just adds an extra level of professionalism. We take this really seriously, and [the new scoreboard] adds to the great atmosphere for families."

Haily Tift

Bellingham Bells assistant general manager

The Bells play at Joe Martin Field, which is located on Lakeway Drive next to Civic Stadium.

The concession stand will hold old favorites, such as Little Caesars Pizza and Ralph's Pretzels, and will be adding a few new items to the mix. The hamburger buns will be made at Avenue Bread, and Jack Mountain Meats will be providing the burgers.

With plenty of promotional nights, food and music, anyone can find fun at a Bells' game, Tift said.

"There is nothing better than being outside, especially in Bellingham," Tift said. "Sit on the grass, put down your chairs and blankets and make those memories."

Tickets are available at <http://www.bellinghambells.com>.

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Ski to Sea 2018



Kayakers paddle across Bellingham Bay en route to the Ski to Sea finish line at Marine Park in Fairhaven on May 27. // Photo by Roisin Cowan-Kuist



Racers ring the ceremonial bell at the finish line of the 2018 Ski to Sea Race. A team representing Boomer's Drive-In was the first to ring the bell. // Photo by Roisin Cowan-Kuist

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