

THE WESTERN FRONT

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Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Bigoted vandalism found, removed across campus

Cody Clark
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bigoted vandalism was found in several locations across campus over the weekend and reported to Western administration, according to an email from Presi-

dent Sabah Randhawa on Monday, Nov. 19. A racial slur was written on the Wright's Triangle art installation near Sam Carver Gymnasium, a racial slur was also written on a study abroad flyer outside Arntzen Hall and vari-

ous slurs and offensive terms were written on the namecards of nine residents of Nash Hall, according to a WWU Campus Advisory sent out the same day. Facilities Management removed the slurs from Wright's Triangle

and are doing a survey of all outdoor sculptures and signage to check for more vandalism, according to Randhawa's Nov. 19 email. According to the alert, the vandalism at Nash and Arntzen Halls have also since been removed.

"I am deeply troubled that hateful and bigoted vandalism by cowardly individuals continues to happen here," Randhawa said in the email. "I want to thank you all for your ongoing commitment to social justice and for

building a community that rejects despicable acts like these." According to the advisory, University Police and Public Safety Assistants will be doing additional campus patrols in the coming weeks.

Trans Week of Remembrance



Fourth-year student Eli Kiesel, left, joined by Associated Students Queer Resource Center Advocacy Coordinator Crow Chloupek, right, stand in solidarity on the edge of Fisher Fountain. // Photo by Brooke Wilson

Brooke Wilson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Students, faculty and local volunteers encircled the fountain in Red Square for an organized demonstration on Thursday, Nov. 15, in observance of Trans Week of

Remembrance on campus, an event organized by the Queer Resource Center the week before Transgender Day of Remembrance. Trans Week of Remembrance, nationally known as Transgender Awareness Week, was

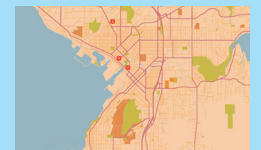
observed throughout the country during Nov. 12-19, 2018. According to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the central focus of the week aims to bolster advocacy and education on pertinent issues like prejudice, discrimina-

tion and violence against transgender folks. The week concludes on Tuesday, Nov. 20 with the annual recognition of Transgender Day of Remembrance across the U.S., which honors the memory of those who have been murdered,

along with misreported or neglected crimes against the community, according to the GLAAD reference guide. What began as a small vigil, grew into a nationally-celebrated, annual memorial. *see TRANS, page 5*



Champions!
Women's volleyball wins NCAA Division II West Regional. *Pg 12*



Thanksgiving
Meals will be offered by various community organizations. *Pg 6-7*



E-Liquids
Changes to come after FDA bolsters efforts. *Pg 3*



Emily Lang, left, and Emma Place died tragically in a hiking accident in August 2017. // Photo Courtesy of Laura Place

Student memorialized with scholarship

Friends band together to crowdsource funds in remembrance

Emily Erskine
THE WESTERN FRONT

In August 2017, two best friends Emily Lang and Emma Place passed away in a tragic hiking accident on Mount Hood. Place was a student at Gonzaga and Lang a student at Western. In memory

of the accident, and in honor of the two friends, Emma's sister Laura Place and seven other Western students are working to create a scholarship for women enrolled in the Honors Program who are passionate about the outdoors and community service, like Emily.

The scholarship is to be named the Emily Lang Memorial Scholarship to honor the fellow Viking. The goal is to crowdsource around \$25,000 through Viking Funder to continuously accrue interest to be disbursed to multiple students in need. The scholarship has

been in the works since fall 2017. Conflicting schedules delayed it from being seriously sorted out until fall 2018. After graduating high school at St. Mary's Academy in Portland in 2016, Lang

see LANG, page 3



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Hey Western! We know you all have some good one-liners. Why not get them published? Submit your caption to the unlabeled cartoon on the right and you could be featured as the winner in next week's issue of The Western Front! Our featured winner from last week is on the left. // Illustrations by Cole Sandhofer

AS Board talks Student Senate, Lobby Day

Student Senate elections will begin on Nov. 26

Simon Thomas
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Legislative Affairs Council has begun drafting Western's newest legislative agenda. Associated Students Vice President for Governmental Affairs Natasha Hessami spoke in-depth about several of the proposed items on the Lobby Day agenda at the AS Board meeting on Nov. 16.

Legislative session begins in Olympia every second Monday of January, and the council is considering items to prioritize lobbying during that time. The council agreed that amount needs to be reduced considerably before the draft is voted upon on Dec. 7.

"The items on our legislative agenda are going to be lobbied on by students during legislative session," Hessami said. "All of these efforts are going to make Western and colleges around the state a better place so we want to

know what students need and what they want so we best represent them in Olympia."

To best understand what students need and want, the council created a survey where students can vote on which of the agenda items they feel are most necessary. The items listed include housing advocacy, environmental advocacy, advocacy for the rights of undocumented students and expansion of the State Need Grant, which could make school more affordable to those seeking financial aid.

Hessami stressed the importance of reaching out to as many students as possible to make drafting the agenda a more democratic process.

"The group that makes the legislative agenda is the Legislative Affairs Council and that is 15 students," Hessami said. "They bring great input but unfortunately, 15 students does not represent the entire university."

AS Vice President of Aca-

dem Affairs Levi Eckman reported that submissions for AS Student Senate candidacy have closed, and all colleges received enough candidates.

After approving an amendment to the Election Code Charge and Charter to better clarify roles and expectations to specific senate positions, the board assessed how to best create an online ballot for the senate elections to make voting more accessible.

Of the options discussed, most board members agreed that a system where each voter gets four votes, two for senate positions reserved for their college and two for undeclared students, seems the most viable at this time.

Eckman said it won't be easy to create a perfect voting system right away, so this year will serve as a trial-and-error experience for future elections.

"I think it will be just fine the first year, and this next year's senate will work tirelessly to make sure next year

we have an even better model," Eckman said during the meeting.

Student Senate elections begin on Nov. 26.

Eckman also reported to the board that the industrial technology-vehicle design program was voted to be put in moratorium. The departmental vote was held on Nov. 14 and passed 9-3-6, and it will move on the Academic Coordinating Commission for a second vote.

Communication studies major and senior Celia Major was appointed to the Activities Council by the board, which also appointed journalism major and junior Colton Redtfeldt to the Student Publication Council.

The board went into a 23-minute executive session for personnel issues regarding professional standards for board members before adjourning the meeting.

The next AS Board meeting will be Nov. 30 at 4 p.m. in Viking Union 567.

The Western Front

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

Correction: The women's volleyball team has appeared in the NCAA Division II West Regional Championship four times since 2015.



Restructuring and incoming personnel are among the changes happening in the Veteran Services Office. // Photo by Jaden Moon

Changes on the horizon for Veteran Services Office

Office will soon be under the Associated Students rather than the Registrar's Office

Anelyse Morris
THE WESTERN FRONT

Veterans Day may have passed, but the Veteran Services office on campus is busier than ever. One month after losing the School Certifying Official, responsible for verifying student schedules for financial aid purposes, the office now faces more personnel loss and a possible restructuring.

The office's mission is to ensure that students who use Veteran Affairs benefits are receiving those benefits, as well as to provide a community of support to veterans and their dependents, said Janice Olivia Heebsh, Associated Students veterans community coordinator.

Heebsh said since Wendy Gegenhuber retired as the School Certifying Official, the office has been "like the wild west," because of many recent changes. Though

Katie Chugg filled the role of School Certifying Official on Nov. 13, the office is now scrambling to find a replacement for Assistant Director of Veteran Services Ann Beck, whose last day was on Nov. 14, Heebsh said.

There is also a greater change in the works for the Veteran Services office. While the office currently reports to the registrar's office, they may soon be reporting to the Associated Students. This switch has been proposed in order to give veterans and dependents a more holistic experience, Beck said.

Heebsh said while she's not sure about the details surrounding this transition, the Veteran Services office and its employees are especially important for student advocacy.

"If [student veterans] fail classes, the VA could revoke our benefits and most of us can't afford to pay

for tuition without them," she said. "So we need those advocates to go to bat for us."

Beck said that regardless of what may happen, students must take priority.

"I just really want to make sure that no matter what things come down the road, our students don't suffer from it," she said. "The veteran's community is really adaptable and resilient. They'll always adjust, it's just trying to make sure that we don't lose anyone in the process."

Chugg said getting to know the student veteran community at Western is what she is looking forward to most in her new role.

"I am thrilled about all the transfer students and freshmen I will get to meet as they start at WWU," Chugg said. "I love hearing their hopes and dreams, and developing relationships with them along their educational journey."

LANG
continued from page 1

started college at Western that fall with the aspiration to join the Peace Corps after graduating. She was also enrolled in the Honors program and was an active participant in academics and the community.

Lang made many close friendships in her year at Western, primarily with the people she met in the Honors Program while living in Edens Hall. "Emily was one of the most

selfless and determined people I've ever met," her close friend Serena Riley said. "She was so incredibly motivated and made me just a better person overall. I felt like I've known her my whole life. We spent every waking moment together freshman year [of college]."

During her time at Western, Lang was actively involved in Girls on the Run, a nonprofit that inspires young girls to get out and get active. She was a volunteer there for several years and would spend time

running with and encouraging middle school-aged girls. Place said if the scholarship exceeds funding expectations, they plan to donate a portion to Girls on the Run.

The students starting the scholarship along with Place and McCullough are Alice Michaelson, Anamika Paulay, Bella Seppi, Delaney Adams, Rachel Rothberg and Serena Riley, all Honors students who were close with Lang.

According to Riley, the women would all often ski and

Future uncertain for e-liquid users, sellers

The FDA is cracking down on sales of e-liquid, including Juul pods

Simon Thomas
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham is often cloudy, but some of that haze might clear up soon.

Sales of flavored e-liquids for vaping at convenience stores may be curtailed as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is bolstering their efforts to reduce vaping among young people, according to a statement released on Thursday, Nov. 15.

The FDA is looking to restrict the sale of flavored e-liquids to stores that check IDs at the door. This will affect e-liquid brands such as Juul Labs, a company now worth \$15 billion due to recent sale increase, according to Fortune. If convenience stores wish to continue selling these products, they would require a separate room with an ID check.

The new regulation comes after the FDA conducted the 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey, which estimated that 3.6 million high school students use e-cigarette products. The FDA statement reported nearly 90 percent of adult smokers started before the age of 18.

This new regulation is an attempt to combat that statis-

tic. "Any policy accommodation to advance the innovations that could present an alternative to smoking - particularly as it relates to e-cigarettes - cannot, and will not, come at the expense of addicting a generation of children to nicotine," FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb said in the statement.

The news of these new regulations has resulted in immediate accommodation by some companies. For example, Juul Labs changed their mission statement to "Improve the lives of the world's one billion adult smokers" when the FDA first expressed concern earlier this year. Juul Labs CEO Kevin Burns also released a statement on Nov. 13 addressing the company's role in deterring young people from using their products.

"We certainly don't want youth using the product. It is bad for public health, and it is bad for our mission. Juul Labs and FDA share a common goal - preventing youth from initiating on nicotine," Burns said.

Senior Sebastian Leigh Freigang, a German and political science major at Western,

see E-LIQUID, page 5



Fruity flavors line shelves at Legacy Vape Lounge and Glass on Nov. 19. // Photo by Simon Thomas

spend time together. Juniors Riley, Rothberg and Paulay still live together in a house they were set to share with Lang.

Place says that the goal is to get the final touches on the donation page ready by mid-December, which will then allow anyone in the public to start donating toward the scholarship.

"We really want to emphasize that the scholarship was started by students, and it's not just the school trying

to get money," Place said. "I think it's important to know that we're all starting it on behalf of her parents. Because it's easier for us to do it here than for them, remotely."

Lang's parents are on board with the scholarship and will be helping submit photos and sharing the information, Place said.

"I don't want them [Lang's parents] to have to stress out about it at all," Place said. "I just want it to be something that they can appreciate."

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With its headwaters in the Twin Sisters peaks, Skookum Creek is the largest contributor of the South Fork of Nooksack River, according to the Whatcom Land Trust website. // Photo courtesy of Amanda McKay and the Whatcom Land Trust

Saving Skookum Creek

The Whatcom Land Trust pursues a \$4 million campaign to protect a vital piece of watershed

Ian Ferguson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Thirty miles from the heart of Bellingham lies a vast forest whose trees have stood for a millennium; surviving devastating fires, earthquakes and the test of time.

Untouched by human encroachment, the forest is teeming with an abundance of healthy wildlife, and in 1993 it was promised to stay that way when the Whatcom Land Trust and Western sought to purchase and protect the land.

Now called the Canyon Lake Community Forest, the land will remain wild and left to its own devices for eternity.

This becomes the future of Whatcom County forests when the Whatcom Land Trust gets involved.

The Land Trust is a non-profit organization formed in 1983 with an original intention to protect farmlands in Whatcom County. Now the Land Trust works to protect the special areas of Whatcom County, whether that be places for recreation, agricultural land protection or species protection.

Since its establishment in 1983, the Land Trust has revved-up their conservation efforts; doubling their acreage of conserved properties to over 23,000 acres in the last five years. Currently the Land Trust is working on project they call their most urgent conservation effort in history.

Land Trust Executive Director Rich Bowers said the group is working to conserve a portion of Skookum Creek, which is located in the South Fork of the Nooksack River. If successful, the project would protect over 1,250 acres of land along 2.3 miles of Skookum Creek, an important piece of the South Fork watershed.

"It's a big year, we usually

don't jump in numbers like that," Bowers said.

The acquisition of Skookum Creek is a \$4 million campaign that the Land Trust hopes to close by the end of February 2019, Bowers said. The project is being funded entirely by private donors, making it the first time the Land Trust has funded a purchase without state or federal funding.

"It's a Whatcom County project and I think that is pretty cool," Bowers said. "We've never done that before."

According to the Whatcom Land Trust fall 2018 newsletter, the protection of Skookum Creek is one of the most important conservation efforts in the history of Whatcom County. Bowers said restoration of the area is an important fight for salmon and forest restoration because there are already roughly 800 acres of the Skookum Creek area that are clear-cut forest, meaning none of the original forest lands remain.

With the enactment of the restoration process, the Land Trust and community will embark on a generational vision of restoring the forests to their old-growth potential, Bowers said.

According to the newsletter, the preservation of Skookum Creek will ensure a healthy watershed and increased climate change resilience, two factors that are important for the restoration of salmon.

In 2018, the Land Trust helped to conserve 125 acres on Governors Point and the 2,240 acres on Galbraith Mountain in partnership with Galbraith Tree Farm, LLC and the City of Bellingham.

"It has been a really great summer for land protection," Bowers said.

A primary tool in the Land Trust's arsenal is the conservation easement, which ac-

ording to Bowers, is a legally-binding document between a landowner and the Land Trust. The document states that the land over which the organization is discussing will never be used for further development. The Trust then is responsible to monitor and defend it if it ever goes court.

"When we're talking about forever, that's a really hard thing to grasp," Bowers said. "Not only is the land forever, but in some form, the Land



The acquisition of Skookum Creek will be funded entirely by private donors. // Photo courtesy of Alan Fritzberg and the Whatcom Land Trust

Trust has to be forever as well."

Bowers said a looming question for the Land Trust is how much land they can handle. In the last five years, they have doubled their land holdings and Bowers said spreading the organization too thin is a concern.

"I would expect that we will be very strategic in buying new lands in the future just because we can't manage it," Bowers said.

However, conservation opportunities keep coming for the Land Trust, and Bowers said it can be hard to say no. To deal with this issue, they have increased their staff and are reaching into the community

for support and involvement. As of now, the Land Trust currently has five full-time and five part-time employees.

Amanda McKay, part-time communications specialist, said her initial involvement with the Land Trust began with a six-month internship through the Huxley College of the Environment. When it came time for her to graduate, she reached out to the Land Trust looking to volunteer, and was instead offered a position.

According to Bowers, the trust had around six interns from Western in the last year. They also hire three students for work-study every quarter - either from Whatcom Community College or Western.

Besides that, McKay said there are many opportunities for students to get involved. Throughout most of the year, the Land Trust hosts two volunteer opportunities every week. She said this gives students the opportunity to branch out in the community.

Bowers said private land conservation is more important than ever. Moving forward, he doesn't think the country can count on conservation support from the federal government.

"As long as I've been alive, the national parks has been this great shining beacon of how you can protect lands, and now we don't know where they're going to wind up," Bowers said. "So now is the time for people who own land and have special values on their property that they care about to say 'I want to protect this.'"

Before moving to Bellingham 18 years ago, Bowers did river conservation work on the East Coast. He said an hour outside of any major city on the East Coast is basically a "bedroom city," a seemingly endless road of houses in every direction.

"Go to Philly, go to Pittsburgh, go to Boston - try to find a green space or build a new one, it's almost impossible," Bowers said.

According to Bowers, this fate is all too possible for Whatcom County and the Land Trust's main goal is, and always has been, to protect the special and important lands in the midst of inevitable growth.

"Protect it now while you have the opportunity and while you can afford it," he said.

TRANS

continued from page 1

Started by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith, the vigil honored the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman killed in 1998, and commemorated all the trans lives lost to violence that year, according to the Transgender Day of Remembrance organization website.

While the occasion has

been marked with stories about prevalent crime against transgender people, the resilience expressed in the face of violence has equally struck a chord within the community near and abroad.

In years past, the Associated Students Queer Resource Center has typically conducted an evening vigil on campus that a fairly small number of people attended, said Nichole Vargas, Community Engagement Coordinator.

After receiving input



Volunteers at the demonstration presented photographs of transgender individual, LGBTQ+ flags and apparel or posters that outlined demographics of the trans community. // Photo by Brooke Wilson

E-LIQUID

continued from page 3

has been a store clerk at the Smart Stop on North Garden Street for almost a year. The convenience store is located between the Sehome and York neighborhoods, making it the closest place for many students living in the area to purchase flavored e-liquids, like Juul pods.

Freigang said it's unlikely convenience stores will add a separate room for e-liquids.

"The issue with that, especially with smaller stores, is that you would have to employ a second clerk," Freigang said. "If the FDA had that requirement, which I would see as very sensible, it might put a new burden on the owner because he would have to staff a second room."

Freigang said if new regulations do get implemented, stores similar to the one he works at may not sell e-liquids

anymore.

"It would have to be optimized. I wouldn't see it as feasible for smaller stores," Freigang said.

Freigang said he thinks a solution would be to require better equipment for store clerks to check if an ID is authentic. He added that there have been times when he was unsure if an ID was fake, but has no way to prove it, so requiring an ID check at the door of a second room wouldn't help.

While trying to combat youth nicotine addiction, the FDA said that flavored e-liquids have also played a role in adult smokers quitting more harmful products containing nicotine, and say new regulations will not come at the cost of reducing adult smokers' access to these products.

Senior Courtney Tacazon had been smoking tobacco since her senior year in high school. She has been vaping



Members of the Associated Students Queer Resource Center proudly display signs and sport colors advocating the nationally-observed Transgender Awareness Week. // Photo by Brooke Wilson

from peers and fellow club organizers, Vargas said the center decided to host a demonstration in a common gathering space instead while classes are in session. In a positive change of pace, Vargas said the decision has only strengthened LGBTQ+ presence within the Western community and heightened social awareness.

Other events continued throughout the week, including one titled "Remembering the Dead, Celebrate the Living," on Friday, Nov. 16 that served as a reminder to attendees that not every story has to end, said fourth-year Eli Kiesel, who volunteered at the demonstration. At the beginning of the evening, the AS Student Advocacy and Identity Resource Center

focused on honoring trans folks who have passed, while the latter part entailed a social gathering that aimed to build community and promote healing, as stated on the Western Involvement Network webpage.

Given the current political climate, divisive rhetoric and recent legislative proposals from the U.S. government have incited grave concern among trans people and gender non-conforming individuals.

In late October, the Department of Health and Human Services drafted a memo that defined sex as a trait conclusively determined by genitalia at birth and would effectively erase the identities of trans folks from the narrative. In response, the national trans community

refused to be silenced and has rallied together in unprecedented fashion via social media to raise a ruckus.

For students and staff members who are concerned about what these policy changes could mean for the daily lives of trans folk, LGBTQ+ Director L.K. Langley shared their thoughts with a message on the university website on Oct. 22, 2018, following the breaking news.

"Legal recognition and documentation do not dictate our humanity... no memo can take away what we know is true about ourselves, our families, and our communities," Langley said. "Trans people carry rich legacies of resilience. Our lives will not be erased. Trans people are beautifully, powerfully here."

she said. "Maybe by using their parents ID to get into websites, or an 18-year-old friend, or whatever."

Maddysehn Willett is the manager at Legacy Lounge Vape and Glass, a vape lounge located on 32nd Street. Willett said the vape industry has been through a lot of changes over the last year due to regulations.

"It has been a really big gray area for just about everything, we obviously still have hundreds of flavors on our shelves right now, so it's not like anything specific has really taken effect," Willett said. "Other than Juul, other big brands like Naked, Banzai and some underdog companies will still be easily available to us."

Willett pointed out that as these new policies are being resolved, smoke shops will still be allowed to carry these products with no issues at all. She estimated that the slow process of rewriting laws could take years.

"We had some major FDA regulations hit us that were very clear on specific things, but there was also a whole other category of regulations they were also trying to put into place involving what flavors you could and couldn't carry, no matter what brand it came from," she said.

Willett said these regulations were written to deter minors from wanting to use those products, and they included regulations on what can be put on covers of the products as well, so that companies could not explicitly advertise to children. They were, however, never permanently put into place.

"Obviously adults like fruity deliciousness too," Willett said. The FDA statement will catalyze change on the current system in place, but consumers may not see distinct difference until actual policies are permanently put into place.

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THANKSGIVING BACK

Compiled by Jack Taylor

For some people, Thanksgiving is a time to gather with loved ones and give thanks for a fruitful year. For others, it is a chance to give back to their communities through volunteering or donating to local organizations. This holiday season, many organizations in Whatcom County are holding free Thanksgiving meals and providing food to help those in need make holiday meals.

Old Town Cafe

When: Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Located on 316 W Holly St. in downtown Bellingham

Local restaurant Old Town Cafe will be serving its free holiday meal for the 47th year to those in need this Thanksgiving. Despite having a full volunteer list, Matthew Clauer, the general manager, said he encourages anyone to show up to the dinner to celebrate the long-standing tradition. Additionally, Clauer said what makes the event special is it is completely driven by members of the community.

"It is completely volunteer run, and everything is donated by various community organizations," Clauer said.

Lighthouse Mission

While the Lighthouse Mission provides free meals to people experiencing homelessness year-round, a special Thanksgiving meal will be provided for those in need this season.

When: Sunday, Nov. 25, from noon to 1:30 pm.
Where: Lighthouse Mission on 910 W Holly St. in downtown
www.thelighthousemission.org

Executive Director Hans Erchinger-Davis said while the mission already has enough volunteers for their Thanksgiving meal, they are currently looking for volunteers to help with the Christmas meal, which takes place on Christmas Day. Erchinger-Davis said the meal will be an opportunity to make connections with people experiencing homelessness in the community.

"It is important on a few different levels. It's important for us, because it is a relationship-builder with people that are on the streets," Davis said. "If you are in survival mode, you have to have a level of trust that someone is there to help you, not hurt you."

Ferndale Community Meals

When: Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22, at noon.
Where: Located at United Church of Ferndale at 2034 Washington St.

Anyone interested in volunteering can sign up to through the church's website, www.ucf1.org

"[Providing a free Thanksgiving meal] is very important. It is very well received by the community, we often have 120 guests," Robin Ogmundson, an employee of the church, said.

Not pictured on map

Project Hope Food Bank

When: Tuesday, Nov. 20, from 3 to 6 p.m.
Where: Hope Food Bank located at 205 South B.C. Ave. #105, Lynden

While this Lynden-based food bank is not serving hot meals to people in need, they will be providing grocery items, such as turkeys and potatoes, to help families make a holiday meal.

People can donate directly to the food bank at the address listed above, or donate through several food drives happening at Lynden schools. Some food items that people can donate year-round are canned goods such as canned fruit and beans or condiments like ketchup.

Don Kok, director of the food bank, commented on the need the community has for the food bank.

"Our goal is to be a food bridge. We are unable to provide all the needs of our community, but we can help fill the gap," Kok said.

Not pictured on map

Salvation Army

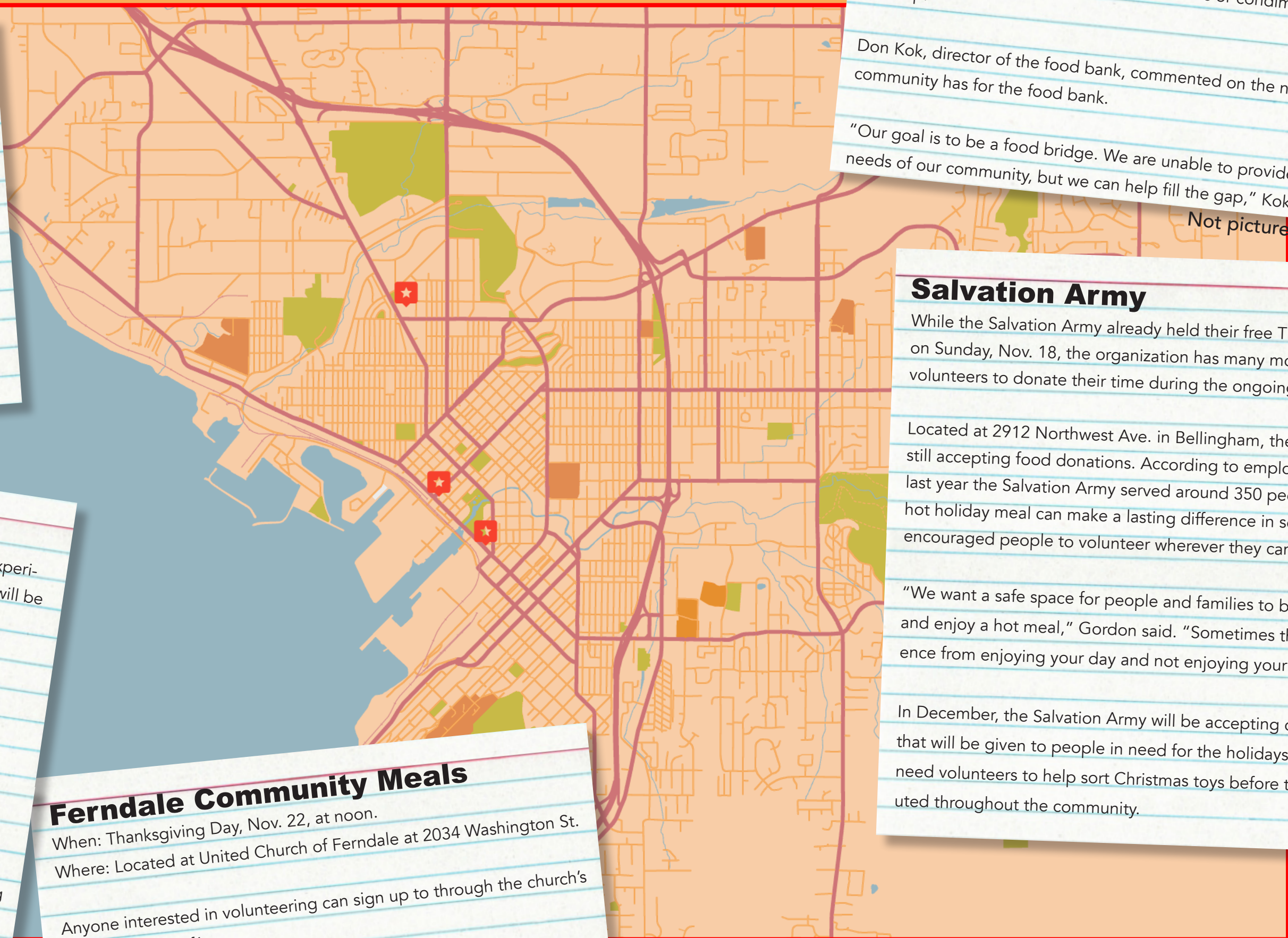
While the Salvation Army already held their free Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, Nov. 18, the organization has many more opportunities for volunteers to donate their time during the ongoing holiday season.

Located at 2912 Northwest Ave. in Bellingham, the Salvation Army is still accepting food donations. According to employee Jen Gordon, last year the Salvation Army served around 350 people. Gordon said a hot holiday meal can make a lasting difference in someone's day, and encouraged people to volunteer wherever they can.

"We want a safe space for people and families to be able to come in and enjoy a hot meal," Gordon said. "Sometimes that is the difference from enjoying your day and not enjoying your day."

In December, the Salvation Army will be accepting donations of gifts that will be given to people in need for the holidays. They will also need volunteers to help sort Christmas toys before they are distributed throughout the community.

While it is important to donate time and food during the holiday season, it is perhaps more vital to continually support those in need year-round, as many of these organizations take food and accept volunteers all year.



THERE IS NO PLANET B

Emma Kivlin
THE WESTERN FRONT

With recycling bins on every corner, reusable grocery bags common place and the vast number of upcycled clothing shops and thrift stores in town, it's clear Bellingham is a city of environmentally-conscious businesses and people alike.

Becoming a Certified B Corporation is another way for businesses across the country to draw like-minded customers to their doors. Certified B Corporations balance purpose and profit by being aware of the effects of decisions on workers, customers, community and environment, according to the Certified B Corporation website.

Currently, three local businesses in Bellingham have B Corporation certifications: Aslan Brewing, Kulshan Services and Sea Witch Botanicals.

Aslan Brewing, located in downtown Bellingham off of North Forest Street, is a popular destination for locals to enjoy meals and organic brews in an open concept restaurant, or dine in an outdoor seating area in the occasional Bellingham sunshine.

Jack Lamb, CEO and one of three owners of the restaurant and brewery, said he believes that people and the planet come before profits, which is why he became interested in becoming a Certified B Corporation.

According to Lamb, Aslan became officially certified a year after the restaurant opened to the public in 2014.

With Aslan employing about 100 people, Lamb said it was important to the company to give back to its workers and community by showing the company is committed to environmentally-conscious values. He said when the business became certified, they created a written employee handbook, instead of just verbally communicating policies. Lamb said this change showcased how much they value their staff.

Lamb said because Aslan was just getting started when it began the certification process, it was easy to start applying better practices. He said it was even easier to adjust some habits to make them more sustainable.

Aslan doesn't use plastic straws and switched over from cloth napkins and environment friendly ones, both decisions that increase the sustainability of the businesses, Lamb said.

Lamb said it was important for the company to be sustainable, but equally important to not greenwash the business, a term for when companies use green marketing to present themselves as more environmentally-friendly than they are.

Kulshan Services is another local business focused on sustainability in its business practices, according to

their website. Their focus is to build sustainable communities by assisting organizations with planning, facilitating and public engagement.

According to Ryan Roberts, one of the sustainable professionals for the company, Kulshan Services started in 2011 as an in-home consulting service. Since moving locations, the company has reached clients as far as central and southern Washington.

Roberts, a 2016 Western graduate, started with Kulshan Services as an intern while he was still in school, and was later hired on as staff member.

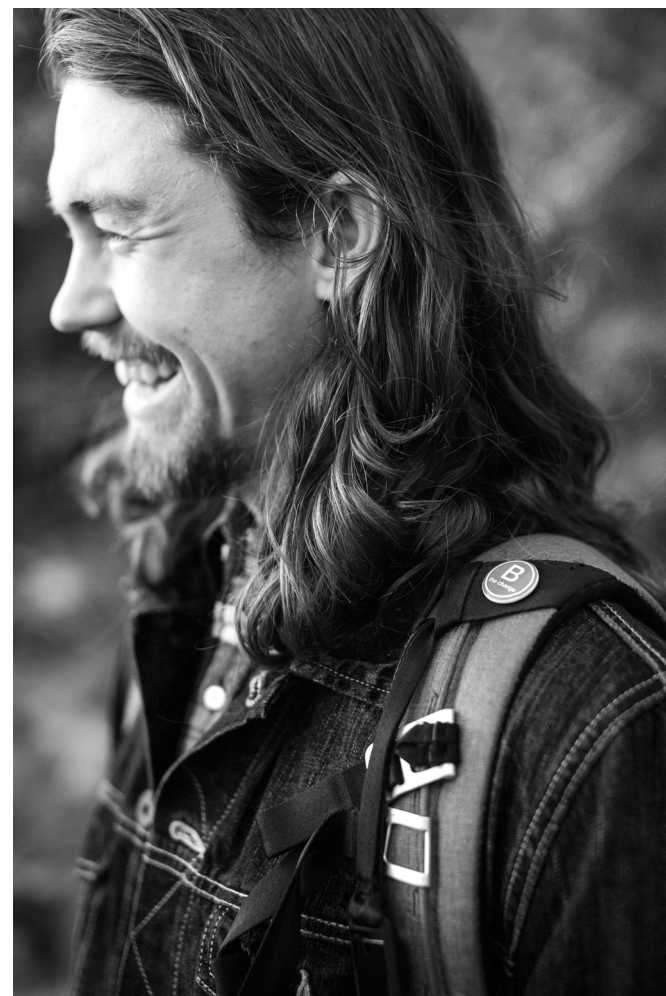
Roberts said like Aslan, becoming a B Corporation helped the company focus its goals and clarified the type of work and organizations that Kulshan Services wanted to specialize in.

"As we're adopting these practices, we want to be able to help other companies improve their practices, and how can we do that if we aren't doing them ourselves?" Roberts said.

Lamb speculated that it might be harder for older businesses to pass the certification due to long-term habits or using outdated methods, such as not using automatic lights, something that many newer businesses start off with.

According to Lamb, there is an annual fee once a business becomes certified, but the application process is free. It's a thorough process to become certified but worth the time and energy, Lamb said.

"The [application] itself is enlightening," Lamb said. "If you don't want



Ryan Roberts said becoming a B Corporation helped Kulshan Services focus in on its goals. // Photo courtesy of Ryan Roberts

to put that [annual cost] as part of your overhead, just fill out the form and act like a B Corporation. Challenge yourself, refill out the form in a year and see how much better you're doing now."

Sea Witch Botanicals, owned by couple Alesia and Jhustin Hall, is a local business that provides natural home and body products that are healthy for people and the environment, according to their mission statement.

One of the focuses of the company is to educate people on the effects plastic packaging and synthetic ingredients have on the environment, Jhustin Hall said.

Read MORE online at
westernfrontonline.com



Aslan Brewing became a Certified B Corporation a year after the restaurant opened in 2014. // Photo by Jaden Moon

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OPINION | 9

FRONTLINE

The right to choose: something nobody wants to lose

Now that midterm voting has come to an end, policies, social issues and basic human rights are up for debate once again. One of which is the right to abortion.

There are many arguments against abortions, most of which are based off of misunderstanding or a lack of information. At the end of the day, the decision someone who is pregnant makes it up to them

In 1973, the Supreme Court affirmed a women's right to abortion in the Roe v. Wade decision. The court declared that Texas statutes that criminalized abortion were unconstitutional.

After 45 years of safe, legal abortions and years of debate from anti-abortion politicians, the right to choose is being threatened at a nationwide level.

A memo Brett Kavanaugh, now a Supreme Court justice, stated that the Supreme Court "can always overrule" Roe v. Wade, according to CNN.

More recently, President Donald Trump made a promise to nominate justices who would "automatically" overturn Roe v. Wade, according to The Washington Post.

When Kavanaugh was confirmed to the Supreme Court, the discussion surrounding reproductive healthcare intensified.

Over the course of the last decade, politicians have passed more than 400 state abortion restrictions, according to Planned Parenthood.

In November, Alabama and West Virginia both passed statutes restricting women's right to choose.

Alabama's statute recognizes "the sanctity of unborn life and

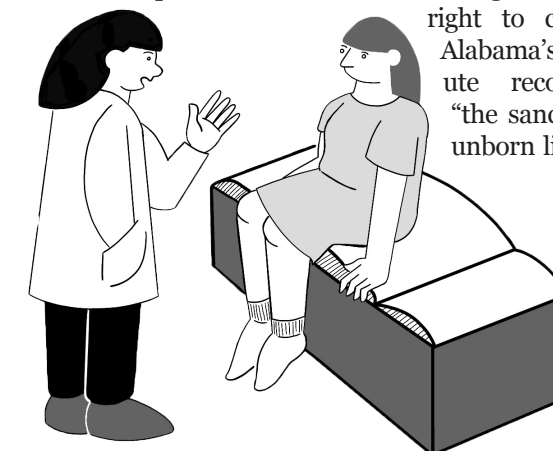


Illustration by Cole Sandhofer

the rights of unborn children," according to York Dispatch.

Meanwhile, West Virginia amended their constitution to overturn a 1993 court ruling allowing taxpayer-funded abortions. The statute also laid the framework to criminalize abortion entirely.

Although these statutes, along with many others have language in them that threatens the right to an abortion entirely. Right now, people seeking abortions can use Roe v. Wade as a precedent to challenge their state's legislation. By citing the court's ruling that a ban on abortion is unconstitutional, people who seek abortion can defend themselves. But, if Roe v. Wade were overturned, it could set a federal precedent and 20 U.S. states have laws in place that could restrict abortion, according to the Guttmacher Center for Population, Research Innovation and Dissemination.

Before abortion was legalized under case law, illegal abortions made up one-sixth of all pregnancy and childbirth-related deaths, according to the Guttmacher Institute. Women who survived those procedures sustained severe injuries, including "perforations of the uterus, cervical wounds, serious bleeding, infections, poisoning, shock and gangrene," according to the ACLU. Now that abortion is legal, it is one of the safest medical procedures in the U.S., with a safety record of over 99 percent, according to Planned Parenthood.

If we want to keep people safe and healthy, access to abortions must not be threatened.

History shows that even when abortions are illegal, it does not stop people from seeking them out. This still happens today and if anything, it leaves them to choose from more dangerous alternatives.

Many people who oppose abortion try to use adoption as an argument. But, it is entirely unnecessary and, in some instances, unsafe to go through the chemical and physical trauma of childbirth if the impregnated person doesn't want to.

In 2016, there were nearly 11,000 children in the foster care system in Washington state, 29.9 percent of which were awaiting adoption, according to the Child Welfare League of America. There are plenty of children who need safe, loving homes as it already stands.

Some argue against abortion because they believe it

is murder. However, according to the ACLU, the reality is that over half of all abortions occur in the first eight weeks of pregnancy and less than one percent of these procedures take place after 21 weeks.

According to Live Science, although the receptors in the skin that sense injury develop between 8 and 15 weeks after conception, the neurons in the spinal cord that can transmit this to the brain do not develop until 19 weeks into pregnancy. Then the neurons in the spinal cord need to continue to extend fully to where the brain is located which doesn't happen until after 23 weeks.

So when politicians discuss abortion in the third trimester, they are only trying to sway the public into joining them on their mission to end a person's right to choose. They are seldom speaking factually or accurately.

If politicians wish to prevent abortion, then they should begin by making birth control more accessible.

There are many different types of birth control. The most common being the pill. When used correctly, birth control pills are 91 percent effective, and usually cost up to \$50, according to Planned Parenthood. Other birth control methods such as IUDs and implants are up to 99 percent effective, but can cost substantially more. Without insurance, these birth control methods can cost up to \$1,300, according to Planned Parenthood, making them inaccessible to people with less means.

Under the Affordable Care Act during the Obama administration, employee insurance was required to cover birth control. But under the Trump administration, employers can deny providing contraceptive coverage based on religious beliefs, according to CNN.

At Western, students are fortunate enough to have access to the Student Health Center. The center can provide some alternative solutions when insurance does not provide the care a student needs. The health center also provides free condoms to students, which, when used correctly, are 85 percent effective, according to Planned Parenthood.

It is important to recognize that other communities do not have the same abundant resources college campuses do. Our rights in Washington state might not yet be threatened, but we cannot close our eyes to what is

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Alyssa Bruce, Julia Furukawa and Ray Garcia

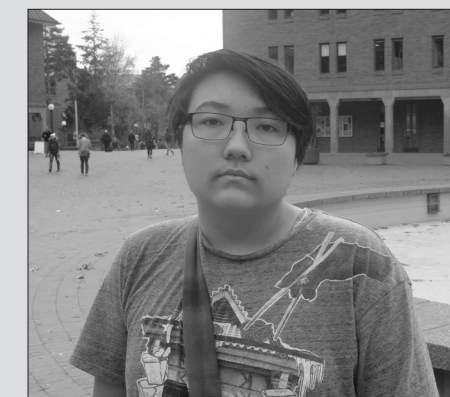
VIKING VOICES:

"WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM?"



Barrett Codiack
Graduate Archival Studies

"I'd like to see us go more toward the direction of a single-payer system more along the Canadian lines. I'm fortunate enough that my income level allows me to afford the state of Washington medicare system, if it was any higher though I would be in trouble."



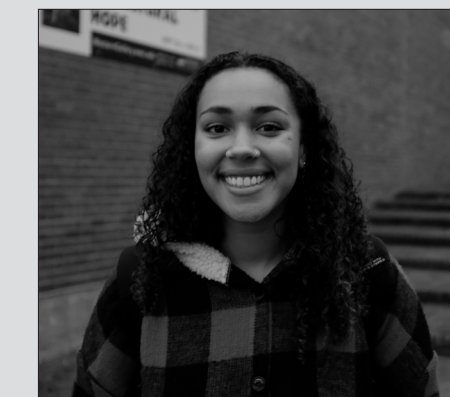
Nani Thompson
Environmental Science

"I personally think that healthcare is too expensive here. I know that if something happened to me I couldn't afford to take an ambulance, and if somebody did call the ambulance I wouldn't have a way to pay for it."



Matt Evanoff
Manufacturing Engineering

"It could definitely be improved. It's kind of expensive right now, I definitely can't afford it myself so I'm trying to get a job that offers it for me. I can't complain though, it's not like we don't have any healthcare."



Saya Corbray
Urban Planning

"I think we need to do better by our people. Healthcare as a term is encompassing of so many things, and I think we're failing at a few of them, especially mental health."

Compiled by Cole Sandhofer

Judo club gets ready to sweep the leg

Wrestling club president returns from Japan with desire to bring judo back to Western



Western students Mitchell Nicholson and Gary Allen attempt to pin each other down during Western Judo's practice at the Wade King Student Recreation Center on Oct. 28. // Photo by Matthew Tangeman

Brooke Wilson
THE WESTERN FRONT

After spending five months practicing judo in Japan, senior Nathan Swanson-Dinsmore returned to the U.S. with a reinvigorated passion for the sport and an ambition to revitalize the judo club that once thrived on campus.

"Since coming back, I've wanted to bring judo back to Western and be able to introduce the sport to students who are interested in grappling," Swanson-Dinsmore said.

Not only does judo wield the capacity to train the body and mind, but also involves unarmed combat derived from jiu-jitsu, the Japanese art of physical, weaponless fighting.

As the president of Western's wrestling club, Swanson-Dinsmore said he originally hoped to seek out more opportunities to practice wrestling in Japan. After much consideration, Swanson-Dinsmore said he added judo to his agenda in anticipation of the exchange program abroad last spring and summer.

"For five months, I trained to get ready to hopefully join the judo club at Yokohama National University where I had decided to attend," Swanson-Dinsmore said.

After settling into his new territory, Swanson-Dinsmore said he began practicing four times per week at the resident judo dojo.

"I had amazing opportuni-

ties to compete in many different places in Japan, as well as become good friends with the other club members," Swanson-Dinsmore said.

By the end of his journey, Swanson-Dinsmore said he attained the brown-belt ranking and has seen much improvement in his basic skill set.

Prior to his journey abroad last year, Swanson-Dinsmore said he began honing his judo abilities at the Whatcom Judo Dojo, which currently practices at the downtown Bellingham YMCA Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

At regular meetings, Swanson-Dinsmore connected with a number of alumni and former members and heard stories about the original judo club in its glory days during the early 2000s. Eventually, Swanson-Dinsmore said he grew more invested in the idea to resurrect the club after its account through the Associated Students was officially deactivated in April 2017 because it hadn't been renewed since 2015.

Associated Students Program Director Jenn Cook noted all the hurdles that would need to be cleared in order to successfully reinstate the club. Speaking with AS Activities Council members and administrators through the Western Involvement Network, filing and paperwork would be the primary objectives.

After that point, Cook said club members would gain access to funding and the ability

to reserve communal spaces on campus for practice.

As to why the judo club disbanded in the first place, Swanson-Dinsmore cited the lack of strong student leadership combined with renovations at Sam Carver Gymnasium that posed difficulties for the club to acquire temporary accommodations.

Due to the entry cost at the YMCA, along with securing reliable transportation and the time spent commuting, Swanson-Dinsmore said the logistical issues likely contributed to greater complications with managing the club in the past.

With sights set ahead, Swanson-Dinsmore said he aims to recuperate an equal number of participants similar to past peak levels of engagement with the student body.

"As the club is now young again we have not made any plans for major changes yet, however we will most likely make changes as the club progresses," Swanson-Dinsmore said.

One of the main obstacles he specified will be finding time and necessary accommodations for space on campus.

In addition to routine practices, locating permanent storage space for the training mats has been rather challenging for Swanson-Dinsmore, along with carrying that burden on behalf of the team as club president.

"We have been moving between Carver and the [Wade King Recreation] Center due to the fact that the Athletics

Department assumes priority over club sports and [AS] clubs," Swanson explained.

Previously, scheduled games and official tournaments for varsity sports have taken precedence over other recreational, student organized activities, said Swanson-Dinsmore.

To give perspective, the wrestling club schedules roughly 70 practice sessions in total, and approximately 20 percent of coordinated practices are routinely cancelled or temporarily moved elsewhere with authorization from the athletics department. In other words, wrestling club members are not permitted to practice in Carver Gym facilities about 15 times during the competitive season between fall and winter quarter.

Swanson-Dinsmore said he anticipates the judo club will encounter a similar dilemma



Western Judo adviser Mark Glaser grapples with student Mitchell Nicholson during practice on Oct. 28. // Photo by Matthew Tangeman

Track and Field team gives back to community

Western Track and Field heads out to local Haggen grocery stores to collect donations for the Bellingham Food Bank

Kamiah Koch
THE WESTERN FRONT

With a goal of raising \$1,200 and collecting 700 pounds of donated non-perishable foods, the Western Track and Field team challenged themselves to a race off the track.

The team engaged with people outside the Sehome and Fairhaven Haggen stores on the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 17, and the entire day on Sunday, Nov. 18, inviting shoppers to donate to the Bellingham Food Bank.

This fundraiser is part of the team's Community Connections Campaign, which works to get the Track and Field team involved with Bellingham residents while also giving back.

To keep spirits lively in the cold November air, each hourly shift consisted of three team members competing against each other to see which shift could receive the most donations.

Sophomore sprinter Bella Foos said during her afternoon shift on Sunday her team was on their way to reaching the donation goal. Referencing a score sheet at the donation table, the team could see which shift was winning in dona-



Food donations collected by the Western Track and Field team displayed outside of the Sehome Haggen on Sunday, Nov. 18. // Photo by Kamiah Koch

tions. Foos said the 2 p.m. shift before them had collected 57 donated food items and the 3 p.m. shift she was on had collected 37 donated food items.

"We still have 10 minutes!" Foos said to her teammates after reading the donation numbers.

In hopes of beating the 57 donations from the shift before hers, Foos quickly returned to her post at the front entrance of the Sehome Haggen to en-

courage more shoppers to donate.

Mallory Harder, a freshman 400-meter runner, said the Track and Field team does an outreach service project every year.

"[The team] has done food bank donations the last two years," Harder said. "And people seem to be interested, especially around the holidays."

Freshman hammer thrower Avery Lux said some shoppers

are excited to donate and interact with the team.

"This fundraiser is a great way to open conversations about track with people," Lux said. "It also creates association with the philanthropy the Track and Field team participates in."

After giving shoppers the spiel on the team's fundraiser for the food bank, Lux said people often ask the athletes what events they do and what

they're majoring in at school.

When the fundraiser ended, the team loaded the canned and non-perishable items into the back of Head Coach Pee Wee Halsell's truck and posed for a photo with the pile of goods they collected. Then, Halsell took all the goods directly to the Bellingham Food Bank.

Although scores were not finalized at the 5 p.m. shift, the Sehome Haggen score sheet showed the 9 a.m. crew was the winning shift with \$265 in money donations. The 2-4 p.m. shifts were tied with around 50-60 food donations each.

Foos said it's hard to tell if there is a difference between this year and last year's donation numbers, but people have been very generous, she said.

Harder said they will likely continue this fundraiser event again next year and said she hopes to see the team do more events like this that benefit the Bellingham community.

Hopefully the team felt a runner's high when the final results were tallied up. Collectively, they reported on WWU Athletics' Twitter page that 1,135 pounds of food was donated and they raised \$1740.

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Above: Players celebrate a point during a game against Cal State San Bernardino on Saturday, Nov. 17. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

Thank you, *next*

Women's volleyball collects shiny new trophy with NCAA West Regional Division II Championship win

Andrew McClain
THE WESTERN FRONT

Head Coach Diane Flick-Williams said that at the beginning of the women's volleyball season she circled the NCAA West Regional Division II Championship Tournament on her calendar. Then, after going 0-3 to start the season, she buried that calendar and never looked at it again.

"It was clear there was work to do, so we started to take a 'one game at a time' approach," Flick-Williams said.

Twenty-eight straight victories and one regional championship win later, it's an approach that appears to have worked.

As the Vikings played

through their first two tournament games, it was clear that the level of competition was the highest they'd faced throughout the year. While they managed to sweep both early games, nothing came easy as both the California State East Bay University Pioneers and the California State Polytechnic University Pomona Broncos came within just a few points of taking very close sets off of the Vikings.

But in their own building, with the home crowd behind them, the Vikings showed tenacious resilience. Despite the best efforts of their opponents, the Vikings refused to drop their first set until the final showdown against the California State University, San

Bernardino Coyotes for the championship on Saturday, Nov. 17.

The Coyotes started the last game quickly, taking the first set by the slimmest of margins. Then it was the Vikings' turn to show why they came into the tournament as the number one seed.

After taking the next two sets against the Coyotes, both times with a score of 25-22, the Vikings dropped their second, and last, set of the tournament. The 1,600 fans in attendance cheered wildly as the Coyotes forced set five, giving the game a sudden-death vibe that only hyped the crowd up even more.

The Vikings spread their offense well going into the last set, with senior setter Brette Boesel racking up nine assists in the fifth, alone. The Vikings jumped out to an early 4-1 lead and rode the game out point-for-point down to the wire at 14-12. It seems almost poetic that senior Abby Phelps, the Great Northwest Athletic Conference women's volleyball kill record-holder, ended the game 15-12 with her 22nd successful kill of the night.

"I don't know how you could script it any better," Flick-Williams said in her after-game interview as she eyed the re-



Western women's volleyball celebrates their championship win over Cal State San Bernardino on Saturday, Nov. 17. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

gional championship trophy perched on the edge of the table she sat at.

Between junior Kayleigh Harper's absurd .523 percent efficiency on 44 kill attempts, senior Aubrey Stephens' game-leading 26 digs, and an impressive 65 assists from Boesel, the Vikings looked like a well-oiled machine throughout the game. They blended stellar individual performances with strong teamplay to earn the victory against what was undoubtedly the strongest opponent they faced in the tournament.

With this victory, the Vikings are headed to the NCAA Division II Elite 8 Tournament being held at the A.J. Palumbo Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

later this month. They're sure to put up a fight against the Tarleton State University TexAnns in the first round, scheduled for Nov. 29 at 11:30 a.m. PST.

Of course, that means the Vikings' season just got a little longer, but Flick-Williams seems amenable to the turn of events. She called winning the regional championship at home "pretty special" but gave a clue as to where her heart was really at as the season draws to an end in the closing statements of her after-game interview.

"Getting two more weeks together with this group of seniors," Flick-Williams said about what the championship win meant to her. "That's the thing I'm most thankful for."



Alison Daveport bumps the ball during a game against Cal State San Bernardino on Saturday, Nov. 17. The Vikings won the game 3 sets to 2 to move to the NCAA II Championship Tournament in Pittsburgh. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin