

# THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 186, Issue 7

westernfrontonline.com

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

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## Historic building lost to fire



READ MORE ONLINE

Firefighters try their best to put out the blaze on Railroad Avenue that started early on Monday, Feb. 18. Hohl's Feed and Seed, which was over a century old, housed both gardening and animal supplies, and small pets like rabbits and hamsters. // Photo by Zoe Deal

## Whatcom County takes over emergency shelter planning

Bellingham closes emergency housing at Maritime Heritage Park, transfers volunteers to Whatcom County

Stella Harvey

THE WESTERN FRONT

According to a memorandum from Emergency Management staff to Bellingham Mayor Kelli Linville last week, the weather in Bellingham was not severe enough anymore to constitute emergency responses like an emergency shelter. A temporary emergency shelter opened by the City of Bellingham

at the Maritime Heritage Park pavilion was officially closed on Feb. 15.

The closure was met with opposition from meeting attendees who argued it is unsafe for people to be sleeping outside with temperatures set to drop below freezing in the coming days.

During an emergency meeting on Friday, Feb. 15, the Bellingham City Council voted to amend the severe winter weather

emergency proclamation made at a city council meeting Monday, Feb. 11. The proclamation now includes an order for the City of Bellingham to collaborate with the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management to help house people without shelter. Linville has since issued an authorization for Whatcom County to open a temporary emergency shelter.

At the Feb. 11 meeting prior to the authorization for a county shelter, community members pleaded for the city to establish more safe and reliable housing in the wake of frigid temperatures. Rachel Duval, a volunteer with nonprofit HomesNOW! which has set up a temporary encampment for the winter months called Winter

see *SHELTER*, page 5

## Black History Month

### Western's first Black student



Miss Alma J. Clark

FACULTY STANDS FIRM

Principal Mathes Insists That State School Knows Neither Race Nor Color.

Alisha Dixon

THE WESTERN FRONT

On Jan. 29, 1906, Alma Clark, Western's first Black student, arrived on campus. Clark came to campus at what was then called the State Normal School, accompanied by her brother. The Morning Olympian reported that Clark's appearance "caused no end of commotion among the young white women" upon her arrival.

Clark's life story, though mostly undocumented, is an intriguing one. On top of being the first Black student at Western, the Seattle Republican reported that she was also an assistant librarian in Seattle. Clark was a strict member of the baptist church, and was described as modest and intelligent.

Clark's enrollment at the State Normal School was controversial, with several Bellingham and Seattle newspapers covering her story, including The Bellingham Herald, The Seattle Republican and The Morning Olympian. This coverage sparked community engagement with journalists and readers alike, with people writing about standing up for

see *CLARK*, page 8

## Students concerned about snow safety

Class cancelled three days in a row, pathways obstructed following snow

Esther Chong

THE WESTERN FRONT

Following three days of heavy snowfall over the second weekend of February, students were worried about whether or not they would be able to attend classes on campus. Now, students are looking ahead to see how Western will handle heavy snowfall in the future.

Although there was

still nearly a foot of snow on the ground, a WWU Weather Advisory sent on Tuesday, Feb. 12 said only classes before noon would be cancelled. During the day, maintenance teams would continue plowing snow and ice in parking lots and main campus, the alert said.

Some students felt that campus was still unsafe, and many took to social media, wondering whether or not their input

was taken into account in discussions about class cancellation.

"The university takes into consideration a number of factors on whether to open, delay opening or close the university during bad weather," said Paul Cocke, Western's director of communications and marketing. "Factors include the changing

see *SNOW*, page 3



Maintenance teams on campus use a crane to clear snow off the roof of Miller Hall on Thursday, Feb. 14.//

Photo by Esther Chong



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Ben Rankin and Ryan McConnell get a push on their canoe during a snowy night on Oak Street on Feb. 10, 2019. Western closed for three days when a snowstorm hit Bellingham. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

## The Western Front

The Western Front  
Western Washington University  
Communications Facility 222  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Newsroom number:  
360-650-3162  
Email address:  
westernfrontonline@gmail.com

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Laura Place  
**Managing Editor**  
Dante Koplowitz-Fleming  
**Campus Life Editor**  
Julia Berkman  
**Administrative Watch Editor**  
Cody Clark  
**Local Editor**  
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Emily Erskine  
**Copy Editors**  
Jack Taylor  
Ian Haupt  
**Staff Photographer**  
Emily Porter  
**Letters to the editor:**  
westernfront.opinion@gmail.com  
**Press releases:**  
wpress.release@gmail.com  
**Faculty Adviser**  
Jack Keith  
jackkeithfront@gmail.com

**Advertising Department**  
360-650-3160  
**Advertising Manager**  
Cameron Ohlson

*The Western Front is published once weekly in the fall, winter, spring and summer quarters. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University and is published by the Student Publications Council. It is mainly supported by advertising. Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection to advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are involved in a course in the department of journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors.*

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**Corrections:**  
In the drag show story, the photo caption incorrectly described Sativa as Lala Amish

There was no print issue of the Western Front last week, Wednesday, Feb. 13 due to university closure because of inclement weather.

## SNOW

continued from page 1

weather forecasts, the extent of snow or ice removal needed on campus sidewalks, parking lots and roads, and whether [Whatcom Transportation Authority] is running, since most students have access to WTA.”

The university released another weather alert on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 8 a.m., cancelling the remainder of classes for the day.

During the aftermath of the snowstorm, students on campus witnessed injuries, sliding buses and stuck cars.

Third-year student Katelyn Power said she saw someone injure their ankle stepping off a bus near the Performing Arts Center on Thursday, Feb. 14.

“That sidewalk area was super bad and it was bound to happen, but it was shocking to just witness it,” said Power, who saw the bus driver and another student pull the injured person onto a safer part of the walkway.

“It was slippery on the bus and where she landed on her foot. We all physically saw her ankle twist like a corkscrew and she laid there until medical vehicles arrived,” she said.

“If busses can’t drive the campus route safely, then that

essentially puts students taking the bus or [driving to campus] in danger,” fourth-year student Pauline Elevazo said.

Elevazo said she left for the bus 15 minutes early on Wednesday and arrived late to her stop because of the ice on the sidewalk.

“I got out at the VU and there was still ice and snow when you exit out of the bus. I had to jump over it,” she said.

In instances of snow and ice accumulation on campus, director of Facilities Management John Furman and an outdoor maintenance supervisor examine snow and ice conditions on campus between 3-5 a.m., according to a 2018 Facilities and Management snow removal document.

Furman then advises a course of action to the Vice President of Business and Financial Affairs, Richard Van Den Hul, who makes a recommendation to Western’s President Sabah Randhawa. Randhawa then makes a final decision, according to the document.

Elevazo felt that the pathways last Thursday did not meet Americans with Disability Act standards. “It should be public and accessible,” she said.

Eighteen employees logged nearly 800 hours on campus since Feb. 11, starting at 2 a.m.,



Top: People attempt to add traction to a stuck car with cardboard.

Left: A maintenance worker plows the snow in Red Square. // Photos by Oliver Hamlin

4 a.m. and 6 a.m. of that week. About 500 hours of work were logged the week before, according to Cocke.

“I’d like to give a big shout-out to the dedicated and hard-working university grounds crew personnel who have worked long hours in often cold and wet conditions to clear sidewalks, parking lots and campus roads of a considerable amount of snow and ice,” he said.

However, students felt that a



team of 18 wasn’t adequate.

“I applaud them to work in these really bad conditions to speed up that work and put them in a harmful situation. You need more people. If it’s not doable then don’t force it,” Elevazo said.

Power agreed, saying she felt it was unfair to the 18-person crew to be responsible for making campus safe for 15,000 people.

Alissa Wegleitner, a second-

year student, questioned the university’s commitment to student safety and responded to the alert with videos of her friends pulling cars out of uncleared parking lots in Birnam Wood.

Wegleitner also shared videos of icy walkways around the university housing complex with The Western Front.

“These are the paths we are taking to get to the buses,” she said.

Western’s official Twitter account responded to one concerned student’s tweet.

“We understand your frustration. Please keep in mind that this amount of snowfall over this many days is extremely rare, and the grounds folks have been working extraordinarily hard to keep campus walkways and sidewalks as open as possible,” the tweet read.

Later that day a second alert was sent at 11 a.m. The alert urged community members to stay home unless it was absolutely necessary for them to go to campus.

“When employees and students travel to campus when it is closed, it significantly hampers the ability of the grounds crew to clear parking lots because of accumulated snow,” the alert read.

WEDNESDAY 2/20	THURSDAY 2/21	FRIDAY 2/22	SATURDAY 2/23
<b>CLUB SHOWCASE</b> 11:30 A.M.   RED SQUARE FREE	<b>DROP-IN ADVISING LAB</b> 3 P.M.   MILLER HALL ROOM 16 FREE	<b>EDUCATION AND HEALTH CAREER FAIR</b> 11:00 P.M.   WADE KING STUDENT RECREATION CENTER MULTI-ACTIVITY COURT GYM FREE	<b>RECREATION NORTHWEST EXPO</b> 11 A.M.   BELLINGHAM FERRY TERMINAL FREE
SUNDAY 2/24	MONDAY 2/25	TUESDAY 2/26	WEDNESDAY 2/27
<b>BELLINGHAM NATIONAL 2019</b> NOON   WHATCOM MUSEUM LIGHTCATCHER BUILDING \$5 FOR STUDENTS	<b>WOMEN IN HIGH PLACES: TO ANNAPURNA AND BEYOND</b> 4 P.M.   WESTERN LIBRARY READING ROOM FREE	<b>WESTERN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY</b> 7 P.M.   SAM CARVER GYMNASIUM \$5 FOR STUDENTS	<b>TEACHING-LEARNING ACADEMY SESSION</b> NOON   HAGGARD HALL ROOM 222 FREE

**EVENT CALENDAR**  
WEEK 07

*Compiled by John Olson*

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# Board of Trustees approves three multimillion-dollar building projects, renovations on campus

New residence hall and Academic Support Services buildings and renovations to Environmental Studies and Campus Services

**Cole Sandhofer**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Board of Trustees has approved university recommendations on three contracts for campus public works projects.

The projects, approved at the Feb. 8 meeting, include a new residence hall, a consolidated Academic Support Services facility and renovations to the Environmental Studies and Campus Services buildings. The meeting was shortened out of concern for worsening weather conditions and discussion items were deferred until a later trustees meeting.

The contract for the first phase of a new 400-bed university residence hall project was awarded to Lydig Construction from Spokane. The \$2.07 million contract will go toward design and pre-construction services which are expected to continue into the summer. Phase 2 of the project is proposed to be submitted for board approval at its August meeting. The total budget for the project is \$65 million, according to the

project's proposal.

Rick Benner, university architect and director of Facilities Development & Capital Budget, was brought before the board to briefly summarize key elements of



The board approved a contract for a 400-bed residence hall project. // Photo by Cole Sandhofer

the proposed projects.

"We've narrowed [the site location] down to two options on a particular site up in the Highland Hall area," Benner said. According to Benner, a definitive location will be selected and submitted for approval within the next month.

The board approved a contract to M.A. Mortenson Construction from Bellevue

for \$759,996 for the design and pre-construction of a consolidated Academic Support Services facility. According to the proposal, the project is intended to free up space on the

floor of the Environmental Studies Building prior to fall 2019. A follow-up project is scheduled to be brought to the board in August of this year that will convert the existing classrooms on the upper levels of the Environmental Studies Building into research labs and offices. The total budget for the project is \$1.49 million.

academic core of campus by emptying classroom space now occupied by Academic Support Services facilities. The total budget for this project is \$9.95 million.

Renovations to the Environmental Studies and Campus Services buildings were also approved by the board. The proposal states the goal of this multi-step project is to move non-academic programs out

of the core of campus and create new active learning classrooms on the ground

**"We've narrowed [the site location] down to two options on a particular site up in the Highland Hall area," Rick Benner, Director of Facilities Development & Capital Budget**

University President Sabah Randhawa gave brief updates on the recent damage to campus buildings caused by the inclement weather, which he said were under control. Randhawa also addressed his ongoing com-

munication with various student groups pertaining to urgent needs of diversity, equity and inclusion. Randhawa highlighted the web presence Western has created, which includes a list of completed major projects, those currently underway and ones to be addressed in response to needs put forth by the student groups.

"We have met over the past few weeks with a number of different student groups," Randhawa said to the board. "We've had rich conversation ... very productive conversation."

**Estimated costs of these proposed projects:**

**Residence Hall \$65 million**

**Academic Support Services \$9.95 million**

**Environmental Studies and Campus Services renovation \$1.49 million**

# Men's Resiliency promotes healthy masculinity

Brandon Joseph wants to establish a space where men can be themselves, have conversations about mental health

**Tris Anderson**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

To be strong, stoic and sexual are tropes that define conventional masculinity. Men's Resiliency is an on-campus program dedicated to re-educating men on what it means to be a man and how to practice healthy masculinity.

Men's Resiliency began two years ago as a grant-funded program. The program aims to help men express and work through emotions, while promoting healthy masculinity, said Brandon Joseph, Western's Men's Resiliency specialist.

Joseph began working as the Men's Resiliency specialist in August, and is currently the only person working in Men's Resiliency. His role is to network on campus, work with male students one-on-one and set up campus events, he said.

The program is currently in a state of transition as Joseph learns the values and norms of Western, he said. Because of this transition period, he said not many students are using the program.

Joseph said he wants to ensure that he is not imposing his perceptions on campus before he's fully integrated with campus

values and norms.

"[It] would be foolish of me to come here with ideas that might not work. That first quarter was me trying to figure out where I was," he said.

In promoting healthy masculinity, Joseph is looking to combat toxic masculinity. Joseph described toxic masculinity as "unhealthy behaviors or stereotypes about masculinity that don't allow people to be their true selves."

Joseph said toxic masculinity begins internally and then begins to project itself externally.

"External actions stem from internal actions, whether it be insecurity or lack of understanding about oneself," Joseph said.

Joseph wants to establish a vulnerable space where men are able to have healthy conversations about emotions such as depression and suicidal thoughts.

Karl Heinz, a former member of the Men's Resiliency Committee which oversaw the program, said the group has partnered with a number of student groups in the past which has made it difficult for Men's Resiliency to stand out. Heinz said the name of the program has also made

it difficult to reach out to male students.

"The problem is explaining the message quickly. We didn't want people to think, 'Oh, this a group of guys sitting around talking about how awesome guys are,'" Heinz said.

Joseph agreed that the name of the program makes students uncertain of what the program stands for.

**"The problem is explaining the message quickly. We didn't want people to think, 'Oh this is a group of guys sitting around talking about how awesome guys are.'" Karl Heinz, former committee member**

In the past, Men's Resiliency has hosted events that include fly-fishing excursions and brown bag lunches. The lunches were discussions on media related to masculinity. Men's Resiliency has not hosted any Brown bag lunches recently.

Fourth-year student and Resident Advisor Connor Garrels attended the brown bag lunches and fly-fishing excursion under the previous program specialist, Ian Vincent.

"I was always really impressed with the programs they had.

When they showed that documentary ["The Mask You Live In"] it changed my perspective on what it meant to be a man," Garrels said.

Garrels said he has not used the program recently, but that he intends to continue using the program in the future and become more involved with the program on an administrative level.

As an RA, Garrels said he believes it's important to introduce Men's Resiliency to the dorms, given incidents of on-campus sexual assault and off-campus voyeurism that have occurred over the past year.

Joseph said a popular question about Men's Resiliency is why no women's resiliency program exists. Joseph said he's talked to a number of non-male identifying students on campus about that question.

"Healthy masculinity is only going to have positive impacts on society. If you look at the power structures, very commonly, who is in charge? If there's male dominated power structures, it's only going to be beneficial for those males to see how their toxic masculinity affects other and move to healthier

masculinity," Joseph said.

Most recently, Men's Resiliency hosted a feminine hygiene drive. Joseph said this drive was meant to help push men out of their comfort zone.

"We were able to collect over 200 feminine hygiene products. I'd like to see more male student involvement. Our goal was to put men in an uncomfortable place because we don't know what it's like to think about menstruation. It's a way to get men to think about the privilege they have," Joseph said.

As for the future of the

**"We were able to collect over 200 feminine hygiene products. I'd like to see more male student involvement." Brandon Joseph, Men's Resiliency specialist**

program, Joseph said he's planning to start hosting more events, including film screenings.

"I'm feeling a little more comfortable this quarter. My goal moving forward is to be more visible out on campus and start building those relationships and collaborating with student groups on campus," Joseph said.

## SHELTER

continued from page 1

Haven, said she had been driving around in vans to the shelters to help keep people warm.

"The citizens of Bellingham should not be the ones out here busting our butts trying to save people," she said. "I thought that was a community effort, I thought [that] was part of the city, but the people are doing it right

now."

At the Feb. 15 emergency meeting, Whatcom County Council member Barbara Brenner expressed concerns about the city closing its shelter before the county had officially opened its own.

"I don't think there's enough shelter now," Brenner said. "If you guys shut down, we might take over what you've got but there's still going to be that need."

According to Markis Dee,

a HomesNOW! volunteer, Whatcom County, with help from HomesNOW! volunteers, opened a temporary emergency shelter at 322 N Commercial St. on Friday, Feb. 15 that will be open for overnight use for up to 41 men.

The Bellingham City Council, Whatcom County Council, city employees, HomesNOW! volunteers and concerned residents filled the mayor's board room to

discuss how the county will staff the Commercial Street shelter. Mayor Linville explained due to a lack of

**"I don't think there's enough shelter now" Barbara Brenner, county council member**

trained personnel, she and many other city employees volunteered to staff the emergency shelters during

the storm.

Mayor Linville and the city council agreed to help the county council establish a plan for their shelter using the materials and plans they used to open the emergency shelter at the Maritime Heritage Park pavilion, they said. Dee said city and county officials worked into the evening to set up the temporary shelter that will be run by the county, but is within Bellingham city limits.

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# Saving lives, one puppy at a time

BRIGADOON SERVICE DOGS RECEIVES AWARD, REMINDER OF THE IMPACT THE NONPROFIT LEAVES ON FAMILIES



This labrador puppy is in the service dog program at Brigadoon. // Photo by Molly Todd

**Molly Todd**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

"You gave me my life back when you gave me this dog," a client told Denise Costanten after receiving a service dog from the Brigadoon Service Dogs program.

Brigadoon Service Dogs provides trained service dogs to veterans, adults and children with disabilities, behavioral, as well as physical and developmental, Costanten said. She is the founder and executive director of Brigadoon Service Dogs in Bellingham.

On average, Brigadoon places 10 dogs per year with clients and has a diverse group of breeds including great danes, poodles, labs and collies, Costanten said. The nonprofit receives clients from Oregon up to British Columbia, but people have come from as far as Southern California, she said.

The nonprofit received the Boeing Employees' Credit Union Employee's Choice award and was also awarded \$30,000 at the People Helping People Awards in December, according to an article from The Bellingham Business Journal.

The award from Boeing Employees' Credit Union is the second-largest grant Brigadoon has received so far and can help toward hiring new trainers, feeding the dogs, putting them through training and much more, Costanten said. In 2012, Brigadoon also received a \$50,000 grant award from the Annenberg Foundation, a global nonprofit organization.

The focus of the grant is to give back to the community in general, Costanten said.

"We're making a change in people's lives," she said. "We train dogs to help people, so we're helping people through our dogs."

The organization works to give its clients new hope and create new possibilities in life for those who need a service dog, Costanten said.

"It gives them a new lease on life, it gives them confidence and it gives them independence," she said.

Since Brigadoon's opening in 2004, they have received five other awards as well, one of which was the Golden Tennis Shoe award given to Costanten in 2014 from Washington Senator Patty Murray. Murray gives out three awards a year and Costanten received one of them.

Before Costanten founded her nonprofit, she was running a for-profit business training dogs for pet owners, she said. At one point she had eight dogs in her house and realized that she could train collies, which are known as working dogs, to work for somebody with a disability. Knowing it would take a lot of time to do so and unsure if she could do it all, Costanten decided to take the chance, she said.

"So off I went, closed my business, and opened my nonprofit business," she said.

When Brigadoon first started, Costanten wasn't aware of the need for service dogs in the area, she said.

"I thought I might put out one or two dogs a year, but when my website went live, I had no idea how many people were out there looking for service dogs," she said. "I had no clue [how high] the demand was."

She said she started receiving calls



Denise Costanten hands a treat to 7-week-old Dixie in the main training room at Brigadoon. // Photo by Molly Todd

*"WE'LL TAKE ANYTHING, WE DON'T CHERRY-PICK. THERE'S A LOT OF RESCUES THAT CHERRY-PICK, BUT WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE WHATEVER NEEDS TO BE RESCUED," MULLIGAN SAID.*



From left to right: 7-week-old rescue puppies from Yakima, Stella, Dixie, and Pebbles play tug-of-war. // Photo by Molly Todd

*"IT GIVES [PEOPLE] A NEW LEASE ON LIFE, IT GIVES THEM CONFIDENCE AND IT GIVES THEM INDEPENDENCE," COSTANTEN SAID.*

from people with anxiety and diabetes as well as parents of children with autism. They said they were having issues getting service dogs from other places because they weren't considered priority cases for service dogs, Costanten said.

"That struck a funny chord because I thought, 'To me, if it affects your life, being able to work or being in the community and your normal life functioning, it's a disability no matter what the label is,'" she said. "If [the client] can tell me what they need the dog to do, then I can train the dog to do it, it didn't matter to me

what the disability was." Fifteen years after it first opened, Brigadoon currently has a waitlist for people wanting a service dog.

"It's very hard for me to know that there are a lot of people on a waitlist, and I don't have the dogs [for everyone]," Costanten said. "It takes a while, it's not just the training that takes awhile, it also takes awhile to match them with the right partner."

Training for service dogs at Brigadoon typically begins when they are puppies and it takes two years for them to graduate from the service dog program, she said. The service time of

the dog for the client is around eight to 10 years, after which the dog can retire and become a regular pet for the client and family, according to Costanten.

Cheri Mulligan, co-founder of Misunderstood Mutts Rescue, has been in contact with Costanten about puppies the organization recently rescued from Yakima.

Three 7-week-old puppies named Stella, Dixie and Pebbles that were brought to Brigadoon can be considered in entering the service dogs program there, she said.

Misunderstood Mutts Rescue began in 2016 and provides service to the greater Yakima Valley, Puget Sound region and greater Portland area, according to its website.

It's important for the puppies to be brought to Brigadoon at a young age to start training, Mulligan said.

"It all starts here," she said. "For me, it's really important that when we get puppies we do it right."

Misunderstood Mutts Rescue takes in dogs that range in ages, and currently the organization has six adult dogs and six puppies, Mulligan said.

"We'll take anything, we don't cherry-pick. There's a lot of rescues that cherry-pick, but we're here to rescue whatever needs to be rescued," Mulligan said.

Kathleen McGregor, who fosters puppies and pregnant dogs, helped Mulligan bring the rescue puppies to Brigadoon.

McGregor said she tries to foster only one litter at a time, six puppies on average, but it ranges and there are sometimes more. One of the most recent pregnant dogs she fostered gave birth to 12 puppies, she said with a laugh.

Costanten said she will never forget the impact that Brigadoon's service dogs have left on children and young teens especially. One story in particular that has stuck with her through the years involved a client with cerebral palsy looking for a service dog, she said. The client had to use a walker to be able to get around but when she received a service dog from Brigadoon in middle school, it changed her life, Costanten said.

"She was no longer the kid with a metal thing walking around, now she's the cool kid with the dog," Costanten said. "Now, fast forward, she's in college and onto her second dog."

The client now lives on her own and Costanten said that would not have happened if it weren't for her dog.

"Her confidence just blossomed, completely blossomed when she got that dog," Costanten said.

Costanten plans to continue with Brigadoon Service Dogs for as long as she can and eventually pass on her position to someone qualified so she can retire. Despite the hard work that comes with running a nonprofit, making a difference in people's lives is what makes it all worth it, Costanten said.

"I don't think dogs are utilized enough. In so many different areas, they are so smart," Costanten said. "There isn't anybody that loves dogs that say their lives haven't changed because of their dogs, even if it's a pet dog. Just having a dog around, it changes your life."

**CLARK**

*continued from page 1*

their school and its values.

Kolby LaBree of Good Time Girls, a group that offers historical tours of Bellingham, has researched Clark's life. LaBree, a Western graduate with a degree in anthropology, compiled several articles and documents about Clark and her family.

In one of the articles from 1906 collected by LaBree, the Bellingham Herald reported that the banishment of Clark from the State Normal School was discussed, but the faculty of the school and Principle E.T. Mathes insisted Clark be allowed to study and that the state school knew "neither race nor color."

Notes from a 1906 Board of Trustees meeting discussed the "race question" at the school in response to Clark's arrival. Newspaper coverage of her arrival had sparked discussion of prejudice among students.

"The school is for the benefit of all the people of the state of Washington, regardless of color, race or politics, good work and good morals being he essentials required of students," read the meeting notes.

According to census documents from 1900, Clark was born in 1885 in Tennessee. She was a 4-year-old when her parents and siblings moved to Seattle, according to the Seattle Republican. She graduated from the Seattle High School before studying at the State Normal School.

Clark's father Robert A. Clark was credited with establishing the first parcel delivery system in Seattle, according to the Seattle Daily Times. Alma Clark later married Steven Glass, a mail clerk, becoming Alma Glass in 1908. The two had a son named after Glass' father, who attended Lincoln High School in Seattle in 1929. Alma Clark, her husband and their son Stephen lived in Fremont in Seattle.

Over the years, more students of color would arrive at Western. 111 years after Alma's arrival, 25.6 percent of Western's students were students of color, according to 2017 enrollment statistics, though 2018 enrollment statistics show only 2.6% of students being specifically Black or African American.

## Safe haven for homeless youth opens at Downtown Church

**Mitch Farley**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The First Congregational Church of Bellingham is opening its basement in partnership with Northwest Youth Services as a safe place for young people ages 13 to 24 who are experiencing homelessness, according to a press release sent out by Rev. David Weasley.

The project, known as The Ground Floor, had its opening ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 10, in the basement of the church on Cornwall Avenue.

Emerson McCuin, a volunteer with Northwest Youth Services, said the new space provides some relief to the organization, whose only other Whatcom County location was a cramped space on State Street.

Those seeking assistance are asked to sign in when they arrive, where they are given access to all of the facility's amenities, McCuin said.

"We want to have as low of a barrier as possible," McCuin said.

Amenities include laundry, showers, couches, nap areas and a lounge with games like foosball. McCuin said the goal is to provide a place where people feel comfortable; whether they choose to use any of the amenities, that's up to them.

Northwest Youth Services Board President Ellie Posel said the young community members will also have access to a number of services at The Ground Floor. Posel said there is counseling available with housing directors who are ready to help people in need find housing, as well as vocational and academic advisors and access to donated clothing.

The project comes out of a broader vision to make a difference in the lives of youth in crisis, Posel said.

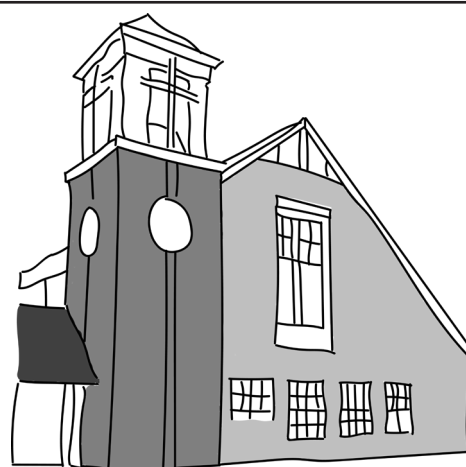
Retired chaplain and previous board member at Northwest Youth Services Dick Cathell said one goal of the project is to put a special focus on homeless youth who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community and to help this community gain trust in the church.

"Forty percent of homeless youth in Whatcom County come from conservative-churched homes where they're told being LGBTQ+ is not okay. We want to do the opposite of that here," Cathell said.

Cathell said the church wants people to know they are providing a space where people from all backgrounds can come to feel safe and supported.

Weasley said this project has been long in the making. Twenty years ago, this space was built with a project like this in mind but it wasn't until five years ago when the church began meeting with nonprofits that they realized that Northwest Youth Services was the right partner for them, Weasley said.

"There is a lot of overlap between our organizations in terms of style and mission. The church fell in love with what they [Northwest Youth Services] do and they've been involved with



the entire process ever since," Weasley said.

Northwest Youth Services helped design the space, which has been provided to them rent-free for as long as they need, Weasley said.

Sharry Nyberg, who has been with the church for 19 years, has seen the project come fully into fruition. Nyberg credits part of the project's success to the community and church members, who raised \$1 million in three months to support the project, Nyberg said.

"Our commitment is welcome and inclusion," Weasley said. "And we couldn't have asked for a better partner [than NWYS]."

## Love hurts: Tattoo flash sale paints Bellingham

*Valentine's Day snowstorm doesn't stop Old School Tattoo from holding its annual flash sale*

**Stella Harvey**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Despite the slushy snow collecting on either side of the sidewalk, the bustling lobby of Old School Tattoo and Piercing welcomed visitors to its Valentine's Day Flash tattoo event.

Instead of the walls being covered in flash tattoo sheets, or pre-drawn designs of available tattoos, Old School Tattoo offered three sheets with design options specially designed for the holiday.

Jenny Foertsch, owner and business administrator of Old School Tattoo, said the event started three years ago when tattoo artist Yasmin Zouhby pitched the idea to Foertsch and the rest of the staff.

Jenny said since she and her husband Paul Foertsch bought the business in 2013, they have hosted several flash tattoo events. She said most of their artists specialize in designing larger custom tattoos, while flash events focus on smaller pieces that are pre-designed.

"We don't want to be the kind of shop where you just walk in and pick something off the wall," Jenny Foertsch said. "[But]

by doing events like this we still get to participate in the traditional tattoo culture."

Since buying the business, Jenny said she and Paul have worked on refining the image and branding of the shop, slowly making changes over the years. She said when they first bought the business, the walls were bright red and there were flames painted on the doors.

"There was flash on the walls that no one would ever want to get, and it was just really dated and old school," she said.

The shop's walls, one painted yellow and the other covered floor to ceiling in exposed brick, display paintings and art created by the shop's tattoo artists. Jenny said they've also made strides to show up in their community more by

participating in downtown Bellingham's monthly Art Walk and events with local schools.

Jenny said Old School Tattoo has also hosted Halloween and Star Wars themed flash events.

"I like the flash events because it's not just our clients who are showing up, it's people who might not otherwise come here," she said.

Bellingham resident Samara Singer said after getting her tax return, she decided to participate in the event to treat herself to a tattoo, something she has wanted for a long time.

"I haven't gotten a tattoo in like seven years, but I've been wanting to for seven years," Singer said, laughing. "I'm going to get a little bee on my ankle because just a few weeks ago I told [my fiancé] I wanted to get a bee tattoo, and

then they had a bee tattoo!" Katerina Freedman, a second-year Western student studying computer science and music, waited for her friend in the lobby. She said they had decided to brave the weather after they found out about the event.

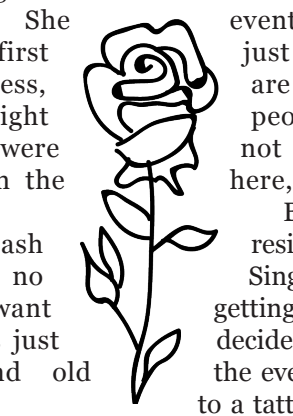
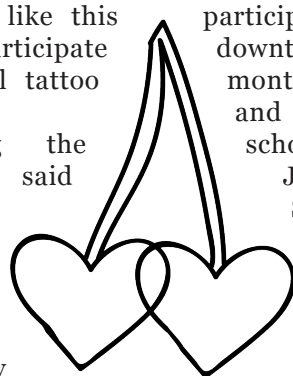
"She had been talking about wanting to get a tattoo this week and then we heard about the flash sale, so we decided to check it out," Freedman said.

Despite having low expectations because of the snow, Jenny said she was pleasantly surprised with how many people showed up to participate. She said it's nice to see new faces and connect with the community.

Even though there are a lot of other tattoo shops in the area, Jenny said she and Paul are kept busy with running their small business.

"I think we just really invest in our people and in the style that they want to do," Jenny said. "We're more about making connections and lasting client relationships so that people come back as opposed to just doing high turnover."

*Designs by artists at Old School Tattoo and Piercing*



## Public records are public for a reason

Anonymity. On the internet it shields us when we engage in arguments about who should have won season seven of Survivor (obviously, obviously Rupert. The fact Lill made it so far was a disgrace); at Western, it can allow us to submit class feedback without retribution; in journalism it is used to protect sources who may suffer harm if their identity is revealed. But anonymity does not apply to those in positions of power attempting to hide their mistakes.

The weekend before the snow devoured Bellingham for an entire week, a court order prevented a professor at Western from blocking the release of an Equal Opportunity Office report that found him responsible for sexual harassment.

It's a classic story, one we've heard many times before: man in power does something wrong, tries to hide from it. Actually: man in power does something wrong to a woman, tries to hide from it.

Sometimes hiding works, for a while at least. Not this time.

Here are the quick details: Michael Fraas (whose name was revealed by our hardworking friends at The AS Review), an associate professor in the communication sciences and disorders

department, was in a consensual relationship with a graduate student. However, during this time he neglected to take precautions to ensure their relationship wouldn't affect her academic trajectory. When the relationship ended, the student said it then negatively impacted their

studies, as they still had to work under Fraas.

Generally, this tends to be one reason why professor-student relationships are frowned upon. It's like dating a boss - the power dynamic is inherently imbalanced.

Now this, as a whole, is a bad situation.

Nobody wants to have their studies compromised because their professor creates a hostile environment. Nobody wants to miss out on writing a thesis they've spent years working toward because a relationship ended.

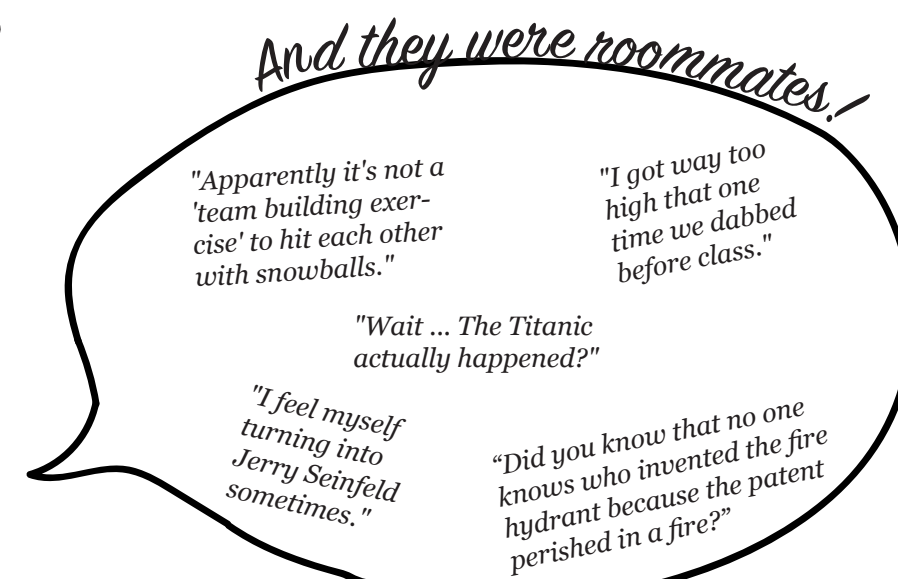
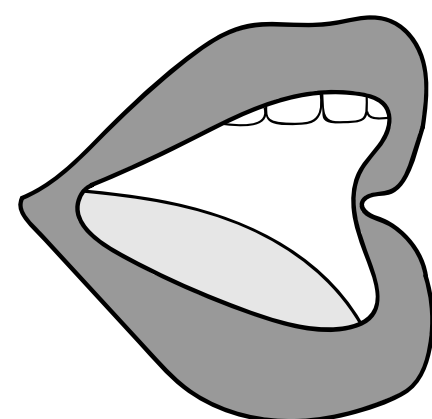
But, most importantly, nobody wants the person in authority to escape under the cloak of anonymity. That's what almost happened, and why public records are important for holding people accountable. Attempting to withhold public records, like EOO reports and other documents, is the bureaucratic equivalent to breaking a glass and sweeping the shards under a table. It's not honorable, it's not going to work and someone might get hurt.

The court order to release the documents sets a precedent: people in power, professors in power, do not get the privilege of hiding their misconduct.



*The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Monique Merrill, Dante Koplowitz-Fleming and Laura Place*

## Overheard on campus



*If you've overheard something Western Front-worthy, submit it online at westernfrontonline.com. But don't be weird about it.*

## From the mailbox: Letter to the editor

After reading "No sanctions for anthropology instructor who used slur in lecture" by Esther Chong and Stella Harvey, I feel highly conflicted. As an anthropology major I took Paul James' 201 class where he used the N-word. Since then, he stopped using the word.

However, this article leaves a bad taste in my mouth. On a personal note, I disliked James' class as a whole and did not benefit from his teaching style. Instead of focusing on the issue at hand, the article seems to attack the department as a whole. In the article, Zhang states "The framework [of anthropology] has a very white colonial foundation. It's from a white professor's point of view [and] there's a big power difference in that relationship." This is drilled into all

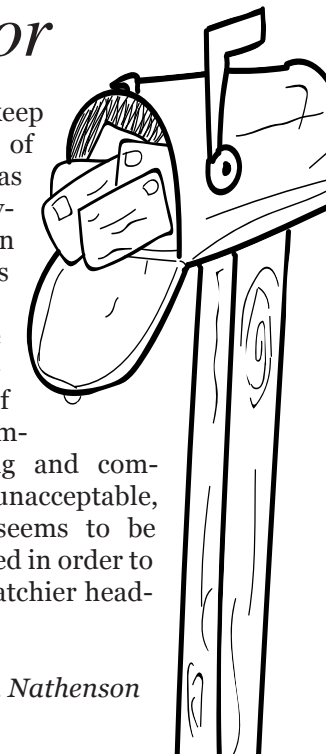
anthropology majors. This origin is not a secret. To me, it seems as if the authors google searched anthropology and attempted to make a case around it.

I have had many conversations with friends and peers about the systematic racism present on campus. These are real, harmful issues that need to be addressed. However, this particular instance seems to be quite a reach. Instead of only discussing the professor and the incident, it reaches into the field of study. This would not occur with any other subject.

In addition to this, the incident was dealt with as soon as it occurred. From my understanding, Western has the option to either deal with an issue publicly or privately. The issue was dealt with privately, so Western

did not keep a record of it. This was not a cover-up on Western's part. While the incident itself was embarrassing and completely unacceptable, context seems to be overlooked in order to write a catchier headline.

*Hannah Nathenson*



## What do you want to complain about, Western?



**Marissa Johnson**  
*Behavioral Neuroscience*

"That last forum that happened with the students of color who had to come in and speak with the administration. I feel like I see the progression that people are trying to put effort in. Just the way that Western responds to students is very vague and it seems like they don't really care honestly."



**Frank Tran**  
*Math*

"Having so many snow days. I have to get caught up in all my classes and professors are putting out online lectures so it just takes up more of my time."



**Kenzie Crawford**  
*Museology*

"I think it's annoying that Trump says climate change isn't a thing. Like what he just said about snow in the midwest, 'oh climate change isn't a thing. Look at the snow.' But it works both ways, the snow is from climate change. I just think we need to take care of the earth."



**Jabez Richard, Jr.**  
*Creative Writing*

"I've been complaining about how hard it is to get a raise when the cost of living has been increasing faster than you can get a raise. With the minimum wage increase within a couple years, people who have worked to advance are going to be paid the same amount, because small business owners can't afford to give all their employees raises because of inflation."

*Compiled by Chris Butcher*

## Anderson finds success as basketball walk-on

From Sehome Mariner to Western Viking, Anderson has flourished as a ball player in Whatcom County

Alex Barnes  
THE WESTERN FRONT

There are few qualities in sports more important than an athlete's competitive nature, and to coaches, teammates and family members alike, nobody embodies that nature quite like Leif Anderson.

The Sehome High School graduate and Bellingham native made his way to Western as a junior at the start of the 2017-2018 season, transferring from Whatcom Community College after playing 59 games over two seasons as a guard for the Orcas.

Anderson's mother, Kim Loop, described him as a very well-mannered kid growing up, whose favorite pastimes included spending time with friends, playing sports and accompanying his father on duck-feeding trips at nearby Lake Whatcom.

Anderson picked up sports

"I thought [his sport] was baseball. We even bumped him a few grades ... because he was pretty good as a Tee-Ball player," Loop said laughingly. "I remember one day Leif came up to me and said, 'Mama, why can't those boys play right?'"

During summers, Loop said her son's time was often split between baseball and basketball, and when tournaments lined up with each other, Anderson's instructions were clear: "I'd tell him 'Pack all of your clothes' because we would only have an hour here or an hour there to get from game to game," Loop said.

Eventually, Anderson said that his competitiveness and love for the game were the reasons he gravitated more toward basketball, along with the message from his parents to do what he enjoyed the most.

Anderson said he loved growing up in Bellingham but,



Anderson is shooting 50.0 percent on the season, making him the third most efficient scorer on the team. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

"I really didn't want to stay in Bellingham," Anderson said. "I always wanted to leave, but I wanted to play basketball ... so I went to Whatcom."

Another key factor in Anderson's decision to stay in the Pacific Northwest, he said, was the opportunity to play for former Whatcom head coach David Dunham, who was also very eager to coach a player of Anderson's quality and character.

"I loved his competitiveness, [and that] he plays with a little bit of a chip on his shoulder," Dunham said. "I love the fact that no matter what, he just plays hard. When he was going against players who other people thought were better, he never backed down."

That competitiveness can be traced back to Anderson's childhood and the time he spent playing different games in the backyard with his dad, and two half-brothers, who are 18 and 28 years older than Anderson. Anderson's mother, Kim Loop,

revealed that his goal as a kid was always to beat his dad in a game of horse.

"His dad would always win and say, 'I'm the champion!' and Leif would get so mad that he'd storm off back inside the house," Loop said.

Dunham said that when Anderson arrived at Whatcom, there was already a brotherly chemistry put in place by the older and more established players which he bought into immediately, allowing him to learn how to conduct himself on and off the court from the older players.

"[The older players] talking to Leif led to success," Dunham said. "It led to our team having success, it led to Leif having success. That success builds confidence, and that's where he excelled."

Anderson hit the ground running at Whatcom, averaging 9.6 points over 33 games for the Orcas in his first season. His steady contributions were a big factor in the run that saw Whatcom reach

the Northwest Athletic Conference Championship game during the 2015-2016 season.

The opportunity to play and the lessons learned from teammates in his first season allowed Anderson to have an improved second season at Whatcom, even after Dunham left to accept the role of assistant head coach for the men's basketball team at Western.

"The following year I came up to Western, but Leif was able to take that confidence that he built the year before and continue to have success moving forward," Dunham said.

Anderson did push on in his second season at Whatcom, averaging 15.7 points, 4.8 rebounds and 2.7 assists per game for the Orcas as they got back to the playoffs.

Anderson's on-court improvement led him to believe he would receive offers to play for

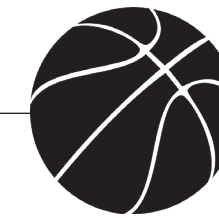
see **ANDERSON**, page 12

# The Western Sports Roundup

Alex Barnes  
THE WESTERN FRONT

## Women's Basketball

Women's basketball found itself with a two-game winning streak this week after the Vikings beat the Saint Martin's University Saints and the Seattle Pacific University Falcons with final scores of 66-50 and 60-43, respectively. The game against the Saints took place on Thursday, Feb. 14, and saw the Vikings play a dominant brand of defense, holding their opponents to just 22.4 percent shooting from the field. That defense continued into their next game against the Falcons on Saturday, Feb. 16, as the Vikings' defense limited the Falcons to just 30.8 percent shooting from the field. Junior center Anna Schwecke came within one rebound of back-to-back double-doubles, recording 13 points and 10 rebounds against the Saints, and following up with 16 points and 9 rebounds against the Falcons. The Vikings will look to extend their winning streak to three games when they travel to Ellensburg for their next match against the Central Washington University Wildcats on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m..



## Track & Field



Men's and women's track & field took part in the 2019 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships on Friday, Feb. 15, and Saturday, Feb. 16. The men's team ended day one of the competition in second place with 42 points, while the women's team ended day one in fourth place with 31 points. On the final day of the competition, the men's team finished first place overall with 138.5 points, and the women's team finished fourth place overall with 79 points. The next closest men's team was the University of Alaska Anchorage Seawolves with 114.5 points, while the women's team finished just four points behind the third-place Seawolves.

The men's team was also named the GNAC Team of the Week, due to four individual title wins and scoring points in all 17 events during the Championships.

### Day One

Western athletes claimed three individual titles on the first day of competition, and 12 runners advanced to the finals on Saturday after placing top-eight in their preliminary events.

Senior J.T. Konrad, junior Maddie Taylor and redshirt freshman Seren Dances were the three Vikings competitors to take home individual titles on Friday. Konrad won the men's pole vault title by clearing 4.78 meters, Taylor won the women's high jump by clearing 1.69 meters, and Dances won the men's long jump by setting a personal record of 7.02 meters.

### Day Two

The Vikings finished the event with 11 athletes earning All-GNAC honors by placing top-three in their respective events, with another nine students just missing out by finishing fourth-place.

Junior Cordell Cummings, senior Kyle Sager, and redshirt senior Anna Paradee all won individual titles in their events, adding to the three individual titles secured on day one of the championships. Cummings became the third Western student to win the 60 meter hurdles, finishing with a personal record time of 8.33 seconds. Sager became the second Western student to win the 800 meter indoor title after he set a school-record time of 1:53.29. Paradee won a career-second individual GNAC Indoor Championships women's pole vault title after clearing 3.89 meters in her first attempt.

Junior Sophia Galvez, senior Tupre Wickliff and sophomore Heather Faretta all finished second place for the Vikings in the women's 5000 meter, men's high jump, and women's high jump, respectively.

Sophomore Bryant Welch and junior Chanelle Eddy rounded out the Vikings' All-GNAC finishers, both placing third in the men's 200 meter dash and women's shot put, respectively.

The Track and Field teams will complete the 2019 Indoor season at the Seattle Pacific University Final Qualifier on Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Dempsey Indoor in Seattle. After that, the Vikings will compete in the 2019 NCAA Division II Indoor Championships on Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9 at the Robert W. Plaster Center in Pittsburg, Kansas.

## Men's Basketball

Men's basketball saw a comeback fall just short in their 94-90 loss against the Montana State University Billings Yellowjackets on Saturday, Feb. 16. The Vikings trailed by as many as 17 points in the first half after the Yellowjackets went on a 27-10 run. The Vikings cut the Yellowjackets' lead back to within four points at halftime after going on a 13-5 run that was capped off by a buzzer-beating 3-pointer from junior guard Micah Winn. The Vikings and Yellowjackets went back and forth in the second half, each going on their own 10-2 run during the period. In the end, a game-tying 3-pointer was missed by junior forward Trevor Jasinsky, and the Yellowjackets were able to take the victory with the score finishing 94-90. The team saw its Tuesday, Feb. 12 game against Simon Fraser University postponed due to inclement weather. That game has been moved to Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m., and will take place in the West Gym in Burnaby, BC. The Vikings' next game will be against the University of Alaska Anchorage Seawolves on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. in Anchorage.



Anderson is often tasked with facilitating, and has 58 assists this season. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

early, around 5-years-old, and tried his hand at baseball, flag football and tennis before he got to high school and started to take basketball more seriously. In fact, it was a surprise to his mother that he ended up pursuing basketball.

according to him, the decision to stay and continue his education and playing career here was only made after he received a lack of offers from colleges interested in his play after high school.

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# Baker slalom brings out global competition

*Athletes from around the world hit the slopes in "legendary" contest*



**Amateurs and pros alike competed in the weekend slalom competition.** // Photo by Hannah Gordon-Kirk

**Hannah Gordon-Kirk**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Race fans witnessed several of the world's top snowboarders battling each other and Baker's elements in the final Mt. Baker Legendary Banked Slalom race. With 40 mph winds causing a drastic windchill of minus 12 degrees Fahrenheit, the weekend featured challenging terrain and unpredictable conditions.

Mount Baker hosted the 33rd annual three-day race starting on Friday, Feb. 8 and wrapping up on Sunday, Feb 10.

BJ Marraccini, a local event volunteer from Bellingham, has worked the event stand for the last 12 years. Marraccini said that racers and visitors should always expect "very high levels of intensity, tons of stoke, but quite a bit of chaos."

A slalom is a traditional race

for both skiers and snowboarders. Racers must follow a zig-zagged course consisting of pairs of poles they must pass through called gates. This year's Legendary Banked Slalom race events included 17 categories for men, women and children of varying age and experience levels.

On Friday, competitors in each category race once in alphabetical order. The top 25 percent of contestants from Friday's races automatically qualify for Sunday's race, and can take Saturday as a rest day if they choose to do so. On Saturday the racers who did not place on Friday compete once more in reverse alphabetical order. The top 25 percent from Saturday go on to compete Sunday for the final race.

"There's a lot of local talent and it's a competitive race. It's the biggest event that Mt. Baker puts on annually. They had over 400

racers this year and their family and friends come so it brings in a lot of more people than usual. There's over 100 people just staying in the parking lot overnight," Marraccini said.

Out of the 17 finalists, five were from Washington, with three of those five being from Glacier, located just 18 miles down the hill from the Mt. Baker Ski Area.

While there's merit to hometown advantage, numerous competitors traveled across the globe to come to the event. Zenta Muraoka, 13, from Higashikurume, Japan, won the junior boys 12-15 age group with a time of 1:19.42. Pontus Ståhlkloo, 45, from Sollern, Sweden placed first in the Pro Masters division, ages 40-49 with a winning time of 1:19.36.

Marraccini stressed the global aspect of the event.

"There's not just people from all over the world, there's media. We get huge list of media names we can't even pronounce and companies I don't recognize. They're all covering this event largely because of the historical value -- the longest-operating snowboard event in history," Marraccini said.

Event organizers also like to give travelers a real taste of the Pacific Northwest. In honor of the Legendary Banked Slalom, the resort puts on a Salmon BBQ for the racers and their families as a way to integrate this large community of competitive snowboarders.

Graham Bueller, from Portland, Oregon received a competing spot in the Banked Slalom after winning a spot in the race lottery.

"This is my first time competing, but I have been coming

for the last 10 years to watch. I got in through the lottery, 1500 people are in it and they only take 90. I am so lucky," Bueller said.

On Sunday following the competition, an award ceremony is held in the main lodge for the qualifiers and finalists.

Brendan Keuling, 16, from Whistler, Canada, placed fourth in the younger amateurs 16-19 age group.

"It is cool that I only live four hours away and that my friends and I are able to come to this competition and qualify for our division year after year," Brendan said after the ceremony. "It's a great mountain so it is definitely not all about the race, tons of pow and great opportunities."



**Conditions for the event were chilly, but picturesque.** // Photo by Hannah Gordon-Kirk

## ANDERSON

*continued from page 10*

Division II schools his junior year, but once again the opportunity he was looking for didn't seem to show up.

"I thought, 'Oh, I'll get a little more offers,' but sometimes I don't really pass the eye test as a normal hooper," Anderson said. "I don't think I got the same respect that some guys did... and I didn't really want to go to Western [because] I thought, 'They don't really want me, I want to go somewhere else and destroy them.'"

As it turned out, the coaching staff at Western was interested in Anderson, and after several meetings with head coach Tony Dominguez and Dunham, he was offered a walk-on spot on the team.

"We talked a lot about it and both felt like Leif would be a great addition because he is a team player who can really shoot the ball," Dunham said. "We thought that would benefit us here at Western."

Anderson redshirted for his first year at Western, which allowed him to get comfortable, learn the team's system and get stronger in the weight room so he would be



**Anderson gets in the zone before a game.**

// Photo by Oliver Hamlin

ready to play when he was called on the following season.

"I worked really hard in practice, never complained, and they gave me a little position, and that's put me in the position that I'm in now," Anderson said.

The work that Anderson put in during that redshirt season has payed off for him in a big way. Now starting for the team, Anderson is averaging 8.2 points, 2.6 assists and 2.3 rebounds per game for the Vikings, hitting an efficient 49.2 percent of his shots from the field. Anderson is also averaging 43.6 percent shooting

from 3-point range and has made 44 3-pointers this season. But to him, the individual stats have never been more important than how the team performs.

"I don't think I'm really big into stats, I feel like I really want to win and do whatever it takes for the team to win," Anderson

said. "If it's one night I put up 20 points and we win that's great, or if it's another night and I put up two points and we win, I'm going to be [just as] happy."

That team-first mentality is exactly what Anderson's coaches and teammates say makes him the special player that he is.

"Everybody says that they love the team more than themselves, but it's another thing to really mean it," senior center Logan Schilder said. "Leif's one of those guys who could go for 30 [points], but if we lose by one he's not going to be happy."

Off the court, Anderson carries the same competitive edge in his day-to-day activities. His love for math and numbers led him to become a business administration major with a focus in finance, and he said the goal is to become a financial analyst for a professional sports organization.

Anderson plans to get his feet wet in the finance industry this summer through a banking internship. In 10 years, Anderson sees himself coaching either basketball or baseball at the high school or college level. But above all else, the goal is happiness for himself and his family.

"Wherever I'm at, just be happy and not worry about finances or anything like that," Anderson said. "I want to be with someone who allows me to grow... and it would be pretty sweet if I could buy my mom or dad a house one day."



**Anderson does an admirable job taking care of the ball, having committed only 21 turnovers in 559 minutes of play this season.** // Photo by Oliver Hamlin