

# THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 187, Issue 9

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

## Parking tickets bring in big bucks in 2018

The self-sustaining parking office gave an average of 44 tickets a day last year, data shows

Samantha Baxley  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Parking at Western is one of the most complained about topics on Western's campus, where no one is safe from getting the dreaded yellow paper on their windshield. For example, fourth-year Molly Reetz said she has been ticketed on Western's campus in the time it took to walk from her car to the parking meter. This is one of many student accounts of dealing with parking at Western, and the money generated from these tickets has added up considerably just in the past year.

In 2018, Western's Parking Enforcement gave out 16,114 parking tickets, approximately 44 tickets a day, generating \$585,940 not including revenue from permits, according to public records.



Western made \$585,940 on parking tickets in 2018. // Photo illustration by Oliver Hamlin and Stella Harvey

"All of the services we provide have a cost involved. We charge for our services relative to the cost of providing each service," Bob Putich, assistant director of the Student Business Office and Parking Operations, said in an interview.

No one is exempt from parking citations, Putich said. Over the course of his employment at Western, Putich has received nine parking tickets, all of

which still sit in the top drawer of his office desk. Western's President, Sabah Randhawa, has also received parking citations, according to Putich. The day before the president's first day at Western, he and his wife Uzma received a citation after parking in the wrong lot, Putich said.

According to public records, citation revenue covers maintenance and operating fees, which includes

software, equipment, staffing and vehicles for parking enforcement. Any extra revenue from permits and citations is applied to lot maintenance and projects like paving the C lots, according to Putich.

Parking Services is a self-sustaining department which means they do not receive state funds, money from student tuition or money from student fees, according to Putich.

In the past, Parking

Services used to be its own office with its own staff and debt, according to Putich. Parking Services was recently moved into the Student Business Office because of the debt the office was accumulating.

"Parking Services always operated in a deficit," Putich said.

Moving Parking Services to the SBO reduced overhead costs by utilizing the SBO's

see **PARKING**, page 3

**Bellingham area not affected by state drought, possible poor conditions for surrounding farmland**

Cassidy Tamburro  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Gov. Jay Inslee declared a drought in nearly half of Washington state watersheds on Monday, May 20, but officials say residents of Bellingham will not be affected.

Amy Cloud, director of communications and media outreach for the Bellingham Public Works Department, said the drought should not have a huge effect on Bellingham residents because Lake Whatcom, the city's main water source, is not affected by low snowpack levels.

"The city manages the level in the Lake Whatcom reservoir to meet water supply, recreation and habitat needs," Cloud said. "Variations in seasonal rainfall and temperature are anticipated. The Lake Whatcom reservoir is currently trending within typical annual patterns."

Washington climatologist Nick Bond said due to the relatively dry weather the state has had, soil moisture contents will be lower in this region. He said he's confident there will be less water than normal coming down the Nooksack River this winter.

"In many parts of Washington, because the summer is dry and we technically have a Mediterranean climate, we have depended on snowpack to get us through the dry period," Bond said.

Jeff Marti, the drought coordinator for the Washington State Department of Ecology, said snowpack acts like a frozen reservoir, but without having to build a dam.

see **DROUGHT**, page 5

## Campus advisory notifies community of multiple whooping cough cases

Crista Blowers  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's campus community received a Campus Advisory alerting students of the spread of whooping cough on May 20.

Whooping cough, also known by the name pertussis, has started to impact the lives of students on campus over the last two months, according to the advisory. Western's Student Health Center is working to keep the illness from spreading, the advisory states.

According to the advisory, there have been six identified cases of whooping cough on Western's main campus.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the early symptoms of whooping cough include runny nose, low-grade fever and a mild cough, lasting for about one to two

weeks. After one to two weeks without treatment, symptoms can escalate to rapid coughs with a high-pitched "whoop" sound, vomiting and exhaustion after coughing episodes.

The CDC stated that if whooping cough is circulating in a community, there's a chance that a fully vaccinated person of any age could catch the very contagious disease. Vaccines, however, can make infections less serious.

According to the Western's Student Health Center director Dr. Emily Gibson, whooping cough requires close contact with an infected person in order to spread. Gibson said even if students aren't sick, they should still wash their hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner, as well as make sure students cover their coughs.

As hard as it might

seem sometimes, if a student is sick then they should not go to class and contact their professor ahead of time.

According to the Western Medical Excuse Policy, a student absent from any exam or class activity through sickness is judged by the instructor to be unavoidable. Students can be given an opportunity to take a rescheduled exam or make up the class assignment in a timely manner agreed upon by the instructor.

The Student Health Center encourages students who believe they have whooping cough to schedule an appointment or contact their usual health care provider. Students can also visit the Student Health Center at 2001 Bill McDonald Pkwy or visit the Student Health Center website at to make an appointment.



Canoeists race down the Nooksack River during Ski to Sea on Sunday, May 26. Ski to Sea takes teams of relay racers on seven legs from the Mount Baker Ski Area to Marine Park in Fairhaven. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin



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KUGS celebrates its 45th anniversary with alumni reunion

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On our coverage of recent Faculty Senate developments



Aida Cardona, a member of the Bellingham Flow Artists Collective, performs at the "Backyard Bizarre" on Saturday, May 25 at Boundary Bay. The event, hosted by WeAreWWU, included live music and raised money for scholarships and club funding. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

### Check out these events this week!

**May 29** **Free Yoga**  
4 p.m. - 5 p.m. | Viking Union 464  
Free and open to students

**MAY 30** **The Beautiful Freaks, No Plug, Razzleberry**  
8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. | The Shakedown 1212 N State St.  
\$8 online | \$10 at the door

**MAY 31** **Everson Pines**  
8 p.m. | Firefly Lounge 1015 North State Street  
\$10 at the door | 21+  
The Hasslers, Whiskey Fever, and Evergreen Pines will be playing. Alternative country and Americana.

**JUNE 1** **Paddle Board Yoga**  
11:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Lakewood Boathouse 2410 Lake Whatcom Boulevard  
\$15 for students

**JUNE 2** **Vaudvillingham**  
7 p.m. | Bellingham Circus Guild 1401 Sixth Street  
\$5 by bonation  
Various forms of circus entertainment acts.

**JUNE 3** **Salsa and Bachata Weekly Meeting**  
8 p.m. - 10 p.m. | Viking Union 464  
Free and open to the public

**JUNE 4** **Ping Pong Club Hangout**  
4 p.m. - 6 p.m. | Fairhaven Main Lounge  
Free to students!  
Players of all skill levels are welcome to come and play ping pong, hangout and make new friends.

Puzzle by Chris Johansen | Calender by Erikah Guillen

## Weekly Sudoku

	2				1	6		
8		1	3					
6	3			5	8			2
2			1				9	
9								8
	7				5			4
4			7	1			5	9
						9	7	6
		9	2					4

**Solutions from last week's issue:**


## 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**  
Stella Harvey  
**Managing Editor**  
Laura Place  
**Campus Editors**  
Isa Kaufman-Geballe  
Esther Chong  
**City Editors**  
Audra Anderson  
Ian Haupt  
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**Social Media Editor**  
Emily Erskine  
**Copy Editors**  
Katie Kovac  
Kamiah Koch  
**Photographers**  
Hailey Hoffman  
Emily Porter

**Letters to the editor:**  
westernfront.opinion@gmail.com

**Press releases:**  
wfpress.release@gmail.com

**Faculty Adviser**  
Jack Keith  
jackkeithfront@gmail.com

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

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**Corrections**

## Bellingham City Council preserves mobile home parks from possible redevelopments

Park residents called for the removal of 'where appropriate' language from new mobile home parks preservation plan

**Cooper Campbell**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

"We've chosen manufactured home living because we can afford it," Ishbel Dickens said at Monday's Bellingham City Council meeting.

Residents of the 10 mobile home parks in Bellingham showed up in droves to express their concern and support for a city plan document that recommends the preservation of the parks.

The new plan brought to the council by Planning and Community Development established a new policy goal advocating for the preservation of manufactured home parks.

Rick Sepler, director of the Planning and Community Development Department for the city, presented the recommendation to the council. He said affordable housing protections already include manufactured homes, but not explicitly.

The new goal states, "Exist-

ing manufactured home parks should be preserved when appropriate."

Residents of these parks feared that without protection from the city, landowners could decide to sell or redevelop the land. Much of the contention surrounded the "when appropriate" language, which leaves the fate of parks up to the city and property owners, not residents.

Council member April Barker made a motion to remove language that said the city would preserve mobile home parks "when appropriate."

In response, Sepler said removing that language was left the city with little flexibility around the issue.

Kelly Morgan, a teacher at Birchwood Elementary and president of the Birchwood Neighborhood Association, echoed Dickens' concerns. She said over 60 students at Birchwood Elementary live in manufactured homes.

"Many of these families would not be able to afford

to move their trailer, or their trailers are not in a condition to be moved," Morgan said.

Residents from parks all across Bellingham shared their experiences. Many were in different financial situations in regards to whether they owned or rented.

Joanna Crocker, a resident of a manufactured home park in Kenmore said she doesn't own the land her home is on.

"I, like many of the other people here, own my home but not the dirt underneath it. My entire investment is totally at risk," Crocker said.

Residents of manufactured home parks receive 12 months notice for park closure, Mary Evitt, who lives in Lakeway Mobile Estates, said.

Washington State House Bill 1582 would have added two years to the notice requirement, but this did not make it into the final bill signed by Gov. Jay Inslee, Evitt said.

"It is absolutely essential that we do whatever we can do



A mobile home at Lakeway Mobile Estates will be protected under a new preservation plan proposed by the city. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

to save these parks," council member Gene Knutson said.

The council ultimately voted to remove the "where appropriate" language and refer back to a planning committee for a

later meeting. The next city council meeting will take place June 3 at 7 p.m.

### PARKING

continued from page 1

existing staff. The license plate scanners added to the roofs of parking enforcement vehicles was another way to reduce staff, Putich said.

Western has a student population of over 15,000 but only around 3,800 parking spots available between campus and Lincoln Creek Park & Ride, according to public records. The C lot has 1,250 parking spaces. According to public records, approximately 1,450 long-term permits are available for the C lot, in addition to daily and hourly permits for students or visitors.

The addition of new residence halls on campus will remove around 120 existing parking spots, according to Putich. Putich said he is hoping to relocate those spots to the field behind the Science, Math, and Technology Education build-

ing, which could potentially be home to around 130 spots.

This additional lot behind SMATE would cost around \$15,000 per space to build, or around \$1.4 million total, according to Putich.

Some students are less than enthused about the level of parking tickets given out at Western. Second-year Kayla Brooks said parking at Western "sucks." Fourth-year Jessica Niles agreed, saying she was ticketed less than one minute after her permit time frame ended.

Even if students have a permit, finding a parking spot is no easy task.

"Even with a C lot pass I've missed class and have been late," Niles said.

Brooks said she spends about 30 minutes circling the lot till she finds a spot. Despite the apparent lack of parking spots in the C lot, Putich said there have always been spots available this year.

"This year, since September, we have not had an occasion when the C Lot has been full to capacity," Putich said.

While it's clear most students aren't happy with the current availability of parking, a parking structure is likely not in Western's future.

Putich. "It is not likely that Western is prepared for \$500-per-year permits for new or additional parking lots or \$1,000-per-year permits for structure parking on campus," Putich said. "I believe we should be looking at alternatives to park-

ing at regardless of the no parking signs.

Putich said partnering with Whatcom Transportation Authority and the city in the future

could allow the university to pave the Lincoln Creek parking lot and add internal bus stops. This would make it easier and more efficient for buses to pick up students as well as create easier and cleaner place for students and faculty to park.

However, paving Lincoln Creek Park & Ride will also not be cheap. According to Putich, it would cost around \$11 million to finish. The high cost wouldn't just be for paving the lot, but also moving the bus stops and adding stop lights to the street.

Students who wish to see a change made or would like to voice their concerns about the current parking situation at Western should contact Putich, by emailing him at putichr@wwu.edu.

"Even with a C lot pass I've missed class and have been late."

Jessica Niles  
Western student

"A parking structure is estimated at \$40,000 per space to build," Putich said.

He added that the cost of building a parking structure would increase the cost of yearly permits to approximately \$1,000 a year, according to

ing on campus to both keep the cost of parking reasonable and accommodate the planned growth of our campus."

Putich suggested creating a new park and ride at the old hospital on Billy Frank Jr. street, which students already

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# Western Libraries struggle to maintain access to print subscriptions given their current resources budget

The Library Subscription Task Force makes efforts to have open access to print resources and subscriptions

**Erikah Guillen**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's faculty members received a notification from the Western Libraries Subscriptions Task Force concerning the future of access to library resources on May 14.

Open access is a way for people all around the world to freely access research. The Subscriptions Task Force is not only attempting to get feedback on open access but subscriptions in general.

According to the Subscriptions Task Force, the Western Libraries lack the budget to maintain all subscriptions currently provided.

"We operate on a budget of roughly 2.2 million dollars annually for subscriptions as well as books and media," Madeline Kelly, director of collections and

chair of the Subscriptions Task Force said. "We are definitely experiencing that this amount is not enough."

In the past four years, the Western Libraries have had to cancel multiple subscriptions, including the Bellingham Herald and other print subscriptions.

"Three or four years ago we went through a budget crisis where our subscriptions exceeded our budget and we had to cancel a bunch of those subscriptions," Kelly said. "I think we had a few comfortable years and now we again feel like we're a little bit vulnerable."

The email discussed ways to begin the conversation about the scholarly article landscape with the campus community by creating surveys, open forums, and conversations within each individual college.

"Here at Western, we are part of the broader scholarly



The Wilson Library Reading Room on Tuesday, May 28. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin

ecosystem and have an opportunity to help shape the future of publishing, libraries, and research," the email said. "To that end, the Libraries will be working with the university

community, via the Senate Library Committee and the newly formed Western Libraries Subscriptions Task Force, to explore our own future."

This message was sent

out after the University of California terminated journal negotiations with Elsevier, a scholarly publishing company.

According to the University of California website, UC took a stand against the Elsevier publishing company as a way to take a step toward open access. According to Robert May, chair of UC's faculty Academic Senate, knowledge should not just be accessible to those who pay.

The Subscriptions Task Force is a group consisting of seven Western faculty members that help to develop a sustainable, systematic, and comprehensive plan for evaluating and managing subscriptions that goes beyond maintenance and seeks opportunities for change.

# Three elected AS board members found guilty of breaking election code

**Western Front Staff**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Associated Students Elections Board found three candidates in the 2019-2020 AS Executive Board Elections to have violated multiple sections of the recently amended AS Election Codes in a grievance hearing on May 9. An email sent to former AS presidential candidate Abdul Malik Ford by 2019 Election Board Chair Bennett Massey-Helber outlined the sections of the code that were broken by newly elected AS Executive Board members Trever Mullins, Lani DeFiesta and Grace Drechsel.

Ford filed grievances against the three then-candidates, along with others, on May 6. He claimed that the candidates violated the AS Election Codes by sharing a social media post made

by 2018-2019 AS VP for student life Anne Lee on May 2, which endorsed candidates DeFiesta, Drechsel, Mullins and Yesugen Battsengel in a Facebook post.

The board specifically ruled that by sharing the post, the three candidates violated code section 3.II.a, which states that candidates will adhere to the Candidate Conduct Agreement in the candidate filing packet. The board also ruled the candidates violated code section 3.IV.a, which states that "current AS employees, may not, as employees or individuals, endorse candidates," according to the email.

The board decided the punitive action for breaking the code was for Mullins, DeFiesta and Drechsel to submit a public statement to The AS Review and The Western Front, citing a "restorative

justice model." Here are their statements:

**Trever Mullins**

The grievance filed against me pertained to sharing an endorsement from the current VP for student life, Anne Lee, on my Instagram during elections week. While I was familiar with the AS Elections Codes, it was not clear by sharing their endorsement I was breaking election codes. I am grateful a process exists within the Associate Students to hold those involved in elections accountable for their actions. I am excited to begin my role in this position as ASVP for sustainability and work to ensure that various perspectives and opinions are heard when assessing and editing election codes annually for clarity and accountability.

**Lani DeFiesta**

The grievance filed against me pertained to sharing Anne Lee, VP of student life, endorsement on my Instagram story. While I did not know sharing an AS employee's endorsement broke the Elections Codes, I am grateful for the process in place to hold elected officials accountable for their actions. Next year will be imperative, in terms of discussing the Election Codes. It will also be great that the Senate can be involved next year in looking over and voting the Election Codes into practice.

**Grace Drechsel**

A grievance was filed against me for sharing a screenshot of Anne Lee's, sitting VP for student life's, endorsement. I was not aware at the time of posting that sharing the endorsement would

be a violation of the Election Codes. I appreciate that this issue was brought to my attention and that mechanisms such as the Elections Board exist to hold elected officials accountable. I also believe that the confusion surrounding the code points to a need for it to be more clear and accessible to both candidates and students-at-large. I am looking forward to working to make these improvements in my role as the ASVP for governmental affairs.

The Front will continue to report on the results of the other six grievances filed by Ford against current AS board members Millka Solomon, Camilla Mejia, Levi Eckman and Anne Lee, and AS employees Pauline Elvazo and Dayjha McMillan.

# KUGS 45th anniversary brings home former DJs

Money being raised for new scholarship fund for future student DJs at KUGS

**Mona Ghorbani-Aghdam**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

KUGS 89.3 FM turned 45 this year as students, staff and alumni came together to celebrate the anniversary of Western's radio station and 45 years of music, memories and new friends.

The reunion was celebrated on May 18 at the Viking Union. The event was part of the WWU alumni weekend. According to the Alumni Association website, their mission is to strengthen Western by building strong and caring relationships that make a difference among the students.

According to Viking Funder, the radio station began to broadcast from a janitor's closet under the dining hall in Kappa residence hall 45 years ago. Ted Askew, KUGS general manager from 1994 to 2000, shared memories he had with the radio station.

"One of my favorites was when the musician Ben Harper gave a private concert at KUGS for a handful of people who won an on-air contest," Askew said.

The event started with a tour of the studio for alumni. After the tour, everyone made their way back to the VU to celebrate the anniversary with lots of food and



From left to right: Former KUGS employees Ramona Peel, Ted Askew and Keith Boyd reminisce at the 45th KUGS anniversary reunion. // Photo by Mona Ghorbani-Aghdam

drinks.

Lisa Elliot graduated from Western in 2005 and had their own show on the radio called The Spice Pantry.

"It usually entailed me packing up my backpack of all my records and then hustling up the hill," Elliot said.

According to Elliot, they got to enjoy the freedom of playing whatever song they wanted which varied from rock n' roll to country music to rap music.

For some of the alumni, getting a tour of the KUGS station was nostalgic. According to Keith Boyd,

Western alumnus and former KUGS general manager, the facilities are much nicer.

"The old KUGS facilities were fine, but a little rough around the edges," Boyd said. "The new studios and production rooms are state of the art."

According to Boyd, the radio station originally was given the station ID of KEGS in the '60s. Western's Board of Trustees asked the Federal Communications Commission to issue new call letters and it was changed to KUGS.

The reunion highlighted the importance of support-

ing students and staff members with a KUGS scholarship booth.

Kyler Danielson, a Western alumna, created the KUGS scholarship with a group of friends.

"We raised \$11,000 since March 1. Our goal is to reach \$25,000," Danielson said. "This will create an endowment so they can have the scholarship every year."

The scholarship funds go towards the student staff and volunteers of KUGS. According to the Viking Funder page, the endowment is meant to provide assistance to those students who want to volunteer or be a DJ but might not be able to due to financial constraints.

Boyd, now a director at Microsoft, wrote an article on the history of KUGS and highlighting an important milestone that many aren't aware of.

When Boyd was a part of KUGS, the staff thought they were one of the first radio station in the world to broadcast over the internet, according to their press release. However, they found out WXYC 89.3 FM a student-run radio station of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill had beaten them to the punch, by just a mere two weeks.

According to the article, Gavin Shearer, a staff

member of KUGS at the time, came up with the audacious idea to expand their coverage area by broadcasting on the internet.

"There is something about the peacefulness of sitting in that studio and the camaraderie of the people that I spent that time with, those are my favorite memories of KUGS," Elliot said.

Askev highlighted the similarities KUGS philosophy in '90s has in comparison to today's station. As of today, the radio station's general manager is Jamie Hoover.

"Each new group of students brings new ideas and new twists to the programming," Askev said. "Jamie Hoover has done a great job creating an atmosphere that encourages diversity and creativity and responsibility."

Boyd hopes future students will benefit from participating in the radio station.

"Students are what make KUGS special," Boyd said. "Take advantage of this unique student program and I guarantee you'll remember the experience for the rest of your life."

## DROUGHT

continued from page 1

When snow falls in the winter, it accumulates at higher elevations. As the weather warms, the snow melts and provides healthy stream flow in the summer. Therefore, low snowpack leads to less spring runoff due to the smaller reservoir, he said.

According to a Department of Ecology press release, the snowpack conditions are currently less than 50% of the average for this time of year. They are predicting drier weather will cause already decreasing snowpack to melt more quickly. This decreases water availability that will be needed for farms and fish during the summer. The rainfall totals for the state remain below normal, according to the press release.

Bond said the drought is more likely to affect agricultural interests over drinking

water. From an agricultural point of view, there is less water to go around. According to Bond, students at Western should not worry about their drinking water running out.

Stream levels will also be impacted in the coming summer, with lower levels causing some problems for fish.

Bond said fish like cool, clear water and when stream flows are low the water temperature becomes warmer than the fish favor. High stream temperatures cause increases in the incidence of parasites and fungal diseases that can reduce populations and impede the ability of adults to reach their spawning beds.

According to the department's press release, the water supplies in Everett, Seattle and Tacoma regional water system are in good shape. This included utility supplies and water for fish.

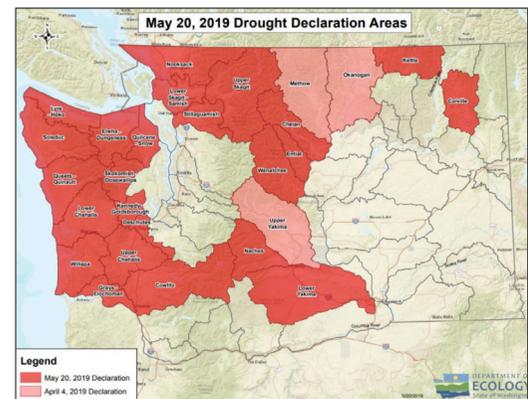
The 2019 state legislature has allocated \$2 million for drought response allowing

the ecology department to expect funding for public agencies to be available in early June, according to their press release.

The Department of Ecology also defines the two factors that go into consideration for an emergency drought declaration; water supply conditions currently or projected to be 75% below average and a projection of undue hardships. The last time the state declared an emergency drought was in 2015, according to the Department of Ecology press release.

Cloud suggested residents help preserve water during the dry summer months by following the voluntary outdoor watering schedule, which will lower the city's daily average drinking water demand. The City of Bellingham water conservation pledge and more information regarding smart watering tips can be found here.

Bond said water conservation is a good practice since



With current snowpack conditions at less than 50% their normal level at this time of year, Gov. Jay Inslee declared drought in nearly half of the state's watersheds. // Graphic courtesy of Washington State Department of Ecology

winters with lower snowpack levels are going to be happening more frequently.

"Realize that we are going to have to adapt to a chang-

ing climate," Bond said. "It is real and we ignore it at our own peril."

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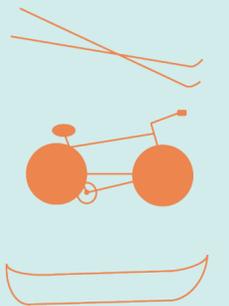
# WESTERN SKI TO SEA TEAM GLIDES TO THE FINISH LINE



Anna Schwecke rings the bell at the finish line of Ski to Sea after competing in the sea kayak portion of the race. The sea kayak leg takes racers on a five-mile course from Zuanich Point Park in Bellingham to Marine Park in Fairhaven. // Photo by Hailey Hoffman



(LEFT) Haley Holliday, left, a road bike racer for IM NOT TIRED passes off a GPS bracelet to teammate Olivia Larson during Ski to Sea. Racers from each leg must pass the tracker to their teammates for the race to continue. // Photo by Oliver Hamlin



(BELOW) Olivia Larson and Alice Hiebert canoe down the Nooksack River during the fifth leg of Ski to Sea. The race takes canoeists 18 miles from Everson to Ferndale. // Photo by Hailey Hoffman

**Erikah Guillen**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

On May 26 at 7:30 a.m., a team comprised of eight Western students came together to participate in the 2019 Ski to Sea relay race.

Ski to Sea started in 1973 and is held annually on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. The race is a multisport relay race that begins at Mount Baker and ends at Bellingham Bay. The race is divided into seven legs that include cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, running, road biking, canoeing, cyclocross biking and sea kayaking.

This year Ski to Sea had more than 400 teams participate, according to the race website. Of those teams, a team with the name IM NOT TIRED participated. This team was made up of eight women, all from Western.

"I'm stoked," Rianne Ellingwood, IM NOT TIRED member said. "I have no idea what to expect, I'm going to do my part, cheer on my teammates, and hopefully I won't die."

IM NOT TIRED included Ellingwood, Drew Morris, Anna Schwecke, Kyra Yanny, Haley Holliday, Olivia Larson, Alice Hiebert and Karina Gallant.

"Our team leader Drew Morris pretty much organized it all," Schwecke, the team's sea kayaker, said. "We all knew what Ski to Sea was but Drew was the one who put it all together and encouraged us to make a team."

Registration for Ski to Sea ended on May 22. In order for a team to register they have to pay a fee upwards of \$500 depending on when they register and what type of team they are. According to Schwecke, their team registered a few months back.

"It started out as more of a hypothetical thing that we would do," Schwecke said. "We would talk about how fun it would be to do Ski to Sea one day, then it all just sort of came together and next thing we knew, we had a full team that was registered."

This was the first year that the team participated in the race. According to Morris, the team's downhill runner, she and Holliday had wanted to do Ski to Sea since they first arrived at Western. This year was the year they put together a team full of women who enjoyed outdoor sports.

"I heard about Ski to Sea my freshman year of college and ever since had always wanted to compete in the race," Morris said.

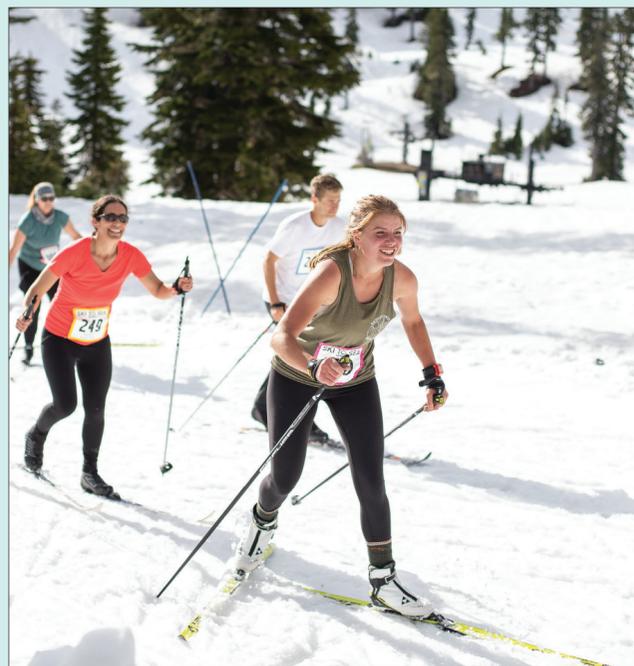
Each team member prepped for the race at their own pace. According to Ellingwood, the team's downhill skier, she found preparation for the skiing portion to be easy because she used to downhill ski competitively. However, she did not feel the same way about hiking uphill with skis. She prepped for that by hiking, running and lifting weights.

"I love skiing," Ellingwood said. "I grew up skiing and ski racing, so it is definitely a big part of who I am, and I've always wanted to go back to the competitive side of things."

Morris also had experience prior to her leg of the race, as she runs in her day-to-day life.

"I was training for the Chuckanut 25k trail race in the Chuckanut Mountains that took place a few weeks ago, so that definitely helped me get in shape for Ski to Sea," Morris said.

Unlike her teammates, Schwecke struggled to make time to prepare for the race. She had to find times



Kyra Yanny, a cross country ski racer for the team IM NOT TIRED competes in the first leg of Ski to Sea. // Photo by Hailey Hoffman

between school and basketball practice to make it out to the water, but ultimately she felt that she was in good shape to do well.

The team ended the race in a little over nine hours and placed 269 out of 419. After the race, Schwecke said she appreciated the chance to be involved in the relay.

"The race was so much fun to be a part of, and it was super exciting to be involved in such a big event," Schwecke said. "It was also great to see how much the community is involved and [how they] came out to support the race."



Cyclocross racer Karina Gallant carries a bike over obstacles during the 14 mile leg from Ferndale to Zuanich Point Park in Bellingham. // Photo by Mike Oh



Hundreds of racers compete in the cross country skiing leg of Ski to Sea. The first leg of the race takes skiers four miles on a course near Mount Baker. // Photo by Zachary Jimenez



# Kismet Café brings local food, drinks to Whatcom Museum

**Julia Vassallo**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

After Brandon Wicklund and Shannon Suschil stumbled across a bar called Kismet in Ubu, it made a lasting impression that inspired them to open downtown Bellingham's newest café, the Kismet Café.

"Kismet" means destiny or fate, according to the owners of the café. Kismet had its grand opening in the Whatcom Museum Lightcatcher building as a new addition to the Bellingham Arts District on May 20.

After the couple worked together at Wicklund's previous Bellingham business,

The Real McCoy, they decided to sell the bar and travel to Southeast Asia and returned with aspirations to open something fresh.

Looking to transition from late nights and spirits, the owners want to continue to build a comfortable space for friends and the community to gather for drinks, snacks, and conversation, Wicklund said.

"As much as we loved making cocktails, we are excited to share and explore the world of wine, vermouths and mixing aromatic cocktails," Wicklund said. "After spending a season working as a farmer, Shannon is excited to create dishes highlight-

ing the delicious produce of Whatcom and Skagit county and support our hardworking farmers."

The café has three entrances: one from the sidewalk, one from the inside of the museum and one from the museum's Lightcatcher courtyard.

"Now that we have this courtyard, especially during the summer, we want to hold a lot of events," Suschil said. "We can give people we meet in the community a space to showcase their food, and it gives us the opportunity to support each other, especially with the museum traffic."

Prior to the opening of the Kismet Café, the space was used as a retail-focused wine café, according to Suschil.

"The museum wasn't entirely sure if they wanted another café space in here," Suschil said. "It was a process. We had to meet with them and coordinate, so they were able to trust us."

Collaboration between the museum and the café is important, according to Christy Ham, the membership and visitor experience supervisor at the Whatcom Museum.

"We like to offer a well-rounded visitor experience, so we were excited to have the Kismet Café come in and provide coffee, beverages and snacks," Ham said. "I work directly with them



Owners of Kismet Café Brandon Wicklund and Shannon Suschil pose for a portrait. // Photo by Julia Vassallo

to make sure they have what they need, and we work together to make sure all of our visitors have a good time."

Though the space was a café before, the new owners wanted to establish a new aesthetic, and altered everything in the existing space besides any major construction, Suschil said. Plants and new tables were added and the couple lightened up the mood of the space during the renovation period.

"Opening a business always seems to take a little longer than expected, but we have enjoyed the process," Wicklund said. "We are very excited about how the space

has evolved into a comfortable gathering place for coffee and wine drinkers alike."

The Kismet Café is located on Grand Avenue and their normal hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., according to their Facebook page.

"Bellingham is abundant with talented people and we love having an outlet where we can offer goods such as Raven Breads, Flying Bird Botanicals, BeeWorks Farm and Bellingham Coffee Roasters," Wicklund said.



Kismet Café held its grand opening on May 20 as a new addition to the Bellingham Arts District. According to owners Brandon Wicklund and Shannon Suschil, "kismet" means destiny or fate. // Photo by Julia Vassallo

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# No plans for future time capsule unveilings

Faculty recall excavations of the first time capsules buried in 1912, and why more haven't been dug up since 2012

**Emily Feek**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Along the bricks of Old Main lie time capsules from past years of Western graduates. Since 1912, graduating students have the opportunity to leave something behind from their time at Western, but there have been no plans made to continue the tradition of unveiling the contents of future time capsules.

Although the anthropology department unearthed the 1912 and 1913 time capsules for the Memory Walk centennial in 2012, there are no arranged unveilings of the time capsules in the coming years, according to Todd Koetje, anthropology department chair.

Koetje and another anthropology professor, Sarah Campbell, had considered the possibility of excavating time capsules before the 2012 excavation, but didn't act on the idea until Western

administration suggested it, Koetje said.

"It's something that Sarah and I had talked about off and on for a while, but we never really did anything about it," Koetje said. "And then the president's office talked to the chair of the department at the time."

The first Western classes to bury time capsules didn't leave clear instructions, either, Western's Special Collections manager Tamara Belts said. She added that it might not be accurate to call the buried materials "time capsules" because it's unclear whether they were meant to be unearthed or not.

"I don't recall that we ever found anything that really showed what their intentions were," Belts said. "It was a part of class day activities or something, that's the closest we got to it, which in a way it still is. Now it's a part of commencement."

Emily Marrs, Western's



The excavation of the 1912 time capsule that was unearthed a century after it was buried. // Photo Courtesy of Special Collections, Western Libraries Heritage Resources

commencement manager, confirmed that these mementos are still being buried each year. The items are taken to Western's machine shop at the end of the academic year and sealed in the capsule before being buried under the Memory Walk stone, Marrs said.

Any items too large to fit in the capsule are not included, but everything else contributed is, provided it can all fit in the capsule. Everything left has fit into the capsule for the last several years, Marrs said.

Items containing liquid or live ammunition do not go into the capsule for safety and contamination purposes, Marrs said.

Even if these mementos aren't dug up, Western still takes measures to ensure their preservation, Koetje said. The 1912 time capsule was damaged by the time it was excavated in 2012, with concrete and sediments found inside the galvanized tin box.

When the 1912 time capsule was excavated, it was unclear what had been stored in it, Koetje said. The contents of the box had decomposed, leaving only fragments of the original

contents.

However, anthropology students and faculty were able to identify a few scraps of paper from the 1912 yearbook Belts said. Careful comparison showed that there were fragments of graduating student Esther Franzen's name as well as a sketch of the senior class cheekily depicted as chickens.

However, the damage to the 1912 time capsule may have been a result of maintenance, rather than just age. Several time capsules were also dug up during waterline maintenance in the '80s, Belts said.

Koetje said there were at least three times in living memory where several time capsules were unearthed for maintenance purposes, but the procedures were poorly documented. The time capsules, like the 1912 one, may have been damaged in the process.

Maintenance or not, today's time capsules are better protected. The mementos are no longer stored in tin boxes but are kept in stainless steel tubes that are welded shut, Marrs said.

The preservation of time

capsule contents is still uncertain, despite the better sealed containers, Koetje said.

"The time capsule thing is always terribly hit or miss," Koetje said. "It's all about preservation, and what gets put in a time capsule, what the chemical decomposition of that is, is tremendously variable."

Even if the only items left in a time capsule were student identification cards, it would still be difficult to predict what the state of the capsule's contents would be in 100 years, Koetje explained.

"One of the problems is that if people put their ID cards or plastic mementos, there's just such a mess of chemistry there," Koetje said. "Even if you put that stuff in a nice, sealed stainless steel container ... we have no idea what's going to happen inside of it."

The future of the contents of these capsules and their potential excavation may be uncertain, but the tradition is still in practice. The Memory Walk will continue to expand from Old Main to Edens Hall, and may eventually need to change directions when the current path runs out of space.



The 1912 time capsule tile on the Old Main Memory Walk. // Photo by Emily Feek

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# Intimidated in pursuit of the truth

The Western Front will continue to hold those in power accountable, as we've been taught to do by our department



low a story until the end, no matter how hard that might be.

Recently, The Western Front staff dealt with a story that had a more difficult beginning, middle and end than we've dealt with before. This is our side of the story, which started off with a white anthropology instructor who used the N-word in class as a teaching example in fall 2017. The Front reported on it during winter 2019, and because of that story, a proposal was brought to the Faculty Senate to recommend the limit of faculty's use of the N-word in learning environments.

On May 8, 2019, the Front published a story about the Academic Coordinating Commission rescinding a motion to ban the N-word from classrooms.

Faculty Senate President McNeel Jantzen and ACC chair and journalism professor Sheila Webb, who were mentioned but not interviewed, felt the coverage of that meeting was one-sided and that being given only a day to respond was not fair. As soon as these concerns were brought to the attention of the editors, it was clear to the Front editorial staff that this article was rushed and should not have been published until it was fully reported.

Committed to the fair and balanced journalism that is expected by our depart-

ment, the Front decided to hold itself accountable by adding some voices that were not included and notified readers of the correction. The process of re-reporting the story meant meeting with Jantzen, Webb and Faculty Senate parliamentarian Lizzy Ramhorst.

It's at this point that the process began to break down.

The original reporter was barred from attending the follow-up meeting, sacrificing a learning opportunity for her in favor of making people in power feel more comfortable.

The reporter's editor asked Ramhorst for the meeting's audio recordings to continue reporting on the story. Ramhorst said she felt she did not have the authority to provide the recordings without the approval of Webb or Jantzen.

The editor then requested the recordings through Western's Public Records Office, a normal practice for student journalists. Because of that, Jantzen said in an email she found the student's actions "threatening."

Both the reporter and editor felt as though they were unfairly treated by Jantzen and Webb, who had to be convinced to include them in the meeting at all.

During the Faculty Senate meeting to discuss a separate motion that also addressed the use of the N-word slur in the classroom, student journalists yet again faced barriers to doing the type of reporting we have been taught to do by our department. Jantzen told us we were not allowed to film the meeting, something that is legal under Washington State law. So we filmed, anyway.

As a courtesy, we also provided Jantzen with her quotes from that meeting. This is neither required nor necessary for a newspaper to do, since all her comments were made in a public meeting. Jantzen said she did not approve her quotes being used, but we were fully within our legal right to print them. So we did, because of the important context they provided for the story.

In response, Jantzen emailed the Front's managing editor, sarcastically commending the paper for its "lack of commitment to fair, truthful, and ethical journalistic reporting." The email was also sent to journalism department chair Jennifer Keller, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Brent Carbajal and President Sabah Randhawa.

Journalists are not aggressive for pursuing a story and following the laws of the state they're reporting in. Student journalists should not be demonized in what should be a learning opportunity. People in positions of power should not use their power to influence, intimidate or disrespect students, journalists or not.

These interactions took away from the discussion on the First Amendment and using the N-word in the classroom, a discussion that affects Black students on this campus but has never completely included them. Black Student Union has said they were never contacted or invited to attend any discussion of prohibiting the use of the N-word in class, either in Faculty Senate or ACC. We also never contacted them in conjunction with our coverage of this issue.

The Faculty Senate president and other faculty senators are concerned with the implications of limiting the First Amendment in the classroom, but not the implications of limiting the freedom of the press. Jantzen went as far to use the Faculty Senate presidential blog as a medium to further de-legitimize the Front's coverage of this issue, without linking to the article itself. There's a clear power dynamic at play here: Jantzen is one of the most powerful faculty on campus, and her status is being used to undermine our hard work and attempts at transparency and education.

As student journalists, we are doing what we've been taught. We're attempting to hold people in power accountable, and holding ourselves accountable when we fail. In this process, we believe we have been intentionally intimidated by senior faculty members, and we have dealt with it on our own. Despite this intimidation, we're remaining steadfast in our coverage of this issue.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be happening on Monday, June 3. The Western Front will be there.

## VIKING VOICES

What's something you wish you'd been told when you first came to Western?



**Chayce Barnhart**  
Communications

"School is really important but go and experience things. Find what you are passionate about in school, don't just pick a major for the money."



**Lindt Schmitz**  
Marine Biology

"I wish someone told me not to sign up for so many credits, especially if you have any disabilities. I have disabilities which makes it really hard to keep going the whole year. Don't push yourself too hard, take it slow."



**Crystle Loomos**  
Human Services

"Try to make time to study while you're on campus. I feel like when I am off campus, I just don't want to do any studying. I'm just not motivated at all."



**Nick Wahlgren**  
Creative Writing

"I wish I knew where all the food was."



**Alli Hand**  
Communications

"Say yes. Take on the experience, if you're hesitant on going out, like, get outside."

Compiled by Mona Ghorbani-Aghdam

or computer science classes, you've probably been instructed by a graduate student. Let the administration know that their treatment of graduate students is unacceptable by talking to your professors, department heads, and deans. We need you to #AskYourTA:

- Does WWU pay you a livable wage?
- Do you receive a stipend during the summer?
- Have you experienced mental health problems or considered leaving your program as a result of financial difficulties?

Western is dedicated to its undergraduates; the administration hasn't listened to us, but they will listen to you!

Thank you in advance for your support.

-Western Graduate Students

# Fashion on the field

Western's athletic uniforms can be both functional and fashionable

**Quyhn Trinh**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

When you think about the infamous purple and gold, you can only imagine the University of Washington's team uniforms and crowds chanting their pride with the school's colors painted on their faces and bodies.

Team uniforms are essential to the college sports nation — it's their identity on the field. They have changed throughout the years in categories like material, fashion appeal and safety.

When talking about material, concerns like comfortability come into the conversation. When looking at uniforms, there are considerations that have to be taken, like whether the outfit is accessible for quick changes and if weight has to be accommodated for.

Irene Bibian, a first-year on the Western tennis team, said that her preference would be to have Dri-FIT

uniforms. She said that her uniform is a little tighter than she likes.

"The skirts, honestly I have had no issue with," Bibian said. "It's just the jerseys."

The moisture-wicking material of Dri-FIT is notable especially in today's performing colleges because it's easily adaptable to the performer's high-intensity workout. Gear Up Sports' website breaks down what Dri-FIT actually does in terms of adaptability.

With the strength of silk and similar durability, Dri-FIT is a reliable material. Another aspect of college uniforms is fashion appeal, which involve what's trending, size appropriation and how one is able to personalize it.

Fourth-year student and Western women's rugby player Megan Stark said that she likes the fact that new uniform rules are based on the comfortability of the person. She listed examples

from golf where performers can wear slacks or shorts instead of skirts during game day.

"In the future I'd like to see the uniforms more customized to specific players," Stark said. "I'd also love to be able to buy a Western jersey of some sort."

Western, along with other schools, have uniforms that are only for loan and personalization would come out-of-pocket.

First-year track & field sprinter Mallory Harder said although she has only seen the practice gear on the track & field team, she does see some new incorporations to the fits.

"I know my team and I think some others have incorporated light blue into the uniforms and I like that," Harder said. "For newer uniforms I guess I'd just like to see continued improvement of the quality as new styles in the sports fashion industry continue to come out."

Fashion appeal is not just for looks, but also comfort and interchangeability with size and type of gear. According to SimpliFaster, a website that explains technology in athletic development, stated in their blog that fashion appeal was favored over the safety of the uniforms.

Times have changed and players have external factors to worry about other than appeal. Funding can also be a factor because when equipment aren't replaced within the recommended time frame, the risk of injury is higher.

"Because part of the funding for the sports club uniforms is out-of-pocket, there are limitations to how often we can replace them," said first-year women's rugby player Alex Gardner.

Replacement is important for uniforms because they tend to wear out and the safety level will decrease. The Spokesman-Review, went in depth with this

more in talking about having multiple football helmets for one player.

The article addressed their concerns about the helmets fitting when teams switch them often. Helmets are fitted individually by the equipment staffers and can vary between size, style, and manufacturer.

The Spokesman-Review explains that they have detachable things like padding and straps for the helmets lookwise. Alternatives to sports uniforms are important because students have different comfortability levels. This is important to acknowledge because students want to be unique when in sports in the way they ask for their name on varsity gear.

Uniforms in college come at a price when you have to talk about things like the design or look, how sustainable the material is and what safety precautions there are with the uniforms.

## GUEST OPINION

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Julia Berkman, Laura Place and Stella Harvey.

# Grad students: 'Our voices are not being heard'

We are graduate students completing our first year at Western. This last year revealed many hardships graduate students face daily; Western has acknowledged these issues, yet they remain unresolved and actively imposed. This letter addresses the financial situation graduate students endure while employed by and attending Western.

Not a single Western department provides its graduate students with a livable wage. We make \$3,960 to \$4,532 per quarter during the academic year. We are not funded during summer quarter. Western's graduate students make thousands less than Whatcom County's livable wage, in addition to having no source of income or healthcare during the summer.

Western doesn't allow graduate students to supplement our income with on-campus jobs that can accommodate our schedules. We are also required to pay quarterly fees for gym memberships, health center fees, and class fees which easily add up to \$500 or more, depending on our department. Many of us are on food stamps because we cannot afford basic necessities or cover our rent.

To address these issues, the Graduate Student Advisory Council was created. GSAC regularly sends updates on their

"progress," but has failed to produce successful solutions to these problems. GSAC has established ineffective solutions that state, "We will discuss" rather than "We will do." A \$11.8 million budget increase was allocated to improving Western through several items including increased TA stipends; "TA Stipends have lagged behind ... our peer institutions. FY20 starts a process for providing this much-needed adjustment in ... stipends." This "process" does not mention the new stipend amount or even when we can expect this increase to take place, and is therefore meaningless to the graduate students who are currently suffering. We need action to be taken now.

This year, Western awarded a 4% raise to its faculty, staff, and employees, but not to its graduate students. We are being actively ignored by the very people tasked with our wellbeing. We have tried every method for communication barring protests such as those held at University of Washington and University of Texas at Dallas. We deserve fair compensation for our contribution to the greater Western community.

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# Student-athletes prepare for summer off-season

**Christopher Smith**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Sports at Western end at different times of the year. However, all student-athletes have to prepare for the summer, which involves different workout and training programs to keep improving.

Student-athletes who participate in fall sports find their summers ending early due to the arrival of fall practices and games. Athletes who compete in winter and spring sports must work hard to stay on top of their game in preparation for the season that seems far away, but will approach quickly.

Madeline McPherson, a third-year student-athlete and stunt lead on the cheer team, knows just how important it is to have a set schedule for summer workouts.

"We have set practices throughout the summer," McPherson said. "These practices lead up to cheer camp in early August where we learn new skills."

She said cheer camp is a great opportunity for the team as a whole.

"Camp is awesome because we are surrounded by Division I schools like the University of Washington, Washington State University and the University of Oregon, which allows us to branch out

and represent Division II," McPherson said.

According to McPherson, the cheer team does a good job of sending out their summer practice schedule in advance so members of the team can arrange their work schedules around practices.

She added that the cheer team enjoys representing their school even during the summer.

active.

The fitness packet includes workouts to complete over the summer, Dierickx said. This leaves her with time to do the other things she wants to do.

"I am a part of a semi-pro team this summer so that is two times a week for two hours and then finding about 45 minutes to an hour time frame to do the fitness packet every weekday," Dierickx said.

hurdles for the track & field team, says they have a short break in between the regular season and summer training.

"After the season ends for some mid-May, others the end of May, we have a four week rest period to recover from our nine month season," Cummings said. "After the four weeks are up, coach will send us some weekly exercises to do."

His summer workouts involve specific activities that allow him to feel prepared going into the new school year.

"I haven't received my summer workout schedule yet, but in the past it's been a lot of general movement activities and a lot of high-rep workouts," Davies said. "So we can go into fall training already feeling strong before we get into specific movements and form work."

Cummings knows that these may not be the most rigorous workouts, but they are still very important.

"Each week he will check in and give us a new training plan," Cummings said. It's nothing too intense, it just keeps us in shape during the summer break.

At the end of the day, it all comes down to hard work, and Cummings knows the value that this has.

"Summer break differs for varsity student-athletes, at least in track, in the fact that you have to continue to train and represent the university in a positive way."

Western athletics saw a large amount of success during the 2018-2019 school year, and the student-athletes have made it clear they intend to maintain that success throughout the summer months.

"Summer break differs for varsity student-athletes, at least in track, in the fact that you have to continue to train and represent the university in a positive way."

**Cordell Cummings**  
WWU track & field hurdler

"After camp, we don't have set practices until the first week of school," McPherson said. "However, we have some events and games we attend to help support and promote WWU."

Third-year goalkeeper for the women's soccer team Natalie Dierickx spends her summers staying in the game and follows a fitness packet that the team has to stay

Dierickx said her summer gets cut short with Western's first exhibition game scheduled for the end of August.

While both women's soccer and track & field have their own summer workout programs, the track & field regular season just ended last week.

Third-year student-athlete Cordell Cummings, who runs

Garrett Davies, a second-year track & field member, is able to use many resources to stay active throughout the summer.

"Training doesn't really affect how I spend my summer because most places have a track and a gym somewhere nearby," Davies said. "They may not be as nice as our facilities but they're still there."

## The new Multicultural Center is almost complete!

Dawson Construction would like to thank WWU students, faculty and everyone involved in construction of the Multicultural Center!

The expansion combines the Ethnic Student Center, Multicultural Services, Women's Identity Resource Center, Queer Resource Center, Disability Outreach Center, Viking Union, Bookstore, Multipurpose Room, and KUGS Radio under one roof, and will become a beacon that celebrates diversity and inclusivity on campus.

A special thank you to the students of Western. This project could not have happened without you! From supporting the project with most of the funding directly from students, to your patience with the noisy work, relocations and traffic revisions; We appreciate you working with us to create a beautiful space for students to feel welcomed, supported and included for generations to come.

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Opsis / RMC / Coughlin Porter  
Lundeen / WSP / K Engineers / Wilson  
Engineering / Murase Associates /  
Burgess + Kremer /  
The Knebel Company

### Student Groups

- Associated Students (AS) Board of Directors
- Ethnic Student Center (ESC)
- ESC Executive Committee and representatives of the Student Advocacy & Identity Resource Centers (SAIRC)
- AS President
- AS VP for Diversity
- KUGS Radio

### WWU

- Viking Union staff
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