

THE WESTERN FRONT

Volume 189, Issue 2

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Use of HomesNOW! funds under investigation

Three board members, including former President Jim Peterson voted off the board following internal investigation

Ella Banken

THE WESTERN FRONT

The possible misappropriation of funds by HomesNOW! board members is under criminal investigation, according to a Bellingham Police Department statement released on Monday, Sept. 30.

The same afternoon, HomesNOW! board member Doug Gustafson uploaded a 12-minute video to the organization's Facebook page describing the events that led up to the investigation.

President and founder Jim Peterson, Vice President Rachel Duval and operations director Charlie Storrs were all removed from their positions for various behaviors by a board vote on Sunday, Sept. 29, according to Gustafson.

"The total damage is estimated to be around \$8,000 in misspent funds in 2019. This is

out of a total of around \$150,000 in donations," Gustafson said in his Facebook post.

Board member Elizabeth Anthony said Gustafson began an internal investigation the previous week after hearing complaints from residents about possible harassment and abuse by the former board members.

The Bellingham Police Department began their investigation of the misappropriation of funds after receiving information from Gustafson.

The investigation is in the early stages; no names have been released and no charges have been filed, according to Lt. Claudia Murphy of the Bellingham Police Department.

There will be no change in the daily operations at the recently opened tiny home encampment



The HomesNOW! banner located at the entrance of Unity Village on Tuesday, Oct. 1. // Photo by Zachary Jimenez

Unity Village, Murphy said.

Gustafson examined the bank statements of the organization and

saw several transactions from ATM machines located near marijuana dispensaries and the Silver Reef Casino

Resort. This led him to believe the funds were being misused, he said.

"It took us off guard that the president of

the entire organization would do these kind

see FUNDS, page 3

New Multicultural building sheds light on Ethnic Student Center

Ana Soltero

THE WESTERN FRONT

With the new Multicultural Center, the Ethnic Student Center anticipates having a larger presence on campus and not only for minority students.

Before the building of the Multicultural Center, the location of the ESC was not well known. Tucked away in a corner on the fifth floor of the Viking Union, it was difficult to find unless one knew it was there.

Madoka Iwamoto is the president of the Japanese Student Association.

"It is nice to have a space that feels like it was made for us," Iwamoto said. "It was very hard to find our [old] space, [and it] was definitely a little bit too small for such a large population."



A street view of the new Multicultural Center building on Sept. 16. // Photo by Zachary Jimenez

The ESC established itself in 1991, according to its website. It consists of 19 clubs and is student-run and is under the eye of the Associated Students.

Although many might believe that the ESC is only meant for students of a particular identity, that is not the case.

"You can attend clubs that are not correlated to your identity," said Katherine Fry, Mixed Identity Student Organization member. "It is [a] pretty open space."

Iwamoto said the ESC is always looking for new members to join.

"You don't have to be

a member of a club and have a certain identity," Iwamoto said. "If you come to my club, [the] Japanese Student Association, you don't have to be in anyway Japanese ... or know anything about Japanese culture."

"I think, at its heart, [the ESC] is a place for students — particularly underrepresented students — to be in [a] community, to find a place to really relax and [it] provide[s] a social atmosphere," Eric Alexander, Interim ESC Supervisor, Associate Dean of Student Engagement and Director of the Viking Union said.

Alexander has been the Associate Dean of Student Engagement for the past five years. He said that over the

see ESC, page 3

University police investigate white nationalist stickers found on campus

Campus Advisory assures students that "hate is not tolerated on campus"

Kiaya Wilson

THE WESTERN FRONT

Four stickers from the white nationalist group Patriot Front were found on Western's campus on Monday, Sept. 30.

Three of the stickers were scratched off by the time University Police found them.

One sticker was found near the Wade King Student Recreation Center, one was found between the Fine Arts Building and Engineering Technology building, one was found on the Garden Street side of the Viking Union and one was found on a light

pole by Parks Hall.

A Campus Advisory was sent out at 3:13 p.m.. The advisory stated hate is not tolerated on campus and Western "strongly condemns" the beliefs of Patriot Front.

"As noted in the advisory, we encourage members of the campus community to notify the university if they see more of these stickers posted on campus," Paul Cocke, director of communications and marketing for Western, said in an email.

According to the advisory, University Police have begun an investigation into this incident.

@thefrontonline

@thefrontonline

facebook.com/westernfrontonline

INSIDE:

News pg. 5
New Pet Store in the wake of feed and seed fires

Features pg. 7

Birchwood market celebrates neighborhood diversity

Sports pg. 10

Softball finds success in pre-season doubleheader

Opinion pg. 9

Racism is exhausting



Beer and cider enthusiasts gather for Oktoberfest to try local autumn style beers and ciders at the Depot Market Square on Friday, Sept. 27. // Photo by Alex Moreno

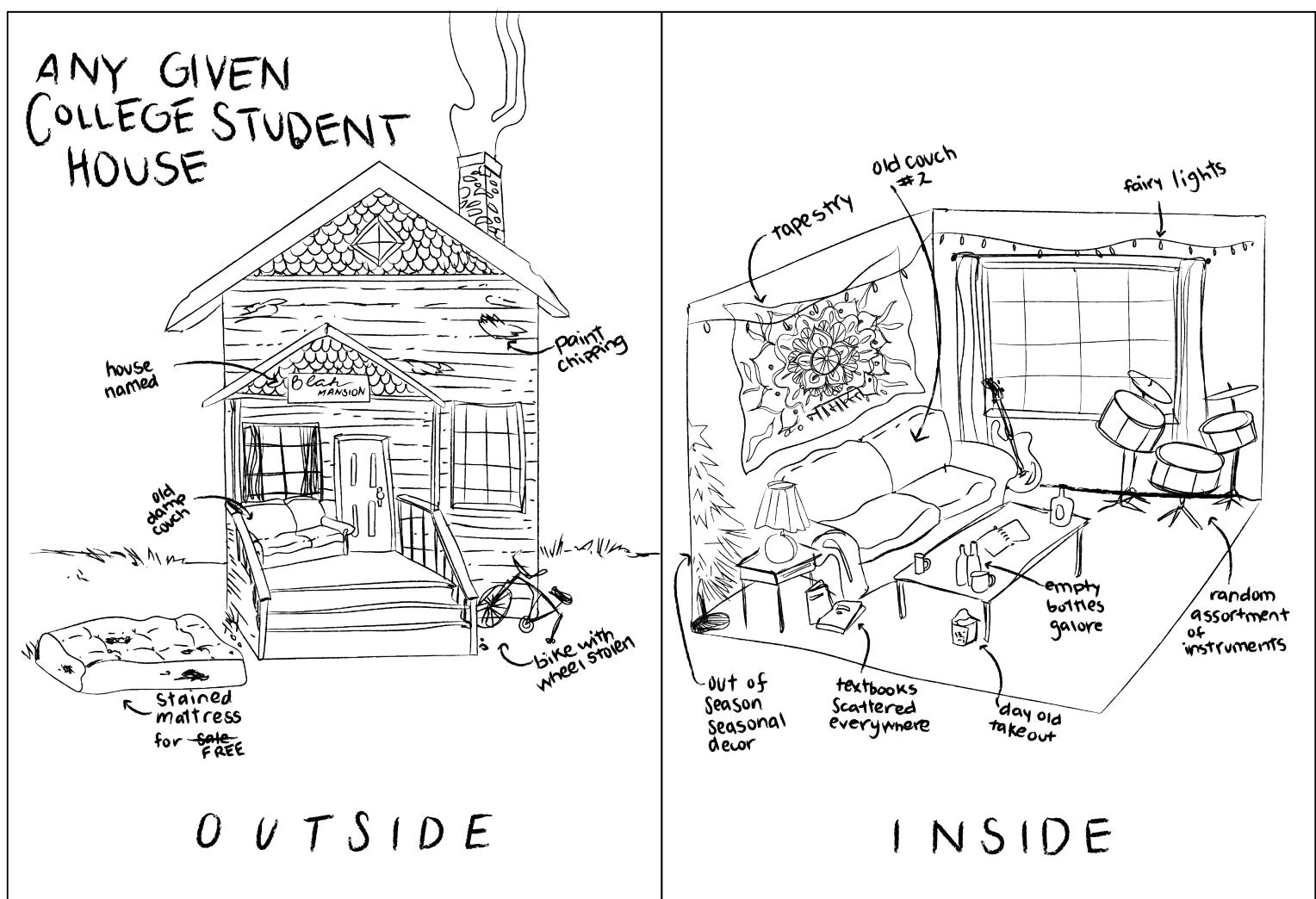


Illustration by Chloe Halbert

MAKE YOUR MARK IN INK
ADVERTISE WITH THE WESTERN FRONT

360.650.3160
WWW.WESTERNFRONT@GMAIL.COM

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**
Audra Anderson
- Managing Editor**
Ian Haupt
- Campus Editors**
Colton Rasanen
Emily Feek
- City Editors**
Naomi Schapiro
Mallory Biggar
- Sports Editor**
Christopher Smith
- Opinion Editor**
Emily Erskine
- Photo Editor**
Zack Jimenez
- Social Media Editor**
Cooper Campbell
- Copy Editor**
Maddie Smith
- Photographers**
Alex Moreno
Claire Ott
- Illustrator**
Chloe Halbert
- Letters to the editor:**
westernfront.opinion@gmail.com
- Press releases:**
wfpres.release@gmail.com
- Faculty Adviser**
Betsy O'Donovan
betsy.odonovan@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.

Have story ideas?
Email us at

westernfrontonline@gmail.com

to send them our way or discuss sharing information confidentially.

FUNDS

continued from page 1

of things," Gustafson said, in reference to the board's decision to remove Peterson.

Peterson and Duval did not respond to multiple efforts to contact them on the phone or via social media. Storrs said he had no comment regarding the Facebook post or criminal investigation.

"We were all devastated by this whole thing," Carol Winikoff, HomesNOW! treasurer, said.

Winikoff, who said she was unaware of the suspected misused funds, said Gustafson has access to the organization's online banking statements for their annual report and was able to start the investigation from there.

"I kind of messed up and didn't check the addresses of every ATM machine where there were withdrawals," Gustafson said.

Peterson and Duval would often show up to the camp with large amounts of food, marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia, according to residents Julie Anderson, Criss Clemens and Tina Hayes.

The residents did not initially suspect the apparent misuse of funds but did wonder how Peterson and Duval could afford those items, according to Anderson. However, everyone assumed the money was being well spent, she said.

"We're not going to question where [things] are coming from when we're getting a home," Anderson said. "You don't pay attention because you think it's okay."

Residents said they confided in Gustafson that

ESC

continued from page 1

summer, he began to further work with the ESC. The Viking Union puts on lots of ESC activities and events — it made sense for Alexander to work with the organization and take on the title of Interim ESC Supervisor.

The ESC provides leadership development programs, support for students in their own academic pursuits, and supports 19 clubs, Alexander



Jim Peterson, former president of HomesNOW!, sits with Danielle Amari in April 2019. Peterson and two other board members were voted off theHomesNOW! board after an internal investigation led by Doug Gustafson. // Photo by Mallory Biggar

Peterson, Duval and Storrs were all verbally abusive toward the residents, which prompted Gustafson's internal investigation. Anderson, Clemens and Hayes each confirmed they had experienced or witnessed verbal abuse by Peterson and Storrs when the former board members visited the camp.

"All the residents told me that all three of them yelled at them and made them feel like they weren't working hard enough or fast enough, or they didn't want housing if

they didn't come to city council," Gustafson said. "[Peterson] made comments to all the female residents which made them uncomfortable, like sexual jokes."

Duval had informed Gustafson that the situation regarding Peterson and the resident had been taken care of, and they didn't consider it to be sexual harassment, Gustafson said.

Peterson submitted a letter of resignation to the HomesNOW! board Monday morning before he was told he had

been removed, according to Gustafson.

"Jim is mostly guilty of financial fraud," Gustafson said, referencing the board's decision to remove the three members. "Going forward into the future, every single month we're going to have two board members review the transactions together, and they'll both have to sign off on it."

"Residents did not speak up sooner about these activities because they were afraid of losing their housing,"

Gustafson said in the post.

Gustafson concluded his post with a letter collectively written by the residents of Unity Village.

"We were all very active in this investigation and the continued successful running of the program. We feel as a community that the investigation and decisions of the board were fair, justified and in line with what is best for us, the residents," stated the letter by Unity Village residents.

"It is nice to have a space that feels like it was made for us."

Madoka Iwamoto

Japanese Student Association President

said.

Fry said during her first year at Western she remembers feeling isolated, especially in the dorms. She believes the transition to a medium sized school can be a little overwhelming, especially for first-year students of color in a predominantly white university.

"So, the ESC really just ... served as that space to have ... a community of people that kind of understood what you were experiencing at

Western," Fry said.

ESC clubs are accessible and available to students looking for an array of opportunities, according to

Iwamoto.

"I would just choose a club that you have a little bit of interest in and then show up to that," she said.

The ESC may not have gotten much attention while hiding in the shadows, but the move into the sleek new Multicultural Center might garner more attention.

"We want to make sure that folks know that the ESC is here, that it's in a new location, doors are open and we are here to support all students, but particularly underrepresented students, as they are transitioning on through ... our campus," Alexander said.

89.3fm
KUGS
www.kugs.org

STUDENT OPERATED
**NEW MUSIC
LIVE NEWS**

DEMOCRACY NOW
•STREAMING ONLINE



**EVERYBODY
DESERVES
EXPERT CARE**

**Transgender
Hormone Therapy**

1.800.230.PLAN | mbpp.org
Bellingham • Mount Vernon • Friday Harbor



City introduces electric scooter pilot project scheduled for 2020

During Climate Action Week, the city of Bellingham conducts testing of e-scooter program with local businesses to ensure it would bring positive change to the city

Melody Kazel
THE WESTERN FRONT

Electric scooters are rolling into Bellingham and with them rolls a pilot project for 2020.

On Sept. 26, the city of Bellingham hosted an event during Climate Action Week where residents could test ride e-scooters. A week before the event, the city partnered with Lime and gave e-scooters to a few members of the business community for testing. Those riders answered questions at the event about their experiences. The pilot program will potentially bring rentable e-scooters to the sidewalks of Bellingham.

An e-bike or e-scooter, is similar to a regular one except it gives the rider an extra burst of power to help them ride, according to Whatcom Smart Trips Outreach Coordinator Michelle Grandy. The scooters' battery-powered motors make them more accessible to people who may not be used to riding e-scooters.

"The neat thing about the e-scooters is that the folks who never bike or don't bike aren't intimidated to try an e-scooter," Grandy said. "I think that that can play into a municipality's decision about whether or not to try both or just one."

Grandy is working mostly with e-bikes and clarified the e-scooter program is separate from what Whatcom Smart



Lime Scooters ready to be used at the e-scooter demo event on Thursday, Sept. 26. // Photo courtesy of the City of Bellingham

Trips has been working on with e-bikes.

"I can't speak for exactly why the city has made that decision," Grandy said. "What I do know about pilot programs and the use of e-scooters and e-bikes in different communities is that the e-scooters are being used by people who don't bicycle."

The pilot program would allow companies, such as Lime,

to bring in and set up e-scooters and their docks throughout the city for residents to use. The companies would be paying to set up scooters so it won't be coming out of resident's tax dollars, according to Christine Grant, a consultant with the Downtown Bellingham Partnership.

It will cost to rent and ride the scooters. "The typical

pricing is a dollar unlock and then 15 cents per minute," said Grant.

Lime fosters a program called Lime Access in which low-income individuals can use the e-scooters for half the price, Grant said.

The pilot program is scheduled to begin in 2020 according to Darby Cowles, senior planner with the city's

Planning and Community Development Department. She said the program will last anywhere from six months to a year and the data will be used to determine whether the e-scooters are a good fit for Bellingham.

Cowles and her team have been researching and tracking other communities for the past year to see how similar projects have impacted them.

"I think one of the higher level takeaways is the communities that opened up the door, without giving it a lot of thought, have been the ones that have experienced the most negative consequences," Cowles said.

The goal of the pilot program is to ensure that allowing e-scooter companies to operate here won't negatively affect the city. If it does, Cowles said the city will not create a permanent e-scooter program.

"Our job as a city is to figure out a way for them to operate that doesn't adversely impact the public," Cowles said.

She and her team plan to speak to the people who would be most affected by this program, namely local bike shop owners. The city is also developing a webpage that will be a portal for information on the status and background of the project. Cowles said the website will likely be up by next week.

Smart Buses bring better tracking to WTA

Noah Harper
THE WESTERN FRONT

Waiting for a bus in the winter is a grueling process. If you are a student who depends on the Whatcom Transportation Authority, there is not much you can do but bundle up and brace the cold.

In early 2020, riders will have the ability to track bus locations via live GPS. This new technology will be featured in WTA's new line of Smart Buses.

The Smart Bus upgrades coming to WTA's fleet of public buses are closer than some riders may realize.

WTA operates 64 full size buses, seven of which are testing the Smart Bus features, according to Operations Supervisor Brian Richeson.

Riders of the test buses will be able to hear the bus announce what route it is from the outside as well as hear automated driver announcements from the inside. The ability to track the buses with real time GPS will not be avail-

able until the Smart Bus upgrades are fully launched in 2020. Riders will see where their bus is and in real time and will get updates on delays due to traffic or road closures with apps like Google Transit and the WTA app, which has yet to be released.

"We have the same vendor working on our paratransit project to improve service for our paratransit passengers ... our existing system on those buses are turning off on Dec. 31 so our focus had to be Paratransit," Beaumont said.

Once the buses are cleared for public use, the WTA plans to spread the word of the upgrades so everyone can utilize them. WTA riders on four different routes were unaware of the coming changes.

Tracking the location of busses will be helpful as a WTA bus rider, Bellingham resident Adrian Fiala Clark said.

Thirteen years after its original conception, the WTA is ready to finish this project, which was shelved due to financial setbacks.



Geoff Beaumont, project manager of the Smart Bus, gives a test drive of a bus with the new features on Monday, Sept. 30. // Photo by Noah Harper

Pet store from the ashes

Former manager of destroyed feed store will open new business to fill gap in local pet services

Ella Banken
THE WESTERN FRONT

After two Bellingham feed and seed businesses were destroyed by separate fires this year, a former employee is working to bring those services back to the community.

Neighboring stores Hohl Feed and Seed and Clark's Feed and Seed, located in downtown Bellingham, were devastated by fires nearly five months apart.

"We lost two of our favorite stores in the community that did awesome things for pets and their people, and I want to bring that back to the area," Dobby Crouson, former general manager of Clark's Feed and Seed, said.

The new business, called PNW Pets, will offer many products and services similar to Clark's, and will carry a wider variety of animals including small mammals and reptiles, Crouson said. Another key difference is all the animals will be rescues.

"Any animal that we have in the store will be from a local rescue organization," Crouson said. "We are not going to be purchasing animals from breeders to sell, we will be facilitating adoption."

Crouson worked at Clark's Feed and Seed for about two years before the fire on Wednesday, July 17, according to Crouson. It was her intention to buy the business from the owner, Larry Oltmann, when he retired.

"When the fire happened, I lost the opportunity to buy that store, so we shot in full speed ahead to starting our own," Crouson said.

The absence of Hohl and Clark's is noticeable in the community. Employees at several businesses surrounding the vacant storefronts claim that they are asked every day what happened, including Alexandria Scott, an employee at Cresswell Boggs, another Railroad



Firefighters suit up outside Clark Feed and Seed to extinguish a fire that broke out on July 17, 2019. // Photo by Zachary Jimenez

Avenue business.

"People ask what happened all the time, and also if they will reopen somewhere else," Scott said. "Both pet stores closing in the span of months, was so disappointing."

"Any animal that we have in the store will be from a local rescue organization."

Dobby Crouson
Former General Manager, Clark's Feed and Seed

"I got all my dog treats and toys there, they had better all-natural options than Petco," Scott said, "I hate Petco."

With the loss of two feed and seed stores in a short period of time, there was a sudden demand for pet

supplies in the downtown community.

After discussing her plan with Clark's owner and received support, Crouson immediately wrote up a business plan, she said.

Several former Clark's employees will be joining her at the new business once it opens, Crouson said.

According to Crouson, she already has a location for the new business. Although she is unable to disclose the exact address, she assures that it is still in Bellingham proper.

"It's in a great spot, so people can get to us and not have to pay for parking!" Crouson said, laughing.

Funding has been the biggest challenge for getting the business going, Crouson said. She is working with a few investors who are established Bellingham business owners and organizations to coordinate fundraising. Organizations include the NW Innovation Resource Center and the Small Business

Development Center at Western.

"We are completely ready to go, except for the funding," Crouson said. "My hope was to be open already ... it could be anywhere from another month to several months."

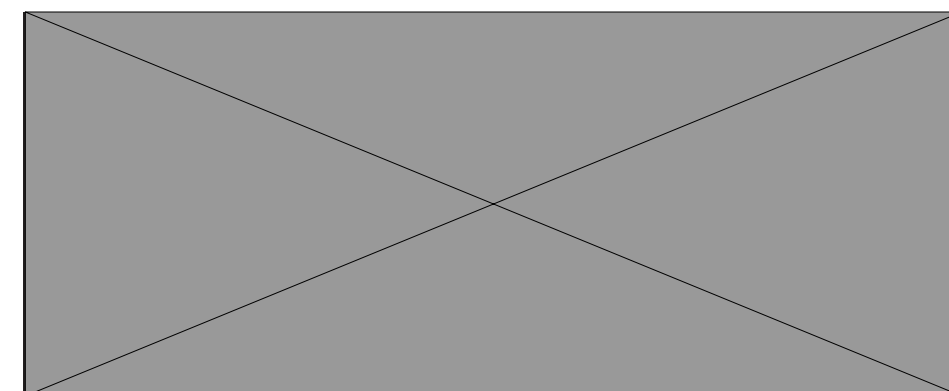
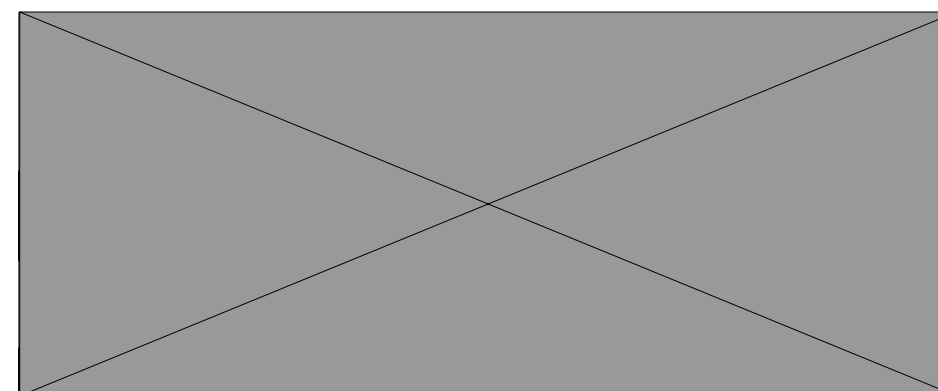
According to Lara Merriam-Smith, program manager at NWIRC, in order for small businesses to survive, it is critical that they are able to serve

their customers needs well. NWIRC works with entrepreneurs to develop plans and strategies for opening their own businesses.

"Filling a void that can't be met through a giant online retailer, if you can find that, it's good," Merriam-Smith said. "Especially here in Whatcom County, people have a desire to try and serve local businesses."



Onlookers, on Railroad Avenue, watch fire spread and firefighters working to control the blaze July 17. // Photo by Zachary Jimenez



"Cider-centric:" make room, craft beer

Thousand Acre Cider House opens downtown, hopes to be a part of revitalization

Carl Bryden
THE WESTERN FRONT

Thousand Acre Cider House, which opened this summer, offers a new take on the classic tap house.

Since opening, Thousand Acre, located at 109 Grand Ave. Suite 101, has held onto the core value of community building.

"We're really hoping to be a part of the revitalization of downtown Bellingham," owner Jenn Hagemann said.

The cider house stands out by emphasizing their selection of ciders above all else. With 18 ciders, six beers on tap and over 200 bottles and cans of cider on-site there are options for everyone.

"While most tap houses feature maybe one cider and twenty beers, we have the polar opposite," employee Jenn Knutzen said. "It's completely cider-focused and cider-centric."

Thousand Acre features the ciders and beers displayed against an exposed brick wall. A mix of Hawaiian, reggae and miscellaneous music fills the space.

"Cider is popular, and it seems like a lot of people were waiting for us to open up," Knutzen added.

While they opened on Aug. 7, they held their official grand opening during Washington Cider Week, Sept. 6-8 this year.

"We wanted to open a business in a community that was large enough to support the business, but still small enough for us to feel at home," Hagemann said.

Hagemann and co-owner James Hagemann were introduced to cider in 2015 and have since explored the world sampling and learning about different kinds of cider. They have incorporated this into the business by carrying a number of imported ciders and drinks. This includes their traditional prohibition cider from Saanichton, British Columbia, as well as their Kupela Basque Cider imported from northern Spain.

The employees all boast an extensive knowledge of cider, assisting customers as they



One of Thousand Acre Cider House's "cidertenders" Adam Coy pouring a flight of ciders on Tuesday, Oct. 1. // Photo by Claire Ott

"Cider is popular and it seems like a lot of people were waiting for us to open up,"

Jenn Knutzen
Thousand Acres Cider House Employee

choose between ciders.

They feature art by local artists as well as old photos of Bellingham.

The cider house also offers a book and board game collection and shuffleboard. While they don't offer table service, they



A front-facing view of the Thousand Acre Cider House taken mid-day on Tuesday, Oct. 1. // Photo by Claire Ott

"We wanted to open a business in a community that was large enough to support the business, but still small enough for us to feel at home,"

Jenny Haggeman
Thousand Acres Cider House Owner

have a number of shareable food items.

"I love working here," employee Monica Smith said. "[The Hagemanns] have been great employers and the work

they've put into this place and the community is incredible."

The cider house plans to get involved with the community by hosting a number of events in the coming year like the

Sippin' on Cider Celebration. They will also partner with non-profit Shifting Gears to host a pre-festival celebration on Oct. 4.



Thousand Acre Cider House's chalkboard-style menu behind the bar at their downtown location on Tuesday, Oct. 1. // Photo by Claire Ott



Annah Young tending to the vegetables at her City Sprouts Farm stand while volunteer Alex McIntyre promotes on Friday, Sept. 27 at the Birchwood International Market. // Photo by Claire Ott

Celebrating culture and community

Alix Condit
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Birchwood International Market showcased cultural performances, music, art and food to celebrate neighborhood diversity on Sept. 27. The event ended Birchwood's four month series of festivities.

The market is an opportunity for community members to get together and experi-

ence new cultures as well as celebrate their own culture.

Bellingham's former Albertsons grocery store was located in the Birchwood neighborhood, but it closed in May 2016, according to a previous Western Front article. The surrounding community was left without access to food.

The market has become an outlet for residents of the neighborhood to rejoice in

their community.

Performance is one of the ways people have shared their stories at the market. Estrellitas de Bellingham is one of the groups that performed. The group consists of children ages 4 to 15-years-old.

The group has formed a sense of community for the dancers. The children and teens are able to share their culture with their community as well as their peers.

Marta Herrera, the group's dance instructor, uses traditional dances from a variety of students' backgrounds. She said it is important to her that her students learn about their roots. They learned traditional dances from El Salvador, Guatemala and Colombia to name a few.

While Herrera's favorite part of Estrellitas de Bellingham is the performances, she finds her students enjoy the practices more than anything.

"[Being part of the group] affects their self-esteem and their sense of community," Herrera said.

She said whenever the group takes a break from practicing her students are always eager to get back.

Seeing kids dance is a highlight of the market for



Seasonal vegetables featured at the City Sprouts Farm stand at the Birchwood International Festival on Friday, Sept. 27. // Photo by Claire Ott

many.

Robyn Ohara, a vendor at the market, said that she loves having a space with a clear view of the performances.

Miguel Rueda and his wife do not get to enjoy the show from their food stand, but they have been at the market since day one.

Rueda grew up in the Birchwood neighborhood and has never missed a market. While he enjoys all the events, selling his food

at Birchwood International Market is special to him. The market feels like home and is a great place to see what Bellingham is becoming as the city gets more diverse, Rueda said.

The Birchwood Neighborhood alone has 26 different languages spoken throughout the community.

Friday night wrapped up the final Birchwood International Market for 2019, but it plans to continue in 2020.



Cara Cressell (left) and her student, Celia McIntyre (right) pose for a portrait at the Azara Tribal Bellydance stand at the Birchwood International Market on Friday, Sept. 27. // Photo by Claire Ott

Five things to know about campus recreation services

Campus recreation center offers many different resources for students

Jordan Van Beek
THE WESTERN FRONT

Wade King Recreation Center has plenty of options to offer students. Here are five that not everyone realizes the center offers.

1. X Pass

A free demo week of select X-Pass classes are available from Monday, Sept. 30 to Sunday, Oct. 6, according to the Wade King Student Recreation Center website. Classes for the fall 2019 quarter include Olympic weightlifting, aqua fitness, belly dancing, self defense, yoga and Zumba.

Classes are held every day with unlimited access for \$45. The rec center also offers a drop-in pass, which allows students to attend one class at any scheduled time for \$5.

For those not interested in paying for fitness classes, Adam Leonard, director of Campus Recreation Services, said, "The rec center also offers a variety of aquatic and fitness clinics at no charge."



Elliptical machines being used in Wade King Student Recreation Center. // Photo by Christina Becker

2. First Step

The First Step program is a free program for members of the rec center designed for those who are returning to physical activity after an injury. It is also offered to members who don't know where to start in the gym. Trainers help participants reach individual goals in five sessions.

The first session is a consultation with a selected

trainer. In the second session, participants will be evaluated on a simple series of movements to help the trainer find the best exercise routine. Finally, in the last three sessions, the trainer will set up a plan that works best in one-hour sessions.

According to the rec center website, participants sign up by completing a questionnaire that is reviewed by the program coordinator. After program completion participants can choose to

continue with paid sessions.

Makena Degolier, front desk attendant at the rec center, said not many students know physical therapy, located in rec center room 146.

The exercise equipment orientation is another option for learning students.

"The exercise equipment orientation is to help you be safe, effective and efficient with your time and efforts," Ron Arnold, fitness coordinator at the rec center said.

3. Intramural

The Campus Recreation Services offers quarterly Intramural Sports for students to compete in, according to the campus rec website. The list of sport leagues for the fall quarter include basketball, flag football, soccer and volleyball. Each Intramural Sport has playoffs of the top teams to compete for the championship in their league.

The Intramural page said, "Intramural playoffs are set up as a bracket tournament. The number of teams that go to playoffs is determined by how many teams are in a league."

The top half of the best teams in the league go to the playoffs. The winners of the league for the quarter get an Intramural Champions shirt.

4. Lockers

For frequent rec center visitors who tend to carry a gym bag or backpack, lockers are an option. The website states that rental rates for the lockers depend on their long-term or daily use. A full size, 34 inch by 11 inch locker costs \$25 per quarter or \$60 per year. A third size, 19 inch by 11

inch locker comes out to \$20 per quarter or \$40 per year and a hallway locker 15 inch by 11 inch costs \$15 per quarter or \$20 per year. Students can also get a quarter size, 15 inch by 11 inch locker for a single day, free of charge.

5. Aquatics

The rec center has a swimming pool for all members who bring the proper swim attire, listed on the Campus Rec website. Two lanes for lap swim are open at all times.

They offer a variety of swim lessons, including one-on-one lessons that meet each person's needs and fits their schedule. The rec center also has a variety of pool equipment such as inner tubes, noodles, lifejackets, flippers and aqua jogger belts that are available for use. Leonard said students can also utilize the recreation area to relax in the hot tub.

For those who love the pool, birthday party packages are available. This includes a two-hour party with time in the pool and the rock climbing wall. Prices start at \$125 for 10 people. After Oct. 5, 2019, parties will only be held Friday night through Sunday, due to the school year beginning.



Wade King Student Recreation Center on Monday, Sept. 30. // Photo by Jordan Van Beek

Racism on campus is exhausting

What it really feels like to receive another Western Alert about white supremacy

"Welcome Back Vikings," one moment, white supremacists the next. I can't help but feel absolutely exhausted.

The cynical side of my brain bargains again and again that this is just a part of life in America for the foreseeable future. The optimistic side of my brain feels elated that we've gotten to the point in history where people actually want change. While the absolutely devastated part feels like nothing seems fair, and I don't know why.

There are more racists roaming the halls of Western since the last incidents of vandalism, and I wanted to be surprised, but I'm not.

I see little to no representation in the staff at Western, I see a lack of diversity among my peers and I certainly feel it when hate groups terrorize people in what is supposed to be a safe space. But what I am in desperate need of is conversation.

"There are more racists roaming the halls of Western since the last incidents of vandalism, and I wanted to be surprised, but I'm not."

The obstacles faced by minorities on college campuses is something that I never hear talked about. The questions prompted on the application process to be admitted into a university encourage us to cut ourselves open and spill out our trauma for everyone to see. Only once our struggles are revealed, and how we "bravely overcame them" in the face of adversity, can we then attend an establishment that enables the abuse even more.

We shouldn't have to feel targeted every single day just by existing in the same space as others, or carry a constant pressure to feel a certain way every time something like this happens.

I came to Western for the culture. By culture, I mean the campy-outdoor ambiance, the cool punk-rock cadence everywhere you go and the ideologies of other students. But I can't help but wonder if those ideologies extend

to those of us who aren't white.

I want so badly to sit back and feel a lack of microaggressions, see more faces like mine and not feel worried if the person I want to be my new friend will think I'm good enough or not. But now is not the time for ease and carelessness. Now is the time for uncomfortable dialogue and admitting when there are problems, like right this moment and the fact that a white supremacy group is getting away with hate while others sit back and watch. Now is the time to call people out, be self aware about the comments you hear and consider the stakeholders.

Since clearly change is not happening within the departments at Western, maybe it's time to make even more strides among students.

Welcome back Vikings.

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Emily Erskine, Audra Anderson and Ian Haupt

GUEST EDITORIAL

Investing in climate responsibility

A look at the current climate crisis and future positive action

As we are witness to the climate crisis, we understand the decisions we make as a university are paramount for students and for the future. We congratulate the Western community for coming together to help guide The Western Washington University Foundation in selecting a new fund manager at the end of the last academic year. This provides opportunity for sustainable investment as per our university's Sustainability Action Plan.

We look forward to further positive action on other key matters as well. We need clarity about the

percentage of Foundation assets to be committed to Environmental and Social Governance. The extent to which decisions for ESG investing are donor driven, and how social and environmental realities influence those choices. Besides the surge of student and public support for such directions, in our state and country and worldwide, we cite mounting evidence that returns on ESG investments are at least on par with other investments, especially given the existential threat we face from the climate crisis.

We seek tangible commitment by the Western Foundation to

a model of shared governance, involving faculty and staff as well as students and administration, in accord with Western's core values. While student voices were involved in the selection process, the Faculty Senate and staff representatives have yet to be consistently apprised of developments at the Foundation.

Continuing and transparent Foundation responsiveness to the urgency of climate crisis is crucial. A university's financial grounding powerfully shapes the institution's overall energy and investment decisions, and ultimately our ethical and practical responsiveness



Illustration by Nicole Smith

to the enormous challenges that lie ahead for humanity and the planet.

We join many others in willingness to offer time and expertise to achieve these essential goals.

- Jill MacIntyre Witt, Environmental Studies Instructor & co-signed by four Western Environmental and Anthropology staff



Comic created by Chloe Heibert

Promising preseason doubleheader

New recruits aid Vikings in first win of the academic year

Nolan Baker
THE WESTERN FRONT

As the clock struck high noon, the clouds creating a dark and blistering cold morning split open, and the sun beamed down on the Vikings softball field. Perhaps it's an omen for the upcoming season.

In a preseason doubleheader Saturday against Edmonds Community College, the Vikings won their first game 11-3, and tied their second 4-4.

Entering their second season under head coach Sheryl Gilmore, the Vikings are looking to improve upon last year's 27-18 record, in which they narrowly lost out on a spot in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference tournament.

Western is reloaded with nine new recruits, five freshmen and four junior college transfers, and their goals are higher than ever.

Gilmore said the new transfers bring important leadership and experience needed to take the team to the next level. It showed out on the diamond Saturday.

First baseman Dakota Brooks, an All-American at Centralia College last season, had two RBI in the first game and a solo home run in the second game. In an interview with the athletic department, Brooks said choosing Western was simple.

"I like to think that Western Washington University chose me," she said. "Coach Gilmore and my future teammates contributed towards my choosing of my future college."

Transfers weren't the only ones showcased Saturday. Numerous freshmen saw action,



WWU pitcher Anna Kasner throws a pitch facing off against Edmonds Community College for a double header on Saturday, Sept. 28. // Photo by Alex Moreno

including freshman pitcher Kaelynn Simmons. A standout at Dallas High School, Simmons graduated with two Oregon 5A State Pitcher of the Year awards, three All-State selections, three Mid-Willamette Conference Pitcher of the Year awards and a 58-4 record.

Simmons' has high goals for her first year on campus, she said.

"[I want to] just play for my team, continue to work hard,

and of course win a national championship, have all of us work hard every day with that goal in mind," Simmons said.

Western drove in a total of 15 runs on the day. The fourth inning in the second game saw home runs from junior Dakota Brooks, sophomore Brooke Fesenbek and junior Anna Kasner.

Gilmore said there is a long road ahead, especially with the infusion of new ball players, both transfers and freshmen.

"It's early, we need to improve on a lot," Gilmore said. "We know our potential, we know how good we can be, and we're excited for that. We got plenty of work to do, but we're excited to be able to do it."

"This group will work hard," she adds.

Edmonds Community College was home to many Western players, including Gilmore, who led the Tritons to a 106-60 record in four seasons.

Infielder Tamia Hirano, a senior transfer from Edmonds Community College, said playing against her former school makes the game a little easier.

"Playing against Edmonds, it's like knowing in the back of my head, 'I've been there, I've done that.' It's a good feeling," Hirano said.

The Vikings' next game is another preseason doubleheader against Seattle University on Saturday, Oct. 5.

Men's soccer team improves record to 3-3-0 with win over Point Loma

WWU wins 2-1 to claim victory against good Point Loma West Region team

Jordan Shepherd
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western men's soccer team scored a pair of early goals against non-conference opponent Point Loma Nazarene University (4-3-0) to come away with a 2-1 victory Saturday, Sept. 28 at Robert S. Harrington Field.

This win helps to improve the Vikings record to 3-3-0 on the season and marks a huge comeback win after losing to No. 3 ranked Azusa Pacific (7-0-0) Thursday in a close overtime game.

Winning this game marks the third time in the season that the Vikings have followed a loss with a comeback win, including a loss from No. 6 ranked West Texas A&M which was followed up by a 4-3 win against Colorado School of Mines.

"We knew the style of play would be different because most California teams love to possess the ball a lot and be in control so we knew it would be pretty similar in that case but we knew they wouldn't be as good as Azusa," senior defender Nick Morgan said. "We knew we would be a bigger team and we used our set pieces to our advantage tonight."

The game kicked off at 7 p.m. and started off with the Vikings scoring both of their goals in the first 25 minutes of the game.

Junior defender Camron Miller scored the first goal of the game in the 12th minute when he received a long free kick from junior midfielder Drew Farnsworth and headed it into the lower right section of the goal post to give the Vikings an early 1-0 lead.



WWU forward Christian Rotter squares off against a Point Loma Nazarene University player on Saturday, Sept. 28. The Vikings won the game 2-1 after scoring twice in the first half. // Photo by Alex Moreno

Around the 25th minute, senior Ryan Schaefer received a long pass from sophomore midfielder Gus Diehl. After controlling the ball, he found a good position to kick the ball into the upper right corner giving the Vikings a 2-0 lead and marking Schaefer's second goal of the season.

"It's encouraging when the team can make chances and then score one, it's enough to win the game today," co-captain Schaefer said.

The Sea Lions did answer with a goal in the 36th minute on an intercepted pass by Hunter Loomis from the Vikings sophomore goalkeeper Brandon Wolter, who then kicked a low hard shot into the lower left of the goal to make the game 2-1.

For the rest of the game and the second half, the Vikings were able to hold off Point Loma from having a shot on goal. Freshman goalkeeper Brandon Locke made

his collegiate debut in the second half.

Head coach Greg Brisboon said he was not happy to give up a goal, but he was pleased to see his team convert most of the chances they created.

"Our energy and team defense in the second half greatly improved from the first, and I was pleased with that," Brisboon said. "We finished our chances and scored two goals and that's super important."

Western out-shot Point Loma 18-5 and also had a 5-2 advantage in shots on goal. The Vikings will open up conference play this week with two games in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

The team will face rival Seattle Pacific University Thursday Oct. 3 at Interbay Stadium in Seattle and then return home to Harrington Field to host Saint Martin's University at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5.

Sports Roundup: fall athletics in full swing

Conor Wilson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Women's Soccer

The No. 10 nationally-ranked Viking women played two important matches this week finishing with a 5-2-0 season record in all events. The Vikings traveled to Golden, Colorado on Wednesday to take on the No. 9 ranked Colorado School of Mines. The Vikings fell into a quick 2-0 deficit with Colorado scoring two goals in the first 17 minutes. Western was able to score in the 80th minute when senior defender Emily Nelson headed in a corner kick delivered by senior forward Liv Larson, but the Vikings came-up short falling 2-1.

On Saturday, Sept. 28 the Vikings headed north to open up Great Northwest Athletic Conference play against Simon Fraser University at Terry Fox Field. Larson had another

standout performance including a 75th minute goal — her third of the season — and an assist to Nelson in the 87th minute topping off the Vikings 3-0 victory. The Vikings will continue play Thursday Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. against the Central Washington Wildcats at Robert S. Harrington Field.

Cross County

The men's and women's cross-country teams were in action this week with both varsity squads traveling to St. Paul, Minnesota Saturday, Sept. 28 to race in the Roy Griak invitational hosted by the University of Minnesota. The men took home a fourth place finish led by junior Eric Hammel, who took 16th overall — completing the 8 km race in 26:08.7. Senior James Jaspersen, and junior Edward Kiobasa followed closely behind in 26:10.6 and 26:27.4 respectively. The women also

finished fourth with a 15th place finish from senior Talia Dreicer who completed the 6 km race in 23:07.1. Sophomore Rebecca Lehman and junior Jane Barr finished second and third for the Vikings in 23:17.2 and 23:19.5.

The men's cross country team also sent six athletes to compete at the Ken Garland Classic hosted by Saint Martin's University. The Vikings secured an 89-point, third place finish. Sophomore Jesse Wiley finished in sixth place, finishing the 8 km course in 26:03.96. Sophomore Jackson McLroy finished second for the Vikings and 15th overall with a time of 26:34.8.

Volleyball

The number two nationally ranked Vikings Volleyball team continued its dominating success this week remaining undefeated after two games of GNAC competition. On Thurs-

day the Vikings played away against the Western Oregon Wolves, winning the match in straight sets, 25-14, 25-15, 25-16. Junior outside hitter Alison Davenport led the Vikings attack recording 11 kills, five blocks and 13.5 points. Sophomore Gabby Gunterman provided the defense with a team high 13 digs.

The Vikings continued their dominance on Saturday, Sept. 28 defeating Concordia University 3-1. Seniors-middle Kayleigh Harper had a record-breaking performance, including 13 kills and recorded her 507th career block for Western — breaking the previous school record of 504 set in 1998. Harper also became only the second player in both school and league history to record 1,000 kills and 500 blocks in a career. Vikings Volleyball will hope to keep their undefeated season going Tuesday, Oct. 1 as they host Si-

mon Fraser at 7 p.m.

Golf

The Vikings golf team competed in their second tournament of the season, hosting the Western Invitational at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club. The Vikings finished eighth among the 18 team field, and third among all GNAC teams. After finishing second at the Saint Martin's Invite, senior Ethan Casto continued his early season success winning the tournament with a score of 10 under. Casto is the first Viking to win the tournament since 2012, defeating runner-up Isaac Lee of Simon Fraser University on a second hole playoff. Red-shirt sophomore Aidan Thain finished second for the Vikings, taking 18th place. The Vikings will travel to Portland to compete in the Concordia Invitational Oct. 7.

SANFORD-HILL PIANO SERIES 2019 – 2020

Benjamin Hochman

FRI OCTOBER 4

7:30PM





COLLEGE OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

TICKETS \$18 - 44 360-650-6146 WWU.EDU/SANFORDHILL FREE PARKING!

AA/EO. DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION: 360-650-6146, BOXOFFICE@WWU.EDU

Bellingham Health & Functional Medicine

Primary Health and Your Care Away from Home

Birth Control, IUD's Nexplanon
Sports and Travel Physicals
Anxiety, Depression
Attention Deficit Management
Coughs and Illness
STI, UTI, Women's and Men's Health

Walking Distance From WWU

Same-Day Appointments
Most Insurance, Kaiser, Blue Cross

WWW.BELLINGHAMHEALTH.COM
360-756-9793
1116 KEY STREET SUITE 106

Vikings fall in double overtime to Cougars

Western fights to the end against No. 3 nationally-ranked Azusa Pacific University team



WWU midfielder Georg Cholewa collides with Azusa Pacific University's Danillo Dias while racing for the ball during a game on Thursday, Sept. 26. // Photo by Claire Ott

Elizabeth Mahan
THE WESTERN FRONT

A golden goal put the No. 3 nationally-ranked Azusa Pacific University (6-0-0) past the Western men's soccer team by a score of 2-1 Thursday night at Robert S Harrington Field. The Vikings' (2-3-0) 89th minute goal sent the game into a double overtime.

APU's first goal by senior midfielder Arturo Astorga came in the 69th minute in a one-on-one with goalkeeper Brandon Wolter that started at the 35-yard line and ended in the corner of the net.

"Tremendous effort from every player that played tonight," Western head coach



WWU forward Ryan Schaefer races Azusa Pacific University's Orlando Lozano for the ball during a game on Thursday, Sept. 26. // Photo by Claire Ott

Greg Brisbon said. "I'm super proud of them, but these are tough, tough losses to take. We had our moments to win the game, but it didn't work out for us tonight."

It took 89 minutes for Western to score, and when they did, the crowd went wild. That goal, a looping header by junior defender Camron Miller, tied it up. APU closed out the game with a second goal by midfielder Arturo Astorga in double overtime after WWU failed to clear the ball.

"Obviously they are a very strong team, but we had our chances, and we defended

them very well and kept them to a minimum," redshirt freshman midfielder Alessandro Tomasi said. "The game ended how it did, but I thought it was a good performance and a good effort from the guys."

The thrilling game resulted in a total of five yellow cards, 37 fouls, double overtime, and 678 fans. Amongst the crowd was the Whatcom Football Club Rangers, a soccer club comprised of young boys and girls, who provided the halftime entertainment with a scrimmage match.

"I love the support from

the community; the local Ranger club is great," Brisbon said. "The department did a good job putting that out here, and so that's why guys want to play for our program because you get that kind of atmosphere."

Hoots and hollers from the crowd kept the game alive, and fun to watch, even though the outcome wasn't in Western's favor. Losing any match is hard, but the team walked away with their heads high.

The fall season is now in full swing with several conference matchups filling the month of October.

Use your card. Make a difference.

Local helps local.
That's the WECU way.

Now through November, earn a penny with each debit card swipe. WECU will match those pennies and make donations to our community. Learn more at wecu.com/PennyJar.



wecu.com | 800-525-8703
Insured by NCUA

Bank like a Viking.
PROUD TO BLEED BLUE.

