

# SPORTS & REC

## BASKETBALL



Western head coach Carmen Dolfo huddles with her team before the NCAA Division II national championship. (Photo by Michael Wade)

## DRAMATIC LATE RUN LEAVES WWU WOMEN ONE STEP FROM TOP

By HAILEY PALMER  
Staff Reporter

Nobody saw the Western Washington University women's basketball team going as far as it did this season.

Having only played six

games last year in an abbreviated season, it was hard to put a gauge on where any team was heading into the NCAA Division II 2021-22 campaign.

Head coach Carmen Dolfo, who would become the Great Northwest Ath-

letic Conference coach of the year, said she knew the team had the potential to be good after winning all six games, but the first goal was to win the GNAC.

"Our team does really well focusing on one game at a time and that's one thing

we really learned about ourselves," Dolfo said. "We didn't really want to jump too far ahead. We wanted to stay in the moment and focus on that game and when that was done move to the next one."

See > **WWU, B6**



### Vikings return home from Birmingham

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### Everson trio keeps talent local

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### WWU falls to Glenville State in championship

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## OUTDOORS

### Wings Over Water: Birds are there for the watching

By ELLIOTT ALMOND  
CDN Contributor

SEMAIHMOO — The woman from North Cascades Audubon Society looked at me cross-eyed.

"Do you need field glasses?" Pam Borso asked.

"How did you know?" "You're not carrying any," the birder from Custer replied.

I had arrived unprepared for a guided tour during the recent Wings Over Water birding festival in Blaine.

Borso, 72, had seen it before. She packed extra binoculars for neophytes like me.

The tour was one of my three walks this month with the intent to take advantage of nature's great spring squawk along the north-south migratory route known as the Pacific Flyway. I cluelessly left field

glasses at home for each sojourn but we don't need to get into that.

The abundance of marine birdlife wintering along the Salish Sea draws scores of devotees lugging pinpoint scopes, 400-millimeter camera lens and tripods to marshes, wetlands, coastlines and grassy farm fields.

The two-hour Semiahmoo Spit excursion led by Paul Woodcock and Borso provided a window into the miraculous biodiversity that I had not really considered over the years.

Woodcock and Borso, both past presidents of the regional Audubon Society, helped our group spot 29 species of birds on a gray, rainless March afternoon.

We watched loons — common, Pacific and red-throated — bob in the water with buffleheads, brant geese, cormorants, goldeneyes, harlequins, oystercatchers, greater scaups and surf scoters.

See > **BIRDS, B2**

## RECREATION

### Local woman selected to compete on 'AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR'



Heather Nelson climbs through the spider wall at Life Force Ninja on March 26. Nelson recently competed for the TV program "American Ninja Warrior" in San Antonio, Texas. (Andy Bronson/Cascadia Daily News)

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