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STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

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Falls Theater will add second screen, look to boost local economy and breathe new life

Bennett Ryyananen

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In business for over 90 years, the Falls Theater is a destination for local moviegoers and anyone hoping to watch a first run movie at a historic site. Earlier this month, the theater in downtown River Falls received a sizeable grant from the state of Wis. for renovation and expansion. In addition to driving new traffic to the theater itself, the renovation is intended to further stimulate the local economy.

"It's a plan to get people to interact with the downtown area and maybe with the student

population a little bit," said Jason Rohloff, management analyst fellow at River Falls City Hall. He also provided more details on the specifics of the upcoming renovations.

The adjoining building to the south, formerly an insurance office, will become part of the theater that accommodates a second screen. Additional bathrooms, lighting and sound upgrades are also plans. The façade on the new space will be

updated to match the existing theater.

Renovations are also planned for other parts of the downtown area including electric and lighting upgrades to the Riverwalk Alley. It's all part of the effort to draw more foot traffic.

"Some of the restaurants and other businesses will see a larger impact," Rohloff said. The moviegoing foot traffic will benefit surrounding businesses before and after showtimes, but the intention is to make the area more appealing all around.

"We'll continue to drive more traffic through Main Street," said Michelle Maher, owner of Falls Theater. She's no stranger to the impact that a movie theater has on a community. "It's a big, important part of the local economy," she added.

The second screen may be the most elaborate change to the theater, but Maher has tackled other renovations in recent years. The exterior has required maintenance, and the original ticket counter was previously covered. Unlike the upcoming

changes, these were entirely out of Maher's own budget. She recognizes how much of a destination her business is. "River Falls has benefited from the theater running all along," she said.

Adding an auditorium does far more than just provide an extra choice for moviegoers, though. It expands the opportunities of the theater itself. Maher said that the renovations will be beneficial for a few reasons. Movie distribution companies prioritize multiplexes for highly anticipated movies, meaning local, single-screen operations like Falls Theater routinely get passed up. In fact, Maher had to keep in constant contact with distributors to fight for the chance to screen "IT" this past fall.

Two screens will also mean less juggling of movies during release weekends. Just last week, Maher had to accommodate the premiere of "Black Panther" while not neglecting the promising long-term potential of "Peter Rabbit." After the upgrade, this will no longer be a concern. For local business owners and movie enthusiasts alike, the upcoming renovations promise to breathe new life into the downtown area.



Bennett Ryyananen/Student Voice

The Falls Theater received a state grant for renovations, including adding a second screen. Owner Michelle Maher poses in front of the theater on Feb. 21.

Research spotlight: evolving projects can lead researchers down unexpected paths of study

Sophia Koch

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Sometimes projects turn out exactly how they were intended to from start to finish. The person running the project decides what they want to do or find out, goes about gathering materials and data and ultimately puts together a finished project that roughly matches the original goal.

This isn't the case for the work of Associate Professor Cheng-Chen Huang from the UW-River Falls biology department. He started out trying to see why a weight loss supplement was causing kidney failure, and he ultimately ended up with a new way to study heart failure drugs and a potential treatment for skin cancer.

Huang initially started his research project in 2005. What he wanted to do back then, he said, was to figure out why a substance called aristolochic acid – which had been used in a weight control food supplement – was causing kidney failure in the people who consumed it.

"That was a very simple kind of idea for this project," Huang said.

Plenty of other researchers had tried to figure out why aristolochic acid has this effect, but Huang's approach to the problem was a little different. Instead of using a loose culture of cells housed in a petri dish, he used the embryos of zebrafish (a type of minnow) to run his tests.

It was at this point that the research took a sudden turn in a different direction. There was no sign of kidney failure in the zebrafish when they were exposed to the aristolochic acid. The fish were, however, experiencing heart problems. Over time, Huang came to realize that the problems were in fact very similar to human heart failure.

"Starting from there," Huang said, "we kind of designed this project to look for compounds that can arrest the heart failure in the fish – and that could be a drug for human heart failure as well."

Using these zebrafish with their very humanlike heart problems as a model, Huang and the student researchers who worked with him began looking for drugs that could stop or slow heart failure. They've gone on trips to Taiwan as part of Huang's biomedical study abroad course (BIOL 277), and have tested various native herbs to see if they show any ability to prevent heart failure.

In three years of work, they've so far managed to find one herb from hundreds tested that has shown promise, or "tested positive." What Huang ultimately wants to find is one pure compound that's responsible for the herb's ability to stop heart failure.

To do this, Huang and his students take the "crude extract" from the plant – basically the plant as it exists naturally – and divide the compounds from the extract into smaller fractions based on their chemical properties. They then test the fractions to see which one still tests positive. Once they find it, they divide that fraction into even smaller pieces, test, divide, test and so on.

"I feel like we are getting very close to identifying the pure compound that can rescue the heart failure," Huang said.

Midway through this project, there came another split in the research. One of the compounds that was proving successful at stopping heart failure had a strange side effect: it caused the zebrafish to lose the pigment in their skin, essentially turning them into albinos. Curious as to why that was happening, Huang and his fellow researchers investigated.

What they found was that the new compound was preventing the proper functioning of melanocytes, which are the structures that produce melanin and in humans allow us to tan. Studying melanocytes is difficult, however, since they don't grow well in a lab.

"In one of the experiments," Huang said, "we had to use melanoma cells."

Controversy over UW System free speech policy

Chris Gregg

Falcon News Service

"It's complicated, man."

That is how sophomore Mamu Hashim described the free speech climate at UW-River Falls.

The UW System Board of Regents recently approved a new policy on freedom of expression. The policy suspends or expels students that disrupt "the free speech of others/functioning of the institution" two or more times. This policy has garnered mixed reactions from students and organizations at UWRF.

Young Americans for Liberty President AJ Plehal said that he supports the policy. "It's important to have a diverse set of opinions as long as we can discuss our differences civilly," he said.

"It's one thing to protest a speaker peacefully – that's protected by the first amendment," Plehal said, "but it's another thing to do what we see at UC-Berkley ... where you have students throwing trash cans, just causing an all-out riot."

Plehal made his point on this clear: "If they're going to cause a riot just because they disagree with someone – if they have to be expelled, we're all adults here. They should grow up. I'll support that."

In a statement provided to WRFW and the Student Voice, College Republicans vice-chair Melanie Meyers voiced her support for the policy. She said that their organization welcomes "the respectful sharing of ideas and debate on our campus."

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News Briefs: UWRF students score big with Minnesota Vikings internship, work Super Bowl LII

February 15, 2018 -- Throughout the 2017-18 football season, University of Wisconsin-River Falls students Matthew Weis, Madeline Steil, Sarah Crowe and Emmanuel Walyaula worked as public relations game day interns for the Minnesota Vikings.

During their time with the Vikings, the UW-River Falls marketing communications students spent time recording and transcribing player interviews, connecting with and assisting media in the press box, and even had the chance to work on the Super Bowl LII staff. The students gained real world experience in the field of sports marketing and made lifelong, valuable connections throughout the season.

Along with the chance to work with the Vikings, students were offered an opportunity to work on the Super Bowl LII staff in February. For the Super Bowl, students were in charge of distributing quotes, assisting media and providing a pleasant experience for the hundreds of media personnel attending US Bank Stadium.

"It was an opportunity of a lifetime, something that I will look back on years from now and wonder how it was actually a possibility for me" said Steil. "The whole internship felt like a dream, and I was able to make incredible connections with media, employees at the Vikings and other interns."

"This was one of the coolest experiences of my entire life and is something I will never forget," said Weis. "We were witnessing history, and it's a day I will never forget."

Marketing communications students at UW-River Falls enroll in classes such as public relations, sports marketing, advertising, writing for the media and branding.

"Our program positions students to excel and prepares them for a career in marketing communications," said Amelia Reigstad, visiting assistant professor. "I'm thrilled that Madeline, Sarah, Matt and Emmanuel had such a terrific experience working with the Minnesota Vikings."

UW-River Falls to join Small World Initiative research program this fall

February 19, 2018 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will join 170 partner institutions from 12 nations worldwide this fall as part of the Small World Initiative (SWI) research program.

SWI is an international collaboration harnessing the power of student researchers around the world to discover new antibiotics from soil microorganisms, helping address the worldwide health crisis of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections.

"This is a very exciting time for our biology department," said Karen Klyczek, biology professor. "[The SWI program] will give more biology students the opportunity to make authentic contributions to science during their first year at UWRF."

Klyczek said SWI will be offered as a lab in the university's BIOL 160 course offering this fall. Students will bring in soil samples from a location of their choice and look for evidence of antibiotic production. They will then isolate and characterize the bacteria and the chemicals they are producing.

"The program also allows students to take part in meaningful research from day one when they step on campus," said Tricia Davis, interim dean of UWRF's College of Arts and Sciences. "This is a really unique opportunity for incoming freshmen to hit the ground running in terms of research."

Soil microbes produce two key antibiotics -- penicillin and vancomycin. Students are being asked to evaluate soil samples because many of the most commonly prescribed antibiotics worldwide were discovered from soil.

Worldwide, there is a diminishing supply of antibiotics to treat an increasing number of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections. The SWI program enables students to gain hands-on research experience while addressing an important real-world problem.

Only a few new classes of antibiotics have been discovered since the 1970s, with some pharmaceutical companies stopping their searches for new antibiotics due to dwindling profit margins and long waits for federal approval.

This creates a golden opportunity for students.

"I'm really excited about bringing this program to our campus and the authentic research opportunities it will provide our freshman research initiative," said Biology Department Chair Fred Bonilla. "The opportunity for community involvement, statewide and national collaborations, and contributions to the scientific community are very exciting. We've seen over the past few years offering phage and bee programs that the skills and interest students develop in scientific inquiry carry on through their curriculum here with us and beyond."

For more information, email Davis at tricia.m.davis@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-3366.

Horse judging youth clinic offered at UWRF

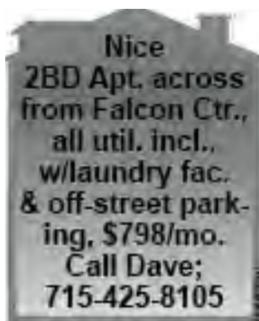
February 16, 2018 -- The University of Wisconsin-River Falls is offering a Horse Judging Youth Clinic on Saturday, April 7, at the Campus Farm, 1475 S. Wasson Lane, River Falls. The clinic is intended for 4-H and FFA youth interested in learning or improving their horse judging skills. FFA advisors, 4-H leaders and coaches are also encouraged to attend.

The clinic instructor is Casie Bass, assistant professor of animal science at UW-River Falls.

Participants will learn basic information regarding judging horse conformation and balance with a focus on the rules and criteria used to evaluate different classes of horses such as Western Pleasure, Reining and Hunter Under Saddle. Participants will spend time evaluating and discussing live horses of various classes. The clinic will also cover how to effectively take notes for classes and organize them into sets of oral reasons. Participants will have an opportunity to deliver oral reasons.

The clinic will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 7. Meals and refreshment breaks are included in the registration fee. Discounted, early bird registration rates are available until Monday, March 12. The deadline for registration is Friday, March 30. To register, visit www.uwrf.edu/ANFS/Equine-Clinics.cfm.

For more information, email Bass at casie.bass@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-4769.



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Glen Park to see Suspension bridge placed on the State Register of Historic Places

River Falls, Wis. - The Wisconsin Historical Society placed the Glen Park Suspension Footbridge (River Falls, Pierce County) on the State Register of Historic Places on February 16, 2018.

The Glen Park Suspension Footbridge has statewide significance as a well-designed, graceful and rare example of a cable suspension bridge in the State of Wisconsin. Constructed in 1925 by the Minneapolis Bridge Company, the subject bridge utilizes a pair of reinforced concrete towers, spun steel suspender cables and steel suspension rods to carry a wooden deck over the high rocky banks of the South Fork Kinnickinnic River. This picturesque bridge, located within Glen Park, draws visitors and is well-loved in the community. Wisconsin has only five of this type of bridge, this being one of the most intact and well-designed examples. The rarity of a cable suspension bridge in Wisconsin brings further distinction to the Glen Park Suspension Footbridge.

The State Register is Wisconsin's official list of state properties determined to be significant to Wisconsin's heritage. The State Historic Preservation Office at the Wisconsin Historical Society administers both the State Register and National Register in Wisconsin.

To learn more about the State and National Register programs in Wisconsin, visit www.wisconsinhistory.org.

About Wisconsin Historical Society

The Wisconsin Historical Society, founded in 1846, ranks as one of the largest, most active and most diversified state historical societies in the nation. As both a state agency and a private membership organization, its mission is to help people connect to the past by collecting, preserving and sharing stories. The Wisconsin Historical Society serves millions of people every year through a wide range of sites, programs and services. For more information, visit wisconsinhistory.org.

For more information, call Harris at 715-425-0602.

Student Senate Update: Feb. 23

A new student organization -- United Technicians of Sol -- was brought before Student Senate and approved.

A new round of budgets was brought before the Student Senate for discussion and recommendation. The budgets had already been reviewed and recommended by Student Senate Finance Committee. As was the case last week, the motions to recommend these budgets was introductory only. However, the Senate struck the introductory status of each one and voted to pass them all. Notable points brought up:

- \$1.54 per student per semester in segregated fees will be reallocated from the Sports Club budget to the Campus Recreation budget.

- Senator Jonathan Aiuppa recommended a no-vote for the Parking budget, which will be seeing a two percent increase. His reasoning is that students don't really get what they pay for in terms of parking. The counter-opinion was that costs have been on the rise and that parking is something prospective students notice when they first come to campus.

- A recommendation was added to the Residence Life budget to ensure that use of the money to pay for campus police is in line with UW System regulations.

The information in this update comes from the minutes posted to the Student Government Association Falcon-Sync page every week and from the live tweet posts gathered by Student Voice staff. The Student Senate meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

Campus Events Calendar:

- **Tacoboutit Tuesday**
Tuesday, Feb. 27 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
UC
- **Lunchtime bingo**
Wednesday, Feb 28 12 p.m.-1 p.m.
UC
- **University Theatre: "Silent Sky"**
Thursday, March 1 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
KFA

Visit uwrf.edu for a full schedule of events

Weekly UWRF Crime Report

Wednesday, February 14

- Harrassment complaints were reported at Regional Development Institute at 4:51 p.m.

Friday, February 16

- Found property was reported at the University Center at 4:47 p.m.

Sunday, February 18

- A motor vehicle accident was reported at 530 S Main St at 12:16 p.m.

Monday, February 19

- All drug complaint was reported at George R. Field South Fork Suites at 12:15 a.m.
- Welfare checks were reported McMillan Hall at 6:36 p.m.

Editor's Note:

Information for this section is taken from the UW-River Falls Police Department incident reports.

Looking for advice?

The Student Voice has an advice columnist. To send her an anonymous note, find the Student Voice on Facebook or Twitter and click on the Google Doc link.

Letters to the editor can be sent to
zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

Controversy over UW System free speech policy

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Meyers also said that “there has been evidence within the past year that this sentiment is not shared across all student organizations in this state.”

Meyers cited the incident at UW-Madison when Ben Shapiro spoke in November 2016. Members of the audience shouted Shapiro down during the question-and-answer portion of his speech. At one point, audience members crowded his podium.

While some students support this new policy, others do not. Sophomore Halley White said that she isn’t in support of what the UW System has put in place.

“I feel that it impedes on the right of free speech. As citizens, we have a right to protest,” White said. She also said that while students have a right to protest, they need to do so peacefully while also maintaining respect for others.

“There have been many times where I felt like I couldn’t express my opinions or thoughts in class because I knew there would be at least one student who would belittle me,” White said. “Even if what I said was relevant to the conversation and harmless.”

However, White also said that she did not think that everyone understands what freedom of speech is. “Freedom of speech does not mean you can say whatever you want without consequences.”

Sophomore Mamu Hashim said that these issues of free speech need to be addressed on the UWRF campus.

“We can go talk about it, but if we’re not going to do anything about it, nothing is going to change,” Hashim said. “But I hope that they do something.”

“I feel like the policy doesn’t go as far as it needs to and that can change,” Black Student Union president Lamah Bility said.

Bility says that the policy lacks specific guidelines for handling situations where disruption happens on a personal basis rather than towards a guest speaker. He cited a situation this semester of an individual spreading hate towards a specific race.

“We had three or four instances where kids were Snapchatting and saying certain things about just being black in America. It was a bunch of racial, hurtful stuff,” Bility said. “Yes, that person has the right to say whatever they want to say, but at the same time you have to be able to realize these are sensitive issues in our community.”

Bility also expressed concerns over how the policy was created.

“When you are planning the policy, make sure that you have many diversity in the room,” Bility said. “Make sure that people are well represented before you make a policy that would affect peoples’ lives.”

Assistant Chancellor of Student Affairs Gregg Heinselmann also voiced similar concerns. “Quite often policy makers aren’t the individuals on a campus that are required to the code and enforce and interpret the policy,” he said.

Heinselmann also said that the policy has brought specific difficulties in its implementation at UWRF.

“I don’t really think the policy was needed ... I think our student misconduct code, our academic misconduct code and our non-academic misconduct code, I feel, appropriately addresses those issues,” Heinselmann said. “I think this policy really layers on top of that, probably complicates it more than what we had before.”

Heinselmann explained that the complications for the policy come from the wording. The policy only cites a “disturbance” as grounds for suspension or expulsion. He says that everyone has a different definition of the term “disturbance.”

Heinselmann reaffirmed the university’s commitment to protecting its students while also protecting free speech. He said that UWRF has specific policies in place that help train and educate faculty on how to conduct courses so that diverse points of view can be discussed.

Heinselmann said that while UWRF tends to be fairly neutral on some of the more controversial issues, he hopes to see more discussions around these topics, particularly free speech.

“The way to address free speech,” he said, “is more speech.”

UW System free speech policy aims to give voice to all views

Zach Dwyer
Falcon News Service

Emily Longsdorf, a senior English major, said she feels free expressing her opinion on campus for the most part, but she has had problems with some professors in her classes.

“They teach with bias when it’s not necessary,” Longsdorf said. “Sometimes I keep my opinion to myself, because it’s usually met with rebuttal from my professor or classmates.”

Longsdorf said that the conservative perspective isn’t as accepted in her experience in the liberal arts department. She said her professors openly rebuke conservatives and the Trump administration, even when it doesn’t relate to class. She has been a member of the College Republicans since last year and has written a paper on liberal bias on college campuses.

There have also been physical examples, including last year when students around campus wrote in chalk supporting Trump’s election. People erased the writing and instead wrote “peace and love,” which Longsdorf took as them saying Trump was some sort of dictator.

this general response. He said that he doesn’t really see it as restrictive, but instead maintains previous rights and aims to be fair to both sides.

He said that the policy is fine and is more explicit in allowing different viewpoints to be heard. Heppen added that there hasn’t really been much talk or worry about the policy affecting UWRF.

“I would say it hasn’t had much of an impact at all,” Heppen said. “This campus has always been open to diverse viewpoints.”

Heppen said that the political science department did a good job of putting on a discussion with both political viewpoints last fall before the election.

He added that he hasn’t personally encountered any discussion on the policy between his own students and his peers at other UW institutions since it was passed. The Faculty Senate at UWRF made a commitment to upholding free speech at the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year.

Faculty Senate chair Mialisa Moline said in a statement that, “While we must, to the best of our ability, not limit the free speech rights and the academic freedom rights of stu-



Photo courtesy of Jordan Kitchen

The current executive board of the College Democrats are president Jordan Kitchen, left, treasurer Kayla Arnoldi, director of media Derek Bowe and secretary Joann Ukpokolo.

“It’s allowing freedom of speech, but most people don’t want to hear about Trump or conservative issues,” she said.

This problem has become more violent and serious in other parts of the country, which led the UW System to implement a policy in October that penalizes violent protests on campuses and aims to allow for diverse viewpoints to be heard.

The protests against conservative speaker Milo Yiannopoulos at UC-Berkeley in February 2017 are one example. He had to cancel his appearance when protesters turned violent and wreaked havoc on the campus. Yiannopoulos has proved to be a controversial figure, but he did nothing wrong by simply appearing for a speaking engagement. Longsdorf said that the campus used to be at the forefront of free speech in the 1960s, but the current generation has changed the narrative to, “if you don’t follow our agenda, it’s wrong.”

Similar instances also occurred in the UW System, where it was reported that instances of conservative speakers being harassed or unable to give speeches became a problem across campuses nationwide last year. Ben Shapiro was a conservative commentator who had demonstrators interrupt his talk and form a line in front of him in 2016.

The protesters left minutes later, but this is one situation where the protests didn’t turn violent. With issues at Madison also rising, the UW System decided it was time to put a new policy in place.

The Board of Regents decided in October to create a policy to punish students on UW campuses who repeatedly disrupt campus speakers with opposing views. The policy requires a student twice found responsible for disrupting freedom of expression to be suspended and a student who disrupts three times to be expelled.

“Our obligation as a System is to ensure that different voices are heard and that civility prevails,” UW System President Ray Cross said in a statement.

Longsdorf said that she supports what the policy is trying to accomplish.

“I think if people want to protest, go for it,” she said. “I don’t think (protesting) is always necessary, but it should always be peaceful and respectful.”

This predominantly conservative problem may be viewed by some as one party pushing their views or restricting free speech. However, John Heppen, adviser for College Democrats and a Faculty Senate member at UWRF, disagrees with

students, we must also sometimes regulate them so that they do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn.”

UWRF specifically prohibits harassment and violent or abusive behavior in what should be peaceful acts of free speech. This is the key behind the policy decision to subdue protesters at the system level. However, this can become difficult to specifically monitor or enforce, according to sophomore Jordan Kitchen.

“It’s easy to get complacent, because it seems like nothing has changed,” Kitchen said. “However, sometimes something small like that can lead to more rights being taken away ... it’s always dangerous to start to enact legislation against people’s ability to have free speech.”

Kitchen agrees with the policy, but urged students to stay informed and aware of the topic. She is also the president of the College Democrats at UWRF and would like to see peaceful protests become more common on this campus.

“Protests allow you to meet people who are passionate about an issue and believe the same things,” Kitchen said. “Peaceful protests are such a great atmosphere for people to see that there are people who will stand up and fight against what’s going on.”

This ties into protests against Trump after he was elected president. Kitchen said that it was important for other countries to know that not everyone was a big Trump supporter and that not everyone believes a certain way. She added that everything ties into free speech and the fact that you can freely speak your own views and opinions.

While there was a large reaction to the news of the policy when it came out, it hasn’t seemed to become a burning issue at UWRF. However, the fact that most students don’t seem to be aware of the policy may be signs of a lack of politically informed citizens, according to Longsdorf.

“This generation needs to get out there and educate people,” she said. “Whether you’re a Democrat or a Republican, you should be telling people the honest truth about your nominees. Educating people and getting people to vote is very important.”



Research spotlight: evolving studies can lead down unexpected paths

Continued from Page 1

What they accidentally found from this experiment was that the new drug didn’t just inhibit melanin pigment. It also prevented melanoma – skin cancer – from growing. This opened up an entirely new line of drug research: one aimed at finding a treatment for skin cancer.

“It’s still a puzzle to us,” Huang said. He and his fellow researchers don’t yet know how the compound prevents skin cancer from growing. However, they are very excited about the breakthrough and have begun working on the skin-lightening experiments as a separate project.

Neither project is complete. The heart failure drug is prob-

ably the closest, having gone on the longest. Even if a pure compound is found, however, it would have to be subjected to rigorous testing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration before it could be approved for human use. The process could take as long as 20 years. A new drug, however, could be highly beneficial since heart failure is a complicated condition and none of the current drugs are 100 percent effective.

“There’s always a need for new drugs for heart failure,” Huang said.

Huang and his student researchers will continue with these two projects, and will continue traveling to Taiwan over J-term on a yearly basis to search for new herbs to test. In time, perhaps something new will come along.

Men who commit sexual assault

Men who can stop it

EDITORIAL

Gun violence is horrible, but will only change if the public demands it

In one of the deadliest school shootings in U.S. history, 17 people were left dead last Wednesday after a lone gunman armed with an AR-15 opened fire on the Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

Our country has been developing a pattern. After tragedies such as this, there is a general cry for increased control over gun ownership. However, the conversation immediately shifts away as lawmakers block any radical changes that might threaten their relationship with the National Rifle Association. The message often becomes heavily steeped in politics and the original meaning is ultimately lost.

This time, however, it seems that the public has decided to take matters into its own hands. The students who survived the shooting are taking a bold stand and calling for people across the country to join them. So far, two planned events have been advertised to the public: the National School Walkout on March 14 and the March for Our Lives on March 24. The National School Walkout calls for students, faculty, parents and others to walk out of school for 17 minutes – one minute for each person who was killed in the shooting. The March on Our Lives will be a march on Washington, DC, and other U.S. cities. The aim of the events is to call for Congress to act on gun violence.

The Student Voice is in full support of these protests and strongly encourages students, faculty and staff at UWRF to participate. Gun violence has become a problem we can't ignore. It has become clear over the past five years that no school is safe, and that Congress will not be doing anything about it unless the public strongly demands it.

Emma Gonzales, one of the surviving students who has been very vocal since the incident, has made the argument that this needs to be the last time something like this happens. Other countries have figured it out; they have much stricter laws on purchasing weapons, and their gun violence numbers are far lower. A person can drink at 18 in many other countries but not buy a weapon. The U.S. has the opposite situation; an 18-year-old with no training and probably less than sufficient maturity is allowed to own a dangerous weapon of war.

The main two things that need to change are background checks and education. Someone who wants to own something potentially dangerous in this country usually needs to learn how to use it first (for instance: cars). Guns should be treated the same way, with a mandatory hunter safety course associated with purchase. Even if that changes, however, it cannot be enforced unless we make background checks more thorough and consistent when buying a firearm. Loopholes that allow people to buy guns without background checks, like gun shows and online purchases, need to be closed.

In order for these things to change, the public needs to demand it. Both sides of the political spectrum need to realize how dangerous this issue is and come together to protest the continued inaction of Congress. Schools should be safe places, and children should not have to fear becoming the next statistic.

Editorials represent the opinions of the Student voice Editorial Board and are prepared by the editorial staff.

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The Student Voice is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Fridays during the regular school year.

All editorial content in the Student Voice is determined by the newspaper's Editorial Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper's advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI 54022 or to editor@uwrvoice.com

The Student Voice reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

Because of high production costs, UW-River Falls community members are permitted to collect one copy of the Student Voice per issue. A single copy of the Student Voice is valued at \$1, and additional copies may be requested from the editorial staff by email through editor@uwrvoice.com. Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

School shootings aren't a problem that will go away without legislation

Lauren A. Simenson

Columnist

To almost no-one's surprise, another mass shooting has torn through another American school. This time it was Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. Seventeen people, with a mix of students and faculty, lost their lives on Valentine's Day to shooter Nikolas Cruz. He was armed with an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle.

I say "to almost no-one's surprise" because school shootings are now commonplace in our society. The Parkland school shooting is the 17th school gunfire incident since the beginning of 2018 according to the fact-checking site Snopes.com.

What perhaps makes this particular school shooting unique is the activism of the students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Only someone who has been hiding under a rock has not heard student Emma Gonzalez's rousing speech calling for a change to gun policy.

Gonzalez also called out politicians who receive money from the National Rifle Association in a speech she made in front of the Federal Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She said, "We are going to be the kids you read about in textbooks. Not because we're going to be another statistic about mass shooting in America ... we are going to be the last mass shooting."

I wish Gonzalez were right. In reality, I just have a difficult time believing that anything will change. The shootings and deaths of elementary children at Sandy Hook Elementary School and a previous Florida mass shooting at Pulse Nightclub did not even incite change in gun policy or in our second-amendment rights. I am not optimistic about any kind of affirmative action being taken against assault rifles or for any kind of gun control to take place in the the aftermath of the Parkland, Fla., mass shooting.

And as it turns out, this pessimistic view I find myself with

is not totally unfounded. The New York Times on Tuesday of this week reported that the Florida state House, which is currently a republican majority, decided to reject a ban on semi-automatic guns and large capacity magazines. This decision was announced in front of some of the survivors of the recent Parkland school shooting, many of whom had just come from funerals of their classmates.

While change is not being made to legislation, change is coming. Students are organizing lie-ins and marches across the country in protest. They are gaining support from parents and community members who have had enough of children dying.

The only people who seem to see these continual mass school shootings as "no problem" are our government representatives. And why would they be bothered with regulating gun laws when the get well rewarded for their lack of action by the NRA?

How long can this lack of action and lack of empathy by Congress and lawmakers last? How long will it take before Congress and our elected representatives realize that the kids that they are dismissing today will be the voters of tomorrow?

Adults find it easy to dismiss kids – just look how easy it was for the Florida state House to come to a decision to do nothing to regulate semi-automatic rifles even after the impassioned testimony from survivors of the Parkland school shooting.

These teenage activists will not be dismissed, however. They have risen from the horrors of the Parkland school shooting and are "kids" no longer. They have seen and survived a school shooting and are a force to be reckoned with. They have the support of most of the United States behind them.

Lauren Simenson is a senior majoring in journalism and communication studies. Her interests include eating dark chocolate, online window shopping and reading anything she can get her hands on. While not at work, at school, taking naps, or doing homework, she likes to cook, canoe, fish and write.

Horoscopes by Beth: the stars spoke

Bethany Lovejoy

Columnist

Aries

You're going to be invited to a lot of things this week.

That's awesome and all and I'm really happy for you, but remember what happens anytime Scooby Doo and his gang are invited anywhere. That's right: almost murder, sometimes zombies and a lot of the time it's ghosts.

So, even though you are going to be invited to all sorts of places, you're going to cancel. It's going to feel so good. You're probably going to be addicted to cancelling plans, dear Aries, because you are going to feel your spine tingle with every ending of obligation.

Then you're going to watch Netflix alone with no pants on and it's just going to be great. Eat some awesome cheese and stuff. All because Jupiter is being flaky and you cancelled plans.

Taurus

You're going to be third wheeling.

Don't roll your eyes and fold up the paper, and whatever you do don't trash it (recycle please). You're going to be an amazing third wheel. I'm not talking tricycle level stuff going on; you're going to be the big wheel in a big wheel. You are going to monopolize their date, score some awesome appetizers and then just leave unannounced. I'm not saying you're going to plan to leave unannounced – it's just that it's hard to say goodbye when your mouth is loaded with mozzarella sticks and fries.

Your planet and Earth are making an Irish exit.

Gemini

You're going to do some karaoke. Probably not here because there's no karaoke night for a while here, at least that I know of. You'll probably do it in your room or someone's basement, which is awesome. You don't need a microphone or people to have a great karaoke: respect.

When you get done with that karaoke you're just going to feel great. Your hair's gonna shine, your teeth will be bright. You're gonna look like the best in show of horses. I don't even like horses and I know in my heart that you're going to be comparable to a really good, singing horse.

Venus is in line with you, which means you've got it. Yeah baby, you've got it. You're the Venus, you're the fire, at our desire.

Cancer

I'm calling it. Every single one of you who reads my column: one class is going to get cancelled for you this week. Hopefully it's one with me in it.

Those Cancers who don't read my horoscopes, however? They'll probably get the hiccups or something. I'm not saying that I caused the hiccups or whatever, just that the other Cancers were prepared to fend off hiccups and therefore, you know, saved. Via my column.

My column is like "Baywatch" for hiccups, only preemptive "Baywatch" and without me moving anywhere.

Your constellation is aligned with Pluto, which I'm pretty sure is cold.

Leo

After finding out you're lactose intolerant last week, the days have been tough.

Well, get ready for something tougher, because a hunky beef jerky of a person is coming out of the woodwork to take care of you.

Yeah, their skin is kinda gross, leathery and weird.

But we all have their types and who am I to judge your weird one? Sadly though, this love will not last. You'll probably meet them at a student event or something, talk to them a few days and then you'll both mutually delete each others' Snapchats.

It's okay though; you'll get free food out of it.

Virgo

Virgo? More like her-go! Because you go girl. Or boy. Or (insert your preferred pronoun).

You're having a great week. You've been hanging, making it through the snow. You've only fallen on a salted sidewalk like seven times this week compared to the others' solid record of 27.

Just watch it; you might not be safe forever. The stars are sorta making a salt shaker around you, so think about that.

Libra

You have a lot going on this week, but at least you're not some loser microwaving frozen corn and putting stuff on it like a baked potato. Who are those people, even? Probably people who sit alone watching movies and reviewing them for a college newspaper.

Anyway, you're above it all this week. You are so up in the sky that you are flying, and respect, but ...

Some of us just don't have our lives together enough to eat their pizza Lunchables microwaved or drink actual water.

Your constellation is in the judgement position.

Scorpio

You haven't taken care of yourself in a while. Now I know we've all been on the hot mess express at some time or another, but you need to switch cabins or something because this is a little worrying.

I'm all about wearing clothes you slept in to class. Not brushing your hair? On it. Not washing it? Girl, I practically own stock in Batiste.

But you can't follow my example.

But, I dunno – a dope temporary tattoo or something? Then you're good; just show those professors you cared for thirty seconds.

Mars is not caring to be in line with you.

Sagittarius

You're going to eat corn in a cup: the college delicacy. Jupiter and Mercury are in line with your constellation, which makes this horoscope super accurate.

Take a frozen bag of corn, break it over your counter, pour the amount of corn you can digest in a cup and microwave for like three minutes, tops. Add the toppings you would to a baked potato or, you know, anything. I've seen ragu used.

Corn in a cup: best college food.

Capricorn

You had a run-in with the resident assistants about the candle incident last week, which was, you know, almost my fault but not.

This week you just need to chill. Put out those candles, get a wax warmer or something so you don't die. These stars that I discovered (Zayn, Niall, Harry, Louis and Liam) are in this position that makes the perfect wax warmer. Don't ask me how; I'm not an artist here.

Just know that it's kinda like a square with a really bright star underneath.

Aquarius

You need to stop ordering from Domino's. Like, you actually need to stop. You're losing money, the boxes are piling up. And don't you start thinking about Pizza Hut, Pizza Hut is the same thing only amazingly more moist.

I know, I know: Saturn is in line with a Domino's coupon, but trust me, those things never actually change and when you read your new horoscope next week you're going to look back on this time and hate yourself.

Pisces

Wow, you are just so healthy.

I'm not trying to be condescending or anything, but you are just doing great on that front. At least, I think so. I think the moon's in line with your planets.

But my senses? They take it a step further. Worry about the flu no longer. If you had it, cool and all, but you're not going to get again. Not forever, just this week. This week none of you will get the flu.

You know why? Because you got vaccinated you crazy kids, or you're going to get vaccinated.

UWRF athlete of the week: Katelyn Moore



Kathy Helgeson/ University Communications

Zach Dwyer

zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

Katelyn Moore is a freshman distance runner from Hudson, Wis. She set a 15-second personal record in the mile this season with a time of 5:11. That was good enough to take

first place in the event at the Parents' Day Open at the University of Minnesota last Saturday. The time ranks her 7th in the WIAC and 6th on the UWRF All-Time Performance list.

The Student Voice sat down with Moore to discuss her first season at UWRF and her plans to keep improving her mile time.

Q: What made you want to come to River Falls?

A: I was looking around for schools that were within four hours from where I was and that had a conservation program. I visited here, and I really liked it.

Q: What were your first impressions of the program?

A: All the coaches and the athletes that I met seemed really nice. It seemed like it would be a good running environment and a good team atmosphere.

Q: What events did you mainly focus on in high school, and are those the same events you're currently doing?

A: In high school I mostly did the 1500m and towards the end I did some more 800m and high jump. Now I'm doing a lot of 800s and 1600s and high jumped a little bit. I had some shin split issues, so I haven't been high jumping that much.

Q: How different is college track than high school? Have you run indoors before?

A: There is a longer indoor season. The workouts are a little bit different and just the new people. It's still kind of the same team atmosphere; everyone is really close. We had three indoor meets every year (in high school) and that was it.

Q: What is different about running indoors?

A: I guess I just had to get used to it first. It's kind of nice because you get to count off your laps faster.

Q: What have been the biggest challenges this season?

A: It's been transitioning from high school sports to college sports and getting used to having new teammates and coaches. Just a little bit with my shins hurting, but I've been resting them and they're getting better.

Q: How has the amount of experienced distance runners helped you this year?

A: They're very encouraging. It's kind of nice to have peo-

ple who know what they're doing and will help you out and encourage you to reach for your goals.

Q: What was the competition like on Saturday?

A: There were some schools that we have been competing against and a few University of Minnesota running club members. There were three other of my teammates in the race, so that was nice too.

Q: What is usually your strategy in a 1500m race? Do you stick with the pack or start off as a leader?

A: I usually go out too fast because I get excited and I usually don't do as well towards the end. This last weekend I stuck to a pace I could keep up the whole time, which is why I dropped my time so much. I try to do a regular pace, but I get excited at the beginning.

Q: What was the race like on Saturday?

A: At the beginning I was sticking with my teammate Nikki (Jurik) and we were towards the front. Then she passed some people and I went with her. Then the last 300m I felt really good, and I kicked it to the end.

Q: What led you to post your personal record by close to 15 seconds?

A: Since my teammates were in the race, I knew they were trying to get about the same time I was. I stuck with them and it's encouraging to have your teammates with you. It helped me stick to the pace I wanted. I never ran the mile in high school because we did 1500s, but when I converted it back it was two seconds off my (all-time) PR for the 1500m.

Q: What are your expectations for the WIAC indoor meet?

A: I'm just looking to hopefully maybe drop a couple more seconds and just have fun, because I don't completely know what it's going to be like yet, but I'm excited.

Q: What will you be looking to continue to improve upon for the outdoor season?

A: Just to keep dropping times and keep working towards getting better in all the events.

Sports Recap

Women's basketball

The Falcons finished their season with a 16-10 record after falling at UW-Oshkosh in the first round of the WIAC tournament. The UW-Oshkosh Titans got off to a hot start, going ahead 21-4 and 31-7 before taking a 38-17 lead into halftime. UWRF wouldn't go down without a fight, outscoring the Titans in the third and fourth quarters to bring it back as close as 8 points in the fourth quarter. However, UW-Oshkosh would still come out on top. Taylor Karge was the leading scorer for the Falcons with 22 points on 10-18 shooting with 4 blocks. UWRF managed to hold the Titans to only 20 percent shooting in the second half but couldn't finish off the comeback. The Falcons finished their season at 7-7 in WIAC play and 10-4 at home. Starters Brynn Liljander, Haley Rau and Karge will all be seniors that will need to be replaced on next year's squad.

Men's basketball

The Falcons kept their season alive by defeating UW-Whitewater 79-68 on Wednesday night in Page Arena. The no. 4 seeded Falcons had won both previous meetings against the Warhawks, including a tough victory at Page Arena only a few weeks ago. UWRF led by as much as 18 points in the first half, and they took a 45-33 lead into halftime. Derek Rongstad caused problems for the Falcons all night, dropping 33 points and 9 rebounds in 40 minutes of action. However, UWRF got big games from seniors Brennan Witt and Devin Buckley, who added 20 and 17 points. The Falcons also shot an efficient 58 percent from the field, compared to UW-Whitewater's lowly 38 percent. UWRF now travels to the no. 1 seeded UW-Platteville Pioneers on Friday night to try to advance to the WIAC finals for the third consecutive season. Tipoff is at 7 p.m.

Women's hockey

The Falcons host a pair of games against UW-Stevens Point this weekend for the WIAC semifinals. They tied the Pointers 0-0 in January but came back the next day to take a 6-2 win. UWRF also won 6-1 when they hosted the Pointers in an early season matchup. Freshman Carly Moran leads the Falcons with 40 points on 23 goals and 17 assists, while freshman Callie Hoff is second with 18 goals and 15 assists. Angie Hall has continued her winning ways in net, winning 10 games and recording a save percentage of almost 89 percent on her way to becoming the winningest goalie in D3 history. The #1 ranked Falcons will look to advance to the O'Brien cup finals with a better goal differential than the #4 ranked Pointers over their two-games series.

Men's hockey

The Falcons travel to Stevens Point this Friday after taking down UW-Superior in the no. 4 versus no. 5 matchup in the WIAC first round. UWRF outscored the Yellowjackets 7-1 in game one, where six different Falcons scored and four of the goals came on the powerplay. This beatdown came only about a week after the team came to Superior and skated to a 4-1 victory. Game two was a much tighter contest, ending in a 3-3 tie. Cayden Cahill scored two goals and Zach Quinn made 41 saves to preserve the tie and advance to the next round. They will travel to no. 1 seeded Stevens Point for a two-game series to determine who will advance to play for the Commissioner's Cup.

Sports Schedule

February 23 men's basketball at UW-Platteville (WIAC semifinals), 7 p.m.

February 23 men's hockey at UW-Stevens Point (WIAC semifinals), 7 p.m.

February 23 women's hockey vs UW-Stevens Point (WIAC semifinals), 7:05 p.m.

February 23-24 men's indoor track and field at WIAC Championships

February 23-24 women's indoor track and field at WIAC Championships

February 24 women's hockey vs UW-Stevens Point (WIAC Semifinals), 2:05 p.m.

February 24 men's hockey at UW-Stevens Point (WIAC Semifinals), 7 p.m.

Home games in **BOLD**

Industry regulation proves to be a challenge in the U.S.

Carl Meeker

Columnist

Ajit Pai, chair of the Federal Communications Commission, spent several years as the associate general counsel for Verizon; he served as a corporate lawyer advising them on matters of regulatory policy.

There is growing concern regarding the relationship between Pai and Verizon, and those concerns came to a head at a dinner he hosted in December of last year. During this dinner, less than a week before the Dec. 14 vote to repeal the Title II Net Neutrality policy, he made a joke about how Verizon wanted to install a puppet into the FCC to act on their behalf.

In light of this joke, multiple parties have submitted Freedom of Information requests regarding Pai's communications. The FCC refused these FOIA requests, stating that releasing the information "would expose an agency's decision-making process in such a way as to discourage candid discussion within the agency and thereby undermine the agency's ability to perform its functions."

Regulation of industry has become a controversial issue

within the last few decades. Some say that there are too many regulations and that this stifles industry development and growth. Some say that there aren't enough regulations and that we cannot trust these industries to act in the public good. Others say that the government is not giving these agencies enough funding to do their job either way!

The history of regulatory agencies as they grew out of the Industrial Revolution is fascinating. In 1906, there was growing public pressure on the government and growing awareness of the failures of the free market to self regulate, as exposed by Upton Sinclair's book "The Jungle."

As a result, the Pure Food and Drug Act was passed, leading to the formation of the Food and Drug Administration. The FDA was tasked with regulating the food and drug industries to protect the public from nefarious and dubious industrial practices that put the health and safety of American citizens in jeopardy.

Since the establishment of the FDA, multiple other regulatory agencies have emerged to deal with industries that are unwilling to regulate themselves and that are endangering public health and safety. A few of these agencies include the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Communications Commission and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Each of these agencies is tasked with serving the public

good against private enterprises that will not regulate themselves. These agencies, therefore, stand as the main protector of the public in the face of industries that stand to jeopardize public welfare for lack of self-regulation.

Over the decades, these agencies have been actively attacked and undermined by the industries that they were tasked to regulate. In seeking to staff these agencies, the government often turns to individuals that work in the very industries the agency is meant to regulate.

Often this leads to a conflict of interest. Once a person's term within the agency is complete, they might return to the private industry they came from or to a special interest lobbying firm. This is known as the "revolving door," which leads to the regulatory capture of these agencies. The agencies begin to serve the industries they were meant to regulate at the cost of the public good they were intended to serve.

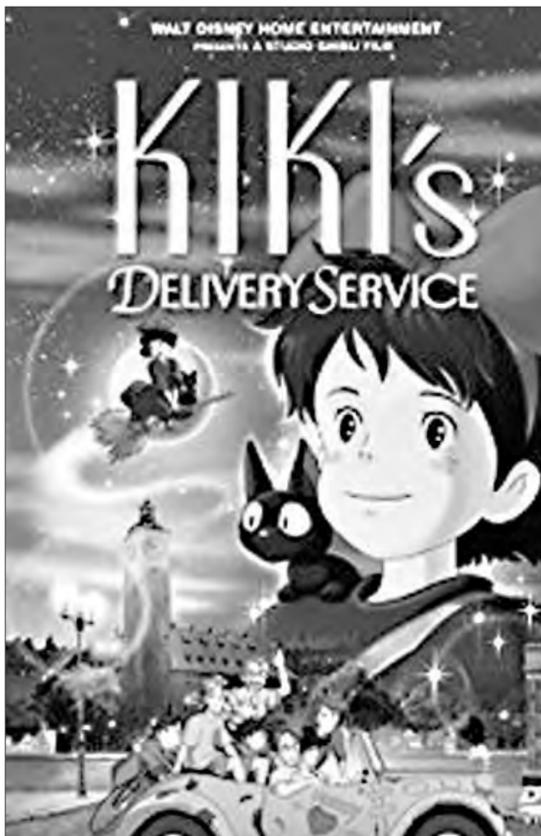
If we cannot trust industries to self regulate, can we trust individuals with a conflict of interest to faithfully perform their duties as regulatory agencies in service of the public good?

Carl Meeker is an environmental science major with plans to go into science, technology and public policy.

'Kiki's Delivery Service': a whimsical coming of age tale

Bethany Lovejoy

Reviewer



To preface this article, I would like to apologize to Jacinta, a beautiful and perfect woman who recommended another movie this week for review. I had to push back that review to next week because it is not every day that you get an opportunity to watch "Kiki's Delivery Service."

And I love me some Kiki. Kiki is an Actual Perfect Child™ who is adorable, clumsy, brave, and special. Also, she's a witch. In Kiki's world, everything else is basically the same as our world except that witches send their children off into the blue yonder at thirteen years old. They do this so the kids can learn trades in witchcraft and stuff like that - not child abandonment reasons. Every single extra special girl goes out on her own when she turns thirteen to go find a town (which must have no other witches because never mind being social) and learn a magical trade to help said town.

Kiki's parents try to put off getting rid of their burst of sunlight for as long as possible but eventually have to give in. They send off the girl who can hardly fly with her cat on a broom.

This goes well; she hits all the trees accidentally and they make a great bell noise, so she's an ace at flying.

On her way to find another town she runs into another witch, also thirteen. This girl looks like she went to the closing sale of a Claire's. I'm not really sure why it was so important that she had the unique character design of, "She who hit the jewelry rack, overloaded, then screwed up her hair," because she's only in this movie for five seconds. Her whole entire point is to make Kiki feel bad about herself and then give the young precious witch an idea of what type of town she'd like to live in.

Unimportant plot device flies off and Kiki decides to sleep in a train.

This goes okay. Kiki wakes up to the most beautiful town I've ever seen. Like absolutely gorgeous, pin it to your board for your fellow Pinteresters to see that it was perfect. It kinda looked like Boston, but more like the Boston people imagine and not the real dirty city of squalor that is actual Boston.

So of course, Kiki's like, "I want to live here because it is nice and there is the ocean - wow." In comparison, Kiki just came from what looks like a sad trash pile that gets periodically burnt.

Kiki is poor and homeless for about a hot minute. She gets into trouble with law enforcement and meets a 0/10 not-babe dude. She recognizes that he is not a babe and kind annoying, so she reacts accordingly. However, the scene and what was said don't really matter.

What matters is that Kiki is not about Tombo.

Which is okay, because I'm not either. He looks like David Bowie if David Bowie was unattractive and wore unappealing stripes.

Being homeless, Kiki has tons of time on her hands and decides to deliver this baby pacifier for this nice lady. The nice lady is like, "Oh, thank you for doing that. I see you are a witch. Would you like to live in my attic and eat breakfast

with me, random stranger girl who had legal problems like five minutes ago? I'm very lonely."

And Kiki is like, "Yes." It turns out that while Kiki is full of kindness, consideration and magic, this lady is all full of babies. She is pregnant to the point where it's a little concerning, but I guess when you consider the art style, it's not overly concerning?

Kiki lives in this lady's attic and starts delivering stuff to villages, like a delivery service owned by Kiki.

Deliveries by Kiki or something; there's no good name for that.

Kiki delivers toys and gets her cat beat up, she delivers food to bratty horrible girls who need to go away and she delivers food to Tombo.

There's also a side plot about Tombo asking Kiki to a party because he has feels for her and junk. Then Kiki shows up late and doesn't catch him. But you know what she does catch? A cold because she flew super-fast in the rain and took no breaks to be with this 0/10 babe.

This cold must be absolutely horrible, because Kiki straight up asks the lady if she is dying from the cold - if this is the end of days. And the pregnant lady is like, "Naw, you good fam, go to sleep lil Satan, you will be fine tomorrow."

Kiki seems to doubt this. But lo, she wakes up and is fine tomorrow. And the pregnant lady is like, "Cool and all that - you recovered. I have a delivery for you to do." Kiki gives her a happy look and the lady is like, "You're gonna be twice as happy when you go because I am wing manning for you."

So Kiki goes and delivers this package to the literal worst kid (Tombo), who is basically all up on her grill. She's feeling it for a second, getting close and getting blushy - you

know how it is. Then his friends turn up and it turns out they're all horrible people. Kiki knows they are horrible people because there is one horrible girl that she had a bad experience with one time and that means that everyone is horrible. So Kiki is like, "Bye."

Kiki hates Tombo again, which is understandable (he only likes her because she can fly and he is super about planes). Anyway, she hates him so much that she ends up harming herself and losing her power, which is great because I also find self-destruction via a combination of hatred for another person and insecurities to be relatable.

Kiki is not magic anymore and can't talk to her cat, which just about brought me over to health and counselling services to ask about why fictional cats matter to me so much. I was bawling; I haven't seen this movie in forever and I am a very emotional person. Not a good time.

So, while Kiki was delivering once, she met this lady who lived in the woods alone. She's not a witch, but I understand if you think she is. It's very Baba Yaga to live alone in the woods, so I one hundred percent understand thinking this lady is magic. She is an artist though, which is not magic but cool.

My chain of careers that I want goes something like: taste tester, professional eater, actual witch, tarot card reader, artist. Personally I feel like everyone's list is a little like that, so this lady was destined to be cool in everyone's eyes.

Cool art lady takes Kiki to the woods and is like, "I think you lost your magic because you have artist's block, only with magic. And, you know, inspired by a really stupid not attractive annoying boy that nobody really likes. Maybe get over that." Only, you know, without the bits about Tombo being the worst.

They're implied, though, at least to me. Meanwhile, Tombo is hanging out in a blimp because he is super about flying and immediately, concerningly into everything that flies. But because Tombo is dumb, even blimps are like, "Man, screw this guy."

So the blimp starts having some troubles, crashing into stuff. You know, blimp stuff.

Tombo is hanging on for life because everyone else was cool enough to stay in the blimp.

But not Tombo. Because Tombo sucks. Tombo drops a police car and probably kills five people, but Kiki gets her powers back through the power of "true convenient plot device love." She ends up saving the literal worst person in the world.

And now that she has her magic back, I hold my breath because some of the dubs of the film don't do it, and I really want a happy ending.

The moment comes. I listen to see if I have hit the seven percent chance that this is the right dub.

The cat speaks to Kiki and I burst back into tears - this is the right dub. This is the world I want to live in, not one of the worlds where she can't talk to her cat at the end.

Just a really good coming of age movie with fantasy elements.

1/1 speaking cats.

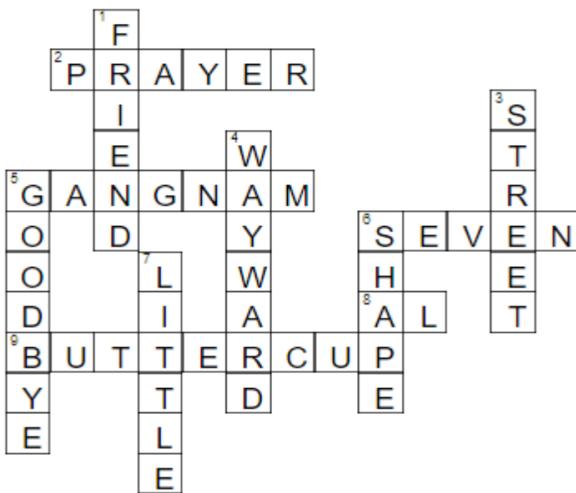
0/10 Tombos (a good rating).

1/1 Kikis.

Bethany Lovejoy enjoys chicken tenders, trips to Aldi with her mom, and pasta.

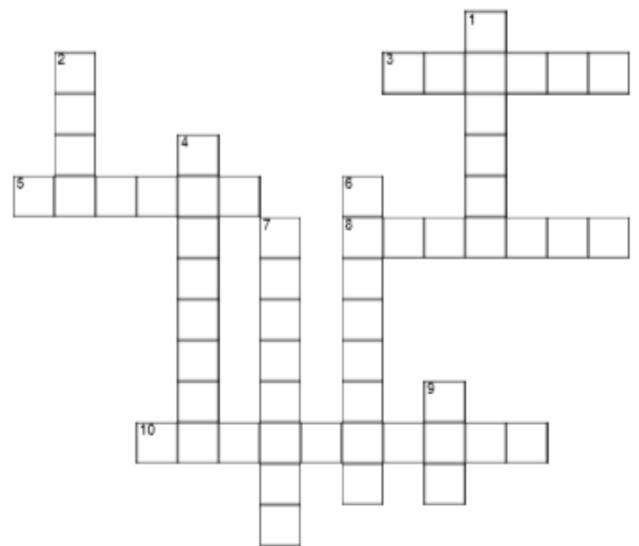
Last Week's Answers

Finish the Song Lyrics



Puzzle of the Week

Weird and obscure animals



ACROSS

- 3 Bizarre, nocturnal lemur from Madagascar with a long, thin middle finger
- 5 Tiny African antelope. Named for the noise the female makes when alarmed
- 8 Called a "Mexican walking fish," but is actually a salamander that never loses its juvenile gills
- 10 Colorful ocean dwellers, often called "sea slugs"

DOWN

- 1 Tall, spotted wild cat from Africa with massive ears
- 2 "___ crab" - hairy-armed crab named after Sasquatch's arctic cousin
- 4 Rainforest relative of the raccoon, also called a "honey bear"
- 6 World's largest rodent
- 7 Fish voted world's ugliest animal in 2013
- 9 Another word for a wildebeest

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