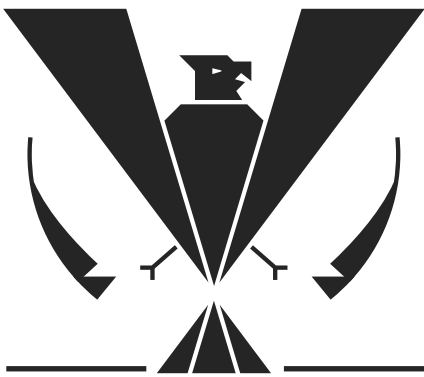




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UWRF men’s basketball beats UW-Whitewater in first round of WIAC tournament.

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UW-River Falls University Theatre takes on traditional Chinese tale in ‘White Snake.’

**ETCETERA, PAGE 8**  
‘Deadpool’ entertains with crude yet hilarious humor.



University of Wisconsin  
**STUDENT**  
February 26, 2016  
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River Falls  
**VOICE**  
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# Swine disease strikes Mann Valley Farm

Natalie Howell

Falcon News Service

A swine disease has broken out at Mann Valley Farm, one of the two laboratory farms run by UW-River Falls, causing the death of half the piglets.

Symptoms of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, or PRRS, were first recognized at the Mann Valley Farm in November, but reproductive problems didn’t occur until recently with stillborn piglets. A positive diagnosis was confirmed on Feb. 2 and reconfirmed on Feb. 10, according to Justin Luther, interim chair and associate professor of reproductive physiology.

PRRS was recognized in the United States in the 1980s and affects 60 to 70 percent of swine herds. The disease causes elevated body temperature, loss of appetite, reduced growth, coughing, respiratory problems and reproductive issues. This can cause stillbirths and death of the fetus during pregnancy. Piglets that are born weak can have a mortality rate of 60 percent, while premature piglets can experience almost 100 percent mortality, according to a PRRS Fact Sheet for Animal Science published by North Carolina State University.

PRRS is currently restricted to the newly weaned piglets at the Mann Valley Farm, with about half of the piglets in the litters dying, according to Harry Larsen, manager at the Mann Valley Farm. The swine herd includes about 70 sows and, before the disease took hold, had about 150 piglets.

The virus cannot be contracted by humans or other animals, and is mainly transmitted through nose-to-nose contact between pigs. Although PRRS is not highly contagious, students who attend classes at the Mann Valley Farm and who may also be exposed to other herds of pigs are being instructed to use footwear that is specific to the farm and to disinfect footwear and clothes after contact, according to Luther.

Two ways to manage the PRRS are depopulation and managing through vaccination. Depopulation would mean getting rid of the current herd and re-introducing a new herd to the farm. Although what to do is still being discussed, Luther said that it will be more practical to look at vaccination and treating the pigs rather than depopulation.

**Although what to do is still being discussed, Luther said that it will be more practical to look at vaccination and treating the pigs rather than depopulation.**

“The reason we’re probably leaning more towards managing the disease at this particular stage is because we don’t have bio-secure facilities,” Luther said. “So who’s to say even if we did depopulate and repopulate, that we wouldn’t come up with the disease again in a year or two or three years from now?”

Although it hasn’t been determined how the virus was contracted, Larsen said that a factor contributing to the outbreak includes the open facility policy that the Mann Valley Farm follows, in which students and members of the community are welcome into the buildings. However, Larsen said, the open facility policy is critical to the education of UWRF students.

“So many people benefit from the open door policy that



Tori Schneider/Student Voice

**Newly born piglets at the Mann Valley Farm. Symptoms of the PRRS virus were discovered early February.**

we’ve had with the hogs,” Larsen said. “So in order to maintain the education that we have here it really has to be continued.”

When it comes to how PRRS might affect Falcon Foods production at the University, Luther said that because the virus is specific to swine there is no human concern when consuming meat from swine with PRRS. Students working for Falcon Foods produce meats and cheeses from raw products supplied in part by the lab farms.

“We will easily be able to meet the demand of Falcon Foods and meet the demands of the other buyers and supporters of our box pork sale that we have every year,” Luther said.

Although the virus will not affect Falcon Foods, it has caused the cancellation of the Annual Show Pig Auction to

avoid spreading PRRS to other herds.

**Although the virus will not affect Falcon Foods, it has caused the cancellation of the Annual Show Pig Auction to avoid spreading PRRS to other herds.**

“On our end, it’s really tough to take,” Larsen said. “We’ve got a lot of money into breeding these sows to get the show pigs, to get some good quality stock to sell and we’ve put a lot into that end of it. We’re kind of getting the rug pulled out from underneath us in the process.”

# Grassroots effort seeks to stop influence of money in politics

Molly Kinney

Falcon News Service

While Hillary Clinton, Ted Cruz and other presidential candidates duke it out over campaign finance reform, a few members of the River Falls community are taking the issue of monetary influence on political elections into their own hands.

Ann Leake and about five other community members founded their organization, Western Wisconsin United to Amend (WWUTA), last winter after hearing a speaker at the Unitarian Universalist Society talk about the issue and implications surrounding the much-debated U.S. Supreme Court ruling in favor of Citizens United, a conservative nonprofit political group.

Citizens United vs. the Federal Elections Commission, now referred to as simply “Citizens United,” is a 2010 Supreme Court decision that essentially allows corporations, lobbyists and interest groups to donate unlimited amounts of money to political campaigns of their choosing. Political pundits argue that these donations often lead to the donors being favored in policy making after the candidate they donated to is elected. The amount of money given is often kept undisclosed to the public as well, especially if donated to a Super PAC (political action committee), which are “unaffiliated” committees that raise funds and spend money on political candidates, the largest percentage of which is typically spent on advertising.

According to a 2013 analysis of studies published in the liberal Mother Jones magazine, in the last presidential election cycle 28 percent of all disclosed donations, around \$1.68 billion, came from just over 31,000 of the nation’s 323 million citizens. In the 2014 midterm elections, 94 percent of biggest spenders in the U.S. House of Representatives won their elections, and 82 percent of the biggest U.S. Senate race spenders won, too. These campaigns were almost all funded by organizations like Citizens United.

Leake said she decided that citizens must do something to stop what she calls corruption of the system.

“The talk from this woman was so disgusting about the effect of big money in politics and the corruption, and the fact that the common person is losing his or her voice in the political process,” Leake said. “It’s no longer a representative democracy, it’s a plutocracy.”

Leake has been dismayed at the campaign finance laws since looking into them more.

“It takes away the voice of people who don’t have \$5 million to donate to a candidate. We know that money buys influence and corruption... and I no longer think we’re dealing with a level playing field,” she said.

The goal of WWUTA and the national United to Amend organization is to amend the Constitution with language stating, “The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only,” according to United to Amend’s website.

The main tactic being used to start this process is by passing resolutions and referendums in cities nationwide. So far, more than 660 municipalities and governments have done so, 60 of them in Wisconsin. Leake and other members from WWUTA presented their request for a resolution to the River Falls City Council last fall, but Leake said members of the council were reticent to approve such a strongly worded document.

A citywide referendum is the route WWUTA will take instead. The organization will be starting a petition campaign in April, but its needs more than 800 signatures to get the question put on the November ballot.

Leake is hopeful about what the results of the referendum will be, though. Of the 35 towns and cities across Wisconsin that have passed referendums for such a resolution, most have received between 68 percent to 84 percent approval from voters. Especially with the outreach WWUTA is planning to do while gathering petition support, education on the Citizens United ruling will help sway voter opinions on the issue, Leake said.

“We know that when presented with the issue, the people in River Falls will support it,” she said.

While representatives from the Republican Party in western Wisconsin declined interviews, Neil Kraus, a political science professor at UWRF, said that it is typical of conservative lawmakers to oppose the repeal of Citizens United, simply because they have statistically been on the receiving end of large donations from private groups like Citizens United more than other political parties represented in government.

“It does divide more or less down party lines, and Republicans have been much bigger beneficiaries of this system,” Kraus said. “Democrats have their Super PACs, too, but when you look at the amount of money raised by these outside groups supporting Republicans and then look at the other side, it’s a lot more on the Republican side. I think that’s the most obvious reasoning.”

He did concede that the ruling has had large effects on the political process, however, but said that a constitutional amendment would be very hard to achieve. With the death of the Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia this month, though, it’s no longer out of the question, Kraus added.

“Now we’re probably going to have a Supreme Court appointment before the end of the year,” Kraus said. “There are two ways to get rid of Citizens United: one, to amend the Constitution, which is almost impossible, and two is to overturn it. I don’t want to be too optimistic, but I think that’s looking a lot more plausible.”

WWUTA is excited to start working on the issue more aggressively, Leake said. While it will be a lot of work, she is looking forward to educating the public about the issue during the petitioning campaign, and encourages UWRF students to get involved with the movement, too. In the end, she said, young people like the students at UWRF will be most affected by what’s happening in politics.

“I’m just hoping that people will get fed up, and like I said, take back our government, or we’re not going to be a democracy anymore,” Leake said. “We’re looking at a country that’s going to be run in a very different way than our founding fathers envisioned it.”

# Student Senate Update: bylaws, election rules, playoff tickets

Student Voice  
editor@uwrvoice.com

At the Student Senate meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 23, the Student Senate discussed the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Playoffs motion, the Change to Senate Bylaws Governing Documents motion, and the Amendments to Election Rules motion. The Student Senate also discussed and passed the budgets for diffential tuition, organized activity, Student Media Committee, and the Student Senate’s budget with an increase of \$1.15 per student to the Student Senate seg-regated fee.

The Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Playoffs motion was introduced by Senate Vice President James VandenBergh and was to allocate \$800 from the Senate funding pool to buy 200 tickets for the four WIAC playoff games that will be played at UW-River Falls. An amendment was introduced to the motion to change the amount of money allocated from \$800 to \$1600 to pay for 400 tickets for students, which is 100 tickets per game. This amendment was quickly passed, and with that change the main motion also passed. It has not been decided yet how these tickets will be distributed to students attending the games, it will probably be in the hands of the athletic department about how students can receive these free tickets.

The Change to Senate Bylaws Governing Documents was introduced by VandenBergh and was to have the on-campus senator position be elected by the Residence Hall Association. This was in attempt to involve RHA in with Senate. This was quickly voted on and passed.

The Amendments to Election Rules motion was again introduced by VandenBergh. This motion is to change the number of senators on the Election Committee from two to one and to change the number of at-large senators on the committee as well from two to one. This motion also would allow a justice from Student Judiciary to be the chairman of the committee. These changes would allow the

Student Judiciary to have more of an influence and to ensure a separation of powers. This motion was also passed.

All information in this update comes from the Feb. 23 Student Senate meeting, and select documents from the OrgSync Student Senate page. It's very important for all students to stay informed on what is going on with Senate. They meet at 7 p.m. every Tuesday in the Willow River Room of the University Center, and the meeting agenda can be found 24 hours prior on the Senate page. To see the details of what was discussed last Tuesday, go on the Senate page, and read through this week's minutes document.

## News briefs: Dairy Club takes second place at regional conference

University of Wisconsin-River Falls Dairy Club students took home a second place finish in the junior division of the quiz bowl competition at the Midwest Regional American Dairy Science Association – Student Affiliate Division (ADSA-SAD), Feb. 5-7 in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Fifty-five members of the UW-River Falls Dairy Club attended the meeting accompanied by Dennis Cooper, professor of dairy science, and one of the club’s advisers. Twelve universities attended the conference that offered industry tours, educational sessions, intercollegiate competitions and networking opportunities.

UWRF fielded teams in both the junior and senior divisions of the quiz bowl competition. The junior team consisted of Trent Miller of Spring Valley; Charles Moore of Fennimore; Joel Olke of Manitowoc; and Andy Helmer of Plymouth. The senior team was made up of Cole Mark of Elmwood; Alex Huibregtse of Plymouth; Jacob Pintens of Dallas; and Sierra Solum of Rice Lake.

The Saturday program included industry tours and educational sessions. Attendees toured Kuehnert Dairy, a family-owned 6th generation dairy, and Blessing Farms, featuring registered Brown Swiss since 1936. In the afternoon, students chose three of five educational workshops: Dairy Marketing, Animal Welfare, Being an Entrepreneur, Employer and Employee Relationships, and Consumer Relations.

The formal program concluded with a banquet Saturday evening, followed by a dance. UW-River Falls was the smallest campus present in terms of total enrollment, but had the largest delegation at the conference and was honored at the banquet for that accomplishment. UWRF was also recognized for having the best participation in the educational workshops. A new officer team for the Midwest Regional Division was also installed that evening. Eryn Orth of Winona, Minn., retired as secretary/treasurer, while Moore was elected as 1st Vice President.

## UW-River Falls to host open house for St. Croix Valley Bull Test in March

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Department of Animal and Food Science, St. Croix Valley Bull Test, UW-River Falls Beef Management Team and UW-Extension will host an educational program and open house on Saturday, March 12, at the UW-River Falls Dairy Learn-

ing Center on the Mann Valley Farm, 129 South Glover Road, River Falls. As beef producers approach this spring and consider purchasing a replacement bull, this program will help in the decision-making process.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The program runs from 10 a.m. to noon and will feature two presentations related to purchasing a bull:

- EPD 101 – What do all these numbers mean and how do I use them in selection?
- What visually should I consider when selecting a bull?

Following the presentations, the UW-River Falls Beef Management Team will offer lunch for \$6 per person. After lunch, attendees will be able to preview the bulls for the sale. Consignors will also be available to answer questions.

For more information, email Amy Radunz, assistant professor of Animal Science, at amy.radunz@uwrf.edu. University of Wisconsin-River Falls will host their second

## TEDx event to be held this Saturday

annual TEDx event this Saturday in the Universirty Center from 1 to 5 p.m. The independently organized event, licensed by TED will feature speeches and presentations from former UWRF alumni as well as current UWRF students. The event is free to students but requires pre-registration. This year’s event will feature presenations from UWRF graduate and MPR’s Morning Edition Host, Cathy Wurzer and Mark Lacek, the founder of Lacek Group Worldwide. For more information, including a list of speakers and event schedule updates, and to register to attend TEDxUWRiverFalls, visit www.tedxuwriverfalls.com.

## Upcoming Events

### Friday, Feb. 26:

All Day: Mexican Monuments Photo Gallery

12:00 p.m.- 1:00 p.m.: Frances Cohler Coffee Concert: River Falls Brass

6:00 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.: Journey House Quilt Auction and Chili Dinner

7:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.: University Theatre: “White Snake”

### Saturday, Feb. 27:

All Day: Choral Arts Day

1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.: TEDxUWRiverFalls

## River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

### Wednesday, Feb. 17

- Theft was reported at Parker Hall around 8 a.m.
- Drug usage was reported in Crabtree Hall around 5 a.m.

### Friday, Feb. 19

- Property damage was reported at 650 3rd Street around 9 a.m.
- Underage alcohol consummsion was reported around 11 p.m.

### Saturday, Feb. 20

- Officers responded to a suicide attempt at Johnson Hall around 1:30 a.m.

### Monday, Feb. 22

- Officers responded to a welfare check at Stratton Hall around midnight.

Editor’s note:  
Information for this section is taken from UW-River Falls Police incident reports.

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1 tired worker  
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Add 1 totalled vehicle.

Never underestimate ‘just a few.’  
Buzzed driving is drunk driving.

# UW-River Falls University Theatre takes on traditional Chinese tale in ‘The White Snake’

Ryan Funes  
Falcon News Service

The UW-River Falls University Theatre’s latest production, “The White Snake,” is adapted from one of China’s oldest tales of the same name, according to the director, theatre Professor Robin Murray.

The play, Murray said, is about a white snake that wants to be human and magically becomes so, but due to those who want to crush her happiness she will need to undergo a journey to keep her humanity and save those whom she loves.

The story might sound simple, but it is being treated with respect and hard work by the actors. Murray said they have been rehearsing every night for over two hours since the new semester began. And it shows in the Blanche Davis Theatre: sets are built all around the stage, actors practice through the whole performance, and critiques are given to all.

Emma Johnson, a freshman, is cast in the role of the White Snake. She said she found the story to be something different to try out, given its cultural origins and magical side. Tonally it will also be different from her previous roles.

“This is the first role I feel I’ve really played where I’m the very serious character,” she said after rehearsal. “I usually play very comedic roles, so it’s been a very nice experience to act like a really serious person going through issues.”

“The White Snake” has not just been open to UW-River Falls students, as high school junior Emily Leonard is cast as narrator, a white stag and background roles. By using Wisconsin’s Youth Options program, she was to enroll at UWRF to take a class her school did not have. This will be her first theater role at UWRF.

“It’s really nice learning with all these different people,” Leonard said.

The actors are only one side of “The White Snake” to explore. Any play requires crew members to contribute to the look, sound and feel of a production. One such person is Joshua Gustafson, who not only plays the villain of the story but has been doing the sound design for the production, which means that he has had to utilize a wide array of Eastern instruments to bring out the cultural background of “The White Snake.”

“Some of the difficulties that come with this is that given that this is a traditional Chinese tale, there is a lot of traditional music that must be put in,” he said.

“We got a lot of good instruments and I’ve found a lot of good music for the show,” Gustafson added. “But that’s the biggest challenge, finding instruments that are authentic for the timeline of the performance itself.”

Gustafson said that he has done sound design for theater productions that involved East Asian culture before, but the challenge is still something he has to take on.



Tori Schneider/Student Voice  
Emma Johnson (left) and Phelan Patten perform as the two main characters, White and Green Snake.

Stage manager for “The White Snake” is Tiffany Schwichtenberg. Everything that the director wants done, she handles, and runs all calls during the show, making sure the director’s vision is coming out fully. It’s a lot to handle given this is her first time doing stage management.

“I’m learning a lot of things,” Schwichtenberg said. “There’s a lot of paperwork involved in management for the stage... I’m expanding on being organized and being punctual, and making sure things get done.”

“The White Snake” is scheduled to open Feb. 25 and continues Feb. 26-27 and March 3-5. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. in the Blanche Davis Theatre, located in the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$8 for senior citizens aged 60 and older; and \$5 for UWRF students and children aged 12 and younger. For further information about its current season, visit the University Theatre’s website at <http://bit.ly/1RoLz2v>.

Additional photos on Pg. 5

## UWRF professor and student return from research project in Antarctica

Sophia Koch  
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A UW-River Falls professor and physics student arrived back from Antarctica last month after being away nearly four weeks on a research project, studying the properties of the sun.

Jim Madsen, professor and chair of the physics department, has been deployed to the Antarctic stations four times before. This time, he brought along UWRF student Laura Moon and Northern Illinois University College of Engineering student Robert Zill. Over the course of the trip, the three of them traveled between two stations located on the coast, McMurdo and South Pole, Amundsen-Scott, of Antarctica, working with and familiarizing themselves with the research equipment located there.

It’s a unique opportunity for physics students like Moon and Zill. Mostly, what they are doing is equipment checks, the actual data is sent back from Antarctica as it’s collected, but the trip offers the chance for students to apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios. This season in particular, Moon said, they were preparing for a move that’s been planned for next year, and were simply trying to figure out how to shift things around.

At home, Moon worked last summer with the actual data, running FLUKA simulations (FLUKtuierende KAskade), which involve programming and simulating particle interactions. She’s written a paper on her work, and has gone on to present it at a conference in Thailand.

The goal, Madsen said, is to give these students a skill set that will be useful in whatever field they decide to pursue. The physics department has seen a roughly 15 percent increase in students since 2010 according to the 2014-2015 enrollment report, and Madsen said he would like to see these students go into fields other than teaching. “We are not trying to reproduce a bunch of people like me,” he said. Plenty of students likely will indeed choose professions as teachers, but the hope is to see students going on to apply their knowl-

edge in the work industry in ways that might better the world.

Thus far, this particular project has been largely academic. The aim, according to Madsen, is to understand how the sun produces cosmic rays, high-energy particles that spew from the sun’s surface during solar storms. These particles cross the solar system and often interact with the earth’s atmosphere to produce neutrons. These “secondary particles,” as Madsen terms them, can be measured by the equipment stationed at McMurdo and Amundsen-Scott. From that data, Madsen, Moon and others involved in the project hope to understand exactly how the sun produces these high-energy particles.

The reason this knowledge is such a priority is because solar storms have the potential to knock out electronic devices and satellites. In an age where many people are dependent on electronics, this could become a significant disruption to modern life and the hope is to use the information from these experiments in creating an early-warning system for the storms. In order for technological innovators to do their job, however, they need to understand how solar storms function.

“Mostly, what we care about is the science,” Madsen said. Other people apply the information gathered in the neutron-counting experiment, but Madsen and the other researchers involved are mainly aiming to understand how the sun and these storms of high-energy particles work.

The project, which is funded by the National Science Foundation, has been running since 1961 and is the longest continually-running experiment in Antarctica. Thus far, it has only been funded for an additional two years, but Madsen expects that it will continue indefinitely since there’s considerable scientific value in having an uninterrupted stream of data like this.

Madsen will be returning next season, sometime between November and February, and plans to bring along more students to help in relocating detectors around the stations.

## Cooperative Extension, facing state funding cuts, to trim services

Katie Galarno  
Falcon News Service

The Cooperative Extension division of UW-Extension is facing a \$3.6 million state funding cut to its annual budget, according to a press release from the division, and Pierce, St. Croix and Polk counties will not be spared.

The reduction, part of a \$250 million cut to the entire UW System, will result in a reorganization of the division in which multiple counties are combined into focused areas. The physical offices will remain in each of the 72 counties in Wisconsin, but the counties in each area will share services. Pierce, St. Croix and Polk counties will become one service area.

Diana Alfuth, the horticulture educator for Pierce County, said that the end result will be a reduction in services offered for the community. She said that fewer classes and opportunities will mean that the community members looking for help will have to be more patient.

“If people have a question, right now they can call in at any time and they’re likely to get somebody,” Alfuth said. “They might have to wait a day or two to get their responses, and who is actually doing the responding may be different.”

Agriculture Agent Ryan Sterry of the St. Croix office said that the convenience of one-on-one support will be reduced as a result of services being decreased.

“For some field days and workshops, instead of offering in each of our three counties, we may be able to have only one or two for the area,” Sterry said in an email. “There will still be individual attention, but likely not as much as we cover more ground geographically.”

The area model could also have some positive effects. Sterry said that the agriculture and horticulture educators have worked together in Pierce and St. Croix counties before. He focused on dairy and livestock while his counterpart in Pierce County focused on agronomy.

“This specialization allowed us to be a little better in our fields of expertise, and then share that expertise,” Sterry said. “I see this sharing of expertise as a benefit as we move to a three-county area, but we don’t know how many of us there will be working in agriculture and horticulture.”

The cut is expected to cause the loss of 80 jobs across the state. Alfuth said that uncertainty over job stability is a major concern in the office.

“It’s kind of like we’re not sure we should buy green bananas in the office because we may not be here to eat them,” Alfuth said, “but we seriously can’t make really long-range plans for things because we don’t know

where we’ll be, so it’s kind of a day-to-day thing right now.”

Alfuth said that the uncertainty is causing people to leave UW-Extension when they receive other offers or when they are close to retirement, which is changing the face of the division.

“Any time that you have something that’s this in limbo, it’s understandable,” Alfuth said. “People have to support their families and stuff, and they need stability, and so they can’t wait around to see if they have a job or what that job is going to be.”

UW-Extension is made up of county staff like Alfuth and Sterry, statewide specialists on campuses and campus support staff. Brenda Boetel is one of the statewide specialists on the UW-River Falls campus, focusing on commodity marketing for livestock and grains. She said that the statewide specialists aren’t expected to be cut at this point, but empty positions will likely remain unfilled.

“So at this point, those aren’t at River Falls,” Boetel said. “If we have somebody who is a statewide specialist in Extension at River Falls who leaves, then that creates problems with whether we’ll be able to refill that position,” Boetel said.

At the county level, UW-Extension offices receive county, federal and state funding. Frank Ginther, the 4-H youth development agent in Pierce County, said that Extension has been economizing for years, but this particular cut is significant because the state is a major part of its funding.

One of the possible solutions for the future is for the county agents to use more technology. Ginther said that they already utilize services like Skype and Google Hangouts.

“I think it’s safe to say that the human side of the work is probably the most fulfilling and where you make the most gains in your work,” Ginther said. “But it doesn’t mean that technology can’t work, and we have used it before.”

Even with the loss of staff, Lori Zierl, the family living agent for Pierce County’s office, said that the way the educators feel about their work will keep them motivated to continue.

“People who get into Extension really have a passion for what they do,” Zierl said. “So we’ll keep working. We’ll keep going to all those meetings you see on our busy calendar, and we’ll keep serving our clients and our partners, because that’s what we do and we do it well.”

Changes to UW-Extension may happen as early as this summer, but most will take place at the end of the year or in the beginning of 2017.

Check out the  
Student Voice  
online at  
uwrfvoice.com



# EDITORIAL

## UW-River Falls sports exceed expectations, deserve support

On Saturday, Feb. 20, the UW-River Falls women’s basketball team defeated UW-Oshkosh 63-56. With this win, the Falcons picked up the WIAC Conference Championship, along with gaining the first seed in the WIAC Conference Tournament. It’s been a long road for UWRF women’s basketball, with their last conference title being earned in 1989, 27 years ago. After a long road, the Falcons are now heading into the WIAC tournament. With their first game of the semifinals having been held Thursday, Feb. 25 against UW-Eau Claire, it’s important for us students to stand behind this great, seemingly new-and-improved, team.

A lot of students turned up for the game on Saturday, which only added to the Falcons’ ongoing momentum that has been building throughout the season. Because of this, it’s important for us to continue to stand behind our fellow Falcons as they continue to face the tough teams in the WIAC conference. Words can’t describe the feeling of being completely supported, and that comes from students showing up and yelling and cheering for their team.

What makes attending these sporting events even more critical is the lack of attendance UWRF tends to see in its sports. As the Falcon News Service’s Trenen Gauthier reported several weeks ago, our campus ranks within the lowest brackets of WIAC colleges -- in last or second-to-last -- regarding the amount of students who show up for four out of seven of UWRF’s major sports. These sports are both men’s and women’s basketball, football, and women’s volleyball. This fact is an especial shame with not only women’s basketball excelling, but also with the Falcon football team having its best season since 2001 and men’s basketball since its 2011-2012 season. With such an effort being exerted by our teams, and with such impressive results, we practically owe it to them to show them our support.

Although this editorial has focused primarily on women’s basketball, all the UWRF winter teams have gone above and beyond this season and deserve support as they enter into the WIAC tournaments. UWRF’s Student Senate has shown their support by buying 400 tickets for students for the WIAC final games that will be hosted at UWRF. With about 100 tickets for students per game to offset the cost of WIAC games, students will get the chance to cheer on their teams for free. So put on as much red and black as you can, grab a couple friends, and cheer on your fellow Falcons, and show everyone, especially our hard-working athletes, how proud you are to be a Falcon.

Editorials represent the opinion of the Student Voice Editorial Board and are prepared by the editorial staff.

# STUDENT VOICE

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Read the *Student Voice* online at [www.uwrfvoice.com](http://www.uwrfvoice.com)

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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@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com).

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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 stall by email through [editor@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com).

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# ‘Congo Mercenary’ a visceral, rewarding literary experience

Brady Johnson  
Columnist

“Congo Mercenary” by “Mad” Mike Hoare is a thrilling account of the true story of the five commando, a mercenary group hired to put down a communist rebellion in the Republic of the Congo.

Now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the west African nation has a long and troubled history.

In 1885, the Belgian King Leopold II gained private control of the Congo to exploit resources and gain riches. Over the course of his rule of the what was then known as the Congo free state, millions of Congolese natives were killed and millions were enslaved. Modern estimates put the death toll at as high as 15 million but most likely it is closer to 10 million.

In 1908, King Leopold II ceded control of the Congo free state to the Belgian parliament. In 1960, the Congo became independent from the Belgians and immediately, revolts and rebellions in the country began. The prime minister of the Congo, Moise Tshombe, found himself in precarious position. In 1964 there were enemies all around. The largest rebel group, the Simbas, Swahili for the lions, began to overrun the eastern provinces of the Congo almost unchecked.

The Simbas were successful — quick, deadly, and brutal. Thousands of local Africans who did not support the Simbas were tortured, murdered and executed in the most inhumane ways. As well, thousands of white Europeans, mostly Belgians and British who had been in the Congo, were held either murdered or held captive. Many of these captives were missionaries or nuns who had come to Christianize the people, but many were just Belgians who had come to live in the colony. Furthermore, the Simbas were receiving aid from the Soviet Union, China and other communist countries. Even from Cuba, 100 advisers were sent including Che Guevara.

Tshombe looked to the other African nation for support, but was refused. Many African nations were even aiding the Simbas; Tshombe looked to the United Nations but found them to be bureaucratic and ineffectual. The only option left was to hire white mercenary troops, mainly Afrikaners — an

ethnic group in South Africa mainly descended from Dutch ancestors who settled there. Mike Hoare was hired to recruit and train these men.

Mike Hoare, an Irishman and a veteran of World War II, knew war well. He had established himself as an effective leader and a mercenary at this point. Tshombe faced much criticism for his hiring of the mercenaries. Never before had an African politician hired whites to come to his country and kill his countrymen. Hoare’s presence was not welcome with many of the Congolese, and his whole time there was fraught with danger. Facing overwhelming numbers of enemies, Hoare managed to lead his men to dazzling victories.

This book is not for the squeamish, as it delves into a firsthand account of the horrors of war, but not unnecessarily so.

is fluid, eloquent and well put together. Hoare paints a raw view of humanity, of Africa, the effects of colonialism with the brash roughness of a soldier. Offering personal insight and opinions on many people and events, the reader may find themselves feeling as though Hoare is speaking to them directly.

This book is not for the squeamish, as it delves into a firsthand account of the horrors of war, but not unnecessarily so. The book shows what happened, omitting nothing for the sake of being more digestible. Any reader with an interest in military affairs, African History, post-colonialism or just an all-around good read will find themselves enticed by this novel. Available upon request for transfer at the UWRF library, “Congo Mercenary” is a superb book and I recommend it to any student who is willing to read such a book.

Brady Johnson is a junior at UW-River Falls with a double major in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and Spanish. He has a passion for literature and hopes to teach English abroad in the future.

# STUDENT VOICES

Student Voice editorial staff: What do you want your tombstone to say?



Molly Kinney  
Etcetera Editor

“I want to be put in one of those urns where you turn into a tree, so I won’t need a tombstone.”



Tori Schneider  
Chief Photographer

“I don’t want a tombstone. I’d rather just decompose and become one with the earth.”



Matthew Clark  
News Editor

“There is no success like failure, and failure is no success at all.”



Hayden Bosch  
Editor

“The path of the righteous man...”



Kris Bradley  
Sports Editor

“No comment.”



Katie Galarno  
Viewpoints Editor

“Be excellent to each other.”

University Theatre presents ‘The White Snake’

(continued from page 3)

UW-River Falls’ University Theatre’s newest production is “The White Snake.” The play is an adaptation by Tony Award-winning Mary Zimmerman of a Chinese legend which was originally told orally by tradition. The play tells the story of a white snake and a green snake that seek to become human. When the snakes’ wishes comes true, it leads to love, plotting and scheming and a journey to a distant forest.

Performances began in Kleinpell Fine Arts’ Blanche Davis Theatre Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m., and will continue on the next two days at the same time. Another running will be held March 3-5, also at 7:30 p.m.



*Tori Schneider/Student Voice*  
**Phelan Patten (left) and Emma Johnson (right) play the green and white snakes in ‘The White Snake.’**



*Tori Schneider/Student Voice*  
**Emma Johnson (left) and Karsten Halverson (right) perform as white snake and Xu Xian, a married couple.**



*Tori Schneider/Student Voice*  
**Josh Gustafson plays the character Fa Hai. ‘White Snake’ is being performed in the Blanche Davis Theatre of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 25-27 and March 3-5.**



*Tori Schneider/Student Voice*  
**Green Snake, played by Phelan Patten (left) and White Snake, played by Emma Johnson (right), kneel over the body of Xu Xian, played by Karsten Halverson (foreground).**



*Tori Schneider/Student Voice*  
**Emma Johnson (foreground) plays the main character, the white snake in the traditional chinese tale.**

Find Freddy’s lost feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre!

The first person to report the find to **editor@uwrvoice.com** AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

The winner will be announced on the Voice’s Twitter and Facebook accounts:  
**@uwrvoice** and **facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice**

Now Playing: Deadpool

*Do you have something to say?*  
**Write a letter to the editor.**  
Email your thoughts to [editor@uwrvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrvoice.com)



# Women’s basketball takes first place in WIAC

Zach Dwyer  
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The Falcons came up clutch in the biggest game of the season, taking down the UW-Oshkosh Titans 63-56 to capture their first regular season WIAC title in 27 years.

Both teams came into the game at 20-4 overall on the year and 11-2 in conference. The Falcons won the first meeting on the road in early January, so the Titans came to Karges Center looking for revenge.

“Coming into the game we knew it was time for us to prove what we’ve worked on all offseason and regular season. Our regular season set us up perfectly to take the win,” Senior Richell Mehus said.

UWRF wasn’t about to drop a game with so much at stake. But the Titans came out strong, going on a quick 6-0 run in the first three minutes and looked like the more confident team. The Falcons struck back, building a 13-2 run of their own to take a lead they held throughout the afternoon.

Brynn Liljander was huge for the Falcons, knocking down three three-pointers and controlling the offense against a strong UW-Oshkosh defense. Her 13 points led all scorers in the first half, with the next closest Falcon Katie Messman tallying five points.

The real story of the first half was Oshkosh’s inaccurate shooting. The Falcons switched up their defense constantly, switching between man-to-man, a 2-3 zone, and a 1-3-1 zone. The Titans seemed out of rhythm the entire first half, and constantly settled for contested three-pointers. This led UW-Oshkosh to shoot 5-33 in the first half and go 0-15 on threes.

A 19-7 advantage in the second quarter gave the Falcons a 34-17 lead heading into halftime. A lead of that magnitude is difficult to hold against a strong team like UW-Oshkosh, and the Titans got right back into the game. Oshkosh guard Eliza Campbell hit a three-pointer less than a minute into the second half to bring some life back into the Titan’s offense.

Forward Taylor Karge began to assert her dominance in the

third quarter, mixing strong post moves with mid-range jump shots. The offensive production began to drop off for the rest of the Falcons and the Titans grabbed a 19-13 run in the third quarter to chip away at the Falcon lead.

Mehus said, “All year we’ve focused on trusting in what we’re running and not trying to individually take over the game, but do it as a team.”

Karge continued her streak in the fourth quarter, proving why she’s the team’s leading scorer. Six points out of the gate in the final quarter put the Falcons up 16 points with only seven minutes remaining. A strong Titan comeback was thwarted by clutch free throws from Brynn Liljander and Richell Mehus. The Falcons managed to claim their first conference title since 1988-1989, and their first under Head Coach Cindy Holbrook.

“I’m so excited that we set a goal and achieved what we sought out to do in the regular season. And hosting the WIAC tournament allows us to control what we need to do,” Holbrook said.

All 685 fans in attendance were amazed by the battle they witnessed, but in the end UWRF showed the poise and heart they needed to come out on top. Fans stormed the court after the final buzzer, and every Falcon got a chance to cut down the nets. The biggest reaction came when Holbrook got the chance to cut down an entire net of her own.

“The fans and the atmosphere made a big difference in the game. It changes the game and shortens the other team’s runs. The student section was huge and stood almost the entire game,” Holbrook said.

With the win the Falcons now rest atop the WIAC standings as champs at 11-2 in conference and 21-4 overall. The number 13 ranked Falcons next will host a WIAC tournament semi-final game at Karges Center as the number one seed and the favorite.

Holbrook said, “It won’t feel too strange being the top seed because we still prepare the same to win every game. It mostly depends on what team comes to play on a given day because there’s only about a



*Samantha Decker/Student Voice*  
**Taylor Karge looks to pass it in to teammate Hayley Rau. The Falcons will play UW-Eau Claire at home on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.**

four point gap between the top and bottom teams in this tournament.”

Mehus added, “It doesn’t matter if you’re the top team or the last team, you need to win the game otherwise your seed doesn’t matter.

UWRF will host the fifth seed UW-Eau Claire Blugolds in the

semifinals. The Falcons look to make history with a win as they stand at 0-5 all-time in the semi-final match-up. The game is set for Thursday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.

The whole Falcon women’s basketball team hopes to see the fans as enthusiastic as playoff time ap-

proaches. If the fans can add the extra boost like they did on Saturday, there’s no guessing how far this team can go.



*Samantha Decker/Student Voice*  
**Left: The Falcons box out after a shot goes up on Saturday, Feb. 20 at home in Karges. Right: UWRF fans cheer on the Falcons to a victory. The game was a white out.**



*Samantha Decker/Student Voice*  
**Left, left to right: Senior Richell Mehus boxes out opponent after a show goes up as teammate, Brynn Liljander looks on. Right: The Falcons huddle up before game time.**



# Men’s basketball advances to WIAC Tournament Semifinals

Kris Bradley  
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The UW-River Falls men’s basketball team pulled off a victory against UW-Whitewater in the first round of the WIAC Tournament, Wednesday, Feb. 24, at home in the Karges Center. After losing in the regular season to the Warhawks twice, the Falcons were able to control the ball for most of the game.

Fans came out in impressive numbers, dressed in red to support their 4<sup>th</sup> ranked Falcons. The Warhawks ended their regular season ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the conference. Despite the Warhawks ending the season ranked lower, they were favored to win this game.

The teams kept it close for most of the first half. The Falcons and Warhawks were virtually tied in stats at halftime with 16 rebounds each. However, UWRF managed to head to the locker room leading UWW 37-31.

The second half seemed to be a different game with Whitewater’s Trinson White dominating the Falcons offensively. The Warhawks managed to get within one point of UWRF, but the Falcons quickly took back control.

Tensions were high as the teams fought for the first round victory. So much so that UWW’s Isaac Quinn was ejected from the game after he attempted to fight Falcon’s senior, Connor Goodwin. After this, UWRF was able to keep their momentum and finish strong, winning 80-66.

UWRF will play in the WIAC Tournament Semifinal on Friday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. The location and team is TBD.



Tori Schneider/Student Voice  
**Jack Herum tries to dribble around a UW-Whitewater defender and teammate Jon Christensen in Karges Center.**



Tori Schneider/Student Voice  
**Connor Goodwin is held back by his teammates as tempers rise between the Falcons and UW-Whitewater Warhawks on the court of Karges Center on Wednesday, Feb. 24 during the first round of the WIAC tournament.**



Tori Schneider/Student Voice  
**Connor Goodwin goes up for a close-range shot.**



Tori Schneider/Student Voice  
**Sophomore guard Devin Buckley goes up for a shot against a UW-Whitewater defender.**

# UWRF student sets out to bring baseball back to campus

Kate Vruwink  
Falcon News Service

For the past 14 years, not a single game of baseball has been played at a competitive level by the UW-River Falls Falcons. One student has set out to change that.

Freshman Aaron Mamer stepped into Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Gregg Heinselman’s office the first week of the spring semester with the idea to start a baseball club on campus.

Mamer heard that Heinselman had a history in baseball and was looking for someone to be the advisor for a new club.

“Aaron popped into my office, probably the first week of classes this semester, and said, ‘I understand you’re the guy I need to talk to about starting a baseball club,’” Heinselman said. Mamer could not be reached for comment.

With a history of 50 years with the sport, some spent playing and some spent coaching, Heinselman is familiar with what it takes to have a baseball team, and agreed to come on board.

However, the process to become a sports club is quite the lengthy ordeal.

Ryan Rudesill, assistant director of Campus Recreation, said it can take years to be able to go from idea to reality.

“The process to become a sport club can be long but rewarding for dedicated students who are interested in starting a

new club,” he said in an email interview. “From start to finish, it can take over three years to go from an idea of starting a club to a full status sport club.”

To achieve such a title the group of interested students first has to become a recognized student organization (RSO). This occurs through the approval from the Student Involvement Office and then Student Senate. So far, Mamer has succeeded in getting the baseball club approved by both.

Next, the RSO has to meet with Rudesill to go over the basic questions a sports club would have to face to see if the club is feasible. If all checks out, the RSO has to remain as such for one full academic year, and then it can apply to be a sports club.

After being accepted as a sports club, the group has to begin with no annual budget, but is able to raise money it may need to join a league. In January of its first year as a sports club, the group can request a budget for the following year.

According to Heinselman, during his 11 years on the UWRF campus there have been two other attempts at starting a baseball club. Neither attempt got past finding an advisor, and thus were unsuccessful. However, he said that Mamer has a lot of energy and is motivated to seeing this attempt through.

“From a student development standpoint I give him a lot of credit for saying, ‘Hey this doesn’t exist here. I think there’s interested individuals in this opportunity. Why don’t I lead as a first-year student?’” Heinselman said.

If the baseball club were to get approved, the organization would have its work cut out for it in terms of getting everything ready to hit the field.

First, it would need to find a space to practice and play. Because there is no UWRF baseball field, the club would either need to partner with the city or the public schools.

Next, the club would have to be accepted into a league. There is a National Club Baseball Association (NCBA) for college club teams. Wisconsin falls into the Great Lakes West conference, which is made up of six teams already, according to the NCBA website. There are 24 conferences across the nation that are comprised of teams from Division I to Division III schools.

The club’s season would run the month of October, and then from March until mid-May. If the team were to win the conference, there is also a regional tournament and a world series.

Despite all the obstacles in the way, Heinselman said he wants everyone to look at Mamer’s effort in one way.

“Take a step back and say, ‘This is how our club sports are supposed to work. This is how students are supposed to engage,’” he said. “It’s kind of neat to see that play out that way so far.”

If it continues to play out that way, Mamer could be one of the first players wearing a UWRF baseball jersey to step on the field and bring baseball back to the Falcons.

# ‘Deadpool’ entertains with crude, hilarious humor



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

It has been some time since movie-goers have witnessed a reality breaking, wise-cracking anti-hero that everyone can love in theaters, and it suffices to say that Deadpool is that new character, serving up all the humor and violence he has been so well known for in Marvel comics.

And it’s any wonder as to how the merc with a mouth made it to the big screen. As years have gone by people and the superhero media that have taken in have become more aware of this character and his insane and chaotic adventures, but popularity has brought him into theaters and brought him into hearts like a bullet to the chest.

For those not in the know, Deadpool explains it all. Wade Wilson is a soldier for hire, doing the generally unfavorable jobs of the world, who falls in love with a woman who is just as messed up as he is. He is maddeningly in love, but is diagnosed with cancer that will kill him in a short period of time.

However, a very shady group of people toss him down a ladder, saying that if he submits to some experiments then he will not only be cured, but better than ever. And like a fool, Wilson agrees.

After being tortured and mutilated through experiments, Wilson gets free from his captors but is left scarred, and he wants revenge. Through his sharp skills, sharper blade, and his sharpest wit Wilson begins a bloody but

insanely funny crusade to track down the people who screwed his life, becoming the walking, talking anarchy that is Deadpool.

My description covers everything, but the film does amazingly well combining the back-story and the current events that Deadpool undertakes in the film, never feeling overly long, boring, or even disjointed. It is all quite easy to follow.

What helps the plot move along is the way it is written. This is by far the best script that could be done to introduce Deadpool to the public. Every word that drips from his mask-covered mouth is comedy gold, from raunchy jokes to cultural references and to just plain violent acts.

While this type of humor may not be for everyone, it cannot be denied that it is done well. Whereas many other movies who attempt this type of raunchy humor, they tend to either go too far, drive a joke into the ground, or just tell it badly. But Deadpool is helped by several things.

All the jokes are done well and fit in with the foul mouthed protagonist, the world which they are placed in is like a playground of destruction already and can be bounced off the action, and none of it feels pushed to the levels of cartoony or gritty.

And this is all tied together by Ryan Reynolds as the titular character, who has since solidified himself now as the definitive live-action Deadpool. Almost as if to make up for his bad past roles in superhero films, he plays the role of Deadpool with such faith and enthusiasm that it is hard not to love him, even in spite of all the carnage he commits.

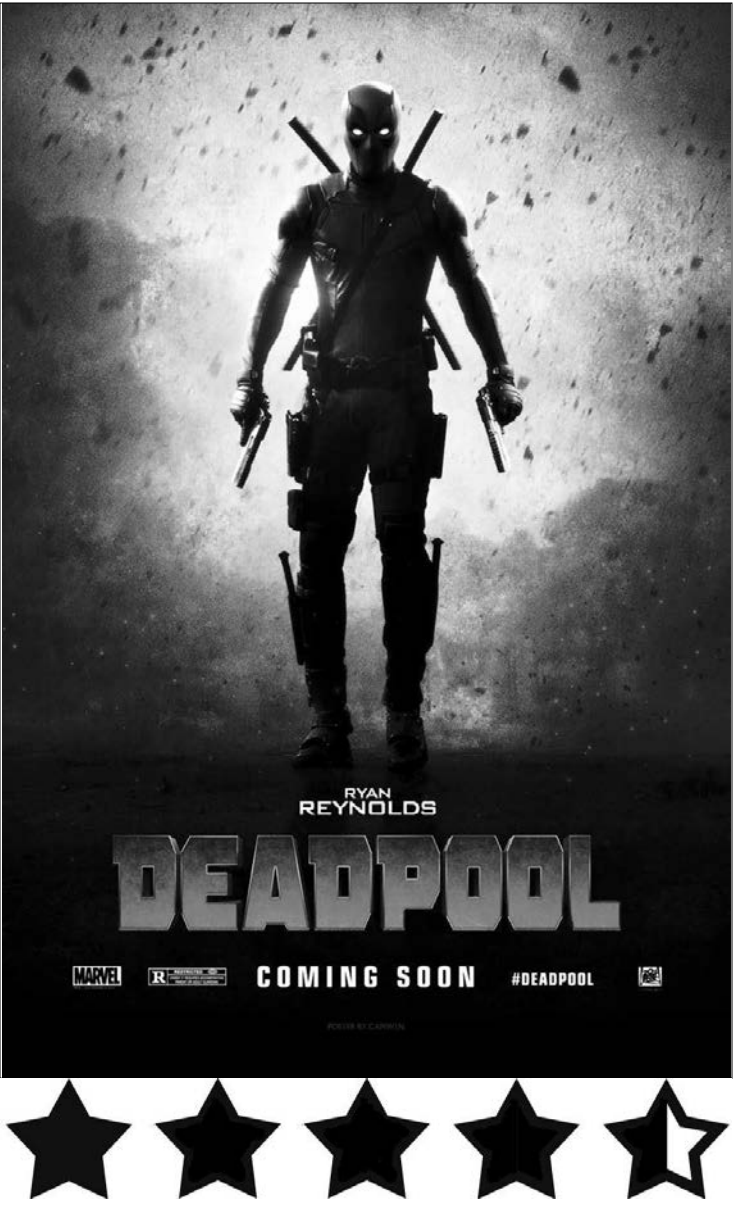
Tim Miller was the director, and major applause should be given to him considering this is his first major feature. His direction ties everything together, and makes it all look clean and well put together.

Even audiences seemed to treat Deadpool as a breath of fresh air. Mine was bursting with laughter all the way through, and I was glad to know it was well earned.

All in all, I would say film-going audiences are glad to finally have a character that can indulge them in their snarky, cynical, and satirical tendencies, not bending to the studios who want so badly to keep Marvel for everyone.

Deadpool is chock-full with jokes that prick and stab at the industry that brought it into existence, and it holds no punches at pointing out the obvious and that which we all know.

I am thankful to have Deadpool in our now long standing canon of superhero films, and I believe this is only the start of something bloody but beautiful. But mostly bloody.



Ryan Funes is a junior at River Falls majoring in journalism with a minor in art history. In his personal time he enjoys all facets of popular culture, discussing the influence of the media, and desperately trying to find the chance to sing a drinking song with all his friends.

# Jason Isbell continues to rise from the ashes with Minneapolis performance

Matthew Clark

Reviewer

There have been many twists and turns that have led Jason Isbell to where he stands today. Through much of his adult life, Isbell has struggled with alcohol, drama with his old band Drive-by Truckers, and the divorce from his first wife. Recently, Isbell has seen brighter days. After an intervention with singer songwriter Ryan Adams, and Isbell’s then girlfriend, Amanda Shires, Isbell went into rehab for his drinking. Once sober, Isbell married Shires while reclaiming his musical career, releasing some of his most commercially and critically successful material ever. In Minneapolis on Monday, all of those detours and shortcuts were worn on the singer’s sleeve as he played to a sold out crowd at the Northrop Auditorium. While most detest the delay and trouble of a detour and quickly latch on to as many short cuts as they can find, Isbell has found a way to embrace both and find a balance within himself and the people around him. Monday’s performance was a celebration of his new found fame, his recent Grammy award, and most importantly, his new-found happiness.

The show started promptly at 7:30 p.m. with opening act Shovels and Rope from Charleston, South Carolina. As ticketholders were still filling into their seats, Shovels and Rope delivered a fulfilling and satisfying show. The band, comprising only of married couple Michael and Cary Ann Hearst, performed an exciting set of songs picked from all over their catalog. Their mix of outlaw country and blues rock provided enough of a wakeup call for spectators coming in from the dark and cold February night. Once all signs of Shovels and Rope were cleared and nearly every seat in the auditorium had been claimed, Jason Isbell, Amanda Shires, and Isbell’s band, The 400 Unit, walked on stage while the crowd cheered over the Rod Stewart song playing from the P.A. The band, ready to play, grabbed their instruments in front of a background of fake stained glass that made the stage look like a southern church.

Starting with “24 Frames,” the lead single from 2015’s, *Something More Than Free*, Isbell and company quickly found a groove that would propel them into a level of quality not seen from many modern artists. The song, which discusses the challenges and new perspectives brought on by divorce and other personal trauma, painted the picture of where Isbell has been, where he is now, and where he’s going. The lines “you thought god was an architect/well now you know/he’s something like a pipe bomb ready to blow” echoed in the auditorium as the line not only meant something to Isbell but also to many members of the audience. Isbell continued on with “Palmetto Rose,” which showed his ability to weave a powerful chorus with a funky bluesy beat. The show continued with



Photo courtesy of All Eyes Media  
Jason Isbell performed on Feb. 22 at the Northrop Auditorium.

select cuts from his current album and his breakthrough 2013 record, *Southeastern*. To appease the Drive-by Trucker fans, Isbell played the fan favorites “Decoration Day” and “Never Gonna Change.” Both tunes displayed Isbell’s strong yet understated guitar skills. Isbell’s love letter to his wife, “Cover Me Up,” showed the real musical and romantic connection between the singer and Shires. The blend of their harmonies was one of the most remarkable moments of the show. After a finale of “Children of Children,” the band returned for an encore of the crowd favorite “Elephant” and the folk jam, “Codeine.” “Codeine” allowed the band to let loose and have fun with the music. The sing-along chorus caused the whole auditorium to break out in song.

It’s hard to say where Jason Isbell is headed. Within a matter of years, he has climbed from playing the Turf Club in St. Paul to selling out large rooms like the Northrop Auditorium and picking up a Grammy along the way. While *Southeastern* may have put him on the map as a solo artist and *Something More Than Free* has cemented his place in Americana music, anyone walking out of Monday’s show can’t help to think that this isn’t where the upward movement stops. I would find it hard to believe that Isbell thinks that this is where he plateaus. Although Isbell’s recent performances and albums would be considered the best by any other artist, Isbell knows that Monday’s performance wasn’t all he can do. On top of that, Isbell knows that *Something More Than Free* isn’t the best he has in him. Isbell is a classic artist in the making and like all other timeless artists he’s not looking for an end point. Isbell is just looking for the next stepping stone.

Matt Clark is a junior journalism student. On campus he is an active DJ at WRFW as well as the news editor for the Student Voice. In his free time, Matt is an active guitarist, playing in succesful rock bands in the Midwest. Matt hopes to one day become a music journalist and work in radio.

# Broz Bar offers good drinks, lacks in weekday atmosphere

Tori Schneider

Reviewer

For the rest of the semester, I will be reviewing the bars in River Falls every other week. I plan to evaluate the environment,

the drinks and the service. I’m going to give the bars ratings of 0-5, zero being the worst and five being the best.

February 23, 1995, is the date listed on my ID as the day I was born. Exactly 21 years after that date, this past Monday, I walked into Broz bar with high expectations for how I would experience by 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. In my head, I pictured myself walking in and for the bouncer to realize it was my birthday and get me pumped up before I entered the bar. I thought the bar would be full of people dancing and drinking and for the bartender to let me drink for free on my day.

The bouncer didn’t even question my ID or tell me happy birthday. He didn’t even remove the headphones from his ears. Why was he wearing headphones? I heard that Broz’s Monday night karaoke brings in quite a few people, but the crowd was very thin when my four friends and I arrived.

The bartender, however, did not disappoint me. He gave me a free shot of apple pie right away when he served me the “stoplight shots” that my friend Kris ordered for me. I struggled to stomach those. Broz has two-for-one drinks six days a week from 10 p.m. until 1 a.m. My friends took advantage of it, but my newly 21-self wanted to try some new things. I decided to try a seven and seven, which is Seagrams 7 whiskey and 7-Up. I think that I thought it would be good since I like whiskey, and it has classy connotations. As with a lot of things about my birthday, the drink didn’t live up to my expectations.

My friend Jack decided to sing Hypnotize by Biggie Smalls and I joined in at the end with the woman’s back-up vocals. I’ve always enjoyed that song, but I never realized how vulgar the words were until I saw them on the karaoke screen.

After a while I got sick of the seven and seven and I wanted an old fashioned, my all-time favorite drink. Old fashioned are an extremely popular drink in Northeast Wisconsin where I’m from. Disappointingly, not all the bartenders in River Falls know what they are so I was really excited when the Broz bartender said “I sure do.” When he muddled and orange slice and a cherry, I knew it was going to be good and it was delicious!

I give Broz on Monday night a score of two out of five. Don’t worry Broz lovers -- I will go again on a weekend and reevaluate.



Tori Schneider is an aspiring photojournalist. She enjoys cats, Twittering and saving the earth.

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