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STUDENT VOICE

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UW-River Falls takes steps to become an inclusive campus

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UW-River Falls is putting its title as an “inclusive campus” into action by creating an office focused on students who are underrepresented at the university through programming and education.

The creation of an office that focuses on campus inclusivity was a year-long effort by the Student Senate during the 2015-2016 school year to make UWRF a safe and inclusive campus for everybody.

In the late fall semester, resolution was passed by the Senate to show support for a diversity and inclusivity position within the university, which was then approved by Chancellor Dean Van Galen. Through meetings between university officials, Senate and identity-based student organizations, the diversity and inclusivity position was split into two positions, director and co-

Every university within the UW System either has an office or active programs focused on diversity and inclusivity.

ordinator, and the Inclusive Campus Engagement Office was created.

JJ Knapp, current Senate student affairs director who was part of the effort to create such a position said that the university’s lack of resources and facilities for the LGBTQIA community made the creation of such an office crucial. Many times, Knapp said, the identity-based student organizations on campus held the sole responsibility of offering guidance to students who did not feel welcomed at the university and hold educational programs focused on making the campus more inclusive.

“The university is here to nourish and educate all of us, but it’s also to help us grow as individuals and become more inclusive in our thinking and also just to help take care of each other,” said Knapp. “That was my biggest issue, was the fact that the university didn’t support it as a priority for so many years.”

When it comes to inclusivity efforts around Wisconsin, every university within the UW System either has an office

or active programs focused on diversity and inclusivity. UW-Stout, for example, has had an LGBTQIA Program Office since 2008 that offers resources such as a peer mentor program, safe space training and open discussion events.

The Inclusive Campus Engagement Office will be working with students who are underrepresented on campus, such as students of color, to promote advocacy, programming and education around issues that such students are facing within the university. This will be done through outreach to faculty, staff and major student populations with education and partnering

“For example, there has been incidents in that past where students have been mis-gendered in class, so we would want to talk about gender pronouns or gender identity so all of our students feel welcome on campus,” said Elness.

One program that is currently being developed is “Check Yourself...”, an educational campaign to teach students about hurtful language and being aware of how what you say can be interpreted by other students. “Check Yourself...” posters are now visible throughout campus.

There will also be several training and speaking events planned for this fall semester through the new office, including Ally Training events in October to learn about gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and ally (GLBTA) communities and issues within a safe space. There will also be a speaker in November about understanding the difference between sex and gender and the impact of gender roles.

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Elness said the goal of having educational programs and events is not only to make UWRF a more inclusive campus, but to create understanding and informed adults that are ready to go out into the world.

“We really are living in a world that is getting smaller because of the ability to connect through social media and understanding that our workforce and population is ever-changing,” said Elness. “So tw.”

Elness said that the Inclusive Campus Engagement Office is still a fairly new office on campus, and therefore is still developing a sense of purpose and what should be done to make UWRF inclusive. Elness encourages all students to email the office at inclusion@uwrf.edu with

feedback, concerns and ideas.

“A lot of what I want to do on campus this year is get a pulse of where our students are when it comes to feeling comfortable with these conversations or understanding them,” said Elness. “I think we’re at a good starting point, but we really need to progress much more quickly because we’ve been so behind for the past couple years.”



Felicia Walker, an assistant to the gender and sexuality coordinator, tells student Kyle Manning about the Inclusive Campus Engagement Office’s upcoming Ally Training event on Wednesday, Oct. 19. The office used KINDRF’s National Taco Day celebration to promote their upcoming Ally Training event.

Tori Lynn Schneider/Media Intern

with the identity-based student organizations on campus. Within the office will be a position that will focus specifically on LGBTQIA issues on campus. Nathan Elness, UWRF’s new gender and sexuality outreach coordinator, said that his responsibilities will include educational programming and advocacy that is focused on issues that have occurred or can occur on campus.

UW-River Falls campus, city have plans for an active shooter scenario

Lisa Erickson
Falcon News Service

After recent mass shootings and stabbings, local government and university officials say they are prepared for the unexpected.

Mass shootings are a trend that continues to occur around the United States in places that people usually feel safe, such as on the campus of a university in a small town in western Wisconsin.

“There isn’t one person who isn’t working diligently to be sure we are prepared. I can’t stress that enough,” said Connie Smith, director of risk management for UW-River Falls. The campus already has a good communication process in place, added Smith.

The university is working on a written lock down policy that would be shared with everyone on campus so there would be a clear understanding of what the expectations are in an active shooter incident, according to Smith.

Mass shootings can happen anywhere and at any time. In the past year there have been shootings at college campuses, schools, shopping malls, businesses and night clubs.

In 2014, the FBI initiated a study of active shooter incidents between 2000-2013. The study revealed that most incidents occurred in either businesses or school environments. According to the study, the best way for people to survive an active shooter incident is to know what to do ahead of time.

Both the River Falls Police Department and the UWRF police train extensively for incidents that involve firearms. “Our SWAT team trains extensively for active shooters and we also do a lot of incident sharing,” said River Falls Police Sgt. Denton Anderson. When an incident happens, a law enforcement agency will share the information with other agencies so everyone is informed,



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
These signs are found on doors all over campus.

added Anderson. All River Falls law enforcement officers are trained with an FBI program tailored to counter active threats. The local police also work closely with UW-River Falls campus police, said Anderson.

Recent Wisconsin laws have changed allowing people to open carry and concealed firearms on campuses, but campus officials and local business owners can override it.

“Open carry is not allowed on campus,” UWRF Police Chief Karl Fleury said in a phone interview. In addition to no open carry, all the buildings on campus have posted signs at entrances stating no weapons are allowed in buildings. Open carry laws allow people to carry a fire arms out in the open.

“We are a city within a city. We have over 6,100 students, plus many faculty and staff,” said Fleury. “The student population is half the size of River Falls,” he added. The campus police go through the same training as city police officers.

This is not something the university takes lightly, said Smith. Being prepared is key.

“I don’t know what else we can do,” said the president of the University of Wisconsin System, Ray Cross, in a phone interview. Campus police have gone through all the tabletop exercises and simulations preparing for active shooters, he added.

The university and River Falls police departments have conducted active shooter simulations on the campus grounds. The latest simulation was this past August.

In 2012, the city of Houston, Texas, produced an informational video after the mass shooting in Aurora, Colorado, where 12 people were killed and many more were injured at a movie theater. The video is called “Run-Hide-Fight.”

Lack of information about referendum causes voter confusion

Sophia Koch
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A referendum was voted on last week, thus passing an amendment that would turn the current student government system into a “Student Government Association.” 172 people voted, 147 in favor, and very few seemed to actually understand what they were voting on.

The referendum asked students, “Do you support amending the Student Association Constitution to allow for a student government association at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls?” A quick Google search for ‘student government association’ turns up nothing that helps a person understand the implications of the amendment. If a voter were to then look at the Student Senate website on FalconSync, they would find, under “Governing Documents,” a collection of agendas and minutes through which they might sift for answers. However, Sam Murphy, a senior majoring in business administration and former chief justice of the Student Judiciary, feels that many people simply voted “yes” without taking the time to do the research.

“I think part of it is, people don’t want to think to themselves, ‘I have no idea what this is.’ They want to vote somehow, and if it’s on the ballot, somebody must have thought it was a good idea,” Murphy said.

Simply put, the latest set of amendments will rearrange the structure of the current student government. As it stood before, the president and the Executive Board held a lot of power. The Executive Board was appointed by the president (not elected by students), and the president had the authority to tell them what to do.

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News Briefs:

UW-River Falls named one of best in the Midwest for the sixth consecutive year

For the sixth consecutive year, the UW-River Falls has been named one of the best colleges in the Midwest according to the nationally known education services company, The Princeton Review. UWRF is one of 156 institutions in 12 Midwestern states and one of four UW System institutions deemed “Best in the Midwest.”

The 156 colleges included in the “Best in the Midwest” list are located in 12 states: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. UWRF, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee are the four UW System institutions included in The Princeton Review’s list of the “Best in the Midwest.”

The Princeton Review survey asks students to rate their colleges on several issues – from the accessibility of their professors to the quality of their science lab facilities – and answer questions about themselves, their fellow students and their campus life.

The Princeton Review is a leading tutoring, test prep and college admission services company. Every year, it helps millions of college and graduate school-bound students achieve their education and career goals through online and in person courses delivered by a network of more than 4,000 teachers and tutors, online resources and its more than 150 print and digital books published by Penguin Random House. For more information, visit www.princetonreview.com.

“UW-River Falls has been recognized by The Princeton Review for the past six years. This is a testament to our mission of helping our students attain their full potential as critical thinkers, effective communicators and leaders by providing engaged and integrated learning experiences,” said UWRF Chancellor Dean Van Galen.

Founded in 1874, UWRF is located in a scenic community just 30 miles from downtown St. Paul, Minnesota. UWRF students are empowered, beginning in their first semester, to participate in hands-on research, global travel and collaborative learning with award-winning and caring faculty.

For more information, visit www.princetonreview.com/bestMWcolleges or email beth.schommer@uwrf.edu.

Fall observatory talks/viewing sessions set at UW-River Falls

The UW-River Falls Physics Department began its fall season of free, public observatory viewings and astronomy discussions on Sept. 27.

The first stargazing session on Tuesday, Sept. 27, began with a talk, “One Year Later: Discoveries at Pluto” by physics Professor Eileen Korenic at 8 p.m. in 271 Centennial Science Hall.

A faculty member and/or student staff each telescope and are available to answer questions at the viewings that follow. Objects seen in the telescopes include planets, globular clusters, open clusters, nebulae, galaxies, moons and double stars.

To verify that the sky is clear enough for viewing, call 715-425-3560 after 6 p.m. or visit www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/Schedule.cfm on the day of the presentation. The talks, set for 8 p.m., will go on as scheduled regardless of the weather.

Since the viewing dome is unheated and the observation deck is outside, visitors should dress appropriately for the weather. The viewings and talks are suitable for all ages.

Other viewings this fall include:

- Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 8 p.m., “Boo! Halloween and Other Cross-Quadrature Days” presented by Korenic in 271 Centennial Science Hall, followed by an 8:30 p.m. telescope viewing on the third floor observatory deck, if the sky is clear. Uranus and Neptune should be visible.
- Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 8 p.m., “Location, Location, Location: Milky Way Stars Have Moved” presented by Korenic in 271 Centennial Science Hall, followed by an 8:30 p.m. telescope viewing on the third floor observatory deck, if the sky is clear. Uranus should be visible.

For more information about the observatory, email glenn.spiczack@uwrf.edu. For more information about pre-observatory talks, email eileen.korenic@uwrf.edu or call the UWRF Physics Department at 715-425-3560.

UWRF student speaks about summer conference at first AAUW meeting

The first River Falls American Association of University Women branch meeting was held Sept. 13. Scholarship recipient Tori Schneider was the featured speaker.

Schneider, a second-semester junior journalism major at UW-River Falls and chief photographer for the Student Voice campus newspaper, was the recipient of the branch’s award to attend NCCWSL, The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, at the University of Maryland last June.

The conference is designated as the premier conference for collegiate women leaders.

At the four-day conference there were opportunities to attend various workshops dealing with networking, leadership, pay equity and other relevant topics.

Moreover, Schneider was able to hear a number of “women of distinction” give inspiring presentations to motivate the many qualified student leaders attending.

Schneider shared her experience with AAUW branch members and guests at the first meeting of the year.

She was selected through an extensive application process that began last winter. The branch fundraising efforts provided money to support her and future recipients.

The Annual River Falls AAUW Book Sale is a main source of funding for this opportunity.

It’s being held again this fall from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Oct. 13, 14, 20 and 21, and from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Oct. 15 and 22.

The sale will be held at the storefront between Bo Jons Flowers, 222 N. Main St., and the River Falls Food Pantry. Donation barrels to drop off books for the sale are available at Dick’s Market and Family Fresh Market grocery stores.

Community donations and attendance at the sale are most welcome.

Ellsworth Immunization Clinics announced for October

The Pierce County Health Department’s monthly Ellsworth Immunization Clinics are held on the second Thursday from 2-4 p.m. and fourth Wednesday from 3-5 p.m. at the Health Department at 412 W. Kinne St. in the Pierce County Office Building in Ellsworth.

The dates for this month are Thursday, Oct. 13 and Wednesday, Oct. 26. Please call for an appointment.

Due to changes in the Vaccine for Children’s program, the Pierce County Health Department can only vaccinate children through 18 years of age who are Medicaid eligible, uninsured, American Indian or Alaska Native or have insurance that does not cover vaccinations.

Some adult vaccinations are available for a fee. Call for information.

If you have questions or want to make an appointment, please call the Health Department at 715-273-6755.

October AAUW meeting to feature founder of Wisconsin Alliance for Women’s Health

The October American Association of University Women branch meeting will initiate the program focus for the year “Women’s Health” with a presentation by Sara Finger, founder and executive director of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women’s Health (WAWH).

Finger works to advance comprehensive women’s health in Wisconsin by engaging, educating, empowering and mobilizing individuals and organizations. As the Wisconsin Regional Coordinator for Raising Women’s Voices and the National Women’s Law Center’s State of Women initiative grantee, WAWH has been recognized as Wisconsin’s health care

reform leader for women. Finger has raised awareness of and appreciation for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by developing resources, coordinating state partners, driving media coverage, and participating in policy development to ensure that Wisconsin implements the ACA in a way that achieves the best possible outcomes for women and their families.

The program will be held at the River Falls Public Library at 7 p.m. following the 6:30 business meeting.

Student Senate Update: Oct. 4

Three motions were passed at the Oct. 4 Student Senate meeting:

Student Senate Governance Office Allocation: A motion to allocate \$8,000 from the Student Senate Funding Pool to finance the purchase of five desktop computers and two laptops for the Student Government Association Office.

• In Favor: 18; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 1

Allocation of AFAB Single Event Funding: A motion to allocate \$9,000 from the Student Senate Funding Pool to the AFAB single event funding pool.

• In Favor: 17; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 2

Creation of Director of Marketing and Outreach: A motion to create the Director of Marketing and Outreach position and allocate \$2,000 from the Student Senate Funding Pool to compensate in the form of a scholarship.

• In Favor: 18; Opposed: 0; Abstained: 1

The information in this update comes from the minutes posted to the Student Senate FalconSync page every week. Student Senate meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

Campus Events Calendar:

- **Diversity Dialogues: Privilege 101**
Friday, Oct. 7, 2-3 p.m.
Involvement Center, University Center
- **Pet Therapy**
Friday, Oct. 7, 3-4 p.m.
Career Services, Hagestad Hall
- **Walk to Empower**
Saturday, Oct. 8, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Glen Park
- **Free Monday Meal**
Monday, Oct. 10, 6-7 p.m.
Journey Center
- **Why do Catholics do That?**
Monday, Oct. 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Newman Center
- **Career Services Networking Social**
Tuesday, Oct. 11, 5 p.m.
Falcon’s Nest, University Center

Visit uwrf.edu for a full schedule of events

if I Ain't Tired, You Ain't Tired



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Weekly UWRF Crime Report

Tuesday, Sept. 27

- A suicide attempt was reported at Hathorn Hall at 4:52 p.m.
- An unwanted subject was reported at Stratton Hall at 10:06 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 28

- A drug complaint was reported at Parker Hall at 11:12 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 1

- Lost property was reported at North Hall at 2:33 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 4

- Vandalism was reported at 321 E. Cascade Ave. at 6:03 p.m.

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

Campus is prepared for active shooter

Continued from Page 1.

The goal of the video was to help inform individuals of what to do if they encounter an active shooter. This video has been used for training by multiple police departments across the United States, including the River Falls police department and the university police.

Recently, the UW-Madison police department made a video that depicts a school or classroom environment with the same components of the Houston “Run-Hide-Fight” video.

In the case of an active threat, UWRF has a mass emergency alert system that sends emails, texts and voice mails to anyone who signs up for it.

Schools and universities that bear the responsibility of caring for students are prepared, but local businesses rely on police for help in incidents with an active shooter.

Local bars in River Falls can be filled with people most evenings and weekends. A popular spot is Broz Sports Bar, which can be packed on weekends.

In the case of an active threat, UWRF has a mass emergency alert system that sends emails, texts and voice mails to anyone who signs up for it.

“We don’t have anything formal in place,” said Broz bar manager Derrick Arntz. The bar doesn’t allow guns because of the alcohol, added Arntz. It’s not something the management really have had to think about, but maybe should, said Arntz.

The popular bar has systems in place to help stop trouble before it starts.

The bar has bouncers on duty standing at the front door checking IDs and they look for weapons during the busiest times. But, if trouble does arise, they are going to rely on the police. Arntz said he assumes the police are prepared.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security made a booklet informing people about active shooters and how to respond. According to the booklet, active shooter situations are unpredictable and happen fast, so people should beware of situations and know what to do. The booklet can be downloaded as a PDF at www.dhs.gov.

Both the River Falls Police department and the UWRF campus police encourage people to be informed and have a plan. The Houston “Run-Hide-Fight” video is available on YouTube. The new UW-Madison police video can be found on the Risk Management webpage on the UWRF website. Citizens can also access information about surviving an active shooter incidence on the UWRF Risk Management webpage.

City, grassroots group study impact of removing Kinnickinnic River dams

Ace Sauerwein

Falcon News Service

The City of River Falls and Friends of the Kinni (FOTK) have hired three companies to do feasibility studies on removing the two dams located on the Kinnickinnic River, which could lead to restoring the community’s namesake waterfalls.

FOTK started in 2013 as a group of community members who became “engaged with the city of River Falls’ relicensing attempt (for a new 30-year license to operate its hydroelectric facility) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,” said spokesperson Michael Page. Since then, the city abandoned the attempt at a 30-year license, and applied for a five-year license.

Now, the city has started the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Planning Process.

“It’s a big, huge, long title for basically the city hiring a company to come in and conduct this planning process for the next two years,” Page said. “As a part of that corridor planning process, there is a decision on whether or not to maintain the hydroelectric facility, therefore — whether or not to remove the dams.” The decision will be made next fall by a committee composed of community members.

Short Elliott Hendrickson, which will prepare the plan, is a St. Paul-based company that improves “the quality of life by designing safer, more sustainable infrastructure for local, state and federal units of government,” according to its website.

FOTK has hired an outside firm of its own, Inter-Fluve, a river restoration company. The group is conducting a dam removal feasibility study to determine a cost estimate and a general layout of the plan.

“It’s a very high level plan, so it’s not the final designs, and the cost estimate will be fairly rough. That (estimate) is going to be based on the sediment analysis that Inter-Fluve just con-



Amara Young/Student Voice
River Falls residents involved with Friends of the Kinni have been lobbying for removal of the river dam since 2013.

ducted for the City of River Falls,” said Page.

Inter-Fluve has also brought in a third party to draw the designs. LVBrown Studios of Madison was hired to draw up pictures and designs of what the area could look like without the dams.

Although there are different firms being brought in on this project, Community Development Director Buddy Lucero acknowledges there are positives and negatives to this story.

“What we’re trying to achieve through the planning process and public engagement is to look at both sides of that and weigh that,” Lucero said. “You may have heard the positives already. The negative is a cost issue. Even in a demolition of a building there’s a cost issue. There’s a cost of taking that building down and what impact it has on its surrounding.”

However, the results from Inter-Fluve’s study show “it doesn’t look like there would be a major impact of letting the water out or the amount of silt in the area or chemicals in the water itself,” said Lucero.

Lucero’s main goal is to get a broad look from both sides to make the dam removal decision as simple and efficient as possible. The next step is public en-

gagement.

“We want to hear what the whole general public has to say about the river, the lakes, the dams, the hydro,” Lucero said. “We want to get their feedback on should they stay or should they go.”

Along with public engagement, “one of the biggest things that people can do is just work this into conversations. We need to tell people about it that aren’t aware of what’s going on,” said Page. The decision to remove the dams will not be looming for a while, but the debate will continue to heat up as the impact and consequences become more apparent.

Once active UWRF Pigeon Lake camp now on the market

Tori Schneider

Falcon News Service

Pigeon Lake Field Station, an educational camp in northern Wisconsin that has been under the stewardship of UW-River Falls for almost 35 years, has been put up for sale.

Located near Drummond in the Chequamegon National Forest, the facility is owned by the Board of Commissioners of Public Land (BCPL), leased by the UW System and has been operated by UWRF since 1982.

The camp was used by the UW System to offer courses in art, biology, business and teacher education. It was also used by private groups.

Buildings on the grounds include 16 resident cabins, four suite-style cabins, a dining hall, four academic build-

Located near Drummond in the Chequamegon National Forest, the facility is owned by the Board of Commissioners of Public Land (BCPL), leased by the UW System and has been operated by UWRF since 1982.

ings, four bathroom facility buildings, a lodge, a maintenance garage, a storage shed and kilns.

“It used to be a very popular destination to go to,” said Cara Rubis, director of the University Center and dining operations. Rubis was in charge of the day-to-day operations of the camp. “A lot of times a few different campuses throughout the UW System would send their resident assistants up there for week-long training, cross country teams would train up there. Classes would be taught up there where

students throughout the UW System could take classes for credit.”

With the downturn of the economy in 2008-2009 and decreasing interest in Pigeon Lake programs, the camp began to struggle financially. It has been closed since October 2014.

“[With the camp] not being mission critical to system and not being mission critical to UWRF, I was directed to work with BCPL and UW System to divest our interest in Pigeon Lake,” said Gregg Heinselman, the associate vice chancellor for Student Affairs. “So we have been on a course for three



University Communications
UWRF’s Pigeon Lake camp was put up for sale recently due to economic downturn resulting in little activity for long periods at the camp.

years to do that. BCPL met in May of 2016 to approve the sale of the property and UW System and the Board of Regents in

June met to approve the sale.”

BCPL, UW System and UWRF will divide the money from the sale of the camp and UWRF hopes to balance its current negative budget from the money that was invested into upkeep of the camp.

According to UW System Board of Regents documents, “the property will be offered at a minimum bid price equal to the appraised value of \$1,325,000.”

Dale Braun, campus planner, attended the camp as a UWRF student in 1980 for resident assistant training, and then again as a UWRF staff member in the early 1990s.

“I particularly enjoyed the meals in the dining hall because they were served family-style and we sat with different people during each meal,” Braun said of his time there as a student. “Also, we had some great conversations around the campfire in the evenings. And one evening I took a canoe ride out in the moonlight.”

Dale Braun, campus planner, attended the camp as a UWRF student in 1980 for resident assistant training, and then again as a UWRF staff member in the early 1990s.

In the 1990s, Braun led a combined effort of camp staff and planners from the UW System administration office to come up with different concept plans for the camp. None of those were ever put into place.

“I saw at that time that the State of Wisconsin would never be able to invest significant funds into the camp, which was unfortunate,” Braun said. “So, now as we are working with the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, it’s sad to see the potential of the camp unrealized.”

Lack of student referendum information causes confusion

Continued from Page 1.

“What we did is we implemented checks and balances,” said Christopher Morgan, current president of the Student Senate. “We now have a government that is representative of a government on a state level or a federal level.” The Student Senate will have more voting authority, and because the senate is elected directly by students, this means that student votes will have a more direct impact on the decisions being made.

In addition to this reform, the current Student Judiciary will be remade into a “Committee on Rules and Oversight,” which will perform the same functions of organizing elections and ensuring that the rest of the student government adheres to the rules. However, the chair/director of this committee (who is elected by his or her peers on the committee) will receive a scholarship for his or her work, essentially making it a paid position.

The wording of the ballot question did not convey any of these implications, and according to the Student Judiciary bylaws, “The question should correctly indicate the outcome that will directly follow from the passage of the referendum...

[and] should not have the potential to confuse or mislead.” The Elections Commission (which is a part of the Student Judiciary and in charge of organizing elections) met on Sept. 29 to discuss whether or not to keep the results of the referendum.

The commission largely agreed that the question alone was not enough to give voters a good idea of what the vote implied. “I even read through it and was confused,” said Peter Vermeland, former Director of Academic Affairs for Student Senate, “and I was on student government last year.”

Ultimately, however, the commission voted 6:1 to keep the question and the results of the vote as they were. Voters, they decided, had the ability to do the research themselves.

“When there’s a proposal and all the minutes are public and everything is there for the voting population to investigate on their own,” said Roderick Babilius, the current Director of Academic Affairs. “Even at a state level, it’s up to the voters to know what they’re voting on.”

The minutes and agendas were indeed available to the public. However, whether or not voters thought to look there and whether or not the minutes and agendas could convey the implications of the vote was another matter entirely. Nathan

Grosse is a third-year French major minoring in sustainability, and he said that, although he voted, he largely learned about the subject by word of mouth.

“Most of the information that I had was just kind of anecdotal,” Grosse said. “[But] sometimes even having a copy of what the amendment is, if you don’t know what that actually implies, that’s not always helpful. Sure, this is what it says, but how does it affect me, our campus? I think that’s the most important information.”

Grosse said that he believes a public statement of some sort detailing the implications of a referendum would be the best way to create an informed voting population, something that lays out what is being proposed and what it will look like in practice. He also said that an uninformed vote can be worse than no vote at all.

“I’m a firm believer that if you choose not to vote on something then you shouldn’t really complain about it much,” said Grosse. “But also, if you voice your opinion and you don’t know what you’re really voting about, you can kinda screw yourself over.”

EDITORIAL

Annual Outdoor Art Installations should be appreciated by all

The 25th Annual Outdoor Art Installations were held on Oct. 5 and 6. The installations featured artwork created by students and faculty, as well as pieces created by full class sections.

The installations make one’s walk to and from class much more interesting and pleasant. It’s as if a new life is given to the campus throughout the two days in which the artwork is featured. Whether it’s the giant David Bowie painting or the display of pipes standing as commentary against the Dakota Access Pipeline, the campus was much more visually stimulating for those two days this year.

Participating in the displays is not restricted to art students, either. Next year, consider participating! The displays are fairly open, so long as they don’t interfere with the surrounding environment.

If participating isn’t so much your forte, take the time to appreciate what is there next year. Maps are always supplied so that one can be sure to see every installation. The grounds around Kleinpell Fine Arts this year, for example, were loaded with displays. From the windows to the walls, art was everywhere.

If not simply looking at the pieces is enough, take advantage of future outdoor installations by participating in the guided walkabout. Every year, a tour of all of the installations is led and one gets to see the artwork critiqued by a professional. This year, it was artist Randy Johnston. Some of the artists behind the pieces also attended, offering additional perspectives into their work and describing their ideas. This gives a wonderful opportunity for one to gain an increased understanding and a new level of appreciation for the work. It might even get you to see the artwork in a new way.

Some of the displays this year were actually interactive. The dreamcatcher installation, for example, allowed one to contribute their own dreams and tie them to the display. Use this to your advantage, and make your voice known.

Of course, not all of the installations should be touched. Be sure to respect the artwork so that this tradition, which has already made it a whopping 25 years, can remain part of this campus environment for many years to come.

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Ask Colleen: No desire to do homework

Colleen Brown

Advice Columnist

Dear Colleen,

I hate homework. I never do it. I’d rather be baiting piranhas with my toes than wasting my days away on this crap. On the rare occasion that I actually do my homework, you’ll find me sitting in some obscure corner in one of these buildings frantically writing 10 minutes before class.

Why do we have to do it? By that I mean WHY IS IT REQUIRED? I pull off at least a B each semester so I’m not worried about my grades, but I feel like it’s taboo if you don’t do your homework. Your teacher thinks you don’t care (I guess part of that is true) and people think you’re a slacker. But it’s not that I don’t care, I just don’t care about reading and writing my spare time outside of class away when I could be doing other things, things like running my organization, going to work and preparing home-cooked meals instead of surviving off of pizza rolls.

Please help me, Colleen! I either need some big inspiration to get this stuff done or a wake-up call.

Sincerely,

No-Homework Nancy

Dear No-Homework Nancy,

First of all, I would like to say that I appreciate your use of imagery and how completely honest you are when asking for advice. When I first read this question I laughed out loud, because it reminded me of myself. I hate homework just as much as the next college student and yourself. Some weeks I survive off of pizza rolls, too. We have all been there. I honestly cannot answer why it is required, but I think that is up to each individual professor. I mean we do pay for college, so why should homework or class attendance be required? I’ll just leave it at that, because that’s another topic or a different day. Anyway, my question for you is: Do you like the classes that you are taking? How about your major?

The reason I bring this up is because maybe it isn’t about the actual homework, but the classes you are doing the homework for. To be completely honest, before I changed

my major, I hated doing my homework and going to class in general. It was dreadful. I felt like it was a waste of my time and nothing could bring me to do it. It makes sense though, because why would anyone want to go to something they didn’t enjoy? When I finally changed my major I came to realize my classes could be enjoyable and I was willing to put the time into them. Right now I am in four literature classes, meaning all I do is read. Like 400 pages a weekend type of thing. That may sound horrible to any other person, but I truly love my classes, which in turn makes me want to succeed in them. Therefore, I am willing to spend five hours on a Saturday reading. I don’t want to just get a good grade, but I actually want to learn and grow as a student, which is really what is important if you ask me.

I’m not trying to scare you by saying you need to change your major, because that might not be the case. I would say trying different classes or mixing it up might help with changing your perspective on homework. I get it; in your spare time the last thing you want to do is homework. What spare time does a student actually have? Try to remember why you came to college. There was obviously something that you wanted to accomplish or a degree you wanted to obtain. It is easy to lose sight on that when you are so busy and caught up in classes, work, trying to maintain a social life, exercising and sleeping every once in awhile. When I am completely swamped and just want cry until the semester is over, I remind myself of why I came to River Falls in the first place. This gives me that little extra inspiration that gets me through the day, more importantly my homework.

Obviously, you must be doing something right if you can pull off getting B’s without doing homework. But what you said about inspiration is very important and I think this will help you with getting some of your homework done. Take classes that inspire you and that you are passionate about. Maybe it is time for a change or maybe you just need to remind yourself why you came to River Falls in the first place. Either way, once you gain this excitement back I think putting in the work outside of class will follow!

Best of luck,

Colleen

Colleen Brown is a senior at UWRF going for an English Literature degree. One thing that makes her qualified for this advice column is that she is a college student trying to make it through, just like everyone else.

Conforming to societal beauty standards as valid as ignoring them

Lauren A. Simenson

Columnist

You know that feeling you get where you’re riding a roller coaster and you are teetering on the top of the big drop? That feeling where your muscles clench, and a swooping sensation of dread settles into the pit of your stomach? I had that same feeling of tense regret last Thursday when I found myself lying on a table, staring into a bright light, with a strip of hot wax waiting to be ripped off my face. And like being on that roller coaster, just waiting for it to go over the edge, it was far too late to turn back.

While there are many drawbacks to growing up in today’s world, I am thankful to come of age in a time where the struggles and pressures of being a woman in today’s world are being recognized in all areas of society. Namely, I am glad that women are talking about all of these insane beauty regimes they do or revolt against. It makes me, and I hope other women, stop and think about why I feel the need to never leave the house without my eyebrows done, or that I should always have perfectly shaved legs.

I have read many essays, opinion pieces and articles about this very issue, on women deciding not to wear makeup or shave to make a stand about taking their own image back from societal pressure, and I applaud and respect what they have to say and about their position on being a woman in the 21st century. I agree with many of those women who feel that they do not want to handle the constant insecurity of not looking like someone else’s idea of perfect and are deciding instead on how they choose to look and act.

I hope to get that same kind of understanding when I express my desire to decide to wear makeup because I like the way that I feel when I wear it, or that being at least somewhat hair-free boosts my confidence and allows me to be less self-conscious. Basically, wearing makeup and getting my

eyebrows and face waxed is something I have decided to do for me. Or at least that was what I was trying to remind myself the other day while I laid perfectly still, with my face as relaxed as I was able, so as to not move around the hot wax cooling on my cheek. And as the white strips of cloth were yanked from my face taking away that wax and the unwanted peach fuzz, I could not help but think to myself, “Why are you doing this again?” Then, “If I pretend this does not hurt, will this actually not hurt?” Or, “Wait, stop the waxing! I don’t care if my face is hairy!” While this internal battle raged on, strips of wax continued to be applied with practiced precision and ripped off without any kind of warning.

After I had emerged from the room with the hot wax and too-bright lighting, my face resembled a cherry tomato with two perfectly crafted eyebrows on top. Along with the feeling of relief that all my peach fuzz had finally been eliminated, I also felt kind of silly – and not just because my face was the same color as Clifford the Big Red Dog. As I left the salon with giant sunglasses perched on the end of my nose to cover up the red, angry marks on my face, I had to wonder about some things. Why I had paid to have my face so abused? Because confidence! Did I need to do this? Probably not. Are my eyebrows perfect and my face smooth? Absolutely. But most importantly, will I be back? I don’t know, maybe. Putting aside what society suggests, what other women think, and how I ultimately feel about such an aggressive procedure, I am glad that above everything else, I have the ability and the space to decide for myself what I want to do and what I don’t want to do, which I think is the best outcome of all.

Lauren Simenson is a junior 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.

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Exploring in River Falls may take going beyond the trail

Sophia Koch

Columnist

Many people know about, probably even visit, Glen Park.

It’s a great place to go read a book on a quiet afternoon or eat lunch on a warm summer’s day, but most people do not look beyond the mowed lawn and the playground sets.

Below the level of the parking lots, where the land drops away into a deep river valley, is a world of trees, streams and paths that become increasingly wild as you move away from the central park.

The most well-known path is likely where the waterfalls are, beneath the Swinging Bridge. The paths are accessible by an asphalt path that runs north and downward from the parking lot next to the tennis court. At the bottom of the hill, the river turns abruptly right and the asphalt turns to dirt, and an adventurous explorer might follow it up and down its winding length, hop across

logs and clamber around rocks until they come to where the river spills over dark, slick rock faces in a series of waterfalls.

For those wishing to get off the beaten path, I recommend a more hidden route just south of the tennis court parking lot. Those who kayak know it as a good place to put in, and those who don’t might know it as the spot where the dam sits. Beyond the kayak loading area is an intricate web of hiking trails that I’ve never even completely explored.

There’s a series of wider trails that run maybe a mile back, some down on the level of the river and others that run up the side of the valley. The trails are lined with heavy, arching growths of trees and underbrush, with the occasional stone ruin where remnants of River Falls’ industrial past once stood.

These wider trails are typically well traversed by local fishermen and joggers, and they in a long, grassy stretch of wide-open space where the city has kept back the trees and placed benches along the edge of the river. It’s a good place for picnics or sitting down with a good book when the weather is

warm.

It is, however, possible to go even further afield.

Beyond the grassy space, where the South Fork comes to meet the main body of the Kinni, there’s a series of narrow trails that branch off in several directions. One goes to the left, and will wind up, down and side-ways along the South Fork, wending tightly between trees before finally spitting a traveler out next to the Rocky Branch Elementary School.

Another branch of the trail snakes off to the right and follows the edge of the Kinni. Fishermen like to access the water from here—you’ll often see them knee-deep in the water with their nets clipped to their backs as they flay the water with their rods—and if you venture far enough, there’s a simple wooden bench set beneath a large willow tree that overlooks the river.

The third branch of the trail—straight ahead—is the most rugged. It goes up, and up, and up even further, and you find yourself at treetop level at the top of the valley. This section of trail is a loop, but it’s a long, hilly goat path and very much not

for the faint of heart. It meanders back and forth, occasionally doubling back and forth on itself and giving the explorer occasional glimpses of the river. You end up walking up and down the side of the valley, and the path often turns rough, steep and easy to trip on. The trees hug closely in on either side, and sunlight from overhead must filter through a thick canopy of leaves to create a mottled, speckled effect on the ground below.

There’s more back there. I’ve spent many a happy afternoon hiking back and forth through the trees and clambering up and down goat paths, and I still do not fully know the extent of the trails that lie hidden behind Glen Park. It’s a fantastic place to hike, and for those fearless enough to try the road less traveled, an endless opportunity to explore.

Sophia Koch is a journalism major and biology minor. She writes a blog and investigates issues pertaining to science and the environment. Her hobbies include camping in the rain and dropping her phone in the river.

Trash can squirrel sightings are a sign of things to come

Bethany Lovejoy

Columnist

I remember walking back from the University Center my freshman year and seeing a squirrel eating a corn dog. Back then I thought it was adorable and immediately uploaded it to my snapchat story, but looking back on it I should have been disgusted.

Everywhere you look on campus is squirrels. They are so acclimatized to us that you can get mere inches of one, nearly touching it. Word of mouth is that a fine can be earned by chasing after the squirrels. They are majestic animals who just so happen to inhabit the campus, yet we treat them like house cats.

It is not rare to see these animals munch-

ing on food from the Commons, or being offered foods by freshmen. They watch with eager eyes during events for the mere sign of junk food to come their way. Buffalo Wild Wings, Chartwells, Pete’s Creek, and C-Store delights have replaced their normal diets of nuts. Outside of Grimm Hall lives a squirrel who constantly winds his way in and out of the trash can.

I know I’m not the only one who has seen them. I often turn on snapchat only to see their furry faces and beady eyes peering back at me, hunched over tacos and Cheetos.

While freshman worry about the freshman fifteen, squirrels have to worry about maintaining the college squirrel lifestyle. A college squirrel is a squirrel who does not dodge others and grows a belly fat with the leftovers of disappointed seniors. While students complain of Chartwells and its quality, a college squirrel reveres the catering company that is kind enough to provide so

many dry muffins and stale corndogs. Squirrels are too opportunistic to have standards as high as college students, any food is good food to them.

Squirrels shouldn’t be like this, however. Squirrels should be wild animals and distance themselves from the campus. It appears, however, that the squirrels have borderline reserved their own dorm rooms for next year. Soon we shall see them running through the halls of KFA with their boldness and comfort within the campus. They already stick close to the walls of the buildings, taking advantage of the warmth. Is it such a stretch to say I can see them running through the UC by next year, enjoying the new bean bag and hammock chairs far more than most students?

The campus does nothing to discourage their comfort, however. Offering a fine for chasing the squirrels only communicates to these animals that this is a safe space for

them. It’s not however, every day they are on campus they are pumped full of more fats and fibers that their tiny squirrel stomachs can’t hope to process. Yet the school board refuses to come up with a way to help us save these creatures from ourselves and their own desperate ways. A fine can be implemented, the Commons can monitor food removal more regularly, or a friendly senior can shake their finger at the misbehaving freshman.

But if the college would like to retain their squirrels, I suggest they start charging them tuition.


Bethany Lovejoy is a sophomore creative writing major. She is from Stewartville, Minnesota and enjoys napping.

STUDENT

voices


If you could only take three items with you to a deserted island, what would they be?

Compiled by Samantha Decker




Stephanie Bukowski
Junior

“Swimsuit, cosmic brownies, floaty arm chair.”




Jena Zitko
Sophomore

“Book on how to build a raft, dragon balls (Dragon Genie), survival food guide.”




Marissa Fredrickson
Junior

“Steel kettle, flint, bow and arrow.”



Brodie Melchione
Junior

“Flare gun, knife, flint.”



Ming Chen
Sophomore

“Phone, strawberries, clothes.”

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor.

Email your thoughts to editor@uwrfvoice.com

UWRF women’s soccer strikes back after slow start to season

Zach Dwyer
zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

The UWRF Women’s Soccer team went on a tear last week, winning their first three games of the season and building some major momentum as WIAC play begins.

The Falcons started their season off 0-5-1 as they traveled to Winona to take on St. Mary’s University on Sept. 21. This would begin a week and a half of strong and impressive play from the young Falcon squad as they took down St. Mary’s, Minnesota Morris and St. Scholastica consecutively and showed serious promise along the way.

Head Coach Sean McKuras said he believes that the Falcons’ strength of schedule in the early part of the season has paved way for their recent success.

“My view is that preseason and non-conference play gets you ready to compete in one of the toughest conferences in the country and that’s what our non-conference play has done for us. We’re putting things together and playing as a team so I think the results will start to come,” McKuras said.

The results began with the Falcons topping St. Mary’s 1-0 on a clutch goal from Carrie Anderson in overtime to put the Falcons in the win column. They continued their winning ways by taking down Minnesota Morris 2-1 on homecoming weekend and outshot the Cougars by an incredible 48-3 margin. Carrie Anderson added her second goal of the season and Lindsey Jack scored a goal in the 87th minute to give the Falcons confi-

dence heading into a clash with St. Scholastica.

The Falcons also managed to dominate the St. Scholastica Saints in a 4-0 thumping that let the Falcons retain the Chalice Trophy. The Chalice is a traveling trophy that is awarded to the winner of the St. Scholastica and UWRF match. The two teams started playing for the Border Battle Chalice Trophy in 2009 and the Falcons won it in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016, according to uwrfsports.com.

“[St. Scholastica] is a team we’ve played for a long time and we always seem to have tough games with them. We’ve had a lot of overtimes and one goal losses and one goal wins. We’ve just happened to have a couple of good years having the cup three years in a row,” McKuras said.

Carrie Anderson, Abby Soderholm and Rachel Windingstad all added goals for the Falcons to contribute to the 4-0 victory. UWRF dominated the stat sheet by outshooting the Saints 22-4 and only allowing one shot in the first half.

McKuras also said he believes his team has been very strong mentally this season and keeps fighting until

the end of the game no matter what position they’re in. However, the team still has areas to improve upon as they enter WIAC play.

“We’ve been in quite a few tight games this year but now it’s a matter of getting a result. What I mean by that is whether it be a win or a tie or pushing



Tori Lynn Schneider/Media Intern
Freshman Lindsey Jack dribbles the ball against Minnesota Morris on Sept. 24.

a team into overtime, can we get the result based on our tough play,” McKuras said.

The Falcons fell in one of these tight games to UW-Oshkosh 2-1 this past weekend on the road. And while this loss in their WIAC opener may have ended the win streak, the Falcons are still looking to be a strong contender as the WIAC season continues.

“I liked that we attacked and defended as a team and created some great opportunities. The reality in those tight games is it will take a couple of special plays, and that’s gonna be the difference in finishing in the top half or bottom half of the WIAC,” McKuras said.

The Falcons have high hopes of finishing strong in conference and making a run in the WIAC playoffs. Their journey continues Saturday as they travel to UW-La Crosse to take on the Eagles at 4 p.m.

UWRF student and Vikings ball boy makes sideline catch that goes viral

Zach Dwyer
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Sometimes one moment can make all the difference. Or in this case, one catch.

UWRF student Elijah Johnson has become an internet sensation following his one-handed catch as a Minnesota Vikings ball boy during the recent Monday Night Football game versus the New York Giants on ESPN.

Johnson, who also goes by EJ, was standing on the sideline performing his usual duties as a ball boy when Vikings quarterback Sam Bradford was forced out of the pocket and threw a pass out of bounds to avoid the defensive pressure. The ball came sailing toward Johnson and he grabbed the ball out of the air one-handed and tucked it in, like it was just another

day on the job.

Social media exploded after the play, with countless gifs and highlights recreating the incredible play. Sports Illustrated and ESPN wrote stories about the catch, comparing it to the likes of New York Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr.’s famous one-handed catch from his rookie season. Beckham only managed three catches against the Vikings, with Johnson receiving more praise than the NFL star after the game.

A video of the catch already has over 90,000 views on the NFL’s YouTube channel, with the catch being retweeted and showcased on countless social media platforms.

Next week the Student Voice will sit down with Johnson for a feature story on his experiences as a Vikings ball boy and the national attention he’s received from his highlight-worthy catch.

Interim athletic director returns to UWRF as budgets tighten across WIAC

Zach Bares
Falcon News Service

Crystal Lanning has returned to UW-River Falls on a two-year interim basis as director of athletics and she hopes to make it permanent.

Jobs like hers have come under some hard times lately. The Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) has lost six athletic directors in the past three years.

Lanning began her career at UWRF in 2004 as an assistant athletic trainer. Prior to taking a job with the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference in 2015, she was the associate athletic director for UWRF. Lanning said that she had her sights set on a return to River Falls, just maybe not as quickly as it happened.

“Coming back to River Falls was always something I had in my long-term plans. It just happened a little sooner than I had expected,” Lanning said.

Roger Ternes, the former athletic director, made it public when he resigned that he was unhappy with the lack of resources available to him. He said staff and budget cuts were the biggest hurdles and he saw no end to that in the near future. Lanning said that to prove herself, money is going to be key.

“I think part of my responsibility in this role is looking for ways to bring in new revenue. It’s going to have to be creative,” Lanning said.

Lanning said she thinks that corporate sponsors and looking for new alumni and donors who haven’t necessarily given before is a good way to start a search for more money.

Some practices are already in place within the athletics office to cut down on costs. It has implemented a policy of no overnight travel to conference games. This is a practice that the WIAC put into place back in 2008 and has since revoked, but most of the schools within the league still adhere to the practice.

WIAC Commissioner Gary Karner said he knows that all of the athletic directors at the Div. III level have a tough job.

“Either the monetary resources, financial resources or personnel just aren’t there,” he said. “So athletic directors at our level really have to wear multiple hats.”

Karner’s WIAC office in Madison has experienced the same financial turmoil as its member institutions. It rarely holds in-person meetings with all the different sport committees to reduce travel costs. Staff size also has been trimmed.

“We have half the people we did 21 years ago in my office,” he said.

“Coming back to River Falls was always something I had in my long-term plans. It just happened a little sooner than I had expected,” Lanning said.

Karner is hopeful that the budget situation will eventually turn around. He still believes that the WIAC is a premier conference in the country. In the last 10 years, 46 national championships have been won by WIAC teams. Karner gives credit to the individuals at their respective schools for maintaining the high level of excellence in spite of the budget situation.

Along with the budget cuts, Lanning takes over the self-initiated Title IX audit. UWRF earlier this year commissioned a study of gender equity in its athletic program.

“Our challenge is actually doing something with the information once we get the final report,” Lanning said. “We have to prioritize how we can improve and we have to put together a plan to make steps toward progress,” said Lanning.

Lanning expects it to have the report within the next couple of weeks.

UWRF Athlete of the Week: Hannah Robb



Kathy Helgeson/UWRF Communications

Zach Dwyer
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Hannah Robb had a huge impact on the UWRF volleyball team this weekend at the St. Catherine tournament. The freshman from Medford, Minnesota had a season-high 43 digs against St. Catherine University on Saturday and had 72 digs through three matches this past week. Her average of 7.2 digs per set was almost three digs higher than her still impressive 3.9 digs average the week before. Robb was also selected as the defensive WIAC player of the week for her performance. The Student Voice sat down with Robb to discuss her transition to the college game and the early success she has found with the Falcons.

Q: What made you want to play volleyball at River Falls?

A: When I was college searching, I got to meet some of the players before deciding about where I wanted to go to college. They were just really nice and welcoming off the bat, so I just felt like I belonged in the program right away.

Q: How was the transition to the college game after just graduating high school a few months ago?

A: We worked really hard in the preseason which helped me at least personally transition better because the game is a lot faster. You have a lot of bigger swingers you have to defend against that you don’t always get in high school. But in college, everyone’s playing at the competitive level and everyone has really good players. I think the biggest transition I had to make was my confidence in passing and knowing that I was on the team for a reason.

Q: Did being in multiple Minnesota state championship games at Bethlehem Academy prepare you for tough situations in close matches?

A: I think the state championship matches really exposed me to those higher pressure situations where playing together as a team really makes a difference between one point. Those kinds of matches you get really close games and so I think that helped me to prepare to push through adversity in between games and where things may not be going your way.

Q: What contributed to such a high number of digs against St. Catherine?

A: I went in with the mindset that I was gonna pick up everything and I just wanted to leave it all on the court. In the last few games I’d really been overthinking my position and I was really thinking about it too much during the game. I kind of left the thoughts behind and said I’m just gonna play and leave it all on the court. I didn’t even really realize how many digs it was until after the fact. That was really cool to realize that just playing was more successful than overthinking and analyzing.

Q: What’s your job on the team as a libero, and what’s the biggest impact you have at that position?

A: The only difference between the libero and all the other positions is it doesn’t play all the way around. A libero can only play in the back row. They specialize in defense, so you’ll never see me in the front row blocking or swinging. I’m the one who picks up all the hard hits. My job is to be fast and quick and read the game and just to be a consistent passer.

Q: How did you manage to make such an immediate impact on a team with many experienced players?

A: Each player brings a lot to the court and one of the things that I can bring is a lot of energy. Besides being a consistent passer I bring an energy that is needed on the court.

Q: How has the volleyball team responded to the recent struggles after a tremendous start?

A: I think in every season you’re going to have your ups and downs. We started with a really big up and I think that gave us a lot of confidence right away. Now we’re just working to regain that confidence and play together as a team. I think that right now it’s most important to stick together as a team and keep pushing through the hard times. I’m really looking forward to the next few weeks because I think we’re on the uphill slope again.

Q: What needs to improve for the team to finish competitively in the WIAC?

A: We can really continue to be confident. We know we’re a really good team, but sometimes we get into ruts where we don’t always play to the best of our ability because we doubt that we can go out and take down some of the bigger teams that are ranked above us. But I really think we have the ability upset a lot of those teams if we just stick together as a team, especially going into this tougher part of the season.

UW-River Falls alumnus, business partners get to ring the closing bell at the Nasdaq stock exchange

Molly Kinney
Falcon News Service

UW-River Falls alumnus Tim Schneider earned national exposure for his company last month when he and his colleagues got to ring the closing bell on the Nasdaq stock exchange in Times Square.

Schneider, who graduated from UWRF in the fall of 1988 with a business administration degree, is now the CEO of Investors Community Bank in Manitowoc in eastern Wisconsin. He and three other business partners founded County Bancorp Inc., the parent company of the bank, in 1997. Schneider said that after years of success financing the Wisconsin agriculture industry, they decided to bring the company public, resulting in this opportunity at Nasdaq.

“This opportunity is a product of the fact that we took the company public back in January of 2015,” Schneider said. “We’d been attempting to find a time closer to then, but it’s a high demand opportunity you know, there’s an opening and closing bell, so when we finally found a date that worked where we could take our executives and board of directors out there, it was a really cool experience.”

According to the Nasdaq website, the closing bell ceremony serves as “a platform to generate exposure for your company, make a news announcement, or celebrate a corporate milestone.” Companies are afforded an hour of advertisement before the ceremony at the stock exchange, and it is televised on CNBC, Bloomberg TV and Fox Business News, reaching millions of viewers.

“The actual button is on a large computer monitor,” Schneider said. “There’s a countdown, and they told us we had to be prepared for all four of us, the founders, to touch the button at the same time. My guess is it’s more

symbolic than anything, you know, it’s always set to go off at 4 p.m. Eastern time, but it was a cool experience for sure.”

It was great exposure for the newly public company. Investors Community Bank is dedicated to the agricultural industry of Wisconsin, but is also business focused and does a lot of commercial lending, too. Schneider said the company will hopefully expand even more with this new marketplace.

“By trading on Nasdaq we got acquisition opportunities, so we’re working on that, too,” he said. “We’re looking to grow both organically and through other acquisitions.”

County Bancorp Inc. is traded on Nasdaq under ticker symbol ICBK.

Schneider has been back to campus a few times in the past two years, as his daughter attends UW-River Falls. He said that he has many fond memories of his time in River Falls and was prepared for his career after graduating.

“I went to UWRF intending to pursue business, but I wasn’t sure exactly what I was going to get involved in,” Schneider said. “I later on determined I wanted to pursue more broad business, so that’s how I came to administration and management.”

Schneider was recruited to UWRF to play basketball, but appreciated the small-town atmosphere, too, since he had grown up in



Photo courtesy of Laura Wiegert/Investors Community Bank
Tim Schneider (center) and members of the Board of Directors of Investors Community Bank celebrate after ringing the closing bell on the Nasdaq stock exchange Tuesday, Sept. 13 in New York City.

small town. He was a two-sport athlete, and the football coach quickly recruited him to come out for the team the fall of his sophomore year. He said that was his main involvement at UWRF outside of academics.

“I have several fond memories of River Falls,” Schneider said. “The motivation for me to go there was that I graduated from a school in a tiny little town called Hilbert, Wisconsin, a graduating class of 65. I felt that River Falls was comfortable, I liked the small-town setting.”

Though he now brushes shoulders with

Wall Street executives in New York, he still appreciates the rural, close campus environment that UWRF has.

“It’s very friendly, with good people and instructors,” Schneider said. “It was a great fit for me. It still feels quite the same. There have obviously been a lot of updates, but it’s nice that it hasn’t changed too much. I still felt that same kind of atmosphere.”

Free influenza vaccinations for students announced

Laura Otto
UWRF Student Health Nurse

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone six months and older. They recommend getting vaccinated before the end of October. Flu vaccination can reduce the campus’s flu illnesses and help prevent flu-related hospitalizations. This is why Student Health and Counseling Services, along with Pierce County Public Health, are providing free influenza vaccinations to students on Oct. 11, 2016, in the University Center’s Apple River Room (333) from 12-2 p.m.

To further protect the students, Student Health Services has arranged with Vibrant Health Family Clinics to provide an on-campus flu vaccination clinic for faculty and staff Oct. 18, 2016, in the University Center’s Wind River Room (232) from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Influenza symptoms of cough, fevers, feeling like you were hit by a truck and body aches for three to 14 days can knock a person down, but it is the secondary infections that are the scariest, especially for someone with chronic health issues or those very young or very old.

Pneumonia, bronchitis and sinus/ear infections are three examples of complications from the flu. The flu can make chronic health problems worse. For example, people with asthma may experience asthma attacks while they have the flu, and someone with heart or lung disease may need to be hospitalized because of pneumonia initiated as a complication of the flu

In addition to avoiding close contact with those who are ill, you can take every day preventive actions such as:

- **Get vaccinated against influenza** to take advantage of one of the best ways to avoid getting influenza. Vaccines are available at most clinics and pharmacies. Influenza vaccines are covered for current students at Vibrant Health Family Clinics in River Falls (call 715-425-6701 for an appointment).
- **Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands** often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.

- **Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.** If you don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands.
- **Clean shared work spaces with disinfectant between users.** Disinfecting or bleach wipes work great especially for keyboards, phones, and doorknobs.
- **Stay home when you are sick.** If you have influenza symptoms you should stay home. Do not go to classes or work for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever. For students living in the residence halls, isolation meals can be arranged by filling out the form on dining services website or by calling 715-425-4444 and asking for Dining Services.

UWRF will have two seasonal influenza vaccine clinics on campus this fall:

- For UWRF students:
Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2016 from 12-2:00 p.m. in the Apple River Room in the University Center (provided in collaboration with Pierce County Public Health Department). The cost for flu shots at this campus clinic will be free for students and \$32 for non-students. Pierce County Public Health will be able to bill some insurance companies, so students are encouraged to bring their insurance cards.
- For UWRF faculty and staff:
Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 from 11:00 a.m-1:30 p.m. in the Wind River Room 232 in the University Center (provided in collaboration with Vibrant Health Family Clinics). Vibrant Health Family Clinics are providers for most of the UWRF employee insurance plans (Healthpartners, WEA, Humana) but are not providers for the WPS State A claim will be filed with your health insurance, but must present a valid health insurance card. If you have any questions about benefits you should contact your insurance plan directly. The cost for flu shots at this campus clinic if you do not have health insurance coverage, if you are not covered by one of the UWRF employee insurance plans, or you are covered by WPS State plan, is \$35 (check or cash only).

40% OF FOOD IN AMERICA IS WASTED

COOK IT, STORE IT, SHARE IT.
JUST DON'T WASTE IT.

SAVETHEFOOD.COM

TRASHING ONE EGG WASTES 55 GALLONS OF WATER

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SAVETHEFOOD.COM

‘Se7en’ is disturbing, but well worth the watch

Wesley Sigsworth

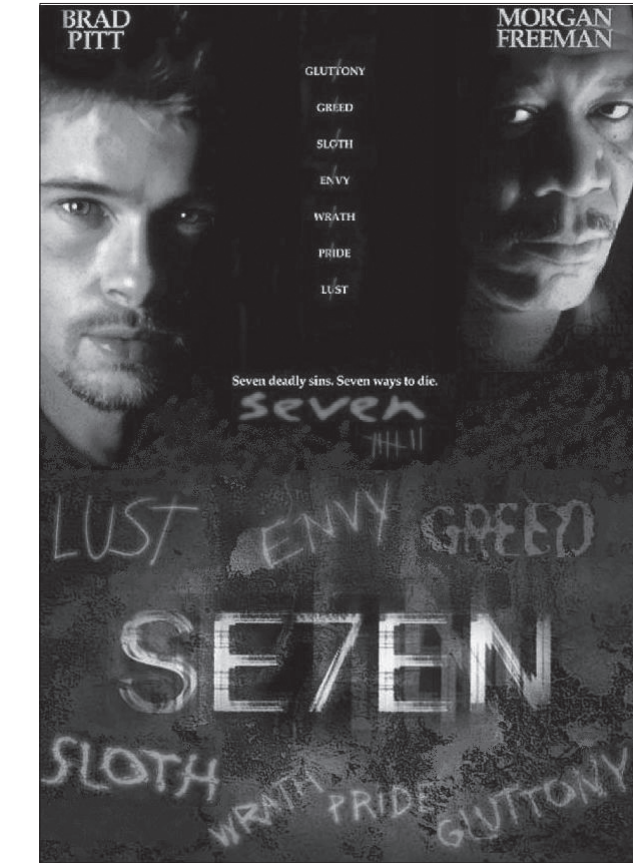
Reviewer

Some movies affect you in such a drastic way that you find yourself wanting to either avoid eating for a while or finding the need to watch cat videos until you fall asleep.

“Se7en” is a crime thriller directed by David Fincher, who has directed some recent films you’ve probably seen: “The Social Network” (2010), “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” (2011) and “Gone Girl” (2014). However, he is probably best known for “Fight Club” (1999), which was a huge hit and was the film he worked on right after making “Se7en,” which came out in 1995.

The film stars Morgan Freeman, who plays a burnt out detective named Somerset, that is merely days away from retiring. Detective Mills, played by Brad Pitt, is brought into the police precinct to take over for Somerset. The detectives could not be more of polar opposites. Somerset is a veteran detective who has been working in the same city for years. He’s calm, collected, but wants nothing to do with the string of murders that are occurring during his last week of duty. Mills, however, is a younger detective who has experience, but is impatient, prone to anger and has no time to deal with Somerset’s intricate methods of detective work.

After the initial introductory scenes, we get a really jarring and unnerving title sequence that really sets the tone and even foreshadows a few things that happen later on. After this, we are thrown right into the first of a string of murders based on the seven deadly sins: gluttony, greed, sloth, envy, wrath, pride and lust. Each of the crime scenes becomes more disturbing, with each one having been carefully and patiently



executed. You can tell right from the get go that this killer has an M.O., and it isn’t a pleasant one.

The plot is one that is, for the most part, straightforward. If you pay attention to small conversational cues, you will be able to essentially figure out what the ending is. For the most part, the murders happen sequentially, but luckily the film throws in a few different scenes that help break up the slow building, brooding nature of the film. That isn’t to say the plot isn’t a great one. It’s really the execution of it that is

done so well, especially in regards to the latter three-quarters of the film, when things build to a dramatic and horrifying conclusion.

Tonally, this film is a bleak one, and it doesn’t let up on being incredibly dark and heavy. The setting is almost always indoors, where it is claustrophobic, and when you are outdoors it is almost always raining, adding to the gloomy feeling this movie brings. The only true bright spot in this movie comes with the character Tracy, played by Gwyneth Paltrow, who is Det. Mills’ wife. The few scenes we get with her are much needed breaths of air, and after seeing some of the murder scenes, you’ll be gasping for it.

What this film does so well is play with our interest and obsession with crime, specifically psychopathic serial murderers. It gives us what we want to see: crimes that are creative, have a distinct motive, follow a skeletal narrative and lastly are impeccably gruesome. All the murders, or “sins” as they’re referred to by the killer, affect you on a level that makes you feel on par with how you probably felt when you read about real world serial killers like Jeffrey Dahmer, Ed Gein or John Wayne Gacy. You’re absolutely sickened by it, but you can’t help but be intrigued by how or why a person could do these things. But the last two murders just bring it too close to home, in a way that should make you feel both a sense of horror, as well as a deep sadness. And this by no means makes it a bad movie, just be ready for a downer.

All in all, “Se7en” is an older movie (21 years old at this point) that should be regarded as a classic, with acting talent that at the time was on the rise, but now is regarded as A-list and a director that has brought us quality work, and continues to do so today. It’s a film that, without a doubt, is worth recommending. However, you should be warned: You will see and experience things you’ll want to forget.

Wesley Sigsworth is a junior journalism major. He enjoys watching and reviewing movies.

‘Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children’ has great potential but ultimately lacks substance

Nicholas Weninger

Reviewer

After the mysterious passing of his grandfather, Jake is not sure what to do at all. He doesn’t know if he is going crazy due to seeing the odd way his grandfather died and the peculiar last words he spoke to Jake, or if it was his grandfather which was the crazy one. He decides to follow the strange clues that his grandpa left him to either put things to rest and move on, or to actually discover the wonderful things that might lie ahead.

This is a movie that is based on the novel “Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children,” written by Ransom Riggs. I, for one, did not read it and I actually never even saw a trailer for this film. On top of that, I really had no idea what this movie was about other than it’s a cross between Harry Potter, X-Men and Narnia and is also directed by the great Tim Burton. This is one of a select few times where I have gone into a movie blind, not having any idea what to expect. But enough of that, you guys don’t care about that crap. You beautiful people want to know if it was any good or not and if it’s worth your money.

“Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children” was decent. The funny thing about it is that when I first left the theater, I thought that it was a good movie and that I had a fun time. Turns out I did not have a fun time but rather an OK time. Who knew?! Anyway, let’s get back on track. The more I thought about this film, the more I picked it apart and realized how sloppy it was at time and I was constantly thinking of different ways that would’ve made the film better.

To start off, the film starts off way too slow. After the first

scene, we have about an hour before anything else interesting happens. After the mysterious death of the grandfather in the first scene, I was very intrigued and wondering what was going to happen. Then throughout the next hour, I proceeded to lose interest. There were glimmers of hope here and there that tried to really bring me back in, but it never quite worked. I feel like this movie is mostly spectacle without bringing much substance to the table. Sure, the food looks good, but the taste was missing. The movie lacked flavor. I wanted more emotion, I wanted more depth and character development and I wanted more fun. Sadly, I left hungry. At times when they do try and give me those things, it felt forced and like it was desperately trying to work but never quite reaching the mark.

Now there were some aspects that I did enjoy; aspects that did keep me from falling asleep were qualities such as the relationship with Jake and his grandfather and how he experienced the trauma of the situation. That to me did feel real and did give some emotion. Unfortunately, this only lasts during the first few scenes. Then we have an overall interesting story premise that I really did want to get behind and love. The plot really was something unique and I felt it was almost made for Tim Burton to direct. It is whimsical and enchanting yet having a dark and spooky tone to it. “Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children” really did suit Burton well. Unfortunately, it just didn’t have the same charm that some of his other films have had.

Unless you are a huge fan of the book or of Tim Burton, I’d say skip this one or at least wait until you can rent it. It just doesn’t have enough depth and fun to overcome the slow lackluster feel the film had.



Nick Weninger is a fifth year broad field social studies major and has hopes to be a high school history teacher. He has a passion for movies, video games, sports, and being outdoors. If you enjoy his reviews, check out his movie review website on Facebook called The Average Man Review.

Last Week’s Answers

Puzzle of the Week

Homecoming Recap

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Famous Dogs

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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](https://twitter.com/uwrvoice) and facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice

Now Playing: Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children

ACROSS

1 Rabid St. Bernard, subject of a Stephen King novel

4 the Pickles’ family dog in Rugrats

5 Mickey Mouse’s dog, shares name with a former planet

8 Simpsons dog

9 Dorothy’s dog who accompanied her on the trip to Oz

10 Not a dog, but the Flintstones treated him like one

11 Garfield’s nemesis

DOWN

1 Cartoon Network’s cowardly dog

2 Full House dog, shares name with one of Santa’s reindeer

3 Drooling St. Bernard, the star of eight films

4 Peanuts beagle, often seen on the roof of his doghouse

6 "The Big Red Dog"

7 Griffin family member voiced by Seth MacFarlane

8 Find him in the Mystery Machine with the snacks named after him

Puzzle created at puzzle-maker.com