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University of WisconsinRiver Falls

# STUDENT VOICE

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## Food pantry numbers only tell part of the story

Tori Schneider  
Falcon News Service

The River Falls Community Food Pantry serves 1,000 people per year in the River Falls School District. About 20 new households use the pantry each month.

According to data compiled by United Way, both St. Croix and Pierce counties had unemployment rates in 2014 below the state average of 5.3 percent, and as of April 2015, poverty rates of 7 and 11 percent, respectively.

Despite these numbers, Candice Anderson, executive director of the pantry, and Katie Bartko, president of the Pierce County Hunger Prevention Council Board of Directors, said that food insecurity affects more people in River Falls than the public sees.

In October of this year, 789 people used the food pantry, according to Bartko. She said that two years ago there were more clients. In December 2014, 841 people used the pantry.

“It’s kind of a reflection of the economic status of the county,” she said.

The pantry stocks various items, including canned goods, cereal, produce, bread, meat, milk, eggs, butter and hygiene products. Each item category is limited for how much a person can take. The amount of food taken per customer is weighed and recorded in pounds. A family of two generally averages 65 pounds of food.

“We want to make sure they get out of here so they can... get at least five to seven days’ worth of good meals out of the pantry,” Anderson said.

She added that there is a still somewhat of a stigma associated with using the food pantry.

“Some people assume they’re lazy or this or that,” she said. Most clients are single or are young families with young children who just can’t make ends meet, Anderson said. A person may have to decide between putting gas in his or her car to get to work or being able to buy food.

Brittany Roberts, 23, is an employee at Family Fresh in River Falls. She said she has been coming to the food pantry on and off since she was in middle school when the pantry was still located at Ezekiel Lutheran Church.

Roberts receives food stamps but says it is not enough to get by living paycheck to paycheck. After paying bills and rent,

there isn’t much left for food.

“I come here because the people here are friendly and they make it easy to shop,” Roberts said.

Anderson also noted that with tighter regulations on the federal food stamp program, some people may earn too much money to qualify for the program, but still not enough to pay for everything they need and be able to buy food.

An 18-year-old woman who wished to remain anonymous has been coming to the food pantry for a few months.

She is an employee at the McDonald’s in Hudson, usually working 45 hours a week. She said she makes about \$16,000 a year, which she said qualifies her to receive \$16 in food stamps per month.

Recently, she was put in a cast for a stress fracture in her ankle from working.

reasons.

“It seems like people have had to use us for six months or less, so it’s usually a shorter-term problem,” Anderson said.

Job loss or job hour cuts seem to be large reasons why people use the pantry on a short-term basis. Someone using the pantry long term may be on disability or Social Security and not have enough to get by and to purchase food.

A 55-year-old man who also wished to remain anonymous came to the food pantry on Thursday, Dec. 1, for the first time in three years.

He said he works part time as a website designer and returned to the food pantry because multiple circumstances left him low on money.

“I was going to maybe come here a while ago but there’s like a social stigma, you know,” he said.



Brittany Roberts, 23, of River Falls, shops at the River Falls Community Food Pantry twice a month for herself and her mother.

Clients can shop either once or twice a month, at their own choosing, but will get the same amount of food either way. A person who shops once a month can go home with four bags full of food and a person who shops twice can go home with two each time.

Persons using the pantry for the first time need to bring a photo ID, proof of residency and proof of other household members. The River Falls pantry does not require proof of income. It allows clients to self-declare their earnings.

The Pierce County Hunger Prevention Council serves as a networking resource for the six food pantries in the county. Those who live on the outskirts of the school district may find it more convenient to use one of the other pantries in the county. The council allows the pantries to share

“Sometimes it’s really hard to pay bills and stuff, right now especially because I’m going to be missing a whole paycheck because I can’t be on my feet for two weeks,” she said.

She and Roberts both said they don’t mind the stigma that comes from using the food pantry.

“I don’t care because personally, I’ve been homeless in my lifetime and I’d rather ask for help and not starve [than] be hungry. This place here is really nice compared to the one I had back home,” the 18-year-old said.

She moved to River Falls from Kansas, where she was in foster care since she was 12, and she plans to move back in about a month.

A person may come to the food pantry for many different

surplus food with each other.

The pantry is also partnered with Second Harvest Heartland, based in Maplewood, Minnesota. This is another networking resource for the pantry that allows clients to receive food directly from the program and also from area retailers such as Walmart, Target and Kwik Trip.

Fifty percent of the food in the pantry is donated and the other 50 percent is purchased with donations or grant money.

The pantry, which is located at 222 North Main St. in River Falls, is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and some Saturdays. For hours, visit the pantry’s website, rfcfp.org.

## Options for Women presents some, but not all, options

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Options for Women, a pregnancy resource clinic that has been going through changes, is being doubted by some regarding its job of providing unbiased help to students.

Options for Women is a nonprofit organization that helps clients with sexual health and pregnancy-related issues.

“We want to help clients explore all of their options in terms of their sexual life and pregnancy,” said Marie Regnier, an employee of Options for Women.

The services provided by the clinic include pregnancy testing, sexually transmitted disease testing, treatment and education, ultrasounds, counseling, classes and support groups for women and men, as well as access to medical professionals.

**Options for Women is a nonprofit organization that helps clients with sexual health and pregnancy-related issues.**

“We are not professional counselors, so we call it venturing,” said Regnier. “We also refer clients to professional help if they need it, so we have connections we can connect students with.”

Changing the name of the clinic was a big transition for Options for Women. The organization used to be called the Preg-

nancy Helpline. Another change is the location. Options for Women is now located in a new building with more space: two counseling rooms, an ultrasound room and a lab.

“We have a building that is much more suited to help our clients and provide services,” Regnier said.

Despite the changes Options for Women has made, the voices of critics do not seem to diminish.

**“We’ve worked with them, but I think we struggle a little bit because they are not really up front with who they are,” said Alice Reilly-Myklebust, the director of UW-River Falls Student Health and Counseling Services.**

According to Reilly-Myklebust, Options for Women is a pro-life and religiously-based organization, and that affects what kind of options it provides to the students.

“I’ve heard from students who have gone to see them, thinking that they are going to get unbiased information on all of their options, and that is not what they get and they are very upset about that,” said Reilly-Myklebust.

According to the website of Options for Women, “[we] offer a safe, non-judgmental and supportive environment for women and couples facing an unexpected pregnancy.”

Sue Galoff, a director at Pierce County Reproductive Health Services, said, “When students are seeking help for an unplanned pregnancy, Options for Women provides pro-life services for them to choose in the community.”

Options for Women, in the words of Reilly-Myklebust, is not a place to which she would refer a student who has an unplanned pregnancy and is not yet sure what to do about it.

In response to this, Regnier said, “I apologize for any students who felt upset. Our goal is not to make students to feel upset, but is to provide options and exploration of their life.”

**Options for Women is a pro-life and religiously-based organization, and that affects what kind of options it provides to the students.**

“We do not provide abortion but we do educate women on all of their options,” she added. “We would sit down with them, we would hear their story and not judge them. We would try to help them with all the information so they can form a decision.”

Whether Options for Women is the right place for students with unplanned pregnancy is still controversial.



# News Briefs: UW-River Falls student wins Farm Bureau’s Collegiate Discussion Meet

Sally Albers was selected the winner of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation’s Collegiate Discussion Meet contest at the organization’s 97th Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells on Dec. 4.

Albers is an agricultural education major and biology education minor at UW-River Falls.

The Collegiate Discussion Meet is a panel discussion in which collegiate Farm Bureau members are judged on their ability to lead a committee discussion on current issues affecting agriculture and to develop consensus on an action plan to effectively address issues.

By participating, members build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

Growing up in the Sauk Prairie area, Albers was involved with her family’s beef, hog and crop farm by caring for animals and harvesting crops. In high school, she started her own hog business consisting of six to eight pigs each year.

Albers was active in FFA and served as the Wisconsin FFA President from 2015-2016.

Albers will represent Wisconsin in the national collegiate Discussion Meet contest at the American Farm Bureau’s FUSION Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, this February.

Other finalists included Rachel Gerbitz and Mariah Martin from UW-Madison, Gloria Kesler and Ben Roys from UW-Platteville and Matt Kortbein from UW-River Falls.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is the state’s largest general farm organization, representing farms of every size, commodity and management style.

# Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities showcased at UWRF

The UW-River Falls 2016 Fall Gala, an annual showcase event to celebrate the research, scholarly and creative activities of more than 150 undergraduates, will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13, from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center. The event is open to the public, free and child-friendly.

Are you interested in seeing a dissecting microscope used for the study of live cancer cells? How about viewing an innovative new saddle mount or taste the honey from hives studied by student researchers interested in rearing honey bee queens and creating sentinel apiaries? Undergraduates from all disciplines have been involved in innovative research in subjects ranging from piglet health to GIS mapping to cutting-edge cancer research.

Students present their work at the URSCA Fall Gala through interactive displays, research posters, slideshows, short films and art exhibitions in a lively and content-rich environment. Student-made cheeses and sausage from Falcon Foods will be available for sampling along with other refreshments.

Throughout the year, UWRF fosters the development of student research skills through trainings and workshops; grant funding to conduct and present research; and local, state, and national dissemination opportunities. Regularly scheduled trainings include workshops on research ethics, grant and proposal writing, research budgets, presentation skills and research poster design.

UWRF undergraduates are encouraged to present their work at other state and national venues such as Research in the Rounda in Madison, UW System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (at the University of Memphis in 2017) and at a wide range of discipline-specific conferences.

“UW-River Falls has long been recognized for the exceptional strength of its undergraduate research programming and opportunities, and we remain state and national leaders in this area,” said Lissa Schneider-Rebozo, URSCA director.

The URSCA Fall Gala is a clear demonstration of the university’s commitment to fostering hands-on learning and creative inquiry as early as a student’s freshman year of college, Schneider-Rebozo said.

For more information, call the URSCA Office at 715-425-3902 or visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/URSCA/FallGala.cfm>.

Recognized as one of the Midwest’s Best Universities by

U.S. News and World Report and the Princeton Review, the UWRF is located in a scenic community just 30 miles from downtown St. Paul, Minnesota. UWRF students are empowered, beginning in their first year, to participate in undergraduate research, study abroad and collaborative learning with award-winning and caring faculty. UWRF partners with leading businesses and nonprofit organizations to conduct research, offer student internships and serve as an economic engine for western Wisconsin.

# Planning process for future of the Kinnickinnic River Corridor kicks off Dec. 8

The City of River Falls is embarking on a comprehensive, two-year planning process focused on the Kinnickinnic River Corridor and the existing and future relationship of the community with the river and adjoining urban and undeveloped areas.

The community kick-off event began with a dialogue to shape the final corridor plan. The event was Thursday, Dec. 8, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the River Falls Public Library (lower level), 140 Union Street, River Falls, Wisconsin.

In late 2013, the city began the federal relicensing process for two hydroelectric dams on a segment of the Kinnickinnic River that runs through the urban core.

On March 17, 2016, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted a request for a five-year license extension for the River Falls Hydroelectric Project. This action extends the license term to August 2023 and establishes a deadline for the city to notify FERC by Aug. 31, 2018, on whether the city will relicense or surrender the licenses.

“After thoughtful community engagement, the City Council determined that now is the appropriate time to begin a carefully considered, multi-phased process that leads to a comprehensive long-term plan for the Kinnickinnic River Corridor,” said Buddy Lucero, project coordinator and the city’s community development director.

“This is expected to be the largest community-wide planning project in the city’s history,” said Lucero.

The planning process officially began with the first meeting of an 11-member Corridor Project Planning Committee on Nov. 17, 2016. The committee will guide the planning process through 2017, 2018 and into 2019. The kickoff event is the first in an extensive, intensive, multi-layered community engagement program.

“We will provide every opportunity for residents and other stakeholders to be heard,” said Lucero. “And we want everyone, who wishes to be, involved in the project.”

When complete, the Kinni Corridor plan will establish a future vision for the area and strategies for implementation. The plan will address land use, economic development, hydroelectricity and renewable energy, recreation, tourism and conservation opportunities to best meet the needs of the community.

Project milestones include:

- Dec. 8, 2016 – Community Kickoff Event
- September 2017 – Community Workshop 1
- December 2017 – Relicensing Feasibility Report Complete
- Feb. 28, 2018 – Decision Regarding Relicensing
- Aug. 28, 2018 – FERC Notification
- September 2018 – Community Workshop 2
- November 2018 – Draft Corridor Plan Complete
- June 2019 – Adopt Final Corridor Plan
- Aug. 28, 2023 – Existing Hydro-Licenses Expire

The Kinnickinnic River is an exceptional natural resource in western Wisconsin. The 22-mile, spring-fed river is a world-class trout stream with over 8,000 trout per mile in some stretches. The “Kinni” flows through the City of River Falls and is a popular recreation and natural area within the Wisconsin portion of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

The Kinni’s 174-square-mile watershed is home to more than 50 percent of the bird species and 40 percent of the plant species found in Wisconsin. It contains more than 40 species of endangered, threatened, or special concern plants, animals and insects

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# Student Senate Update: Dec. 6

One motion was passed at the Dec. 6 Student Senate meeting:

**Care Packages for Soldiers:** A motion to allocate \$750 from the Senate Funding Pool to the Pre-Health Society to help pay for care packages to be sent to soldiers stationed overseas.

• Passed unanimously: 18 in favor

*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:

- **Frances Cohler Coffee Concert: James Dutton, Konev**  
**Friday, Dec. 9, noon-1 p.m.**  
**Abbott Concert Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts**
- **Diversity Dialogue: Interviewing for Your First Job**  
**Friday, Dec. 9, 2-3 p.m.**  
**Falls Room, University Center**
- **Theatre: ‘Willa Wonkie and the College Tour’**  
**Friday, Dec. 9, 7:30-9 p.m.**  
**Saturday, Dec. 10, 7:30-9 p.m.**  
**Blanche Davis Theatre, Kleinpell Fine Arts**
- **Music of Brazil Concert**  
**Sunday, Dec. 11, 7:30-9 p.m.**  
**Abbott Concert Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts**
- **DIY Upcycle!**  
**Monday, Dec. 12, 4-6 p.m.**  
**Falls Room, University Center**
- **SCVSO Holiday Concert**  
**Monday, Dec. 12, 7:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**Abbott Concert Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts**
- **Campus Holiday Reception**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2-4 p.m.**  
**Pete’s Creek, University Center**
- **2016 UWRF Fall Gala**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 13, 5-7:30 p.m.**  
**Riverview Ballroom, University Center**
- **Falcon Band Fall 2016 End-of-Semester Concert**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7:30-8:00 p.m.**  
**Abbott Concert Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts**
- **Rodli Hall Renovation Project Town Hall Meeting**  
**Thursday, Dec. 15, 2-3 p.m.**  
**University Center**
- **Piano recital**  
**Thursday, Dec. 15, 7:30-9 p.m.**  
**Abbott Concert Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts**

Visit [uwrf.edu](http://uwrf.edu) for a full schedule of events

I Ain't Tired, You Ain't Tired



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## Weekly UWRF Crime Report

### Tuesday, Nov. 29

- A drug complaint was reported at the Regional Development Center at 11:56 p.m.

### Wednesday, Nov. 30

- A drug complaint was reported at McMillan Hall at 10:23 p.m.
- A fire alarm was triggered at Johnson Hall at 9:30 p.m.

### Friday, Dec. 2

- An intoxicated person was reported at Grimm Hall at 4:59 a.m.
- Vandalism was reported at 11:58 p.m. at 321 E Cascade Ave.
- A harrasment complaint was reported in North Hall at 8 p.m.

### Sunday, Dec. 4

- A drug complaint occured in Parker Hall at 6:13 a.m.

### Tuesday, Dec. 6

- A drug complaint occured in Parker Hall at at 12:03 a.m.

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



# UWRF professor named an upcoming industry leader

Natalie Howell  
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After showing dedication to his teaching and research, a UW-River Falls professor has been recognized as one of 25 to change the meat and poultry industry.

Kurt Vogel, associate professor of animal and food science at UWRF, has been named one of the 25 future icons of the meat and poultry industry by The National Provisioner as part of its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition. These 25 people, the magazine estimated, will change the industry over the next couple of decades.

According to the magazine’s website, Vogel was chosen as one of the 25 future icons because of his work at UWRF as well as being named the Kraft/Oscar Mayer Faculty Scholar of Livestock Welfare and Behavior in 2013. The magazine also stated that Vogel has found his way in the industry, “revolutionizing it one project, one study and one student at a time.”

Vogel said that was he was surprised when he heard that he was recognized by the magazine.

“It was something I didn’t really expect, and I think if I had the opportunity to nominate people, there are probably people that I would have put ahead of me for that recognition,” said Vogel. “But it was still quite an honor.”

For this recognition, people within the meat industry nominated people they believed would have an impact on the industry in the future. With these nominations, the editorial board of the magazine picked the people they wish to recognize.

Vogel said that the nomination has a lot to do with the people he had interacted with in the meat industry through running a consulting company that focuses on humane handling, slaughter and stunning practices for the meat industry.

“I’ve had interactions with a lot of people through that work, so I think that’s probably the main driver behind it,” said Vogel.

Vogel came to UWRF in 2010 because he always wanted to work in academics, as well as return to Wisconsin, where he and his wife are from. Vogel said that he enjoys working at

UWRF because teaching is the top priority.

“I’ve never been to a university where there is such a single focus on teaching,” said Vogel.

Along with teaching, Vogel does research through the animal welfare lab at UWRF, working on applied research to see how management practices impact animal welfare. Vogel said research is important at the university level because it makes

zine suggests, he said he lives by the Henry Ford quote, “You can’t build a reputation on what you are going to do.”

“That applies here in this case, that honestly we’ll see what it looks like 25 years from now or 30 years from now. And then we can ask the question about if I had an impact,” said Vogel. “In the meantime, we just have to do the best we can and see how it all shakes out.”



Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice

**Kurt Vogel, a professor of animal and food science at UWRF, has been recognized as one of 25 people to change the meat and poultry industry.**

teaching come to life.

“The research experience helps to animate the things we talk about in the classroom, it helps to give us as instructors the experiences that we can speak from when teaching, and it helps the students then to actually have hands-on experience with what we’re trying to talk about and what we’re trying to teach,” said Vogel.

Although Vogel hopes to change the industry as the maga-

continually supportive, and will remain one of my mentors as I enter graduate school.”

For all these reasons, Schiller said Vogel has earned a spot as a future icon.

“I trust Dr. Vogel has a lot to offer this university, and will serve as an excellent representative of the animal science field,” said Schiller. “Dr. Vogel has the character and humility that I hope to exhibit in the future as a professional.”

## Safety pin movement comes to UWRF to show support for equality

Ace Sauerwein  
Falcon News Service

After the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union in late June, citizens began to wear safety pins to show solidarity as a population. The “safety pin movement” has since migrated its way across the pond and found a new home and new meaning in the U.S.

Americans across the country are sporting the simple safety pin as a sign of solidarity after the tornado that was the 2016 presidential election. The movement has appeared on the campus of UW-River Falls as well.

The campus bookstore sold all of the safety pins it had at one point, according to UWRF English and Women’s and Gender Studies Professor Greta Gaard. Gaard said the bookstore hasn’t sold this many safety pins in five years. Although the safety pins began to appear after Donald J. Trump was elected, Gaard said she thinks the movement is less about the president-elect than it is about equality.

“It’s not necessarily a reactive protest to Donald Trump, but rather it’s a statement that we will continue to do the work,” in terms of gaining complete equality, said Gaard.

By wearing a safety pin, a person shows they are a “safe zone” to be around. The pins aim to raise awareness about equality for everyone. Wearing the safety pin says “I will be a safe person who will interrupt racism, who will stand up for you,” according to Gaard.

However, the movement has come with some issues. An article on the Huffington Post’s website by writer and artist Christopher Keelty pointed out if people don’t take any steps past wearing pins, it doesn’t do much. Gaard said she understands it is only a symbol and the work doesn’t stop there.

“The important part of the safety pin is not wearing the pin, it’s taking action. The pin is a promise, but you need to deliver,” said Gaard.

The safety pin is also being seen as a political message in the Shawnee Mission School District located in the Kansas City, Kansas, area. According to television station KMBC, Shawnee Superintendent Jim Hinson “sent a letter to district staff last week, saying the pins could be seen as political speech.” Hinson banned teachers from wearing safety pins.

UWRF Psychology Professor Cyndi Kernahan said it is important to clear up any confusion about how racism and discrimination works.

“It’s more about what are the psychological processes and the biases that we all carry around, and understanding what those are and the truth of what those are,” said Kernahan.

Although there haven’t been any organized protests at UWRF since the presidential election, Kernahan said there are other ways to bring the safety pin movement and equality issues to the forefront.

“I just wish there was more discussion of it. I wish there was more awareness,” said Kernahan. “It’s hard to put it on students, because students have a particular purpose. They have classes to go to... I wish that we had more structured opportunities for people to learn.”

## River Falls police to add dashboard cameras to patrol cars next year

Reo Ford  
Falcon News Service

For the first time, the River Falls Police Department (RFPD) will be incorporating dashboard cameras into its patrol cars during the first quarter of 2017, according to the chief of police.

Gordon Young, who has served as the chief for the RFPD since January of this year, said in an email that all five of the department’s patrol cars will have them installed. Most the cost will be covered by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

“The cost is \$5,000 for all five cameras. We will pay \$1,000 and the grant pays the rest,” he said.

The cameras, which are from the company TASER, are the first in-car model by the Arizona-based manufacturer of electronic weapons and other law enforcement technology.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police conducted a study on the effectiveness of in-car cameras. The study found that they are particularly useful for increasing officer-citizen safety and assuring that everybody involved in an

incident is held accountable for their actions. The study also found the cameras reduce an agency’s liability.

Throughout this past year, Young said that the department has not run into any problems for not recording an incident. Despite that, he did say that the cameras are beneficial. They provide evidence for prosecutors, and if a police officer needs to or if they forget, they can use the footage to recall any part of an event.

Additionally, the footage can help with training. He said that officers can

professor in the sociology department at UW-River Falls who teaches criminology, said she thinks that transparency is one of the biggest things the cameras offer.

“Dash cameras are used to provide transparency in policing, so that we know what the police officer is doing and what the offender is doing,” she said.

She went on to say that the importance of cameras isn’t exactly clear cut. She mentioned specific points such as when

and for how long an officer should turn them on, whether they are expected to reduce crime, and how the footage will be used.

Wiesen-Martin said she thinks that details like those should be evaluated more closely to truly determine the full effectiveness of them.

Although the RFPD does not have prior experience with the cameras, Young does. He said that his previous employer in

Michigan, the Royal Oaks Police Department, used them and received a lot of support from the community.



Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice

**River Falls police will soon be putting dashboard cameras into cars in 2017.**

review situations and critique their own performances. Also, the videos can be shown to new recruits and used for advanced officer training.

Desiree Wiesen-Martin, an assistant

Do YOU have something to say?  
Write a letter to the editor!  
Send your thoughts, opinions and musings to  
natalie.howell@my.uwrf.edu



# EDITORIAL

## As the globe heats up, our actions should follow

On Sunday, it was announced that the Sioux Standing Rock reservation is safe from the Dakota Access Pipeline. After eight months of protests and opposition, this marks a victory. However, the fight is not over.

The pipeline could still be rerouted. In fact, according to Wired, it has been rerouted twice before because of being potentially environmentally unsafe. The problem is that, no matter where the pipeline goes, the risk of the pipe bursting and contaminating the water is going to be there.

We need to take environmental issues more seriously. For a lot of people, this is a true passion. However, for many of us, this is something that we post about occasionally on social media and keep updated about when an issue reaches the mainstream masses. So many people virtually “checked in” to North Dakota on Facebook to show their opposition, and that is a start. However, we could do more.

We can take a stand. You can start small, by joining organizations that care about environmental issues and informing yourself about them. From there, you can begin to inform others and go even bigger by participating in rallies and protests. If you find that this is something that makes you feel good about supporting, use your voice to push it beyond the reaches of social media. Get out there and make a difference if you have the means to do so.

Beyond that, and beyond the DAPL, we can push for divestment from fossil fuels. Part of this is cutting ties with the companies that heavily support the fossil fuel industry, something that is going to be addressed at this weekend’s UW System Student Representatives meeting in Stevens Point.

This is especially important right now, considering an expected move by President-elect Donald Trump. Trump is expected to name Scott Pruitt, who has a history of opposing the Environmental Protection Agency’s current agenda, to lead the EPA. Pruitt has denied the existence of climate change in the past and actually sued the EPA before.

The use of the fossil fuel industry, being supported by large corporations like the Bank of America, has a direct link to the climate change we’re already experiencing. Clearly, the conversation about environmental issues is just beginning to heat up. It is more important than ever to educate yourselves and make your voices heard.

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

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

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

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

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

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# Ask Colleen: Home for the holidays

Colleen Brown

Advice Columnist

Dear Colleen,

**As the holidays approach, I am worried about going back to my hometown. High school wasn’t a terrible time for me, but I when I came to college I had a falling out with a lot of my friends from high school and I am worried about seeing people around. I don’t want to be constantly reminded of the friends I once had, so what do I do?**

**From,**

**Doesn’t want to feel left out**

Dear Doesn’t want to feel left out,

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate you asking this question. With the holidays fast approaching, this is definitely something a lot of people can relate to and are anxious about.

Like you said, high school doesn’t have to be a traumatic experience in order for you to not want to go back to your hometown. For some people, college is their way out of their home life or just a bad situation. No matter the case, after you graduate, going back to your hometown is never going to be the same. This is super cliché, but people really do change when they go to college and experience a new world. For many people, college becomes their new home and they never look back.

I’m currently a senior, and I’ve spent the last three j-terms going back to my hometown. Honestly, each of those times have been different. At first, I spent a lot of time with my high school friends, but as time went on I saw less and less of them. I definitely enjoy see-

ing them, but life really does get in the way and everyone becomes busy.

I also started to spend less and less time at home as I was creating my own life and relationships at college. The older you get, the more independent you become and sometimes going home isn’t that fun. At first it seems like a dream because your family likes to take care of you, but that only lasts about a week.

Going home for me meant that I would lose my freedom and have two parents wanting to know where I was at all times. I had a very strict and unnecessarily early curfew when I was in high school, and I knew after the holidays were over and my parents went back to work, I would have to follow that same curfew again. What I am trying to get at here is that not everyone will come back and it might not even have to do with high school.

This j-term, you might be heading home, but that doesn’t mean a different opportunity next j-term won’t come up. You shouldn’t let a falling out with your high school friends stop you from going home if that is what you want to do. You have every right to be there and enjoy your time with friends and family just like everyone else.

Even now when I go home and run into some high school friends or even just acquaintances, I am always shocked by how everyone changes. It’s like we all have this preconceived idea of who everyone is in high school, but that’s not always the truth. When I went home for j-term, there was basically a mini reunion at a local restaurant. At first I felt super uncomfortable, because it felt like everyone from my high school was there. But it ended up being really fun and I got to catch up with a lot of old friend. Even people who

I never talked to ended up being very welcoming and came right up to me and started a conversation. I get that it can be awkward, but it’s only as awkward as you make it. You may have had some falling out with friends back then, but that doesn’t mean you can’t start new friendships now.

However, I can totally relate to what you said about having to see those people. It’s definitely hard and opens up old wounds. The people who you were once friends with in high school aren’t always going to be your best friends for the rest of your life. It happens, how can it not?

With everyone going to different schools and relocating their life, it’s inevitable that some relationships won’t remain as strong. With that being said, it still doesn’t make it any easier. Try not to focus on the relationships that you don’t have, but focus on the ones that you do. I understand your hesitation in not wanting to go back. Some chapters in life are just not meant to be opened again.

You never know; maybe you’ll reconnect with those you once lost contact with. Either way, have fun and enjoy the break from school. We all know how draining finals week can be. I usually spend my first days of break catching up on sleep. Keep yourself busy, because j-term goes by unusually fast.

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.*

# The man behind the Alumni Spotlight: Reflections from reporting the feature

Christopher Jurewitsch

Columnist

It’s been a pretty decent first semester for me, somewhat challenging but equally rewarding. I’m glad that I have the pleasure to write for the Student Voice this year, reporting the Alumni Spotlight every week for almost two months now.

I enjoyed meeting the faculty, staff and administration who were once students like me here at UW-River Falls, and because I was unable to contribute this week, I decided to write a reflection of what I’ve gained from constructing these articles.

Although many of the alumni who I have interviewed over the past semester each have unique interests and memories of attending UWRF, most of them had the same admiration for the school. The small town atmosphere of the campus, the welcoming faculty and the amount of resources and opportunities that are offered to students were the most common factors mentioned during my interviews. Interestingly enough,

the alumni who have been featured so far are just a fraction of the many that currently work at the college, so I can assure you that there will be many more articles to come.

Through writing these articles, I’ve been praised by many the alumni that I’ve interviewed, as they not only showcased their individual accomplishments, but also showed the accomplishments of the school as a whole. Whether that be the construction of the Falcon Center, efforts to create sustainability on campus or earning titles in academics and athletics, it demonstrates that a small campus can have big achievements.

On a personal level, I’ve gained plenty of confidence when constructing the feature, finding the best way to connect to the alumni that I interview as well as the readers who take notice. Whenever I give an interview, I always ask the alumnus or alumna who I interview for advice for current students. Through their advice, I’ve gained a lot of knowledge that has helped me become more successful academically, knowledge that should be shared to all current students.

I want my audience to learn some-

thing new out of the story, something they never knew about or could relate to the person in question. I find it’s never a bad thing to always ask someone for advice, because everyday we learn new things that help us become more successful. So like any good writer, I want my work to bring knowledge to the readers, specifically to those currently attending, so that they can use the advice from the students before them to help them succeed after they graduate.

So I would like to personally thank everyone for their feedback, from the alumni that I’ve interviewed, the staff of the Student Voice and everyone who reads my articles.

I look forward to contributing this feature next semester, and I hope that it continues to be beneficial to the school’s faculty and students.

*Christopher Jurewitsch is a junior majoring in geography with a passion for journalism. He enjoys playing guitar and writing articles for the Student Voice.*

# Recent tragedies remind us to put our own problems in perspective

Reo Ford

Columnist

On Dec. 2, a fire broke out at a warehouse in Oakland, California. Unfortunately, there were mass casualties and the number is still climbing. The space was often used to host parties, like the one that that took place that night.

I have been following this story for the past few days, watching with sadness the number of fatalities increase every time I open a news article. I can’t even imagine what it would be like to go out for a night of fun, starting it with such excitement, and then ending it knowing that I am going to die.

Today, I opened an article from CNN called “‘I’m going to die mom:’ Oakland fire victim’s final text,” and I was almost brought to tears. A young woman who was consumed by the flames texted her mother in her final moments to inform her of her situation and to tell her that she loved her.

Although this situation is incredibly

sad and it’s almost impossible to find a silver lining, I do think that stories like this should remind people just how lucky and blessed they are. I feel like a lot of people spend too much time sulking in their own problems. I know that I am guilty of this. I mean, half the time when I take a step back and reflect on what exactly I am complaining about, whatever it is isn’t that big of a deal.

For instance, the other day I was extremely annoyed because of a “chain of events.” It started out when I didn’t realize that my car’s windshield had a nice thick coat of frost covering it, so I didn’t leave myself enough time for it to defrost. In fact, I’m sure I walked out of the house later that day than I usually do. I was annoyed that I had to wait for the ice on my windshield to melt away. It was in that moment that I realized what the saying “waiting for paint to dry” truly means.

Then, after enough had melted so that I could see the streets in front of me, I had to double-time it from St. Paul up to River Falls, just to find that there were no parking spaces close to campus. I’m sure the annoyance that I felt

that day can be understood at this point.

With that being said, looking back on it now, I can see how stupid the “problems” I was having that day were. When I think about the victims of that fire or even people in general who have unfortunate situations, I realize that instead of complaining about the little things in my life, I should be thankful that I am even well enough to drive my car to class! I think it’s terrible that unfortunate circumstances make me see the positivity in my life, but sometimes that’s just what it takes.

I do, however, think that it’s important for people like myself, to appreciate life and all that we have in the moment. We shouldn’t show gratitude for the lives that we live just when there has been news of a tragedy or a case of misfortune. We should feel grateful just because we woke up.

*Reo Ford is a journalism student. She loves hiking with her dog, but when the weather doesn’t permit it she enjoys binging on Netflix, writing and taking naps with her cats.*



# The term ‘millennial’ should not be considered an insult

Lauren A. Simenson

Columnist

In the age of social media, no one has to look too hard to come across an unprecedented amount of opinions against a certain group of people who were born around the years of 1980 and 2000.

This group of people of course are millennials, and are aptly named due to the fact that they are the first group of kids to come of age in the new millennium, according to the Pew Research Center.

Characteristics of this generation, according to National Public Radio, include being technology natives, being the most racially diverse generation, marrying late or not at all, having a huge amount of student debt and being the most educated generation, to name a few.

However, generations of people who happened to be born before the year 1980 see millennials in a different light. To older generations, millennials are selfish, shallow, narcissistic, entitled and lazy.

In an article published last January on Philadelphia Magazine’s website, author Sandy Hingston airs her negative views in an article titled “How millennials are ruining the workforce.” She does not waste any time in broadcasting her immediate dislike for my generation with her first paragraph where she likens a car crash to people who were born between the years 1980 and 2000.

She says, “As a boomer, I have a special interest in millennials. It’s the same sort of interest I have in car wrecks: I don’t want to see what’s going on, but I can’t look away.”

Hingston further complains about “kids today” saying that millennials name their children weird names, are too polite and that these “kids” are “raised with iPhones in hand” on “fairy tales of disrupters.” She also states that millennials expect to have nap rooms and ping pong tables at work. But it is not just Hingston who has expressed her dislike about the largest generation of people in history; it seems no one likes millennials.

My main problem with all of this condemning is this: When did the word “millennial” become such an insult? Why does growing up with technology and being exposed to the whole world mean that we are

annoying, selfish and too polite? Why are we the worst because we were born between the years of 1980 and 2000, a factor that we had no control over?

Millennials are facing a world that no generation before has ever experienced, so how can older generations be so quick to judge? Have they completely forgotten what it is to be young, inexperienced and facing a different world than their own parents or grandparents?

In the United States, many millennials are categorized and criticized as whining about college debt while still living at home with their parents. This is a criticism I take a lot of offense to as I am someone who does still live with her parents. I refuse to become irate at being made to feel badly about this because of course I still live at home!

There is no way that I can pay for college and live on my own all while working just part time. College has never been more expensive and millennials are not the ones to blame for that. Perhaps we are the generation that is “all about me,” but we did not get there on our own.

I do not think it is fair to accept all the blame that I may be a narcissist or selfish

simply due to the technology that I have had access to. In many cases, I believe, that a person’s parents and often the environment someone has grown up in can be more harmful than anything else.

I do not understand why a generation that celebrates qualities such as diversity or equality more than any other generation before could be bad. Millennials are the future; there is no dispute in that, so would it not make more sense to support the generation that will, one day very soon, have to support their main critics?


I hope to never reach a point in my life where I forget what it is to be young or facing a rapidly changing world. I hope to not be so quick to judge future generations solely because they are different from me.

*Lauren Simenson is a junior majoring in journalism and communication studies. Her interests include eating dark chocolate, on-line 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.*


STUDENT *voices*

How do you escape the stress of finals?


Compiled by Samantha Decker




Amanda Drigans  
Sophomore  
“Netflix and naps and laughing hysterically.”




Collin Gartner  
Freshman  
“Workout! Running and intramurals.”



Maggie Albert  
Junior  
“Netflix, specifically the show ‘Friends.’”



Gina Strzyzewski  
Sophomore  
“My job at ARC Home because I can hang out with the residents.”



Kirsten Schmidt  
Senior  
“Switching up my study spots. I like the UC the best.”

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 **natalie.howell@my.uwrf.edu** AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

Now Playing: Arrival



# Fantasy football responsible in part for lower NFL television viewership

Zach Bares  
Falcon News Service

A recent decline in NFL television viewership has been blamed on a number of factors — including fantasy football and its fixation on the final result, rather than the nuances of the game.

Matt Walker, head football coach at UW-River Falls, doesn’t hate fantasy football, but said he does think it takes away from people realizing the team aspects that go into a game.

“I don’t like them [fantasy football players] loving it because it’s all about the ‘I’ and the person and the selfish stats,” Walker said.

He said he doesn’t see it having an effect on his players, citing their level of intelligence from playing college football.

“They can separate and draw a line between fantasy and our deal.”

Falcons junior offensive lineman Brandon Kliszczy is an avid fantasy football player and he agrees that it isn’t having a negative effect on the team.

“Honestly, I think most people are here to play,” Kliszczy said. Kliszczy added that of course everyone wants to be noticed and do well, but he doesn’t see that as a problem either.

Just over 57 million people are playing fantasy football this year, according to the Fantasy Sports Trade Association (FSTA). Kliszczy said he thinks that one of the main attractions for people is feeling like they are a part of something.

“It allows you to learn about a player and talk football with other people,” Kliszczy said. While admitting that playing real football is more fun for him, Kliszczy also said it’s nice to sit down and just be a fan sometimes.

Walker said he believes that the allure for people who aren’t involved with football on a daily basis is the things that show up on a stat line or a box score.

“It helps more people get into the game who maybe don’t fully understand it. It makes it easier to follow,” Walker said.

The head coach gets frustrated because the things he loves most about the game are the things that don’t show up in a box score.

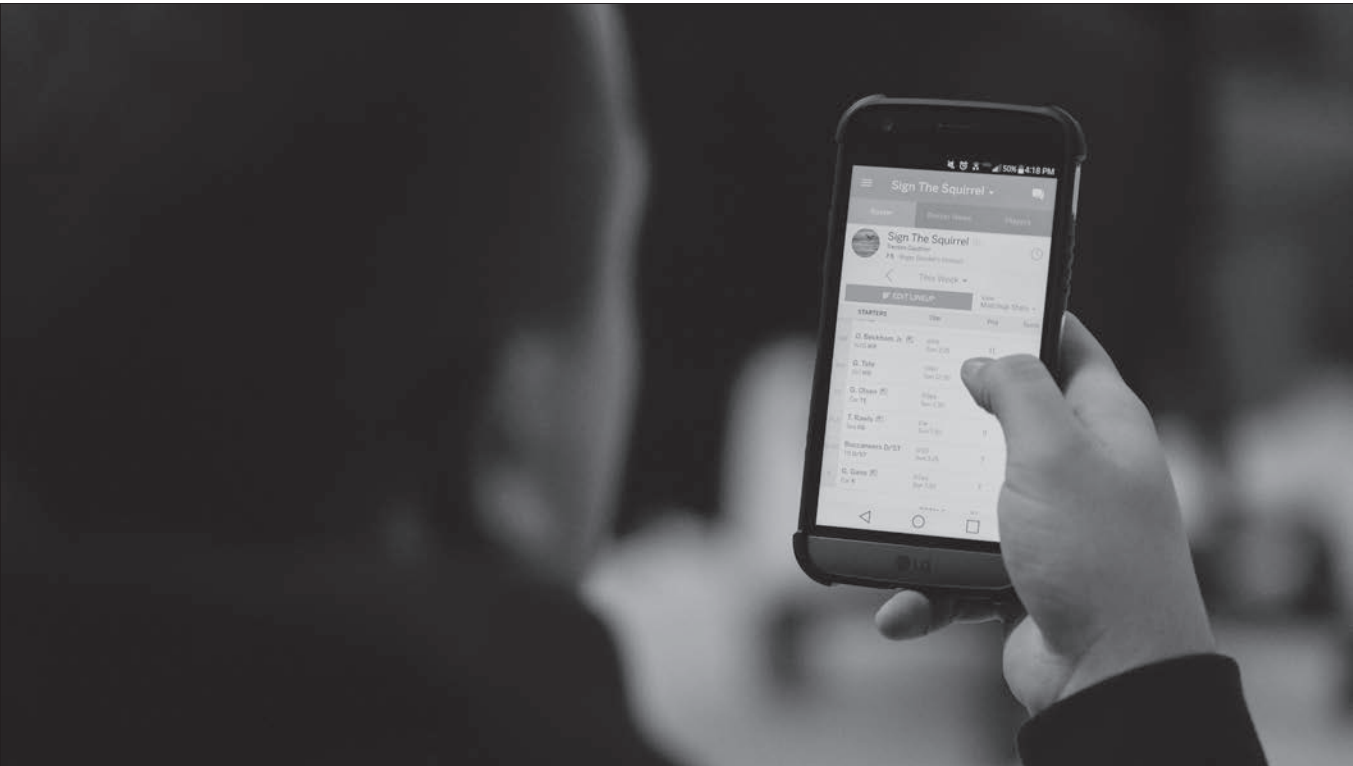
“Not a lot of people notice a pulling guard or a zone blocking scheme,” Walker said. He said he’s disappointed that people are watching for reasons that are selfish, but Walker hopes that people will still appreciate all aspects of football and the great opportunities it presents for so many individuals.

As far as TV viewership, Walker said he believes that all of the different ways to follow football have caused the decline in ratings. With applications on smartphones, fans can get instant updates about their team and how individual players are doing. FSTA reported that 16 percent of fantasy players use their mobile device to check scores instead of watching games. NFL Sunday Ticket and the Redzone channel allow people to follow multiple games at once from one channel on their television and the NFL doesn’t take those viewers into account when calculating viewership.

Kliszczy is also worried about people not realizing the efforts of all players and just seeing numbers as a means to success.

“When you’re watching one player, or just watching the ball, you’re not seeing the complete game,” Kliszczy said.

He said he will continue to play fantasy football. Kliszczy also said he hopes that education about the game will continue and people will appreciate the little things that sometimes go unnoticed.



*Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice*  
**Over 57 million people are playing fantasy football this year, according to the Fantasy Sports Trade Association (FSTA).**

# California trip builds on strong start to season for Falcon basketball

Zach Dwyer  
zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

The Falcons men’s basketball team continued their hot start to the season by winning the Lee Fulmer Memorial Classic in California this past weekend.

UW-River Falls made the journey to Redlands, California, to play two games and attempt to improve upon its 4-1 record to open the season. The team left Wisconsin on Wednesday and got a day of practice in before its first game against the University of La Verne Leopards on Friday.

Head Coach Jeff Berkhof was impressed with his team’s overall performance, considering the unique situation the West Coast trip was for the team.

“When you do these trips, you’re a little cautious because of the time change and our players aren’t used to flying for games,” Berkhof said.

The Falcons responded with a 71-69 victory over La Verne. UWRF jumped out to a 12-point halftime lead and held on for a tight victory. That was in large part to the efficient play of senior forward Garret Pearson. His 10-13 shooting and 4-4 performance from the free-throw line was good for a team-high 25 points to lead the way for the Falcons.

“We started off really slow and only shot 1-17 from the three-point line against La Verne, but still managed to hang in there to get the win,” Pearson said.

UWRF came back the next night to face the host University of Redlands Bulldogs to decide the champion of the tournament on Saturday night. River Falls came out red hot from the three-point line, knocking down seven three-pointers in the first half to build an eight-point halftime advantage. The Falcons took advantage of big runs in the middle of the second half and the closing minutes to come out on top 81-58.

“Saturday night, I was extremely happy with how our guys came out and how they showed a lot of energy defensively. We also saw some things on the offensive end through movement and hitting open players for jump shots that we’ve been working on all year,” Berkhof said.

This dominant performance was once again spurred by the offensive play of Pearson, this time shooting 8-13 and 3-4 from beyond the arc to pour in 19 points. He finished the tournament averaging 22 points per game and shooting 63 percent from the field.

“Everybody is playing with better chemistry this year, even with all of the new guys. These were definitely good wins for us,” Pearson said.

Another huge impact was the play of fellow senior Grant Erickson against the Bulldogs. Erickson put up 11 assists in the game, which is the most by a Falcon in over 15 years, according to uwrfsports.com. But even more impressive was his

control of the ball by committing zero turnovers in the game.

“The biggest thing this year is being unselfish and how we’re moving the basketball. We’ve been buying into that system as the success keeps going and not looking at the box score after the game but instead working together,” Erickson said.

Berkhof had plenty of praise for his starting point guard.

“Grant was a very active leader for us that night and got us moving offensively. He’s the kind of vocal leader that we need,” Berkhof said.

This veteran leadership has complemented the new additions to the team well and has helped pave the way for the strong start for the Falcons. After Tuesday’s win over UW-Superior, the Falcons stand at 7-1 and are closing in on the d3hoops.com top 25. Berkhof has been satisfied with the way they’ve handled different nonconference opponents.

“Playing nonconference games is good because you get to the point where you learn to guard everything that’s thrown at you. We saw two very different styles this weekend and that helps in getting prepared for the conference season,” Berkhof said.

Erickson and Pearson both believe the close wins in non-conference play will go a long way once WIAC play begins in January. Both captains have been around for multiple seasons and described the Falcons as a team that usually comes up short in those situations. But this year has been different.

“Our experience in those close games has really shown us how to handle those situations. We trust everyone to make plays to come out with the win,” Erickson said.

There are many positives in the early part of this season, but changes still need to be made as the team continues to grow and develop.

“We need to emphasize great team defense and keep looking to constantly improve our half-court offense and motion. We’d like to think we will be better in February compared to December so that we’re playing our best basketball at the end of the year,” Berkhof said.

Even with all of the success, UWRF knows it can’t get complacent this early in the season.

“We can’t be content with where we are right now. Even though we’re winning games, we’ve still made a lot of mistakes in those games. And that’s exciting because we still have a ceiling to reach by getting better throughout the season,” Erickson said.

The Falcons now take to the road to face MIAC opponents Hamline and Carleton next week before getting a short break from the action for Christmas. They return to Karges on Dec. 30 to host St. Olaf before tipping off WIAC play against UW-Eau Claire at home on Jan. 4.

# Falcon Athlete of the Week: Dani Sibley



*Kathy Helgeson/University Communications*

Zach Dwyer  
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Dani Sibley, a senior forward from Monticello, Minnesota, has had a historic two weeks for the UW-River Falls women’s hockey team. Sibley has recorded three consecutive hat tricks over the course of a 6-2 win over St. Olaf, a 9-0 win versus UW-Superior and a 6-0 win against St. Scholastica. Those nine goals have led her to be the leading scorer this season for the Falcons, totaling 12 goals and nine assists through nine games. This has helped lead the Falcons to an 8-1 record and rise back up to third in the d3hockey.com rankings.

The Student Voice sat down with Sibley to discuss her recent scoring success and the team’s response to their only loss of the season.

**Q: Have you been impressed with the way the team has responded since the loss to UW-Eau Claire?**

A: I think that that was a hard loss for us, and it kind of reminded us that anything can happen early on in the season. We have to come out every game and play our best because other teams definitely play their best against us. Our coaches definitely motivated us and pushed us the next few days in practice and left it up to us to perform better to get the next few wins after that loss.

**Q: What has led to a 21-2 margin of victory in the last three games?**

A: Coming out and playing our game. We have a lot of talent and depth this year, and it starts from our goalie and defenseman all the way up to the first line. Everyone has been playing really well and moving the puck. We’ve been using our speed and taking pride in working hard.

**Q: Is scoring the strongest part of your game or just what gets the most attention?**

A: I personally don’t think I’m usually a goal scorer. We’ve had a lot of players score a lot of goals in the past, and it’s awesome to be part of that this year, but I owe all my success to my teammates and line mates, because without them creating plays I don’t put the puck in the net.

**Q: What has been the response to you having three consecutive hat tricks in the past two weeks?**

A: Just walking around campus and in my classes a lot of people have complimented me, which is huge. Our team doesn’t obviously get the biggest crowd base in women’s hockey but this motivates us and encourages us to keep playing our game.

**Q: Have you ever had this kind of scoring success before?**

A: I’ve never scored three hat tricks in a row and maybe only two in a row in high school. It’s definitely something I’m proud of as an accomplishment. A lot of people say you don’t see a hat trick in college let alone three so it’s definitely been exciting for me.

**Q: What came together to take down UW-Superior in an important WIAC game 9-0 after a slow start?**

A: After the second period, our coach came in and kind of let us have it. He was trying to motivate us to not just score goals but control the puck and make smart plays. His big thing is he doesn’t care if we’re scoring goals but he wants us to play smart hockey and be a good team. After the second period we kind of realized we needed get our act together. We controlled the game and came together by realizing we need to step up our game and put the puck in the net.

**Q: What has been the central focus of this team in order to keep growing to get back to a national championship?**

A: Our big thing that we say a lot at practice is the “first three steps.” This means everything needs to be full speed and that we are using our speed. We are one of the fastest teams in the WIAC, so that really helps our game. When we play down to another team’s speed, they can control the tempo. If we come and play fast, not many teams can skate with us.

**Q: What is a small improvement that can make yourselves an elite team?**

A: Consistency. [Coach Cranston] has said that a few times this year, and I definitely agree. We either come out really bad or really well against a team, and we can’t have that throughout the season. Especially coming closer to the end of the season, we need to come out and play three strong periods. Every shift has to be our best and we can’t take a shift off. That’s definitely something we strive to work at every day in practice and in games.



# Wildlife officials urge caution during deer hunting season because of wasting disease

Lisa Erickson  
Falcon News Service

The recent discovery of two deer with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in south-eastern Minnesota has raised concerns for wildlife officials in western Wisconsin.

Both of the deer that tested positive were males harvested within a mile of each other in Fillmore County near Lanesboro during fire-arm season in mid-November.

“It’s only a matter of time before it’s here... I’m very worried,” said Brad Peterson, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conservation officer for Pierce County. More counties in Wisconsin have CWD restrictions in place than don’t, said Peterson. “The (Mississippi) river is not a barrier for deer,” Peterson said.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease. Affecting deer, elk and moose, it causes a characteristic spongy degeneration of the brains of infected animals, resulting in emaciation, excessive drinking and urination, abnormal behavior, loss of bodily functions and death. The known CWD infectious agent, or prion, is very resistant to destruction by normal processes such as washing with disinfectant soap and water. The prion is only destroyed by incineration temperatures in excess of 1,800 degrees and can remain in the soil, water or on other materials for an indefinite time, according to Peterson and the Chronic Wasting

Disease Alliance. The Wisconsin DNR began monitoring the state’s wild white-tailed deer for CWD in 1999. In all, 43 of Wisconsin’s 72 counties have been affected by cases of CWD. It was first discovered in 2002 in Dane County, said Peterson.

In Wisconsin, 3,131 CWD positive free-ranging white-tailed deer have been identified since 2001. Of the 72 counties, 18 currently have CWD detected in the wild deer herd.

The disease has not been found in Pierce or St. Croix counties, but the Wisconsin DNR lists Polk County as CWD affected.

No additional deer have tested positive for the disease from samples collected this fall in southeastern Minnesota. Nearly one-third of all deer harvested during the 2016 southeastern Minnesota’s firearm season were tested. Only two of the 2,866 deer tested returned positive results, according to the Minnesota DNR.

“CWD has increased. It has been more prevalent in males. It went from single digits percentiles up to 30 percent now. It is hard to control,” said Peterson. “I don’t know how to control it; nobody knows how to control.”

Although there is no proof that the disease can be transferred to humans, Peterson encourages hunters to be cautious anyway and follow the DNR’s guidelines for processing deer and to get deer tested.

“I have been hunting and processing my

own deer since I was 10 years old,” said Steve Watters, the meat production plant manager at UW-River Falls. “I am more concerned with getting in a car accident on my way to hunt or getting shot while deer hunting than I am of CWD.”

He added, “I am not afraid of eating or processing deer. I don’t want to belittle the risk of someone getting sick from CWD, but we just don’t have enough information about CWD and we should be more concerned about other things, like kids texting and driving.”

However, Watters said, if the deer doesn’t look right, don’t eat it. If during processing deer meat there isn’t any fat, he recommends not eating it as that can be a sign of illness.

Watters used to teach classes in how to process deer meat.

“I don’t teach the classes anymore because the information isn’t clear on transmission of CWD,” he said. But that hasn’t stopped him from hunting and eating deer.

“There are important things to do in processing,” said Bonnie Walters, a professor of animal and food science at UWRF. “There is no evidence that says that someone can get something comparable to CWD. In sheep it’s called scrapie and in beef it’s called mad cow disease. In humans its called Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. They are all caused by a prion, which is a protein.”

She added;“Eating the meat, from a food safety standpoint — it’s safe to eat. It is passed

from nerve tissue, not the muscle.”

Both the DNR and Watters recommend the following procedures when processing deer meat:

- Stay away from cutting glands in the neck, head and legs.
- Do not cut through the bones.
- Do not cut the spinal column or into the brain.
- Wear disposable gloves and protective clothing.
- Carefully wash everything when done and sterilize tools and cutting surfaces with a 50-50 water and bleach solution.
- Don’t use a kitchen butcher knife. Keep venison processing tools separate.
- Dispose of the deer carcass properly by putting it in garbage bags and getting it to a landfill where other deer are not going to have contact with it. Do not bury the carcass or put it on your land to decompose naturally.
- Do not shoot, handle or consume any animal that you see that is acting abnormally or looks sick. Contact the DNR or the local conservation officer if you see an animal that appears sick.

The DNR is developing disease management strategies to protect the state’s deer herd and encourage hunting.

“The worst thing that could happen,” Peterson said, “is people will stop hunting.”

# UWRF art students raise funds with annual scholarship sale

Matthew Clark  
Falcon News Service

For over 20 years, the Annual Art Scholarship Sale has provided UW-River Falls art students a chance to show off their work while raising money to benefit themselves and others.

Located in the gallery room of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building, the sale has seen a steady stream of customers since opening its doors on Nov. 28. Featuring handmade and original creations from art students of all different backgrounds as well as some faculty, the sale provides visitors with an opportunity to purchase unique items at a reasonable price, compared to art sales in the Twin Cities.

UWRF Art Department Academic Associate Susan Zimmer said the sale is a way for

students to unload the large amount of art-work amassed during the semester.

“As they’re learning to get better and better, there’s only so much you can keep before you’re inventoried out, so to speak,” Zimmer said.

Zimmer said the sale usually raises around \$10,000, which goes directly to students. Sixty-five percent of the proceeds are given back to individual artists to offset the costs of materials while 25 percent goes to student scholarships funds. In the past, the sale has provided \$2,000 to \$3,000 worth of scholarships for art students. The remaining 10 percent of the proceeds are given to the UWRF Art Society, a student organization that works to promote visual art and provide opportunities for art students. In the past, the society has used the money to travel to Chicago for a sculptural

and functional art event.

Art Society Co-President Casey Beck said the sale is more than just a way for the art department to raise money.

“People outside of the department can come in and see like what we’re actually doing in here, we’re not just playing in some mud,” Beck said.

The department also sees the sale as an opportunity for students to gain real world gallery experience and learn how to place a value on their creations. Zimmer said the students see it as a morale booster during the end of the semester.

“When the students sell their work, it builds your confidence,” Zimmer said. “There is someone looking at your work and seeing value you in it enough to pay for it.”

The sale attracts students, community

members and even people from the Twin Cities who enjoy student artwork and wish to support art education. According to Zimmer, the sale has been growing in popularity and some community members look forward to the sale year round. She said she receives phone calls as early as August from people who want to know the dates of the sale. Beck said the sale is a positive experience for both shoppers and artists.

“It brings joy to people to be able to use something that someone else made and it also brings joy to the maker to see someone enjoying what they made,” Beck said.

The art scholarship sale runs until Wednesday, Dec. 14. The gallery is open from noon-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 2-4 p.m. on Sundays.



*Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice*  
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