

Downtown River Falls lights up for holidays

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Isabella Forliti isabella.forliti@my.uwrf.edu

When the air gets a little colder and the holiday season approaches, a variety of groups come together in downtown River Falls to brighten up the

"It's a group effort between the City of River Falls, River Falls Municipal Utilities, and our contractor Save A Tree," said Mike Noreen, the city's conservation and efficiency coordinator. These groups come together to decorate downtown as community members see it during the holiday season.

The trees on Main Street are often decorated with red and white globes that glow as soon as it gets dark. The globes hanging from the branches are paired with bright lights wrapped around the trunks of each tree. Noreen says that the city has been putting up lights for decades, but the wrapping of the trunks and hanging of the globes started as recently as 2016.

The lights that brighten up Main Street can be seen throughout the typical winter months but stay around a little after the holidays.

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Downtown River Falls Main Street trees lit up for the holiday season. Photo by Isabella Forliti.

As winter days shorten counselors suggest ways to address seasonal depression

Jack Van Hoof Jack.schindlervanhoof@my.uwrf.

December 21 marks the first day of winter, and the transition from fall to winter brings not only colder weather and shorter days, but, for many people, something more concerning. According to the Mayo Clinic, 3 million Americans experience seasonal affective disorder, commonly known as seasonal depression, or

SAD for short.

SAD is a type of depression that occurs at the same time each year, most often in the late fall and winter. and is more prevalent in realso more common in those between 18 and 30 years old, particularly women.

Despite how widespread it is, SAD is often trivialized, and many who experience it never realize they have it or seek help. Mark

Huttemier, a counselor at UW-River Falls, has written a short article on SAD and how one can recognize and address it.

According to the article, gions far from the equator, people who are feeling irrisuch as Wisconsin, SAD is table or "down" during the winter, or wanting winter to end and spring to arrive may be experiencing SAD.

SAD shares many symptoms with other types of depression; according to the Mayo Clinic.

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New Tattersall Distillery has opened in River Falls. See story and additional photos on page 12.

What is your New Year's resolution?

By Isabella Forliti



Natalie Rodgers

"To fully enjoy my last semester of undergrad."



Nadia Vandoorn

"To pass my classes."

Zachary Endreas

"To not buy as many plants."



lan Hendricks

"To join a club."



Brooklyn Mortimer "To spend a lot mo

"To spend a lot more time studying."



Jake Petronack

"To be more active in the community."



"To have better time management."



Aurora Simpkins

"I'm finally realizing how happy I am being me and want to keep that up. Keep being me, being happy with that. Accepting who I am."



Community provides resources for survivors

Polly Covert

polly.covert@my.uwrf.edu

At UW-River Falls there are many resources available on campus for survivors of sexual assault.

A study done by the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network, or RAINN, Organization found that over 80% of sexual assault cases go unreported. Cases are not reported for various reasons, including fear of retaliation, wanting to protect the perpetrator, feeling like the assault was not important enough to report, even the fear of not being believed are just a few of the many reasons, according to RAINN.

Reports made to the university are confidential for individuals who are over 18 years old. The university makes it clear on the web page that no action will be taken against the perpetrator without consent of the survivor.

A Mandated Reporting Form, which is often used as a way to tell law enforcement about a crime, can be accessed and filled out at uwrf.edu/StudentConductAndCommunityStandards. In cases of harassment, assault, violence, exploitation, or stalking, this is a resource that can be used.

Assaults can also be reported to University Police, counseling, student health services, River Falls police, an RA member, or the St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). Numbers for many of these resources are listed on the campus website under "Sexual Assault and Harassment."

For anyone who doesn't feel comfortable reporting any form of assault or harassment, there are many available resources on campus, specifically SART. SART has a dispatch center that is open 24/7. When called, the phone operator will ask the caller if they would like to speak to an advocate right away. With a yes, the caller will be connected to one of the nurses or advocates on duty. They will then be provided with options based on what they've experienced.

Annalise Hughes is the advocacy Coordinator for SART. She said, "We want to support the survivors in what's best for them. Not all survivors want or desire an exam or reporting, and we're here to support the decision they make."

Hughes said SART is comfort-oriented and case-specific and tends to the needs of each person in need of assistance.



SART building located on 1343 North Main St. Photo by Brooke Shepherd.

Some options available after an assault include medical services, which could be a head to toe physical exam, STI medication, and collection of DNA evidence that might be on the body after an assault, according to Hughes. Exams usually begin within one hour of the survivor calling. Every survivor can pick and choose what options they would like, they can even choose just to have one thing done or no physical assistance. If there is serious bodily harm or head injury, the survivor should go to the hospital.

If SART is called directly after an assault, there are some steps the survivor can follow before they go in for an exam. It is recommended that the survivor does not use the bathroom, brush teeth, or do anything to prevent the destruction of forensic evidence or DNA. If clothes are to be removed, it's important to bring them in a paper or cloth bag, as a plastic bag can corrode evidence. The prime opportunity to collect DNA evidence is just a few hours after the assault, but it's possible to receive an exam five days after the as-

sault and in some cases 10.

For survivors that would like to report their assault, the SART advocates will go over the survivor's rights with them and provide an option for an advocate from SART or Turning Point to support the survivor and stay with them through the reporting process. This assistance can be very helpful to the survivor, as the advocates understand the process and can offer comfort and advice. Cases that are reported right away do make it further in the legal system, as there is more bodily evidence, and in some cases security footage from the time around the assault.

The SART center in River Falls is located at 1343 N Main St., and physical exams are provided there. No matter the circumstances, SART listens to all survivors and is there for support, whether the survivor has the desire to report the assault or not.

SART: 715-425-6443

Downtown lights up for holidays

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"Considering they're red and white, we like to get a two for one," said Noreen, "We keep them lit until Valentine's Day and remove them as soon after as the weather allows."

The lights stretch down Main Street from East Pine to East Locust and are bright LED lights for all to see as part of the city's consistent efforts towards sustainability.

"The sustainability portion was us moving from incandescent to LEDs, putting them on timers, and powering them with renewable energy," said Noreen. He says that the city strives to be a leader in sustainability and that continues with lights on trees during the holiday season. Noreen himself coordinates the lighting and acts as the main point of contact for the entirety of the project. He says that the funding for the project is covered by POWERful Choices! which is the sustainability department at the River Falls Municipal Utilities.

Winter days bring potential seasonal depression

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Other symptoms include "fatigue, depression, hopelessness, and social withdrawal."

Huttemier recommended five ways to combat SAD: exercising, eating healthy foods, spending time outside, developing a daily routine, and creating plans to keep looking forward to the future.

Exercise, Huttemier said, decreases levels of cortisol, a chemical associated with stress, and improves energy levels and mental acuity.

Huttemier recommended replacing foods that are "high in fat and sugar," such as fatty meat and soft drinks, with those that are "high in protein, complex carbs, and fiber," such as whole grains, fruits and vegetables, and lean meat.

While spending time outside might seem counterintuitive, outside light can improve energy levels and mood by helping the body "maintain its sleep/wake cycle."

The Mayo Clinic recommends a light therapy box as beneficial for this purpose.

Huttemier wrote that we should seek to develop a daily routine. The body likes routine, and sticking to one can help to cope with SAD.

"Get up, eat, exercise, study, relax, and go to bed at around the same time each day," said Huttemier.

Finally, develop plans and goals to keep "excited about the not-so-distant" future. What these plans are does not matter as long as they "drive you onward," Huttemier wrote.

Of course, these are all methods to combat SAD, but often there are times when it can be difficult to address SAD or other struggles without help. Huttemier emphasized that, at UWRF there are free confidential and professional counselling services for students.

Huttemier encourages students who feel overwhelmed or hopeless to call this service at 715-425-3884. For medical emergencies, they are recommended to call campus police at 715-425-3133 or 911.



A snowy day on campus. Photo by Brooke Shepherd.

Blue lights offer security to UWRF campus

Rachel Karweick

Rachel.Karweick@my.uwrf.edu

There are blue light phones located on campus for students to use when they need assistance in an emergency.

The blue light phones are blue poles with lights on top located around campus. There are eight phones in total. There is one at the Falcon Center, two on the trail back to campus from the Falcon Center and one each in lots A, K, N, R and Pay 2. If students go to the printable map on the university's website they can see the locations of the phones. The two phones on the trail back to campus are the newest phones.

All of the phones say emergency on them and have the blue light on top which makes them easier to see at night. There is a button that students can press to get help. There is only one button on them which makes it easy to figure out how to use.

They can be used in all types of emergencies, whether someone has been hurt, if

there was an accident, or if a crime has been committed that needs further assistance. When a phone is used it dials directly to the Pierce County Sheriff's department dispatch center, and emergency services will then be sent out to the caller's location if further assistance is needed.

Chief Karl Fleury said, "All that people have to do is push the button. It rings directly into the police dispatcher and they'll send emergency services to your location to assist."

The phones are checked every month to make sure that they are in working order. Chief Fleury said, "We have an officer that goes around and activates each one of the phones to make sure that they are ringing into the dispatch center."

If a phone is not ringing into the dispatch center then a work order is sent to facilities to get it fixed immediately.



A blue light stationed across from the UW-River Falls police station. Photo by Rachel Karweick.

Program to train service dogs offered at UWRF

Lexi Janzer

Lexi.Janzer@my.uwrf.edu

The Assistance Dog Education Program and Training (ADEPT) allows student interns to train and work with service dogs and make connections within the organization.

ADEPT is a program that allows students at UW-River Falls from any major, sophomore and up, to help train and place service dogs while learning concepts like teamwork, communication, and of course some parenting skills. Linda Ball, the program's executive director, and Maddie Jensen, the program manager, work together to run the program.

In order to be an ADEPT intern, one has to go through the application process of submitting an essay and resume as well as being interviewed by either Ball or Jensen, according to Ball. The intern positions are competitive and usually the program is only able to accept a small portion of applicants.

After the students get the internship they jump right in. The new interns pack their bags for a three-day stay at the ADEPT training center that the dogs stay at over the summer. This allows for the new interns to get to know each other and the dogs while staying in their very pink new home. Many of the interns in the room stated that they decided to enroll at UWRF because of the ADEPT program.

The ADEPT program works with many different types of dogs. They try to have a mix of different purpose-bred dogs from counterpart organizations. It is important to know the history of a dog and its genetics because the dogs are out in public so much with students.

ADEPT dogs go through about two years of training but will be constantly working all their lives as training is never truly com-

plete. During the two years, the dogs mature and go through extensive health checks in addition to regular training. Interns are paired in either groups of two or three and work with one dog each semester. One of the bigger challenges of the program is to find housing for the dogs throughout the school year as students living on campus can not live with the dogs in their dorms. Over the long breaks, the dogs go home with either trainer who can take them.

Jensen explained that all ADEPT dogs are dual-trained as diabetic alert dogs for type 1 diabetics and as service dogs for mobility assistance. The dogs will learn upward of 80 different behaviors. After the dogs have graduated from the program they get placed into many different types of workplaces.

Ball and Jensen try to schedule clients who are on the waitlist or have applied to come into one of the ADEPT meetings. This allows the organizers and interns to see how the clients interact with the dogs and ask questions. Dogs that have a more laid back personality are paired with a mobility assistance partner, as they are not going to be as active. Dogs who are more zealous are paired with a partner that has type one diabetes. Although those are what the dogs are trained for, they can take on many different jobs. One went to be a senior resource dog, another is Minnesota's first victim advocate dog, and many go to be school resource dogs. One of the more famous success stories of an ADEPT dog is Abby and Darby who have 1.6 million followers on Tiktok.

The topic of a recent ADEPT meeting was puppy socialization and the myths of puppy training, since the ADEPT program picked up two new 10-week-old puppies over Thanksgiving break. Other topics discussed throughout the program are ethics,



Ellie Lorenz holding a future ADEPT dog named Lenny. Photo by Lexi Janzer.

disability laws, disability training methods, and nonprofit advocacy for service dogs. The beginning of the meeting was more like a class. Ball is very experienced and shared her knowledge about how socialization will be different with each puppy. She told stories and gave examples from her many years of experience. Next the class went through three activities with the puppies: introducing the puppies to harnesses, having their first session with the Trixie Trainer, and diabetic scent imprinting.

The Trixie Trainer is a toy that teaches puppies how to press a button which rewards them with food. This is a good introduction to touch buttons which are used to

open up doors. Next was diabetic scent imprint. People with type one diabetes would give their spit sample which then would get swabbed on a cotton pad. That sample would get frozen and then put into a tub. Ball would mix up the tub with the cotton sample in it and a clicker in her hands. Whenever the puppy would choose the tub with the sample in it they got rewarded.

Ball stated, "This is a commitment that changes a college lifestyle and experience." For many of the interns, the best part of the program is advocacy with the dogs. Last year, the group of interns banded together so that their dogs could walk across the stage for graduation.

Newly evolved COVID-19 variant sparks safety concerns before winter break

polly.covert@my.uwrf.edu

With Thanksgiving break behind us and J-Term approaching, continuing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is crucial for a safe return. Since students will be spread across the Midwest and other states for around a month, there may not be access to easy rapid testing.

The testing center in Hagestad Hall will be open and available to students through Wednesday, December 22nd. Testing is an easy process, and should be utilized by all students who suspect they may be sick or exposed.

Effective starting the week after Thanksgiving break, all unvaccinated individuals who were required to test biweekly, including off-campus students and staff, will now need to be tested weekly. Unvaccinated students who reside on campus will continue to be tested weekly as well. This adjustment will be obligatory through December 13th.

On November 26th, a new COVID-19 variant was classified as the Omicron variant. The CDC is regularly monitoring these COVID variants, and it's expected that the Omicron variant will be detected immediately if it appears in the US. The first case of Omicron can be traced back to November 24th in South Africa. As of November 28th, there have been two reported cases of Omicron in Ontario, Canada. This confirms that the variant has reached North America in 4 days.

When the Delta variant emerged in India in December of 2021, it made its way to the United States

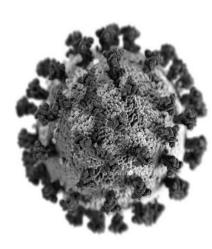


Illustration of coronavirus by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



QR code for students to set up COVID-19 pre-appointment screening paperwork. Photo by Brooke Shepherd.

by March of 2021. It took about three months for a major surge in cases to begin. By July, the Delta Variant was so overwhelming that it made up over 83% of COVID cases. The World Health Organization stated the Omicron variant poses a 'very high risk globally, as the Omicron variant has reached several continents within days of being classified. With a large number of mutations, it is also suspected that the Omicron variant may be more contagious than the Delta variant.

With the excitement of returning home for J-Term comes the excitement of seeing old friends and the joys of reconnecting with families for the holidays. An increase in COVID cases was to be expected through December and January. However, with the shadow of this new and contagious variant hanging over us during the holidays, it's even more crucial to take precautions while celebrating.

Limiting the size of gatherings and limiting travel is effective in preventing the spread of COVID. Wearing masks indoors and around people who are more susceptible to carrying or spread-

ing the virus is recommended by the CDC. Keeping your social circle somewhat small during J-Term can be an extremely helpful precaution as well.

The student vaccination rate on campus is currently over 70%. Maintaining immunity with booster shots when available is favorable to keep safe. Over J-Term, there will still be access throughout hometown pharmacies and offices to obtain vaccines. With our Hagestad testing site closed for break, your state government website provides a search engine for local COVID tests. With these searches, you will be able to find COVID tests available near you. There is also an option to pick what type of test you are seeking.

During our final weeks of the semester, keeping safe and healthy should be a top priority before final exams. Even off campus, we are Falcons. Working to stop the spread over J-Term and striving to stay healthy will achieve a safe return for the Spring Semes-



COVID-19 signage guiding students to testing location. Photo by Brooke Shepherd.

Sugar industry provides students 'sweet' opportunities

Michelle Stangler

Michelle.Stangler@my.uwrf.edu

There are many opportunities for students interested in a career involved in ag-

riculture.

"Our industry loves college students!" said Luther Markwart of the American Sugar Alliance. There are many opportunities for students interested in a sweet, and yet, fulfilling career involved in agriculture. There are many opportunities for college students to work in the sugar industry whether students are looking for internships or full-time positions within the processing facilities, agronomy division, research assistance, and support staff in Minnesota or to explore a different state.

Markwart's advice is to college students is, "work hard, stay in school, get good grades and have fun." Companies are ready to help college students in many different areas, but it would not be possible with the many different moving parts there are within the industry.

Every year 1.1 million acres of sugar beets and cane are grown in the U.S. The two sources of sugar, sugar beets and cane, are, "essential ingredient in foods across our food system" said Markwart. The two different plants make sugar to go into many craving food items such as candy, baked goods, and more!

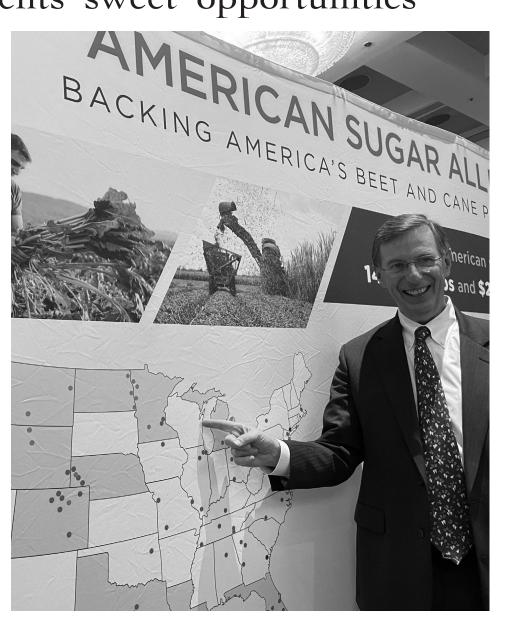
There is a reliable supply of sugar considering the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota processing facilities can help fill the grocery stores and industry partners that need sugar. When the covid-19 pandemic began, the American Sugar Alliance saw more consumers wanting to bake

to ensure they have food on their own and to entertain the family. Markwart says the American Sugar Alliance, "pivoted to make 53 million more 4 lb. bags for the grocery stores for customers to have an ample supply." To fill the need was important but he adds it was, "Thanks to the dedicated farmers and factory workers."

Farmers producing sugar beets are harvesting a huge 5-pound white crop. To process the sugar, the equipment chops and boils the sugar out of the sugar beet. In cane production, the tall stalks are chopped, and the juice is squeezed out of it. It's then considered raw sugar and re-melted to create a finer sugar more ideal to the end consumer. Markwart says this year's crop is producing a great yield at over 30 tons per acre considering the target average yield is 25 tons per acre.

The sugar beet consists of 75% water and 18-19% sugar which means there is a lot of water leftover. What doesn't get to be made into sugar is used in many different byproducts. The pulp is a valuable feed product for cattle feed and even used for horses at the Kentucky Derby Markwart says. The by-products of sugar are plentiful, but Markwart pointed out it even can act as a road de-icer alongside molasses since it's "sticky and non-corrosive."

The sugar industry offers not only a future career opportunity, but products that may not have come to mind that are used with sugar in them.



Luther Markwart points to a map where the sugar industry is most active. Photo by Michelle Stangler.

McNair program guides students to advanced degrees

Melissa Thorud

melissa.thorud@my.uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls offers an achievement program for first generation and low-income students based in research-centered degrees. The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is available through about 150 other universities in the nation and River Falls can offer this option to select students.

To be eligible for the program, a student must be the first generation to pursue a college degree and come from a low-income background, or be a member of a historically underrepresented group. The students who are chosen go through a process of preparation during their undergraduate education that sets them up for success within their pursuit of doctorate degrees.

The funding for the program comes from the U.S. Department of Education and UWRF has funding to support 26 students.

UWRF student Crystal Malagon is in the McNair program and hopes to earn a doctorate beyond her bachelor's degree in psychology.

"I applied right before COVID and that summer I did all the research," she said. "One of my professors encouraged me to apply for the program and then I went through the interview process and things took off from there."

She currently is a senior and wants to travel out of state for her post-graduate degree. Malagon said, "I'm looking at 12 different programs, two or three are master's programs and the rest are Ph.D. programs. There are two in Texas and then one in Oklahoma and then some other states as well."

The research that she has done through the McNair program has helped her to narrow down what she wants to study further. After the past two years with the program, she wants to focus on ending stigmas around mental health and go into counseling.

"I'm a psychology major with an emphasis on mental health and the grad school programs I am applying to are counseling psychology programs with a background in domestic violence prevention and human sexuality education," said Malagon.

The program honors Ronald E. McNair, a Black laser physicist who was killed during the Challenger space shuttle explosion in 1986

"Dr. McNair had been a first-generation

college student from a low-income background, and he was also a member of one of the populations that has been historically underrepresented in advanced degree programs," said Antonio T. Freeman, program coordinator for the McNair program.

Following the Challenger explosion, Freeman said, "In 1989 Congress created the McNair program to work with eligible students who come from one of those populations similar to Dr. McNair's experience as they prepare for and pursue a graduate program with a significant research focus," said Freeman.

At UWRF there are typically 13 new junior students and 13 continuing senior students chosen for the program each year. They all work as a group to support each other as well as working individually on their research. Currently the program is recruiting for 2023.

UWRF has also introduced a sub-project in the McNair program called "Bridge to McNair" that is designed for freshmen and sophomores.

Brianna Samson, the communication specialist for the program, said, "We just started this program, and it is for our firstyear and sophomore students, and it kind of teaches more of what the program entails and if the program would be a good fit for them."

Through the bridge program, students can get a look into what they might be doing if chosen to be a part of the McNair program. Samson said, "They get to go to some of the different scholarly presentations on campus. They also meet with Dr. Freeman and Dr. (Sierra) Howry, who is the director of the program, and discuss with them their goals for going into a grad program."

The program allows for mentorships as well. Students are usually guided by staff and faculty who are mentors for the program. Professors at UWRF are available to these students to help them achieve their goals within the program and during their path to their post-grad education.

There is a research period during the summer that is overseen by the faculty mentors. During the research process, students are given a stipend for housing and meals and for their research work done in their field.

For more information about the McNair program, see the website uwrf.edu/McNair-Program/.

Falcon football wins Isthmus Bowl

Sam Fristed

sam.fristed@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls football team completed its season in style by winning the inaugural Culver's Isthmus Bowl in Verona, Wisconsin, on Nov. 20. The Falcons defeated Washington University in St. Louis 48-27 to secure their ninth and final victory that capped an impressive year for the program. The nine wins ties a program high for most in a season and are the most for the program since 1996.

Washington University opened the scoring with a touchdown but the Falcons answered. Senior quarterback Kole Hinrichsen found fellow senior Charlie Huschka for a receiving score. After a failed two-point conversion the Falcons trailed briefly.

The Falcons were not behind for long, as Hinrichsen tossed his second touchdown of the quarter to sophomore Jager Reissmann to put the team in front. Senior running back Luke Fugate scored for the Falcons in the second quarter, but Washington University scored twice taking a lead into halftime.

While the score was close at halftime, the Falcons broke open the game in the second half, scoring four times. The first score came from a Hinrichsen scramble, and the second came from Hauschka finding the end zone again. The Falcons continued to find the end zone when senior tight end Ben Beise rushed for a score from two yards out. The last Falcon to score was Hinrichsen, who added another rushing touchdown. Washington University would score but it was too little, too late as the Falcons had more than enough points to claim the bowl victory.

The defense did their part in the victory by limiting Washington University to 14 total rushing yards. The defense also chipped in five sacks including two from junior Jake Halsey. Senior linebacker Andy Metcalf led the team in tackles with seven.

Hinrichsen finished his UWRF football career by breaking the single game record for most completed passes with 44. He also set a career high for passing yards in a game with 347. The offense also got in the record books as they tied the NCAA Division III record for most first downs in a game with 44.

The Falcons will graduate 19 seniors, many of whom were important pieces to the team. This includes quarterback Kole Hinrichsen, running back Luke Fugate, and tight end Ben Beise. On defense the Falcons will lose key contributors Bailey Germain and Ben Ertz, both linebackers, to graduation. For now, the Falcons will celebrate their bowl victory that capped a successful season. The Falcons will look to build on their bowl game success as they prepare for next season.



Falcon football players competing in Isthmus Bowl. Photo provided by Pat Deninger, University Communications and Marketing.



Wide Receiver Alex Traxler carriers a ball down field. Photo provided by Pat Deninger, University Communications and Marketing.

Springing ahead to spring sports

Sam Fristed

sam.fristed@my.uwrf.edu

The temperature is dropping and winter is setting in. While winter is only getting started, it's never too early to begin looking ahead to the warmer weather spring brings. The warmer season will see the return of various Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, or WIAC, athletic events the Falcons participate in.

Softball will look to improve their record after finishing last year with a 10-19 record. The Falcons also went 6-14 in WIAC conference play. Head coach Amber Dohlman will begin her seventh season with the program. The team graduated four seniors and will field a young team heading into 2022. Freshman Johanna Breyen led the team in batting average last year and will look to continue keeping her high offensive numbers into her sophomore season. Juliana coach Alison Jennings who stepped down at the conclusion Reynolds will return for her junior season after leading the team last year in strikeouts and innings pitched. The 2022 schedule is not available but the season is expected to begin in late February.

Women's lacrosse will begin their season after having a successful one last year. The team went 9-3 and qualified for the NCAA tournament before losing to John Carroll University. Returning for the Falcons includes last season's leading goal scorer Emily Herdine. Entering her junior season, she looks to continue to be an offensive threat after scoring 44 goals. She also led the team in assists with 16. Returning for her sophomore season, Emma Kohlbeck was second on the team in goals with 31. Third leading scorer Gina Jablonski will be back for her junior season after scoring 27 goals. The Falcons will be without head

of last season to pursue a Division II program opportunity. The Falcons will be led by Talia Hayes. Hayes will hope to bring the same offensive style to the team after the Falcons scored an average of 16 goals per game and allowed just eight goals per game. The season is expected to begin in

Track and field will begin their season with a meet against UW-Stout on Jan. 22. The team finished last season fifth in the WIAC. Under second year coach Colleen Sowa, the Falcons saw improvement for the program. Sowa left the program for Division I employment. This year, Andy Eggerth will be the new coach for the team after joining the program in August. Eggerth will look to build on the success of Sowa and continue to lead the program in the right direction.

Family heritage influences annual holiday traditions

Emma Statz

Emma.Statz@my.uwrf.edu

When one thinks of traditions or family rituals, it is likely that we in turn think of holidays. The things that happen every year or places where everyone goes when everyone gets together to celebrate. Whether that is hiding a pickle in the tree or the making of my aunt's famous apple spice cheesecake it is a way to bond and make memories in my family. While those are some traditions that we carry out, the most important one is the very act of getting together. While most of my relatives live within a 10-mile radius of my house, life can get busy, and family can take a back seat to work or school. This makes the holidays an excuse for everyone to get together.

Everyone comes to Thanksgiving to Christmas despite differences or outside plans, those days are reserved for family. It is also unique because in my family both my mom's and dad's sides of the family sometimes do big events like Christmas together because everyone is friends. It makes for a very welcoming environment in which everyone is welcome for whatever reason or for however long that they can stay. Christmas is especially filled with many of our family traditions. On Christmas Eve, for as long as I can remember we have been going to my Great Grandparents house.

After church, we all get together to celebrate with my grandma's brothers as well as their kids and my cousins. This started when my great grandparents were kids and then they carried out the tradition with their siblings and kids. It just kept growing and now even though my great grandparents are gone we still go to their house that my great aunt and uncle live in to celebrate and get together with people that we do not always get to see. This event has even more traditions mainly in the form of food made from recipes that have been in the family for next to forever.

Our family heritage is German so many of the recipes are surrounded by traditional German food. This includes the famous family cabbage and potatoes, apple and sausage stuffing, and chocolate chip cookies making for a very di-



The late Great Grandpa Lemke with all 24 of his great-grandkids on Christmas eve. Photo from Emma Statz.

verse dinner

The most important tradition that is the mantra of my family is that anyone and everyone is welcome to join for whatever reason. They truly take the open door policy seriously and this has made for many more people to become a part of the family purely for showing up. It is something that I want to continue to practice because I have a wonderful family and plenty of excitement and belonging to go

around. Why not bring other people along if presented with the opportunity.

With that I hope that my traditions and stories have found you well and I'll leave you with this encouragement, that those of us who are blessed with these environments during the holidays invite those who need a family because you never know who might benefit from one small act of kindness.

Holiday Music Picks

By Natalie Riddle



- 1. Christmas Treat -Julian Casablancas
- 2. Wonderful Christmastime Paul McCartney
- 3. Silent Night Sufjan Stevens
- 4. White Winter Hymnal -Fleet Foxes
- 5. Hey Guys! It's Christmas Time -Sufjan Stevens
- 6. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas Phoebe Bridgers
- 7. Christmastime -The Smashing Pumpkins
- 8. Frosty the Snowman Fionna Apple
- 9. The Little Drummer Boy Johnny Cash
- 10.1'll Be Home For Christmas -Kacey Musgraves, Lana Del Rey
- 11. Angel In the Snow Elliott Smith
- 12. If We Make It Through December Merle Haggard



Editorial: Hidden fees upset students

Colleges are often associated with debt and high prices. funds that come along the way, from a graduation fee to There are usually fees to apply, whether accepted or not, and unexpected fees that come up along the way.

At UW-River Falls, we have identified a few unnecessary fees. The online learning fee that was charged to all students in the midst of a global pandemic last year, is \$50 per credit up to 6 credits. For business students, it's \$70.

We often see the estimated prices on college websites, which in itself can seem daunting. But there is no flat rate at universities. In fact, there are many hidden fees and lost

confusingly set up dining dollars.

At the Student Voice, we feel that the way the university designates student money in some cases is not well designed. For example, each year \$10 is put into an account for students to spend on printing throughout the year. The problem is, if you don't use this money, it's just gone. It doesn't roll over to the next year. If you didn't want to print, you can't get the \$10 back.

Students may not consider the cost of transportation,

parking permits, and segregated fees for student organizations even if they do not participate in them. We feel that all of these hidden fees add up for students for some resources that may not even be used by those paying them.

The university should be up front with students from the start about what fees they will be expected to pay along the way. There should also be more options for students to have their funds roll over to the next year for things like printing and dinning.

Visit the

Assistant Editor's Note:

I've been a member of this news organization for over three years now, and as I get ready to graduate, I just had to include a note to say how thankful I am for my time here and for the experiences I've had. Even as someone who writes all the time, it's hard to put into words what this organization has given me. It has been a privilege to report for this community and design these pages. There will always be a place in my heart for River Falls and, of course, the Student Voice.

-Brooke Shepherd

Student Voice website uwrfvoice.com

Student Voice

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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.

The Student Voice reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It

The Student Voice is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must be able to be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon during the week of publishing. Information on publishing schedule can be obtained by contacting the

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

Edible Inspirations

PHOTOS AND RECIPES BY BROOKE SHEPHERD





Sweet Potato Casserole

Ingredients:

- Crust:
- ·1 cup brown sugar
- ·1/3 cup flour
- ·1 cup chopped pecans
- ·1/3 cup butter, , melted Sweet Potato Mixture:
- · 3 cups cooked and mashed sweet potatoes, (see Note)
- ·1 cup sugar
- · ½ teaspoon salt
- ·1 teaspoon vanilla
- ·2 eggs, , well beaten
- · ½ cup butter, melted, (1 stick)

Instructions:

- 1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Then, spray a medium-size casserole dish with nonstick cooking spray.
- 2. To make the crust, combine brown sugar, flour, nuts and butter in a mixing bowl. Chill in the fridge until ready

to use to help the crumble maintain its form and not melt into the sweet potatoes.

3. Combine sweet potatoes, sugar, salt, vanilla, eggs and butter in a large mixing bowl in the order listed. Beat thoroughly with a hand mixer for about 3-4 minutes to increase the fluffiness of the sweet potato mixture. Add a splash

- of milk if needed and mix.

 4. Pour mixture into the baking dish (I use around a 2 quart dish). Bake for 25 minutes. At this point, the dish can be covered and refrigerated for a couple of days if made ahead of time.
- 5. *If you refrigerated ahead of time make sure to reheat the potatoes again before adding the crust for around 10-20 minutes.
- 6. Sprinkle the surface of the

sweet potato mixture evenly with the crust mixture and return to the oven for 10-20 minutes or until the crumble is browned. Allow to set at least 30 minutes before serving.

7. The brown sugar and pecan crust should be slightly browned and crunchy. Makes 10 servings.

NOTES

Note: 3 cups of sweet potatoes is about 3-4 large sweet potatoes. To cook sweet potatoes first wash and dry them carefully then you can either: 1) Bake them at 400 degrees for 50-60 minutes (my preferred method) 2) Boil them for 30 minutes or 3) Pierce them with a fork and microwave them for about 15-20 minutes. Potatoes can be baked in a 2 quart dish.

Mini Chicken Pot Pies

Ingredients

- ·1 package (10 oz) frozen mixed vegetables, cooked ·1cup diced cooked chicken ·1can (10 ½ oz) condensed cream of chicken soup ·1 can (16.3 oz) refrigerated
- Pillsbury™ Grands!™ Flaky Layers Original Biscuits (8 Count)

Instructions:

Heat oven to 375°F. In a medium bowl, combine vegetables, chicken and soup; mix well.

Press each biscuit into a 5 ½ inch round. Place 1 round in each of 8 greased regular-size muffin cups. Firmly press in bottom and up side, forming 3/4-inch rim. Spoon

a generous 1/3 cup chicken mixture into each. Pull edges of dough over filling toward center; pleat and pinch dough gently to hold in place. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until the biscuits are golden brown. Cool for 1 minute; remove from pan.

University of Wisconsin-River Falls Fall & J-Term 2021-22 Graduation List of Candidates for Associates, Bachelors and Masters Degrees

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New distillery now open in River Falls

Charlie Swanson

charles.swanson@my.uwrf.edu

The wait to experience Tattersall Distilling's new multifaceted destination distillery is over.

The critically acclaimed distillery based out of Minneapolis now inhabits 1777 Paulson Road River Falls and finally opened the doors of its 75k square foot facility to the public on December 1.

Equipped with several unique spaces both indoors and outdoors, the new expansive location can entertain the occasions of a wide range of guests and party sizes. The facility houses a restaurant, a spacious banquet hall, and several bars servicing the various spaces, like the two adjoining the amphitheater that is just as capable of holding 1,200 concert goers as it is providing a stage for a newlywed couple's band.

Grabbing a cocktail from Tattersall's drink menu, which advertises several aptly named concoctions for a River Falls distillery, such as the Kinni 75, one of their signature vodka cocktails, is an easy task considering the number of bars present in the distillery. The restaurant features modern American cuisine, some of which is crafted with their own spirits.

Not sure what drink to try? Have no fear, Tattersall has a tasting bar where one can hone in on a something to pair with their pasta verde topped with a parmesan cream sauce. The destination distillery demonstrates a clear passion for their industry and they actively encourage guests to cultivate an interest in the distilling business and its products. A prime example of this is passion is displayed through the usage of their private events classroom. The classes, which are naturally staged behind a bar, teach participants how to recreate Tattersall's cocktails and is observable through



Shelves of liquor bottles. Photo courtesy of Cast Iron Communications.



Co-Founder and Chief Officer Jon Kreidler (left) and Dan Oskey, co-founder and chief operator (right). Photo courtesy of **Cast Iron Communications.**

two different perspectives: one's eye level and TVs showing a live feed from a camera positioned directly above the instructor workspace.

It's okay if you do not have the time to learn Tattersall's recipes and techniques yet want to sip their cocktails from your own rocks or martini glass, as they sell bottles of their spirits and cocktails in their sizable retail shop. Besides providing the means to enjoy their products in the comfort of their own home, Tattersall showcases their industry to customers by way of a self-guided tour that highlights the production side of their facility while leading participants alongside windows viewing the stages of the distilling process, like the bottling line, or the mill room where local grains are used.

Be it items on their menus and retail shelves (ex. Trout Dip, Lift Bridge and Swinging Bridge taps, the aforementioned Kinni 75), homegrown ingredients used in their cooking and distilling process, or the bike racks available for riders who most likely rode in on the paths of the Whitetail Ridge Mountain Bike Trail, much of the makeup for Tattersall's new home draws inspiration from its city. The building impresses a "rickhouse" feel reminiscent of the Minneapolis location through its interior design comprised by brick, aged barn wood, black ceilings and beautiful crystal chandeliers.

For Tattersall, sustainability is the name of the game and it is embodied in everything they practice. On the rooftop lies a 405kW solar array, the largest solar array of any distillery in the nation. A water reclamation system recycles and repurposes production water for future distillations. Excess spent grain feeds the cattle and bison raised on a farm in Elko, MN, eventually becoming the meat used in their restaurant. They even grow their own greens and herbs hydroponically on-site.

Along with their exciting, innovative, and familiar amenities, Tattersall's commitment to sustainability makes the distillery a perfect addition to the city of River Falls. The business is already working to become integrated into the community by aligning with Renewable River Falls, a city campaign that encourages residents and businesses to transition towards 100% renewable energy. They will also be hosting a winter market Dec. 11-12, which will bring in local artisans and vendors.

"We couldn't be more excited to be a part of the River Falls community," said Jon Kreidler, founder, and chief officer of Tattersall Distilling. "With the river, trails and mountain biking in our backyard, we're aiming to make River Falls even more of a destination—both from the Twin Cities and beyond. The new facility is a perfect complement to what we created in Minneapolis and this is the next logical step in our evolution as a company. It allows us to really scale our production and accommodate more guests than ever, while putting a huge focus on sustainability."



A new cocktail being poured. Photo courtesy of Cast Iron Communications.

Open Wed-Sun, Tattersall is now taking reservations for parties of 8 or less people online at their website, which also has instructions on how to make larger, more specific reservations and requests. Anyone looking to stay tuned with upcoming events and new products and recipes can sign up for the Tattersall Newsletter online as well.