

STUDENT VOICE

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Gov. Tommy Thompson visits UW-River Falls on farewell tour

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Gov. Tommy Thompson officially ended his position as interim UW System president on March 18, 2022. Before this date, Gov. Thompson set out on a farewell tour to a majority of the UW campuses, including UW-River Falls. He expressed a variety of reasons why he felt that UW-River Falls was an important university, “I think it is one of the most important gems within the whole UW System. The reason I say that is because River Falls is unique. It is a campus that is close to Minnesota, it’s agricultural-based and it also has, turns out, approximately 80-85% agriculture teachers for high schools in the state of Wisconsin.” Thompson was proud of all the accomplishments the campus has made with research, agriculture, and within the community. Thompson was visiting a variety of campuses within the UW System throughout the upcoming and past weeks but expressed his specific love for River Falls, “I am just delighted to be here, always am.”

Gov. Thompson had been involved with the Wisconsin state legislature for 20 years and governor of Wisconsin for 15 years. He then served as the secretary for the Department of Health and Human Services for four years under the Bush Administration before coming back to Wisconsin and being asked to serve as interim UW System president for two years.

His two years has now come to an end and when asked how his time was within the UW-system, he expressed, “Well it’s been difficult they brought me in because they had a failed search and the university system was in a difficult space. They wanted to have a strong leader and I guess they have to classify me in that category. They had just closed down all of the campuses in March of the year of the pandemic. It’s been a challenging time but I’ve loved it.”

Thompson came into office within the UW-System around the same time the pandemic started affecting college campuses. He has played a larger role when it comes to making decisions regarding COVID safety guidelines on each of the campuses. For example, he recently overall made the decision to life the mask mandate for the UW System as of March 11.

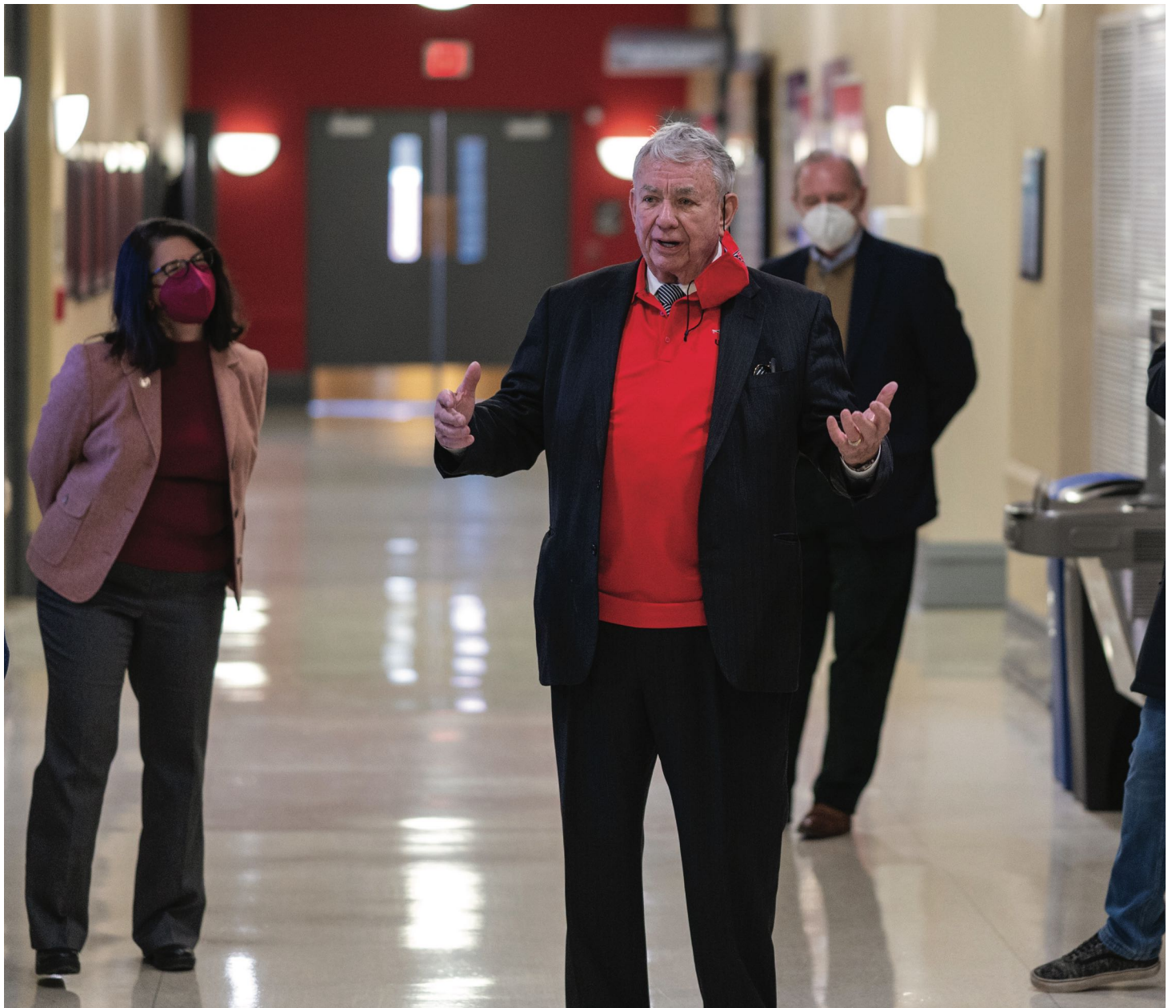
Thompson talked a lot about growth when it comes to the future of UWRF. Growing the pride for the University system and increasing the number of enrolled students. He expressed how a large factor when it comes to growth falls into having pride for the university you are attending, “I told everybody, the University of Wisconsin is the best

asset we have, besides our people. People are number one but after you take out the citizens, the next greatest asset we have is the University of Wisconsin. I told everyone, stop apologizing, start bragging about the University system! That’s what the chancellors and I are doing, bragging about this great system!” He wants more students to fulfill their college experience by utilizing all of the resources that the UW-system has to offer.

As his two years as UW System president comes to a close, Thompson did not have much of answer for what lies ahead, “I don’t know what I’m gonna do. I know one thing I will not retire.” He is determined to keep going and find that one last “gig” that he is convinced is out there. Thompson sprinkled in a few teases for what might come next such as running for governor of Wisconsin again, opening up another business, or going back home to his big farm to

raise 150 head of cattle.

Regardless of what he does next, Thompson wants to leave a legacy behind full of pride for everything that has progressed during his time as interim President. He pushed this, “Wisconsin idea” of not just being focused on education but also expanding to be a resource for problem solving in the state of Wisconsin. Thompson said, “I want them to remember that I really cared. I am passionate about the university. I opened it up, made it safe for students and faculty. I started the feeling that we no longer are going to apologize for the University of Wisconsin, we are gonna go out and brag about what we are gonna do and I am changing the Wisconsin idea.”



Gov. Tommy Thompson stops to talk to students on a tour in South Hall accompanied by Chancellor Maria Gallo. (Photo provided by University Marketing and Communications.)

What do you feel lucky to have in your life?

By Isabella Forliti



**Tiffany
Griesmer and
Benny**

“I feel lucky to be a part of the ADEPT (Assistance Dog Education Program and Training) program!”



Emma Polucha

“I feel lucky for everything. I just feel so lucky to have all of this with how things are going overseas. I’m really lucky to have my education and be able to plan my future.”

**Alexander
Al-Najim**

“I feel lucky to have the rain because spring is coming!”



**Ava
Stallmann**

“I feel lucky to have my family and my support structure and the community that I am in.”



Matt Weiman

“I feel lucky to have the life that I have and the opportunities I have.”



Meghan Jirik

“I feel lucky for my family and to have the opportunities I have and to be at River Falls in this community.”

Mai Nou Lor

“I feel lucky to have my nieces and nephews.”



**Graham
Montee**

“I feel lucky to have a very supportive and loving family.”



Faculty want out with outsourcing

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UW-River Falls faculty have expressed concern with the possibility of outsourcing custodial staff on campus. John Heppen, a faculty member on campus, hosted a meeting to discuss these concerns and what faculty members could do about them. The University is considering outsourcing with the Elevating Solutions in Facilities Management, or ESFM, group. According to their website, they are a Compass Group Organization, which is their parent company, that focuses on hospitality. The company also claims through their unique model of managing they are able to maintain a client retention rate of 97%.

The Merriam Webster dictionary defines outsourcing as, “to procure (something, such as some goods or services needed by a business or organization) from outside sources and especially from foreign or nonunion suppliers: to contract for work, jobs, etc., to be done by outside or foreign workers.” The main reason for outsourcing custodial and ground services on campus that has been expressed to the faculty is the lack of retention that has occurred over a number of years. This would be a solution for staff to not have to worry about the staffing on campus. This company hires a variety of people to work in an area such as custodial services and proceeds to send them to different campuses and locations they have contracts with.

This is one of the issues that Heppen and other faculty are concerned about. As Heppen led the meeting and highlighted some of the main issues they see with the outsourcing company coming in, having staff not dedicated specifically to our campus was a major concern. Heppen said, “Someone who is assigned in Somerset could be asked to go work in New Richmond. People who work for this company are all over the place.” Having staff on campus who not only know the physical campus but also are connected to the students is of importance to faculty concerned about this issue.

Tovah Flygare, an adjunct professor in the department of agriculture economics, expressed, “I’ve been a part of various projects with our current grounds supervisor and staff, incorporating campus as a living laboratory into classes and events. We have been awarded and successfully completed several grants already, and we are in the middle of another for the benefit of UWRF. I cannot imagine how this grant work could happen if grounds were run with an outsourcing contract instead of knowledgeable staff.” Flygare emphasized this same regard towards the custodial staff



Matt Weiman provides custodial services at the University Center. (Photo provided by Deanna Cahoon-Draus, University Center- Building Operations Specialist.)

currently on campus, “When I’m working with students on a project in a campus building, the custodial staff are always there to help, knowledgeable about campus equipment, and many of them know the students so there is a positive connection that makes projects and service-learning opportunities easier and better.”

Another concern lies in the fact that Compass Group is the parent company of another outsourcing portion of campus, Chartwells, which manages both catering and dining on campus. Heppen expressed concern at the meeting for a “bundling” deal that the company could offer due to already having ties to services on campus.

Melissa Davis, the custodial services supervisor for the academic buildings chimed in, “I remain hopeful that in

light of this, campus will come to realize the great resource that we are and things we provide, as custodial, for our campus community and student focus. It is really what we enjoy doing, being student-focused and providing a safe and clean learning environment for those students.”

A committee on campus is currently gathering information on this issue and what outsourcing could bring to campus. This committee will present its findings to the Chancellor on April 15. On May 1, the Chancellor will be making an official decision on if the campus will choose to use this company to outsource both custodial and ground services on campus. Faculty may come around with a physical copy of a petition that can be signed but there is also an online petition available.

Departments struggle with maintaining student employees

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The number of student employees on campus went down during COVID, but it has come back up.

“In July 2019, we employed students in approximately 900 positions. In July 2021, it was down to around 500, and now we have 950 active student jobs,” said Michelle Best from human resources.

The number of student employees saw a drop when COVID started and the lockdown happened. The number of employees on campus has risen back up since then, however there are still some departments that are having a hard time finding employees.

“Facilities Management has found it difficult to recruit student employees since COVID-19 began in 2020 and so we have some vacant student employee positions at this time,” said Alan Symicek, the chief facilities officer. Departments have had to work harder to recruit students because of the shutdown that happened when COVID started.

“When there was a hard stop that occurred and things were virtual for so long we had to start from the beginning. Many departments had to start from scratch with getting people to join,” said Amy Lloyd, the associate director of Student Involvement. Because school was virtual due to COVID, when students came back to campus there were many that did not know about the job opportunities available to them.

Another reason that there might be difficulties for some departments to find student employees is that enrollment numbers are down. Since there are fewer students, there could be fewer candidates to fill the jobs on campus.

“There are jobs in the community that pay more,” said Melissa Wilson, the director of Career Services. This could be another reason that there might be difficulties in finding students to work on campus. Some of the departments on campus have raised their wages so that they could be competitive with jobs in the community.

Handshake is the platform that UW-River Falls students can use to find jobs on campus and in the community. Ev-

ery student already has an account on Handshake and can access it with their student ID number and password. Departments will also have current employees recruit people, put up posters, or post on social media to advertise the positions they have open.

If there are open positions on campus that are not filled by students, current student employees may be asked to pick up more hours. It varies from department to department what will happen if the jobs are not filled.

“One of the benefits of working on campus is a more flexible schedule and having an employer that understands that your student status is a priority,” said Wilson. “One of the biggest advantages of working on campus is the ease of scheduling, with the understanding that your employer knows that you are a student first.”

An on-campus job is also a great way to connect to the university and to other people. It also gives students work experience that they can use in their future jobs when they leave the university.

Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes visits campus to discuss climate change efforts

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Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes visited the University of Wisconsin-River Falls on February 28 to speak on the Wisconsin Governor's Task Force on Climate Change Report and how the state can better adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Barnes, who was born and raised in Milwaukee, was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly at the age of 25, where he served two terms, and went on to be elected Lt. Gov. on November 8, 2018. Immediately upon taking his gubernatorial office, Barnes was chosen to be the chair of the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change. The task force was charged with compiling a report that analyzed the state of affairs related to the impacts of climate change in Wisconsin and to put forth policy solutions that address the developing concerns identified. The report was published by the state of Wisconsin in December of 2020 and it outlines 55 policy recommendations.

After receiving a warm welcome from students, faculty, and members of the UWRF community, Barnes began making a passionate plea to the audience about the importance of recognizing the various impacts of Wisconsin's climate crisis and taking action. He commended the work of the diverse coalition of perspectives that aided in the construction of the task force's vision for tackling climate change and improving equity in Wisconsin.

"We had our farmers, we had the business community, large and small, we had utility companies, we had insurance companies, we had tribal leaders, we had labor unions, some of our youth climate activists showed up," said Barnes. "We heard from experts, we held public listening sessions, and we had a lot of discussions over the course of the task force's work," he added.

Together, the task force composed policy recommendations for their report that spanned nine sectors: climate justice and equity, energy, transportation, agriculture, resilient systems, clean economy, education, food systems, and for-

estry. The report also identifies three pathways for the implementation of their policy recommendations, executive action, 2021-2023 Wisconsin state budget, and legislation, and it lays out which pathways work for each specific recommendation.

Barnes acknowledged the frustrations of many Wisconsinites in the lack of progress in implementing policy to combat climate change, but he also stressed that the state can still come together and "overcome a lot of what went wrong."

"I truly believe that because climate change is the biggest crisis that we are facing, we will also see some of the greatest opportunities because of it," said Barnes.

Working on the task force gave Barnes a perfect opportunity to address some of the pillars of his platform as Lt. Gov. He pointed to his time spent working as an organizer for an interfaith group that was trying to take on the impact of coal-burning power plants as an influential experience that shaped his political priorities. The group found that these power plants have been causing a disproportionate rate of respiratory disease among lower-income and black and brown communities. The inequitable and negative consequences of coal-based emissions reinforced his belief that equity and sustainability are truly interconnected.

"When I took the oath of office, I said 'we're going to lead with the core principles of equity and sustainability,' because it was important for us to talk about both because both have been ignored and both should work in tandem with each other," said Barnes.

As a result of a collective approach of people coming together and demanding change, Barnes announced that coal-burning power plants are starting to go offline, and many have already. Barnes also mentioned the difficulties facing farmers and their crops as reason for pushing for innovative change. Damaging weather events are becoming more prevalent, and their unpredictability and severity is projected to increase going forward. Be it due to extreme precipitation, flooding, heat waves, or drought, Wisconsin has been hit with detrimental weather, which has accumu-

lated in \$100 billion in damages between 2000 and 2020, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters database.

When talking about coming up with solutions, Barnes referenced Wisconsin's past history of being a leader in renewable energy and conservation as a resource to pull from, and he sees no reason why the state cannot return to the forefront of the climate movement.

"Wisconsin was way behind in tackling climate change, but before we were way behind, we were way ahead. The drive is there, the resolve is there, the will is there, but it had been lost for a while," said Barnes.

To close his presentation, Barnes challenged students to use their voice to join the fight against climate change. Whether it is by reaching out to local legislators to inquire about their support, or lack of, for addressing climate change, or even by running for office themselves, Barnes wants students to realize the crucial and urgent nature of their role in dealing with this crisis.

"For you all who are in the audience thinking deeply about this and wondering what is going on, I encourage you to step up, honestly consider running for office, every level there is some impact we can make on addressing climate change," said Barnes.

Outside of the work done by the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change, Barnes and the rest of Governor Tony Evers' administration have gone about rectifying the state's course on addressing climate change was by joining the US Climate Alliance. The US Climate Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of states across the country that vow to uphold the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. Also, Barnes and his cohorts created the Office of Sustainability and Clean energy, which he said, "leads the state's efforts in fighting the impacts of climate change through programs and policies that support the use of clean energy, resources and technology." The office is currently in the final stages of drafting Wisconsin's first "clean power plan," according to Barnes.



From left to right: Mike Noreen, Chancellor Maria Gallo, Julia Miller, Brigitte Ledferd, Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, Anthony Silva, Charlie Swanson, Grace Coggio. Photo by Beth Schommer.

Optional mask wearing is turning point of pandemic life on campus

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With the return from spring break comes significant changes in the COVID-19 guidelines. What may be the turnaround to the pandemic has finally reached campus. With COVID cases dropping since the last spike, nationwide cases are at their lowest since the school year began last fall.

President of the UW-Systems Tommy Thompson has made the decision to lift the mask mandate on our campus and many others. Discussed during a meeting between Thompson and State Chancellors, COVID rates are projected to continue to go down as part of a current national trend. With masks being optional beginning March 11, testing on campus and vaccination opportunities will remain.

During an interview with Chancellor Maria Gallo, concerns about the mask mandate being lifted were reassured. "According to the CDC, our counties are no longer high-risk," said Gallo. "I do want to make it clear that our COVID task force will not be dissolved. We are not dropping everything; we are keeping everything else in place and monitoring to keep everybody safe."

There has been concern voiced throughout students regarding the mask mandate being lifted directly after spring break. With students traveling and socializing throughout the week, an uptick in cases is expected. However, with the



A group of students chat together in the University Center without masks on. (Photo by Isabella Forliti.)

vaccination rate on campus, the rise in cases is not expected to be significant.

Gallo stated, "I feel that we'll be extremely diligent. As a scientist, I'm watching this like a hawk myself to make sure we don't see anything that makes us concerned, but if we do, masks go right back on. Don't throw your masks away. Keep everything ready to go in case something happens so we can handle it quickly"

If students have traveled or spent time in large groups over break, they are strongly encouraged to get tested upon their return to campus. All students that may be experiencing symptoms are also expected to get tested.

Those who remain unvaccinated will be required to test during the first week back from Spring Break. These dates will be between Monday, March 21 and Friday, March 25.

Testing remains easily accessible in Hagestad and takes about 15 minutes from start to finish. A link on the front page of the Falcons Forward website is available for quick

appointment scheduling.

For those who choose to continue wearing masks on campus and those who decide not to, everyone must remember to remain respectful and supportive of one another's beliefs. "Nobody knows everybody's personal situations, so we should respect each other and the choices that everyone makes," says Gallo. "We are one family and community, and we are safer here on campus than out there in the community in terms of percentages of vaccinations and masking."

While completing the spring semester, students are to keep in mind that the best protection against COVID-19 is keeping up with the vaccinations and boosters and wearing high-quality masks. As of now, it seems that the worst of the pandemic may be through, so keep spirits high, support one another, and Go Falcons!

Matrix advising strategy tested on students

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UW-River Falls is testing out a new matrix advising strategy for computer science students. This new matrix advising strategy will possibly be used for all other majors as well in the upcoming years.

Jamie Zamjahn, the assistant director of Student Services, is leading the new advising strategy initiative. Zamjahn has been doing academic advising and leading advising efforts for 18 years.

According to the UWRF website, the current advising strategy is described as: "A faculty member or a full-time advisor will guide and mentor you as you progress in your program. An undergraduate candidate is required to meet with his/her advisor at least once each semester to review progress and plan for future semesters."

In an interview, Zamjahn described the current advising strategy as, "Faculty-lead advising model depending on which college; some colleges have professional advisors that supplement them." He also spoke in favor of students having immediate contact with their faculty advisors, saying, "The great thing is that students get to meet with their mentor right away work with them for four to six years, however long they are here, and actually have that person to actually help them with grad school applications, jobs, stuff like that."

Another issue with the current strategy is the number of

students that each faculty advisor has to mentor. As mentioned by Zamjahn, "The goal is to try to get faculty advising a lot lower because we have some majors where they have 100 students, and that's a lot on top of all that teaching, research, community activities, and so on."

"What I mean by matrix," Zamjahn explained, "is where the professional advisor and the faculty advisor work together to support a student, and so we know that a lot of our students struggle here, and they struggle in college generally, not because they are not smart enough but because there is so much happening in their lives outside the classroom. So those professional advisors really take on the more holistic side of the question like how is your work schedule, how are your roommates, what's going on in your life? While the faculty then can focus more on those academic mentorship pieces of it."

Zamjahn stated that "It's actually a model that I've been using at a couple other institutions that are actually based on a lot of high-impact practices from research, and so we have a faculty advising committee that is looking at it as well to see how they can provide and look into more of a matrix model as well."

This new advising model will not be used anywhere else besides the computer science program as Zamjahn explained, "we've got some hurdles to jump through at the state level."

According to Zamjahn, "we lose about 30% of our students after the first year, and we lose about another 15%

after the second year."

Zamjahn is hoping to solve this problem by helping students in their transitional stages with these extra steps in advising: "Where are those gaps in advising, and then how do we take this model that I've seen work at different types of institutions and, what I call it is, falconize it? How can we falconize it to make it fit here for what we need? Really, I think that there are just gaps in that holistic support. We don't have those opportunities to have those conversations about what's happening outside the classroom that is affecting them inside, and so we need to get those taken care of."

UWRF also just hired a new academic advisor, Courtney Brommer.

"Courtney is in our Student Success Center," Zamjahn said. "She started on March 1, and so she is going to be supporting exploratory students, computer science students, our students on academic probation, and the walk-in general advising. So if students just have general questions, they can walk into the Student Success Center."

When this new advising strategy is initiated on campus, Brommer's job will most likely change.

"It will probably be more support of different programs," Zamjahn said, "but this is kind of our first step in, and we are kind of testing this model with specifically computer science."

Student input needed for violence prevention on campus

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Jennifer Larimore, the Title IX coordinator, and Ann Lawton, the violence prevention coordinator, are hoping to get more student input for the upcoming year to make sure that all students know the resources their offices provide.

Title Nine is officially described, “This office is responsible for responding to reports of sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, and taking prompt action to stop that behavior, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects. Because we must all do our part to ensure a safe and equitable educational environment, this office regularly collaborates with other campus partners and community stakeholders,” according to the UW-River Falls website.

Larimore also added to her job description, “At a very basic level my job is to ensure that there is a way to receive information about concerns, that when we receive those types of concerns we respond appropriately, that we have a process to address the concerns, and that we have a way to provide supportive resources and supportive measures to students that are involved.”

Violence Prevention is officially described as, “an employee whose role is to plan, implement, and evaluate theory- and evidence-informed sexual and intimate partner violence, sexual harassment and gender-based violence, and stalking (sexual/intimate partner violence) prevention strategies, policies, programs, and services to support student success,” according to the UWRF student handbook.

As Lawton described, “I evaluate and plan things based around evidence-based programming and outcomes to promote healthy relationships, to prevent sexual assault, to encourage community: anything from unhealthy relationship communication, to setting boundaries, to sexual assault, to hazing, to bystander intervention, the list goes on because there are little facets in between everything. I like to say that I’m just trying to help humans be better humans to other humans, because nobody really teaches us how to do this, especially as young adults. We are all coming from different experiences, or expectations, or understandings, or culture, as well as gender roles and expectations about what relationships do and do not look like.”

Lawton was hired to be the Violence Prevention coordinator in September of 2020, but she has experience dealing with these types of issues because of her continued work as an art therapist.

“As an art therapist, a lot of my off-campus community work has been with people involved with domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and other trauma-impacted populations, so that really prepared me for the work of Violence Prevention coordinator. I’m already familiar with the population, with the subject matter in way of healing and coping and responding, and then, having been an educator here in the Art Department since 2011, getting to marry that teaching component with that. So, it just makes sense to be able to do that. In a way, we’ve had to take an interesting approach since the pandemic started. Responding to needs and other things and being able to work with Jennifer, it’s a highly collaborative, encouraging environment.”

Larimore described their office’s prevention work on campus as a “prevention toolbox.” Many of the things in it are: the new student training at the beginning of the year that every student is required to take, NCAA sexual assault prevention training, residence life leaders like RA and Hall Director training, bystander intervention training for Student Support Services, and showing up to many campus events like Week of Welcome, Midnight Mahyem, and Nesting Days to connect with students and have these important conversations while making art.



An art project created by Ann Lawton with hall directors during a training process. (Photo by Lexi Janzer.)

Just last semester, around 50-60 students used the Violence Prevention and Title IX services. Through programming and going to events and talking with students, Lawton guesses that around 500+ students have heard the important messages that she is sharing.

The offices are usually in collaboration with everyone on campus including the Campus Victim Advocate Katie Niznik.

Larimore explained, “Katie Niznik from Turning Point is the campus victim advocate, so the university contracts with Turning Point. We have a memorandum of understanding with them to make sure that victim advocacy services are provided to students here on campus, so that’s really important for a couple of reasons. First, Katie is not a UWRF employee, so she doesn’t share information with the university in any way really. That is important because this is a truly confidential resource for students to go to if they ever have any concerns relating to sexual assault or intimate partner violence or domestic violence, so anything along those lines. Katie knows our internal university process, but more importantly you know if somebody is coming to us because they have had a certain lived experience, it’s not just their university courses or their university experience, but their whole life that has been impacted and Katie is in a position to assist students with that, whether that is in the terms of safety planning, in terms of if the student wants to report to law enforcement, in terms of accessing resources outside of UWRF or outside of our community. Katie is an excellent resource for that.”

Niznik and Lawton as well as individuals in student health services are all confidential employees. They can not report specific names. They might report specific incidents but can’t say who was involved. University employees and student workers are mandated reporters. These people have to report names and incidents.

“Turning point has always been an incredible resource, and we are lucky to have them as a service for our students. I wish more students knew about Katie and her role and sought her out because she is such an excellent resource for them. I would love to hear ideas on what students want and what would be effective for students in terms of learning

more about the work that Katie does,” Larimore stated.

One thing that the office is really going to focus on is their Reclaim the Red campaign. This campaign is based off of the red zone statistic. The red zone is the period of time between August and November when the rate of sexual assaults committed against college students increase sharply. Over 50% of assaults happen during this period of time. This has become more of a concern recently as many institutions were predicting a double red zone.

Lawton explained, “Leading up to fall of 2021 there was research and institutions predicting a double red zone because this was the first fully in-person semester that all schools across the nation are experiencing, and they predicted higher rates of violence, and they were right.”

The Title Nine and Violence Prevention Offices are very student-oriented and want to have campaigns and resources that will benefit the most students. That’s why Lawton has been to multiple SGA meetings as well as visiting many different student organization groups.

“Talking to student groups and asking what they want to see is how we move forward. Our students are motivated, determined, and they are getting things done,” Lawton said.

Larimore described many questions that both offices want answers to in order to move forward with programming and make it programming that the students want and will benefit from the most: “I would like to hear what students want, like what would be an effective touchpoint for students that first year, that second year, that third year, that fourth year, and beyond? What is it that students want? What would be useful for them? What resources are really needed from a support aspect? What education focuses on? What touchpoints do they like? Are the events like Midnight Mayhem successful? What are other events they would like to see? What about the students that didn’t go? What about our commuter students? How can we be strategic in terms of touchpoints?”

Ultimately, where the offices go from here is up to the students. As Lawton stated, “If we want to be a student senate institution, we need to trust students to make decisions with us, and so that’s what I love about this work.”

Goats may someday reduce riverside brush at UWRF

Natalie Torbert
Falcon News Service

UW-River Falls is considering using goats to help clear up areas along the Kinnickinnic River, the south fork of which flows through campus.

The grounds maintenance team wanted to take a more natural approach to clear out invasive or non-native plants. Instead of using herbicides, the team sought out another way to clear the spaces. However, due to the limited number of grounds staff, it was not feasible for them to spend all day, every day, gutting and clearing out as much as possible.

The visibility and accessibility of the Kinnickinnic River not only for the UW-River Falls campus but for the community became a priority for Grounds Supervisor Jennifer Allen. Specifically, she noticed how the amphitheater looked, along with access and visibility to the river.

“I was just curious about ways we could go about maybe making the river more visible from the University Center, more accommodating when we have the outdoor concerts here at the theater,” Allen said. “I know it’s a very valuable resource to not only the university but the community.”

Several years back, an idea came to Allen after a landscape project brought her to St. Paul. The Minnesota capital city hired goats to help clear out brush on steep hillsides along Highway 10 and and Interstate 94 interchanges.



Goats such as these at the Mann Valley Farm may someday help trim brush along the Kinnickinnic River as it flows through the UW-River Falls campus. (Photo by Natalie Torbert / Falcon News Service).

Goats are not picky eaters and will consume everything from wild parsnips to buckthorn and weeds. The goats would be brought in and would freely roam around in a specific area.

“They certainly don’t eat big trees,” Allen said. “They’re not going to mow those down, but if they can help get rid of some of the brush and the scrap and maybe some of the grasses and things in the area, then we can go in and selectively prune and clear out some of the dead trees or the damage that’s in there and really clear out the space.”

The COVID-19 pandemic halted efforts to bring goats onto campus. Then, in December, a student in the sustainability office presented the idea to Chancellor Maria Gallo. Allen was optimistic that Gallo’s approach to sustainability

would get the conversation moving.

Facilities Director Alan Symicek said he would like to see a proposed management plan for the specific area.

“We’d be having animals do that versus using a tractor with a big mower or something like that or, you know, saws and things like that. So, I’m certainly so supportive of that,” said Symicek.

Another idea presented by Allen would be using goats already on campus at Mann Valley Farm. However, Campus Farm Director Gregory Zwald said he is not willing to have campus goats be used. Although, if the farm had more goats, Zwald would be open to it.

Allen and her team are optimistic that the project will get the go-ahead in a few years.

Local lawmakers differ on spending state surplus

Charlie Swanson
Falcon News Service

Legislators in and around River Falls are prioritizing financial relief for Wisconsinites as they decide how to best utilize the state’s projected \$3.8 billion budget surplus.

However, while both sides of the aisle are in agreement that Wisconsin families are struggling to contend with rising costs, there is no consensus on what the fiscal strategy should be.

State Rep. Shannon Zimmerman (R-River Falls) said that Wisconsin is facing substantial workforce demands, defining the labor shortage as a “looming crisis.”

Zimmerman is advocating for using the surplus to ease the tax burden on Wisconsinites by “dramatically lowering the state income tax.” Considering how commonplace it is for Wisconsin residents along the Minnesota border to seek out work in the Twin Cities area, Zimmerman said he believes that a lower state income tax could help solve the labor issue by potentially making the vacancies in Wisconsin more attractive than those in Minnesota.

Another key sector that Zimmerman highlighted for fis-

cal redressing was the state’s educational programs, more specifically, those that relate to workforce needs. He said that the state needs to find ways to get people into programs that may currently be cost-prohibitive.

Zimmerman mentioned the Hudson School District’s Raider Works program, which teaches trade skills to youth, as an example of the type of educational instruction that could use a boost of funding. Ultimately, Zimmerman said he wants more money in the pockets of his constituents, so he is also hoping for a large tax return for Wisconsinites.

“This is your money, and I find that the best spender of your money is you,” said Zimmerman.

State Rep. Warren Petryk (R-Town of Washington) aligned with Zimmerman on the notion of using the surplus funds for tax reform. Petryk touted the decisions made by the Legislature in the last budget and the budgets over the last decade, and said he would like to see the income tax brackets reduced going forward.

“Since 2011, when I was elected, the tax burden in Wisconsin has decreased by \$22 billion, and I look forward to returning more of that money to Wisconsinites in the future,” said Petryk.

State Sen. Jeff Smith (D-Brunswick) echoed his Republican colleagues on tapping into the surplus to enact substantial tax relief, but he did not share their views on cutting down state income taxes.

He also exhibited frustration over the stance of the legislators who want to wait on making any decisions related to the surplus until construction of the next budget. Smith supports Democratic Gov. Tony Evers’s plan to issue Wisconsin residents \$150 surplus refunds and invest around \$130 million in child and caregiver tax credits, and \$750 million in improving schools and learning equity.

Next to no tangible progress has been made to this point, but Evers is asking legislators to consider his proposal, which he put forth in February during his State of the State address.

Evers signed an executive order calling state lawmakers to assemble for a special session to hash out how the \$3.8 billion budget surplus should be managed. However, the Republican-controlled Wisconsin State Senate and the Assembly both quickly ended a March 8 special session, not even taking up the governor’s proposal.

Obesity documentary earns top award from state broadcasters group

UWRF Journalism

Falcon News Service

Brooke Shepherd, a 2021 graduate of UW-River Falls, has earned a top award from the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association (WBA) for her reporting on obesity in western Wisconsin.

Shepherd won first place in the news series and documentary category in the annual WBA Student Awards for Excellence. Her reporting during the summer of 2021 resulted in a 30-minute radio documentary, "Obesity trend in western Wisconsin worries experts."

Shepherd's work was supported by a Donovan E. Rasmussen Broadcast Journalism Fellowship through the UW-River Falls Foundation. The documentary aired on the campus radio station, WRFW.

Shepherd, from Stillwater, Minnesota, graduated in December with majors in journalism and animal science and a minor in Spanish. While at UWRF, she served as assistant editor and editor of the student-run campus newspaper, the Student Voice.

The award was announced during the WBA Student Seminar held March 5 in Middleton, Wisconsin.



UWRF alumna Brooke Shepherd. (Photo from UWRF Journalism.)

Dean of students position to be filled by July

Anna Gunderson

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A position left vacant for about 17 years is being filled once again thanks to the actions of Jamie Zamjahn, the assistant chancellor for Student Success, and Chancellor Maria Gallo. The chancellor of student position will serve as a liaison between students, their families, and supporters, and will help students make connections on campus. This position will also voice student concerns to higher authorities, including Chancellor Gallo, and will evaluate campus policies to ensure they are student-friendly.

The idea to fill this position once again came to light during the Chancellor's Listening and Learning Tour, as well as during Zamjahn's Discovery Meetings, where they noticed the position needed to be filled in order to centralize the work Gallo, Zamjahn, and committees faculty and staff are completing along with their typical duties. Zamjahn stated, "To really centralize our support for students is where this position really came from."

This position will oversee Residence Life, the University Center, Student Involvement, Dining, the Bias Incident

Response Team, and the Behavioral Intervention Team. Whoever fills this position will also oversee the Student Government Association.

To find the right candidate, Zamjahn stated, "We are partnering with Academic Search, a national search firm for higher education executives, and we have two consultants that we are working with. We've been partnering with them for about the last month. They have connections to hundreds of people in higher education." He continued that the job has been sent to many people and higher education job boards.

At the end of this month, NASPA, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, will have a Student Affairs Annual Convention, where the position will be promoted to about ten thousand potential candidates.

During the third week of April, Zoom interviews will be conducted with approximately 15-20 candidates, then in-person interviews will be conducted two weeks later with about three to five people. This interview team will include Dean Yohnk, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Ian Stroud, the director of Student Success, Alicia Reinke-Tuthill, the Ability Services manager, Jacqueline

Lee, the manager of Student Conduct, Kenneth White, the assistant director of Residence Life, Cara Rubis, the director of the University Center and Dining Services, two SGA student representatives, and one faculty representative. Chancellor Gallo and Zamjahn will be making the final decision on who to hire after receiving the recommendations from the search committee.

"We are looking for someone who truly walks the talk when it comes to being student-centered, someone whose actions will follow up with what they're talking about, someone who's truly equity-minded, making sure all populations and all students on this campus have a voice, someone who's a change agent, someone who can help lift our university up," Zamjahn said, "and a connector: we want someone who can work with our students and our faculty, our staff, and our community members outside UWRF to help us really create this culture."

An offer is expected to be made mid- to late-May, then they will begin sometime in July.

Zamjahn stated, "It's just a fantastic opportunity for our students, staff, and faculty to really have that one person we can go to and work with."

Head of student success aims to reverse UWRF trends

Dawson Flaherty

Falcon News Service

University class sizes have been decreasing across the country due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. UW-River Falls is trying to change that by introducing a new position, the assistant chancellor for student success.

Jamie Zamjahn started in the position at the beginning of this academic year.

Zamjahn grew up in Chaska, Minnesota. He graduated from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and later Idaho State University. Zamjahn previously was the senior director of student success and advising at Sonoma State University in California.

He has high hopes to improve retention and, more specifically, the graduation rate.

"For me, and what I do, the student success is really how we can get our students to graduation as quick as possible to make sure that they're leaving school with a degree and

with as little debt as possible," he said.

Although new to UWRF, Zamjahn has spent years developing ideas to help students succeed in their college graduations.

"I've had lots of success at my previous institutions around improving completion rates, lowering equity gaps, utilizing the model that we're working to implement here but tweaking it for UWRF," he continued.

The last few years haven't exactly been easy on most, with the coronavirus pandemic sweeping across the world and halting many lives. It also has led to lower graduation rates and retention rates in general. Students have been feeling the difference with a noticeable drop in students on campus, even in places like the University Center, which used to be packed daily.

"Before COVID, this school had over 6,000 students, so there were always people around campus," said Kevin Paulson, a senior at the UWRF. "It was especially noticeable during lunch and dinner periods when there would be a

line stretching across the university center for people waiting to get in to dine, and the dining room was always full."

In fall 2019, before the pandemic, total student enrollment at UW-River Falls stood at 5,977, according to UW data. At the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year, enrollment had dropped to 5,410.

Zamjahn noted the troubles students have faced throughout the coronavirus pandemic and how they affect the university.

"So we have two years' worth of graduates that things could have happened that they had to leave school, that they had to slow down and take less credits," he said. "And so we have to take these different life issues into consideration as well, but then we also have to start looking at how we can support around that."

Moving forward Zamjahn plans to help provide options to those students who have had a hard time throughout the pandemic and also continue to help new students who are coming to UWRF for the first time.

Women's hockey ends season for record books

Chalie Swanson

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While they may have come short of their ultimate goal of winning an NCAA Championship, the UWRF Women's Hockey team has much to be proud of after completing a wildly successful season, garnering plenty of hardware, and making lots of history along the way.

Where to start with this team? Winners of their first seven games, the Falcons (27-2) came flying out of the gates to begin the season. Then, in what would serve as a preview of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Association (WIAC) Championship, the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds, the UWRF Women's Hockey team's archrival, handed the Falcons their first loss of the season 2-0. The early defeat clearly left the Falcons unfazed, as they went undefeated the rest of the way through the regular season and WIAC Tournament, exacting their revenge on the Blugolds in the form of back-to-back wins to close out the regular season and a 6-3 O'Brien Cup victory in the WIAC Championship. Unfortunately, their season came to an end by the hands of Gustavus-Adolphus in the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals.

The Falcons' 2021-22 roster was littered with star power, and no one in women's Division III hockey shined brighter than senior forward Callie Hoff. Hoff was absolutely unstoppable this year, and her efforts earned her First Team All-American recognition, WIAC Player of the Year, and the Laura Hurd Player of the Year, the award given to the best player in Division III. Hoff also broke the team record for all-time points and for all-time goals, ending her career with 97 goals and 197 points overall. Joining Hoff in receiving All-American honors is senior forward Abigail Stow, who was also named to the First Team All-American, and senior forward Kora Torkelson and senior goaltender Sami Miller, who were both selected to the Second Team.

No team in women's Division III hockey had a more lethal attack than the Falcons during the 2021-22 season. They lit the lamp 165 times this year, good for 5.69 goals per game. Within the WIAC Conference, the Falcons had the top-five-point scorers, and six out of the top ten. Senior

forwards Callie Hoff, Abigail Stow, Kora Torkelson, sophomore forward Alex Hantge, and junior forward Maddie McCollins rounded out the top five in that order, and senior forward Erin Olson ranked eighth. Hoff, Torkelson, and Stow also finished in the top 10 in scoring for Division III, with Hoff landing in the top spot with 67 points.

The chemistry between these elite players was something to behold, especially between Hoff and Torkelson, who have played together on the Falcons since 2017. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that the top goal-scoring team in the nation also orchestrated a potent power play. Torkelson netted 10 power play goals, leading the nation, while Hoff and Stow notched six.

Stout goaltending is a necessity to compete against the top competition, and UWRF certainly got that from Sami Miller. Miller's resume this season is impressive; she had a 16-2 record, a 1.45 goals against average, a .930 save percentage, and eight shutouts. If there was a comeback player of the year award, Miller would be a prime candidate seeing how she missed all of last season due to injury.

Along with the other eight seniors on the roster, Miller was a leader in the locker room. Miller credited her fellow seniors for helping make this season so special and applauded them for being "very vocal" and the "hardest workers" on the ice. Miller has developed strong bonds with her teammates over her time here, and she points to a "family atmosphere" as the main reason why.

"I look at them as 25 sisters," said Miller.

The leadership on the team did not stem just from the seniors though. Even the best teams in sports face adversity, and Miller said that everyone on the team leaned on each other. Losing to Eau-Claire early in the season could have set the team back, but Miller said that the team did not panic, and instead took the defeat as a wakeup call. The Falcons had to fend off a bout with COVID-19 during the season, which forced them to play a handful of games with only 15 skaters, and yet, the team did not miss a beat.

A big factor in the team's strength came from the energy that they brought to every game. Miller said that the team motto was "fire me up," and that the team constantly

boosted each other, especially after their deflating NCAA quarterfinal loss to Gustavus-Adolphus. Miller will be returning for a fifth-year next season along with Stow. Miller said that her eyes are definitely on the NCAA quarterfinal game and that the loss "put a fire under us."

Head Coach Joseph Cranston, who has coached the UWRF Women's Hockey team for the entirety of its 23 year existence, has gotten to lead many talented players, such as Carly Moran and former Laura Hurd winner Dani Sibley, but this team was different.

"This was the best team I have coached," said Cranston.

Cranston touted the improvement of his players over the years and during the season as laying the foundation for such a great season. Fifth-year seniors Hoff and Torkelson demonstrated their development in a major way this past season, especially Torkelson.

"I don't think I have ever seen a player improve more from their freshman season to their senior season than Torks," said Cranston.

Cranston labeled his players as a "lunch bucket team," and said that they never shied away from working hard. He appreciated how well everyone bought into the program and played as a team. One thing that Cranston was particularly pleased with this past season was the top power play they were able to assemble.

"We just had the right pieces of the puzzle there, it was just fun. Sad for our second power play, because they never got a chance, because the first one always scored. That was a big part of our success this year, no one could figure out how to stop our power play," said Cranston.

After their loss to Gustavus-Adolphus in the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament, Cranston insisted that his team did not hold their heads.

"We were number one in the country in so many ways, we were the number two seed in the country and it was awesome. They're great kids, and it was a great accomplishment," said Cranston.



Women's hockey team celebrates WIAC Championship in Hunt Arena. (Photo by Sam Silver)

Growing with the UWRF Green Team

Jack Van Hoof

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The Green Team, a student organization at UW-River Falls, is organizing several events over the next few months to promote sustainability on and off campus. The Green Team conducts events, individual statements, and educational activities to advance sustainability. These include campus cleanups, crafting events, and sustainability film screenings.

Julia Miller, a sustainability intern and director of the Green Team, said, "Since sustainability is such a big word for this year, we are trying to focus more on what students can do to make their daily lives a little bit more sustainable."

One way to accomplish this is through education, which is where the film screenings come in. The Green Team hosts one screening each month; the last featured a documentary called *The True Cost*, which focuses on the impact of fashion on people and the planet. The Green Team partners with the Office of Sustainability to make these screenings possible.

Another way the Green Team supports sustainability is through their crafting events. "We've upcycled t-shirts into reusable bags," Miller said. "And we really like partnering with other student organizations, particularly the Bee Clubs, to make beeswax wrap and things like that."

Most recently, the Green Team's film screening on March 23 featured the film *Right to Farm*, which explores the harm caused by factory farms in the United States. More information can be found on the Green Team's student organization page.

As for upcoming events, The Green Team hopes to hold another crafting event in the near future: a "trash 'n show," which is a fashion show that showcases recycled clothing. "People would be encouraged to make their own clothing out of trash or recycled materials, old clothing, stuff like that to show the impact that different ways of thinking about clothing can help the planet," Miller said. "I really hope we get to do it this semester."

The organization will also be partnering with Earth Fest 2022, which will take place on April 24 at Glen Park in River Falls. Earth Fest will feature live music, a sustainability fair, a poetry reading, and more. The Green Team will be running a clothes swap, where visitors will be able to exchange one article of clothing for another. The team wants to promote reusing clothing, "so all these clothes don't end up in the landfill," Miller said.

Every Friday up until Earth Day on April 5, the Green Team will be collaborating with other student organizations, including the Art Therapy Club, to host Earth Day events, which will include community art projects among other things. "That will be a really big collaborative collage," Millers said of these Friday events.

Finally, the team will be holding a "don't throw it, donate it" event at the end of the semester, where they will set up



Emma Polucha and Rebecca Bender making beeswax wraps with the Green Team. (Photo provided by Julia Miller.)



Julia Miller at a crafting night for the green team. (Photo provided by Julia Miller.)

collection bins at the residence halls so people can donate any items they would otherwise throw away.

As for the state of sustainability on campus, Miller said, "I think what would be really helpful is having more permanent staff members and more positions for the Office of Sustainability. There are a bunch of student representatives, including myself. But a couple of students working

scattered hours throughout the week can't make as big an impact as a full-time employee." Miller also mentioned the recent sustainability survey, and said, "With the recent sustainability survey, that will help us manage our sustainability goals."

From the Student Voice archives...

Natalie Riddle

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5 years ago:

Proposal to remove Kinnickinnic dams sparks community concerns for ecology. Assistant Professor Jill Coleman-Wasik argued that removal of the dam would be beneficial for trout and other native species.

15 years ago:

March for Peace took place every Monday, led by the River Falls campus and community peace and justice group to demonstrate opposition to the United States invasion of Iraq.

70 years ago:

"Communist issue" was discussed at the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors. Walker Wyman's topics were "The Loyalty Oath" and "Shall Communists Teach?"

100 years ago:

There was an extreme shortage of teachers. Salaries were rising. Men with a degree in agricultural education were receiving \$1,200- \$1,600 for their first year's work.

Editorial: More time needed for masks on campus to prevent spike in cases of COVID

The UW-System retiring President Tommy Thompson announced that UW-Campuses could lift mask mandates starting as soon as March 11, 2022. UW-River Falls followed along with this suggestion and as of the end of March 11, masks are no longer required on campus. This falls right as students come back from spring break and are only required to get tested during the first week if they are not vaccinated.

We at the Student Voice feel that this decision is simply poor timing and does not feel fully thought through. Although numbers within the county and on campus have shown a consistent decline, those numbers are prior to spring break.

The main concern lies in a large amount of travel to crowded places that happen over spring break for college students. A variety of students on our campus are likely to be hanging out in large groups or taking modes of transportation such as airplanes where they can be exposed to numerous people.

These and other reasons raise concern for a higher level of possible exposure, which they could bring back to campus and expose others to as well. This secondary exposure is more likely without masks being required on campus.

Although the hope is that everyone is headed in the right direction and we are finally reaching the other side of it all, there still remains a level of uncertainty.

The University recently sent out a message about how important it was to have a high-quality mask to stay protected against these new variants. They even offered higher quality KN95 masks provided by the government in a variety of buildings on campus. Shortly after this, it was announced that masks would no longer need to be worn at all. We feel that the University is sending mixed signals and there is a consistent need for clarification.

The University has also mentioned their high level of vaccination rates as being a reason for

this next step to be taken. UW-Madison had a similar reason for their campus to follow the same steps as they claim to be at 95.7% for students. As of March 17, 2022, the UWRF COVID-19 dashboard says that our students are at 68.5% while employees are at 86.3% vaccinated. This number is slightly lower than the 70% goal they had so heavily marketed across campus to reach the goal of Protecting the Nest.

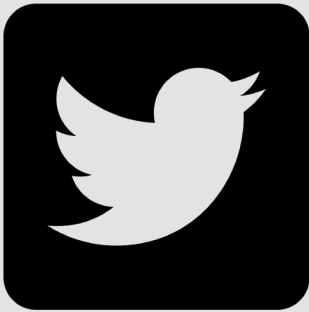
We at the Student Voice feel that at least waiting two weeks after Spring break was over would have been a safer path to take. This would allow all students to get tested when coming back to campus and get a better idea of what the numbers look like after all of the travel that has occurred. We feel the University could then make a more thorough decision on lifting the mask mandate or keeping it in place for the safety of the students, while also maintaining in-person classes and not threatening future cancellations due to a possible spike.

Student Voice

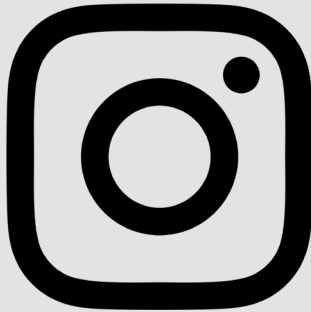
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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

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

All editorial content in the Student Voice is determined by the newspaper's Editorial Board.

The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper's advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

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

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

also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must 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 editor.

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

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My family celebrates Saint Patrick’s Day every year, not always on the day, but we make it a point to get together. The main attraction: Reuben Sandwiches. These sandwiches are comprised of rye bread, slathered in thousand island dressing, with sour kraut, corned beef and swiss cheese. Throw it on a panini press, and you’re left with warm, cheesy, salty goodness.

Reuben’s could not be easier to assemble. All you need is a mini assembly line, a few helping hands, and you’ll have them in no time. The hardest part is not taking a bite of the corned beef, as it sits, ready for rye bread.

My grandparents, Bob and Kathy Greer host the extravaganza every year. G-pa, as I call him, picks up ten pounds of corned beef from the deli. The corned beef comes with a brining packet, so all you do is dump everything in the crockpot, and wait.

My cousin Jacori Soto, is usually on assembly duty. She loves this job, but this year she couldn’t make it to our March, 17 2022, festivities. Jacori and her husband, Jonathan welcomed their first daughter, Daniella in March, of 2021.

So, it was up to me, my mom Tammy Torbert, to take over the assembly line. My Nana hovered over, making sure we put the right amount of every topping. It’s a simple, yet particular process for my German grandmother.

First, you take two slices of rye bread. Next, you lather one side of each slice, with butter.

Then, you flip over the bread, and add a generous layer of a thousand island dressing. Depending on everyone’s preference, add as much, or as little sauerkraut. Make sure to strain some of the liquid from the sauerkraut to prevent a soggy sandwich. Finally, for the grand finale, a healthy amount of corned beef is added, topped off with a slice and a-half of swiss cheese.

Hopefully, the panini press is all heated up, so you can start cranking out reubens. G-pa always gets panini duty, as he is best with hot or sharp kitchen appliances. You certainly can cook them in a pan or griddle, but the panini press ensures those perfect marks and an even bake.

There is certainly no wrong way to make reubens, but the above steps are what creates our favorite sandwich. I would give each reuben about five minutes, or until all cheese is melted.

Over the years of this annual celebration, one question continued to tug at the back of my mind. Do we actually have any Irish heritage, or do we pretend to be Irish as an excuse to eat these amazing sandwiches. The mystery has been solved thanks to an Ancestry.com DNA test. I am a whooping 4% Irish. If that’s not a reason to celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day, I don’t know what is?

More so, it’s a reason to spend time with the family. Behind every tradition are the people surrounding it. We’ve done this for as long as I can remember, even with more schedule conflicts as the grandkids got older. If you don’t have a family celebration surrounding a holiday, it’s never too late to start.



Tammy, Natalie’s mom assembling reubens. Picture by Natalie Torbert.



Natalie assembling reubens. Picture provided by Natalie Torbert.

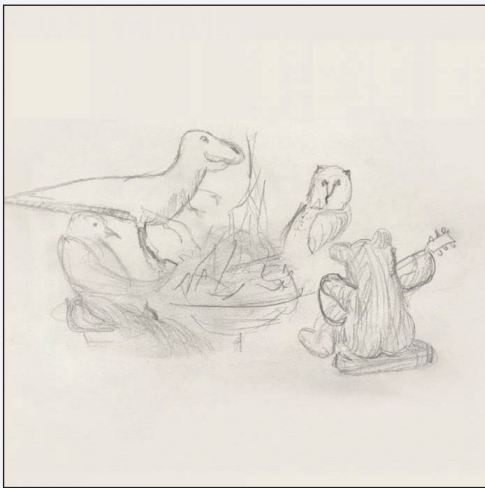


Natalie’s grandpa assembling reubens. Picture by Natalie Torbert.

Spring into spring playlist

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- Red Moon- Big Thief
- Good Will Hunting- Black Country, New Road
- The Only Heartbreaker- Mitski
- Only You Know- Beach House
- Strung with Everything- Animal Collective
- Good Morning (red)- Caroline
- Habitat- Pinegrove
- KKMJ- Sweet Trip
- Perfect (Smashing Pumpkins)- Wednesday, MJ Lenderman
- The Dealer- Nilufer Yanya



Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe in You, album cover by Big Thief.

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