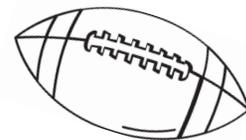


UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

February 23, 2026

www.uwrfvoice.com

UW-River Falls Football Wins NCAA Division III Title; Championship Parade Held



The Championship Title:

Johan Harworth
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The University of Wisconsin–River Falls football team capped a historic winter season by winning the WIAC championship and the NCAA Division III national title. After defeating the University of Wisconsin–Stout for the conference crown, Coach Matt Walker’s team advanced through the Division III tournament and beat defending national champion North Central 24–14.

The run highlighted not only the strength of the Falcons’ roster and coaching staff, but also the commitment and coordination of the university, the River Falls community and the Athletics Department.

UW-River Falls hosted every round of the tournament at Ramer Field, an honor that came with challenges. Several games fell during campus breaks, leaving the Athletics Department short on student workers. Harsh weather added to the strain, including a second-round matchup against Chapman University over Thanksgiving break and a quarterfinal played in subzero temperatures.

Athletics Director Crystal Lanning said forecasts called for five to seven inches of snow the Thursday before one of the games, leaving a narrow window to clear Ramer Field before kickoff.

Despite the obstacles, the Athletics Department rallied volunteers to prepare the stadium. Members of the UWRF baseball team, along with coaches and assistant coaches from other sports, helped shovel and set up equipment. Interim Chancellor John Chenoweth also assisted, hauling heaters and helping the grounds crew clear the field.

Local businesses stepped in to support the team as well. With most campus dining services closed during break periods, aside from Thanksgiving Day service for students, restaurants across River Falls provided meals for players and their families. Ptaček’s and Juniors were among the businesses that contributed, along with several others in the days leading up to the championship.

The Falcons’ national title is the result of months of effort on and off the field. Thanks to the work of the Athletics Department, the university and the River Falls community, the victory is one the entire campus and city can celebrate.



Members of the UWRF football team ride on a trailer during the championship parade in downtown River Falls on Jan. 4, holding up their index fingers to signal first place. (Photos by Alison Keeler)

The Championship Parade:

Alison Keeler
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The UW–River Falls football team won the NCAA Division III Stagg Bowl on Jan. 4 in Canton, Ohio, defeating North Central College 24–14. It is the first time in program history that the Falcons have claimed the national championship.

A championship parade was held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, in River Falls to celebrate the team’s victory. Firetrucks and police cars escorted the players down Main Street, turning east onto Cascade Avenue before stopping at the UW–River Falls University Center for a reception in the Falcons Nest.

River Falls residents, community members, UWRF students and families lined Main Street and gathered across campus as the parade made its way to the University Center. Cheering and sirens echoed throughout the campus grounds.

The championship marks the first national title in program history and caps a 13–1 season for the Falcons.



The NCAA Stagg Bowl national championship trophy won by the UWRF football team.

VOICE SHORTS

LOCAL

Spring Commencement speakers needed

The University of Wisconsin–River Falls is seeking students to speak at the upcoming spring commencement.

A statement from the Commencement Student Speaker Committee invites “all undergraduate and graduate students eligible for graduation to apply to deliver the student address at the upcoming commencement ceremony. Giving the student address during the ceremony is an opportunity to reflect upon your time as a Falcon, relate how UWRF impacted you through your experiences, share inspiration and encouragement, and convey a message for the future.”

Students eligible to speak must be graduating this semester and be in good academic standing. A three- to five-minute video speech must be submitted to commencement@uwrf.edu for review. Video submissions are due Friday, March 27.

For more information about student speaker submissions, contact Wendy Stocker at 715-425-4641 or email commencement@uwrf.edu.

UWRF COMMENCEMENT

STUDENT SPEAKER OPPORTUNITY

Graduates are invited to apply for three opportunities to speak at Spring Commencement on May 9, 2026.

- CEBAH/Graduate Studies at 9 a.m.
- CAFES at 12:30 p.m.
- CAS at 3 p.m.

For application details, please visit:
www.uwrf.edu/commencement/

Application due date: March 27, 2026



JACK SCHINDLER VAN HOOF
2025 Spring Commencement
Student Speaker

(Graphic credit to Bonnie Breyer; Photo by Pat Deninger)

Irish Ceili Dance

UW-River Falls will present an Irish Ceilí Dancing from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27. This event will take place in the Riverview Ballroom in the University Center. The Irish Ceilí Dance is a free event and will be open to the public.

The evening will begin with Irish dance lessons and then followed by music, dancing and a live band. A ceílí is a type of Irish gathering that involves dancing to folk music.

For more information on the event, contact Student Involvement at studetninvolve@uwrf.edu.

Stay up to date and get involved

Events open to the UW–River Falls campus community are posted daily on FalconsConnect. Additionally, the UWRF Get Involved Instagram page, run by the Office of Student Involvement, shares updates on the latest happenings on campus. Follow them on Instagram at @uwrfgetinvolved.

Voice Shorts compiled by
Alison Keeler

Falcon Flashbacks: Student Voice Archives Look Back 100 Years

Kristy Moore

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A deep dive into the Student Voice archives reveals moments from UWRF’s past, highlighting events from past Februaries, both mundane and common, intentionally grouped into a 20 year pattern.

1926

You come in the door of South Hall. On either side, students are cuddled up in the corner. Perhaps the radiators located there are the attraction. You continue on your way up, wondering if these students never have classes or need to study, for if you passed by an hour later, they would still be there. On the second floor, the railings surrounding the stairway are draped with thick and thin, tall and short, light and dark human forms. You believe you have seen almost enough to convince you that these students all have a bad case of indoor spring fever.

1946

All textbooks must either be renewed or returned to the textbook library by Friday, March 1. A fine of 10 cents a day per book is charged for overdue books. Beginning Wednesday, Feb. 27, the textbook library will be open all day.

1966

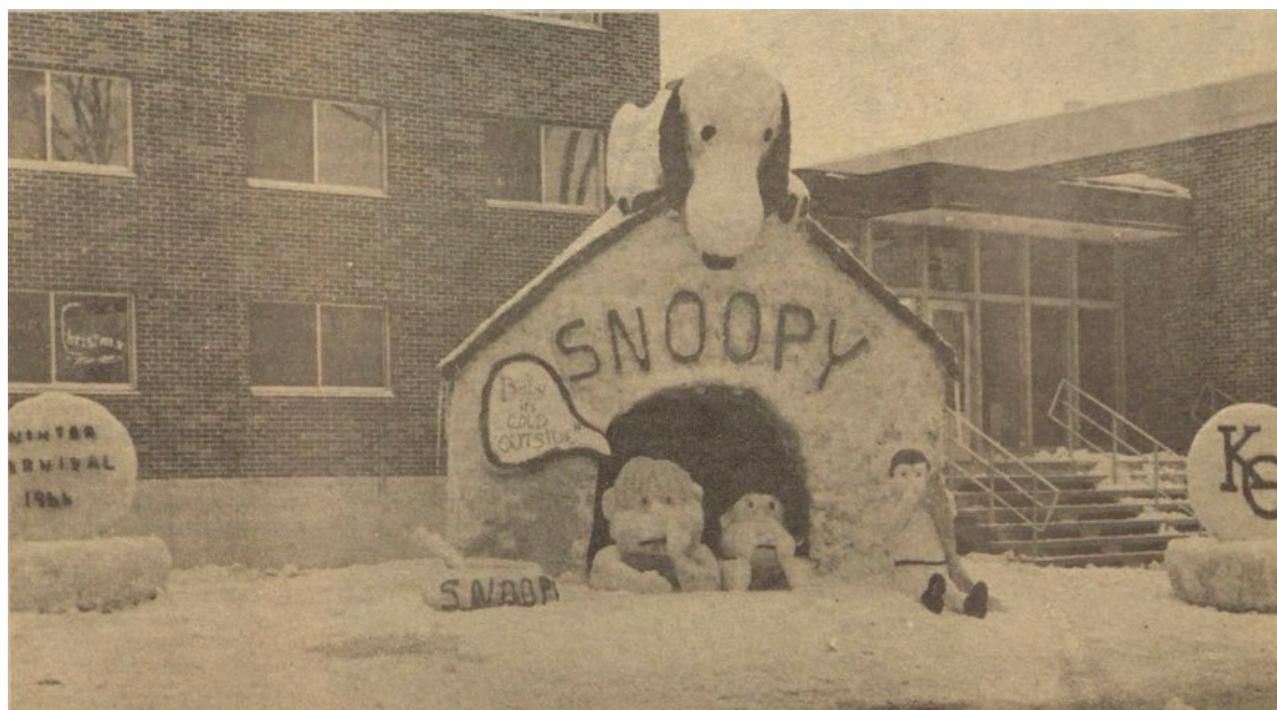
At 8:45 this morning, area high school seniors and their parents arrived to participate in the annual Go To College Day at Wisconsin State University–River Falls. The program began with registration and a coffee hour in the Hagestad Student Center Ballroom. At 9:15, parents, students and high school counselors were welcomed by Administrative Vice President Wayne Wolfe and Student Senate President Tom Schaffer.

1986

To the editor: On behalf of Theta Chi Fraternity, I would like to express my apologies for the behavior we expressed regarding the results of the winter carnival celebration. The actions were expressed out of grief and frustration and were inappropriate. I can assure you that we have learned the hard way to express ourselves and our opinions in a more reasonable manner from now on in the future.

2006

Most students spent their J term on vacation, lounging around or working part time. Only one went to the South Pole. Jonathan Eisch, 22, spent 22 days in Antarctica using a particle detector he developed over the course of a year.



FEB. 1966: “BABY IT’S COLD OUTSIDE,” by Kappa Theta fraternity, grabbed top honors in the snow sculpture contest during Winter Carnival Week. The sculpture, depicting Snoopy and his friends, was awarded first prize Thursday night at the King’s Ball. (Photo from UWRF Student Voice archives)

Want something to be included in
our next issue? Email us at:
editor@uwrfstudentvoice.com

Sustainability Speaker Series: Life Depends on Rivers

Emma McNulty

emma.mculty@my.uwrf.edu

The February Sustainability Speakers Series event featured Amy Souers Kober, who spoke on the vital role rivers play in supporting ecosystems, human health and climate resilience. The presentation, held in North Hall while remodeling continues at the River Falls Public Library, began at 6:30 p.m. and was open to the public. Kober's talk was titled *Life Depends on Rivers: How Healthy Rivers Support Strong Communities*.

Mark Klapatch, UWRF sustainability coordinator, attended the event representing both the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Sustainability Office and Hope for Earth. Also in attendance was Grace Coggio, a UWRF professor, Communication Studies program director and Sustainability Fellow. Klapatch noted that Coggio arranged Kober's appearance.

Kober, from Portland, Oregon, is a communications strategist and conservation advocate. She serves as vice president of communications for American Rivers, overseeing communications, marketing strategies, media relations, digital presence and brand goals.

Founded in 1973, American Rivers is a national organization dedicated to protecting and restoring rivers. Members and advocates work to heal rivers, mobilize a movement and transform state and federal policy. During her time with the organization, Kober has directed communications for major river restorations, protections and clean water initiatives. She has also led communication efforts for one of American Rivers' most recognizable campaigns, America's Most Endangered Rivers, which highlights waterways facing significant environmental threats.

During the presentation, Kober shared the organization's vision: "...a nation where every river is clean and healthy for people and wildlife."

She emphasized the many ways rivers impact daily life, including food systems, wildlife habitats and human communities. "Without our rivers," she said, "the whole web of life collapses."

Kober also addressed climate pressures affecting rivers, including rising temperatures, shrinking snowpack, shorter wet seasons, more volatile precipitation, rising sea levels and increasingly severe wildfires. "A climate crisis is a water crisis," she said. "Fresh water species are going extinct at a much faster rate than our land species."

Engaging the audience, Kober asked attendees to think about a body of water they personally value. She cited *Blue Mind* by Dr. Wallace J. Nichols, noting that "our brains are hardwired to react positively to water and that being near it can calm and connect us, increase innovation and insight, and even heal what's broken."

Later in her talk, Kober highlighted the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2025 report card, which grades national infrastructure every four years. Wastewater, dams and levees each received a D+. Levees and dams were marked



The Office of Sustainability with Amy Souers Kober after the presentation. (Photo by Emma McNulty)

as improving, while wastewater remained unchanged from 2021. Darren Olson, chair of ASCE's committee, has said the report card is an important tool when speaking with officials and the public.

"So what are we going to do?" Kober asked. "We heal rivers. We will mobilize a movement, transform policy. We work with river restoration across the country. We need everyone who needs water. We are more powerful together. Can we get political enough to get policies that will protect our rivers?"

Kober opened the floor for questions after her presentation.

One attendee asked about reasons for removing dams, arguments for keeping them and how decisions are made. Kober replied, "Historically, there's lots of mining upstream so the sediment is contaminated. It is very rare for it to not be. It would be very expensive to truck out sediment, so instead we remove them. We've removed over two thousand across the country. We have worked with communities for collaborative solutions looking at these challenges. Once, we even decided one dam needed to go, but another

dam needed to be raised higher. We try this: everyone gets something. We like to see when everyone wins."

Another attendee asked how the organization handles opposition. "Most effective way of opposition? Listening," Kober said. "Everybody comes at these issues with their own reasons and history. It's important to honor that. Making sure all voices in the community are being heard but also being clear why we think this is a good idea for the river and the community."

For more information about the nation's rivers, visit americanrivers.org, which also includes links to podcasts and films from those working to protect waterways.

Upcoming sustainability events will be held in North Hall Auditorium, room 222. On Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m., Marybeth Lorbiecki will present *Aldo Leopold: A View for All Seasons and Centuries*, exploring why Leopold's life and writings continue to resonate. On Saturday, March 21 at 10:30 a.m., UWRF's Sami Nichols, Ph.D., will speak on urban bird ecology as part of the St. Croix Valley Bird Club presentation.

Follow the Student Voice on Instagram:

@uwrfstudentvoice

UW-River Falls welcomes councilman Larry Mboga

Michaleen Lovett

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The Student Inclusion and Belonging Center hosted Eau Claire councilman Larry Mboga on Thursday, Feb. 12, for a presentation in observance of Black History Month. The event aimed to connect with the audience through Mboga's personal journey and highlight the importance of civic engagement.

Mboga came to the United States in the 1980s as a college student on an F-1 visa. After meeting his now-wife and deciding to settle in Wisconsin, he eventually found himself on a path toward public service. He began his talk by describing his upbringing in Kisii, Kenya.

Growing up in a family of eight and in a community that valued connectedness, Mboga said "public service didn't start in Wisconsin — it started at home." He recalled a childhood where food and company were shared, where children were cared for by the entire village, and where both joy and hardship were handled collectively. Respect and humility were expected, he said, because actions "did not reflect you, [but] your parents." This foundation shaped his desire to help others and informed his adult values. When he moved to Minneapolis for college, Mboga experienced cultural shock. He described

"You don't have to be born here to care about community, you just have to believe it's yours, too."

- Larry Mboga

the stark difference between what it meant to be "Black" in Kenya and how others perceived him in the United States. He recalled moments of disconnection — from hearing slurs he had never encountered before to feeling out of place among fellow Black classmates at Augsburg University. The journey, he said, "wasn't just physical, but emotional and political, too."

After finishing college, Mboga moved to Eau Claire with his wife and prepared to start a family. He said the George Floyd movement spurred his call to action. After bringing his children to a memorial, he recognized the tension between Minneapolis police and the community. Wanting to help, he organized a community event aimed at beginning to repair that relationship following Floyd's murder.

The Student Voice is a great way to connect with other students and build your skills in writing, newspaper design, photography, interviewing and more. No experience is needed to join. Contact editor@uwrfvoice.com for more information.



Larry Mboga, a councilman from Eau Claire, speaks at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls about his journey and Black History Month. The event was hosted by the Student Inclusion and Belonging Center on Thursday, Feb. 12. (Photo by Michaleen Lovett)

When asked what mindset it took to take on such an effort, Mboga said "[change] doesn't begin with permission, it begins with responsibility." He felt responsible for helping his former Minneapolis community heal. That sense of responsibility led him to reach out to police departments, arrange games and refreshments in a public park, and ultimately run for city council after the event was met with gratitude and success.

Mboga told the audience that community events are often the starting point for protest, politics and conflict resolution. His experience in Minneapolis gave him the confidence to pursue leadership in Eau Claire.

When he first ran for city council, Mboga won his seat, becoming the first Black and migrant elected official in Eau Claire and the first elected Kenyan in the United States. He said he continues to lead with the intention of fostering community, and he encouraged UWRF students to do the same: "You don't have to be born here to care about community, you just have to believe it's yours, too."

UWRF HISTORY CLUB ART CONTEST!

UWRF History Club is looking for a student/community member artist to create a new club logo!

Should your design be chosen- you will be featured on all of our social media, posters, as well as our club's FalconsConnect website!

Please email your submission for a club logo to kinsey.peterson@my.uwrf.edu by the end of February,

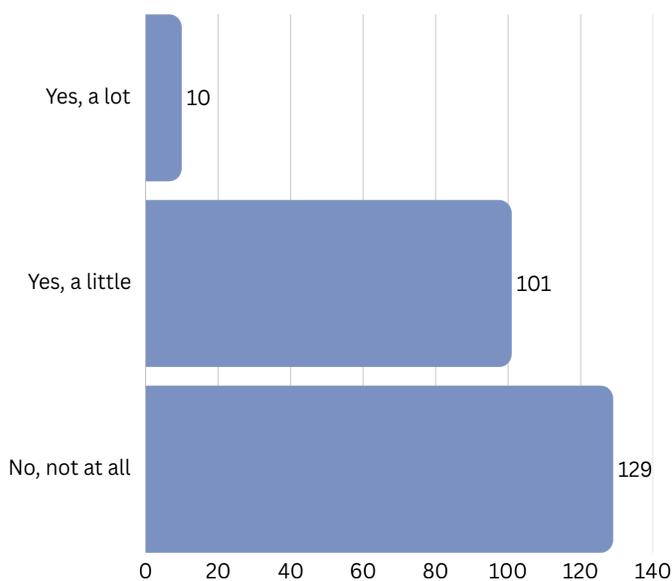


ANONYMOUS POLLS

Opinion-based questions posed to UW–River Falls students through the app YikYak. All poll responses are anonymous and voluntary.

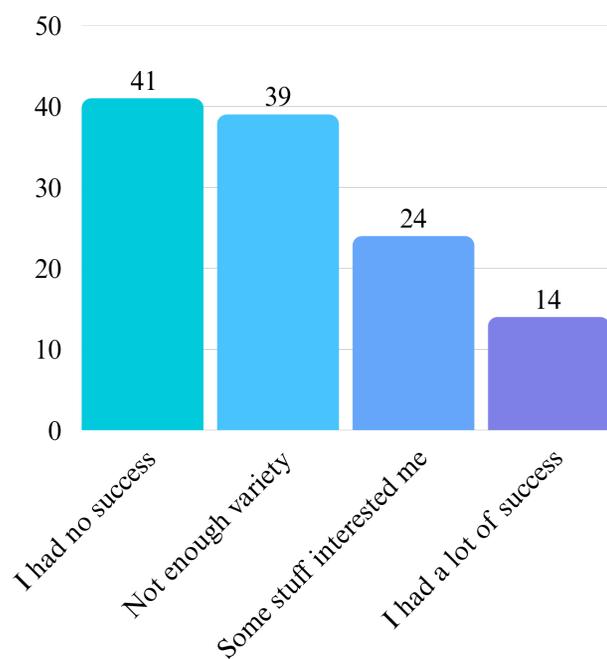
Q: Have your political beliefs and viewpoints changed over the past year?

240 students polled on changes in political beliefs in the past year



Q: How successful were you at the UWRF Career and Internship Fair?

118 students polled on their success at the Career and Internship Fair



Anonymous poll posted on YikYak

Staff Editorial: Students raise concerns over UWRF Career Fair

Student Voice Staff
editor@uwrfstudentvoice.edu

UWRF is a campus of opportunities. Apart from a wide variety of classes that allow for students to explore their interests in an academic manner, there are also a variety of opportunities that allow for students to expand their horizons and make connections within the business fields that they plan to go into. One of these opportunities -the Career and Internship Fair- should be one of the more successful opportunities on campus for students looking to expand their connections; a recruitment event where students can meet and speak with a variety of spokespeople and make plans for finding jobs and/or internships beyond campus. However, several students expressed concerns over the Career and Internship Fair for a variety of reasons, feeling as if more could be done to provide for students.

In our recent survey, over half of the students reported feeling like they had no success in finding job opportunities. Out of the 78 companies that made an appearance at the Career Fair, a majority of them were businesses dealing with Agriculture with a group of banks and law enforcement fulfilling a distant second. Although it is understandable that a majority of businesses that signed up for the Career Fair would have a focus in the agricultural industry due to the various Agricultural facilities on campus, it raises the question on why students felt as if they were unsuccessful in their search.

Apart from the general lack of variety when it came to the different businesses at the Career and Involvement Fair, another issue students ran into was the general policies that came to the policies regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence. From the companies interviewed, the usage of AI within their business ranged from either minimal experimental implementation to full Large Language Modules (LLMs) being incorporated using it to make their jobs more efficient.

“AI is something that our corporate team has been trying to integrate into different processes,” said Gabe Koenig of Penske, “A lot of it has to do with generating reports, tracking information on trucks, [...] eliminating the human need to do it.”

Different companies at the Career Fair also commented on the use and understanding of AI being necessary for students due to its inevitability in the business world.

“Everyone’s using AI right now,” said Jordan Brownlee of Actus Nutrition, “Like it’s going to become super popular even within the next [...] 18 months. So I think that it’s super important that people are up to date on the technological side of it.”

While UWRF is implementing courses that help teach students about the use of AI and LLMs such as Management 745 and Chemistry 361, AI technologies as a whole is still in its early stages and university classes are not meeting up to the standards that businesses are pushing. But even disregarding the policies on Artificial Intelligence, the way the Career Fair was carried out felt to many like there was a dissonance between employees and students, especially given the fact that a new technology that most students would most likely not be familiar with is being presented as a necessity or a replacement to current areas of expertise in students. Despite living in a day and age where technology and focus on technology are more apparent, there is still a large amount of students who want to

do things in a more tactile way and a majority of them were taught to be more tactile with their work.

The UWRF campus is a wide and expansive campus with a variety of students with a variety of interests. And while there are apps such as Handshake and facilities like Career Services to aid students in finding job and internship opportunities, physical job fairs such as the Career and Internship Fair only happen once a semester, and the way they are presented should be acceptable to any student looking for a job.

Want Writing Help?



At the UWRF Writing Center, our goal is to help you become a more confident writer. We can help at any step of the writing process in any of your projects!

Appointments

Walk-in appointments are welcome, and scheduled appointments are available.

To schedule: Visit tutoring.uwrf.edu or scan below.



Visit us!

Hours: 10:00AM – 4:00PM

Monday – Friday

Location: KFA 225

The Writing Center is a free resource open to all students of any major. All writing projects and questions are welcome—bring in your academic, professional, and personal work!

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

UPCOMING DATES

MAR 11	3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
APR 01	4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
APR 23	3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

IN THE UC FALLS ROOM



Comedian Joey Bragg performs during *Week of Welcome*

Emma McNulty

emma.mcnulty@my.uwrf.edu

Joey Bragg joined Week of Welcome on Saturday, Jan. 31, performing a two-hour stand-up comedy set. During the performance, he reflected on his time working with Disney, his upbringing, his current life, and the political climate in the United States. He held a meet and greet for students interested in a photo afterwards. The event drew over three-hundred attendees, a turnout comparable to student participation in Midnight Mayhem the night before.

Bragg is a stand-up comedian and actor who first gained national recognition for his role as Joey Rooney on the Disney Channel series *Liv and Maddie*. Since his transition from television, Bragg has built a career in stand-up comedy, frequently performing at college campuses and entertainment venues nationwide. His performances typically feature observational humor, personal anecdotes and audience engagement, often incorporating references to pop culture and current events. In addition to live performances, Bragg maintains a social media presence, where he shares comedy content and promotes upcoming shows.

Sylvia Kass, Student Events and Activities Manager for the Office of Student Involvement, described that Bragg's team reached out through email as he has been performing at schools in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. Kass brought the idea to the student employees who then decided it would be incredible to have such a recognizable name on campus.

"Typically, the student team and I choose entertainers through various talent agencies," Kass said.

Student reactions to his performance at the university varied widely. Some audience members left only minutes after the set began.

Early in the show, Bragg made a comment referencing the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and continued to reference current political events throughout his set. Earlier that day, he attended a protest related to ICE in Minneapolis, which he posted about on his social media accounts.

Bragg, who is from Los Angeles, comes from a region that historically leans more politically liberal. Some students expressed frustration that political topics were included so prominently during a university entertainment event, while others viewed the commentary as part of Bragg's comedic style and personal expression.

When asked about how to balance free expression with expectations from the student body, Kass stated, "We ask all comedians to tailor their set for a college-aged audience. Additionally, we begin the show by stating that performers are protected by the First Amendment and that their views do not rep-

resent the Office of Student Involvement or UW-River Falls."

After conducting an anonymous survey of attendees, the average enjoyment rating for the event was 8.4 out of 10. The survey also included open-ended response sections where students could share more detailed feedback.

Students who responded to the question about what they liked frequently noted they appreciated his willingness to address current American political topics during his performance. One student wrote, "He was funny and incorporated real issues."

However, responses to the question about what students disliked revealed a range of opposing views. Many respondents said they were uncomfortable with the amount of political content included in the set. Some students expressed that they felt the performance was too politically focused for an event at a public university. One student commented, "a lot of political comments that weren't about comedy."

While the survey did not directly ask students to evaluate the political content of the performance, many respondents chose to reference it in their feedback, suggesting the topic was a significant part of how attendees experienced the show.

Alignment with the political views expressed by Bragg was inferred through written comments students provided in the survey. Results suggested that students who appeared to share Bragg's political viewpoints reported higher enjoyment levels than students who enjoyed the performance but did not indicate agreement with those views. The lowest enjoyment ratings were reported by students who indicated they did not enjoy the performance and had no comment on the political content.

Additional survey responses showed recurring themes among attendees. Many students highlighted Bragg's Disney-related stories, audience engagement and relatable storytelling as standout parts of the performance. Others appreciated his willingness to discuss current events and political topics. However, several respondents said political commentary and extended joke segments occasionally distracted from the overall comedy. Even some students who agreed with Bragg's viewpoints noted that they felt the political discussion sometimes overshadowed the humor.

One respondent said, "Although I agreed with the politics, he did overdo it."

Another said, "I was very indifferent to the show and just found it mid overall."

A few respondents also commented that the meet and greet could have been drawn out better. Rather than being instructed to, "form a line in the middle of the rows of chairs," and that it instead should have been by individual rows of seats. Many commented that their friends had been pushed either going for

the line or out of their spot entirely.

While the survey reflects the opinions of students who chose to respond, it may not represent the views of all attendees. However, responses still show a clear range of reactions



to the event.

Students also expressed their opinions on the anonymous social media platform, YikYak. There were only a few, but the few were describing the experience with mixed thoughts. "I liked Joey Bragg, don't get me wrong. But I was very uncomfortable during it".

It is not to be overlooked that plenty of students had a good time at the show. Though politics were a clear topic of discussion among the students, the average was relatively high. There were many social media posts of the meet and greet and positive comments left on the survey too.

"I found some of his jokes and improvisations genuinely funny, and he had a high-spirited and upbeat personality."

"I liked the story telling of the jokes and that they were suitable for the audience, being college students."

Kass reminds that there is an engagement survey toward the end of the spring semester. Feedback from students helps inform future events. Students are also encouraged to reach out with thoughts or ideas.

"If you take the survey, you'll even be entered to win a giveaway!"

Week of Welcome events are designed to build community and [re]introduce students to campus life. Students can make new friends and get involved in ways they might not have thought about. Upcoming events are posted on Instagram @uwrfgetinvolved

Kass says, "Students who are engaged on campus are more likely to stay in school, graduate on time, and have a

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS STUDENT VOICE

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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@uwrfvoice.com.

The Student Voice reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must 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.

SPORTS WRAP

Men's Hockey

The UWRF men's hockey team has an overall season record of 13-11-1, with a 7-8 mark in WIAC play as of Feb. 15. Their last game of the season takes place in Eau Claire on Feb. 28.

Women's Hockey

The UW-River Falls women's hockey team's overall season record as of Feb. 15 is 23-1, with a 10-1 mark in WIAC play. The team is currently ranked first in NCAA Division III women's hockey.

Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team has an 8-15 record so far this season, with a 3-9 mark in WIAC play as of Feb. 15. Their last game of the 2025-26 season is an away match-up against UW-Whitewater on Feb. 21.

Women's Basketball

The UWRF women's basketball team's record this season is 14-9, with a 6-5 mark in WIAC play as of Feb. 15. Their last game of the 2025-26 season is a home matchup against UW-Whitewater on Feb. 21.

Men's Track and Field

The men's track and field team has had a strong start to its indoor season, competing at away meets almost every Saturday. More information about individual athlete results can be found at uwrfsports.com/sports/track-and-field.

Women's Track and Field

The women's track and field team has seen a new record set this season by Lauryn Schutz and is now ranked third in the nation for throws. More information about individual athlete results can be found at uwrfsports.com/sports/track-and-field.

Sports wrap compiled by
Alison Keeler

UPCOMING SPORTING
EVENTS AT UWRF**Women's Hockey vs. TBD**

Feb. 27, 7:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena

Women's Lacrosse vs. Cornell College

Feb. 28, 11:30 a.m. at Ramer Field

Women's Hockey vs. TBD

Feb. 28, 2:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena

Women's Lacrosse vs. Milwaukee School of Engineering

Mar. 6, 5:00 p.m. at Ramer Field

Women's Lacrosse vs. Lake Forest College

Mar. 13, 3:00 p.m. at Ramer Field

Baseball vs. Bethel

Mar. 25, 3:00 p.m. at First Nation Bank of River Falls Field

UWRF women's basketball wins on National Girls & Women in Sports Day

Jaxon Fetch

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The University of Wisconsin-River Falls women's basketball team pulled away in the second half to defeat WIAC rival UW-Eau Claire 68-61 on Wednesday in a matchup celebrating National Girls & Women in Sports Day.

River Falls entered the game 10-8, while Eau Claire came in at 12-7. The Blugolds led at halftime, but the Falcons took control in the third quarter, outscoring Eau Claire 22-15 behind four 3-pointers. UWRF maintained its lead throughout the fourth quarter to secure the win.

Guard Taylor Clarey said the victory reflected the intensity of conference play.

"The win was awesome; it was a hard-fought win," Clarey said. "Competing in the WIAC is hard, every game means something, and it requires you to show up every night."

Three Falcons scored in double figures. Zoey Buchan led with 18 points, going 10-for-13 at the free-throw line. Emily Anderson added 15 points on 50% shooting, and Savannah Leopold scored 13 points, hitting three of her five 3-point attempts.

Head coach Shelby Lyman credited halftime adjustments for the second-half surge.

"At half we talked about continuing to rebound the ball, especially on the defensive end," Lyman said. "Eau Claire is a tremendous offensive rebounding team, and to win we needed to control the glass."

Leopold hit all of her 3-pointers after halftime and said patience was key.

"I love being reminded that I am not just playing for my younger self, but that I have always played for my family, friends, and the community around me."
- Savannah Leopold

"In the first half, I didn't really get many clean looks from three, so at halftime I told myself to stay patient and be ready when those opportunities came," Leopold said. "Once I saw the first three go down, that confidence carried over."

Free throws also played a major role. The Falcons attempted 38 free throws compared with Eau Claire's 12, outscoring the Blugolds by 12 points at the line.

Lyman said the advantage came from an "in-game adjustment."

"Eau Claire likes to extend their defense, and we talked about moving the ball up the floor quickly and getting paint touches," she said. "I think the team did a great job of attacking gaps and realizing their advantage."

The game doubled as a celebration of National Girls & Women in Sports Day, with all UWRF women's athletic teams in attendance, including basketball, golf, cross country, lacrosse, soccer, track and field, softball, volleyball, hockey, tennis and esports. Athletes were recognized at halftime and participated in postgame meet-and-greets and poster signings.

Lyman said the day highlighted the importance of those who paved the way for women in athletics.

"We talk about the importance of how people before us pushed boundaries to allow all of us an opportunity to play this sport," she said. "Now it's our job to continue pushing the game forward."

Clarey said being a collegiate women's athlete carries deep meaning.

"Being a collegiate women's athlete means a lot," she said. "It represents more than just myself but also my team, my university, and everyone that has helped me get to where I am today."

Leopold echoed that sentiment.

"It means everything to me to be a woman athlete, because I know that growing up, I was that little girl in the stands who was looking up to the older girls," she said. "I love being reminded that I am not just playing for my younger self, but that I have always played for my family, friends, and the community around me."

Leopold said the support from fellow women's teams created an "electric" atmosphere.

"After we won, it felt like we won for all of our UWRF women's athletics teams, and not just ourselves," she said.

Clarey added that the night reinforced the purpose behind their efforts.

"It felt good to know we were playing for something we represent," she said. "It was a great reminder of the reasons why we all competed and how we all got here."



All of the UWRF women's athletes are being celebrated at halftime. Including women's basketball, golf, cross country, lacrosse, soccer, track and field, softball, volleyball, hockey, tennis, and esports. (Photo by Carly Lynch, @carlys_captures)

UWRF hosts Winter Classic track and field meet

Alison Keeler

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The University of Wisconsin-River Falls hosted its Winter Classic track and field meet Feb. 7 in Knowles Field House at the Falcon Center. Both the men's and women's teams posted strong performances against Gustavus Adolphus, Minnesota-Duluth, Saint Mary's, Wisconsin-Superior, Northwestern, Bethel, Bethany Lutheran, Crown, St. Olaf and Martin Luther.

The UWRF women won the meet with 175 points. The men's team finished second with 153.5 points, trailing only Minnesota-Duluth.

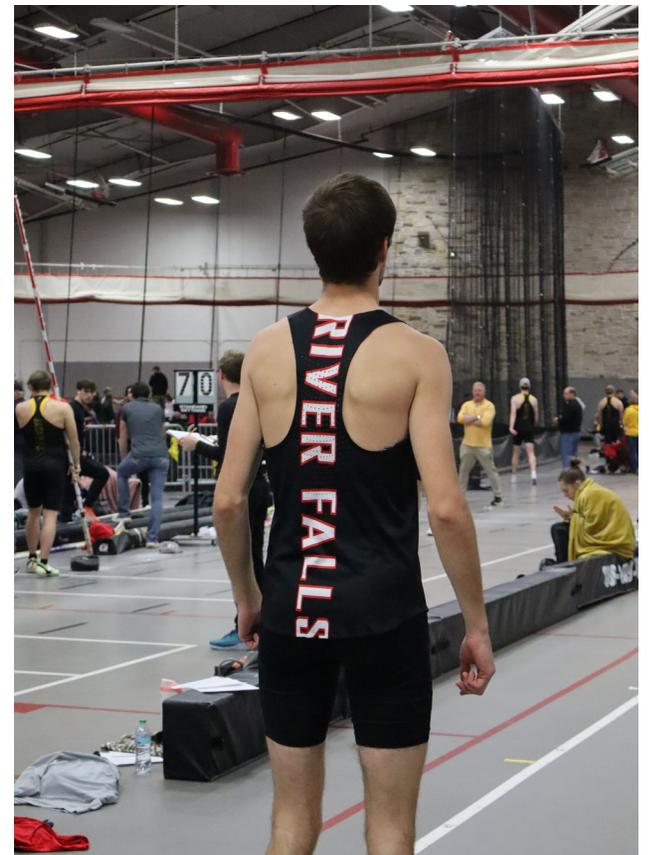
To secure the women's team title, the Falcons earned top finishes across several events. Adison Wilde placed second in the mile. Annika Gunderson won the pole vault with a clearance of 3.75 meters. Ava Bringgold finished second in the high jump at 1.50 meters, and Elena Fuglestad placed third in the long jump. Ali Clifford won the shot put, and Lauryn Schutz took first in the weight throw.

On the men's side, several Falcons contributed to the team's runner-up finish. Bryant Molamphy set a personal best in the pole vault at 4.60 meters. Teammates Cole Darling and Jacob Balcome tied with clearances of 4.45 meters. Charles Baker placed third in the weight throw with a personal best and also finished in the top five in the shot put. Yaih Marial won the high jump, and Jack Richter placed second in the 3,000 meters.

The Winter Classic was the Falcons' only home meet of the season. UWRF will compete on the road for the remainder of its schedule. The full schedule is available at <https://uwrfsports.com/calendar>



UWRF track and field athlete Cole Darling pole vaults at a clearance of 3.75 meters. Darling tied with his teammate Jacob Balcome at the Winter Classic track meet on Feb. 7. (Photo by Alison Keeler)



Junior Zane Habisch prepares to compete in the high jump at the Winter Classic track meet in Knowles Field House. Habisch scored fourth overall with a clearance of 1.83 meters. (Photo by Alison Keeler)

Falcon women's hockey soar past Yellowjackets in 4-1 win

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The University of Wisconsin-River Falls women's hockey team maintained its No. 1 national ranking with a 4-1 win over UW-Superior on Saturday, Jan. 31, at Hunt Arena. The Falcons jumped out to an early lead, scoring three goals in the first period.

Defenseman Sami Pool (2) opened the scoring with her second goal of the season, assisted by forward Katherine Bell (15). Forwards Alexa Niccum (23) and Sophia Hess (21) added goals late in the period, giving UWRF a 3-0 advantage heading into the first intermission.

Niccum scored again on a power play late in the second period, marking the Falcons' 15th consecutive power-play goal and extending the lead to 4-0.



Sophia Hess (21) prepares for a shot on goal against UWS. Hess scored and helped lead the Falcons to a 3-0 lead before the second period. (Photo by Alison Keeler)

UW-Superior scored its lone goal midway through the third period. The Yellowjackets, now 1-19 overall, struggled to keep pace with the Falcons.

The win was the 15th straight for UW-River Falls, improving the Falcons to 19-1 overall and 7-1 in WIAC play. UWRF out shot UW-Superior 55-19. Goaltender Jordan O'Kane (1) stopped 18 shots for the Falcons.

UW-River Falls will play four more home games before closing the regular season on the road against UW-Eau Claire at 2 p.m. Feb. 21.



UWRF's Megan Goodreau (10) handles the puck past a UW-Superior player. The Falcons won the game in a final score of 4-1. (Photo by Alison Keeler)



UWRF women's hockey team stands for the singing on the National Anthem before their game against UW-Superior on Jan. 31. (Photo by Alison Keeler)

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