

University of Wisconsin-River Falls STUDENT VOICE

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April 6, 2026

Student Voice Staff Win Nine WNA Awards

Alison Keeler

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The *Student Voice* newspaper staff won a total of nine awards from the 2025 Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation Collegiate Better Newspaper Contest. The winners were announced March 5 at the WNA Convention in Madison, where more than 300 entries from campus newspapers across the state were submitted. The University of Wisconsin-River Falls was one of 12 colleges recognized for its student newspaper's excellent work in journalism.

Receiving a total of nine awards, two reporters earned first-place. Former editor and 2025 graduate Jack Van Hoof earned a first place award for his in-depth report, "UWRF outlines recruitment efforts and difficulties." Reporter Angel Riley also earned first place for her public affairs reporting titled "DIB to SIB: A New Face." Both UWRF students received a plaque from the WNA in recognition of their achievements.

Editor Johan Harworth earned second place in column writing for "Farm and Industry Short Course returns, sowing seeds for new opportunities." The newspaper staff also earned second place for "Campus policy changes need student input," an editorial writing piece emphasizing the need for better communication and the impact of student opinions.

Harworth commented on the collaborative effort behind *The Student Voice*. "I am proud of the work that all our members on *The Student Voice* put forth," he said. "It's because of their hard work and dedication that we were able to win these awards, and I know for a fact they will only get better."

The newsroom earned four third-place awards across a range of categories, highlighting the variety of work the staff contributed to the publication. Michaleen Lovett was honored for "Falcon Felines Back in Session," a lifestyle story discussing a student club at UWRF. The staff also earned third place in editorial writing for its coverage of the Okta login changes. Assistant editor and designer Alison Keeler earned third place for an infographic titled "Okta change leaves students confused."

"I'm honored to have my work recognized by the WNA Foundation," Keeler said. "Working as the Assistant Editor of *The Student Voice* has given me the opportunity to develop my graphic design and storytelling skills. This award reflects the support and opportunities I've had to grow as a student journalist, and I'm grateful for the experience."

First-year reporter Kristy Moore also earned third place for her story on UWRF's partnership with Burnett Dairy Cooperative, a business coverage story. Additionally, Moore received an honorable mention for her story in the health coverage category, "Act 15's impact on



Members of The Student Voice accept awards from the Wisconsin Newspaper Association during a weekly club meeting on March 11, 2026. Front row, from left: Reporter Kristy Moore, Assistant Editor Alison Keeler and Reporter Sawyer Johnson. Back row, from left: Editor Johan Harworth, Treasurer Michaleen Lovett and Reporter Fionn O'hAodha. (Photo by Souzeina Mushtaq)

UWRF's HEAL 108 course."

Moore expressed, "as a first-year journalism student, I feel honored to be recognized for the story I wrote about UWRF's partnership with Burnett Dairy Cooperative. I am so thankful for the opportunity to write with *The Student Voice* and grateful for the support and mentorship I have received from upperclassmen as well as my professors."

Journalism Program Director and Faculty Advisor Souzeina Mushtaq, who attended the ceremony in Madison, said the awards reflect the resilience and dedication of student journalists during a challenging time for the industry and for journalism programs nationwide.

"These awards reflect the hard work, perseverance, and passion our students bring to journalism, even as the field faces unprecedented hardships," Mushtaq said. "Their dedication to telling meaningful stories and serving the campus community is inspiring, and I am incredibly

proud of what they have achieved."

As *The Student Voice* continues covering campus news, the awards serve as recognition of the hard work and commitment of the student journalists behind the publication. The newspaper publishes a monthly print edition and maintains a digital presence at uwrfvoice.com.

Thank You, UWRF Community!

The Student Voice staff is grateful for the support of our readers, sources, and campus community. Your engagement makes our work possible.

-The Student Voice

VOICE SHORTS

UWRF Men's Hockey fight UW-Stout

The UW-River Falls men's hockey team competed in the WIAC Championship game on March 7 in Menomonie, WI against UW-Stout. The game ended in a 5-4 loss for the Falcons that Saturday night, with a heated fight taking place towards the end of the game.

The River Falls Falcons were able to score three goals back-to-back against the Blue Devils, improving the score from 5-1 to 5-4 during the third period of the game.

After the fourth goal was made by UWRF, a player from the UW-Stout team accidentally ran into the Falcons goalie. This caused a physical fight to break out among the players and needed all three referees to get involved to break it up.

Videos of the fight were recorded by fans and posted on social media. A number of different perspectives of the fight were filmed and then shared to TikTok and Instagram, with some of the videos getting over 20 thousand views.

Centennial Science Building Shutdown

With the recent opening of the new Science and Technology Innovation Center (SciTech) in January 2026, all of the spring semester classes that would normally be held in Centennial Science Hall are now taking place in SciTech.

Centennial was originally built around the time of the Universities 100th year celebration, which is how the building earned its name. It has since served as the education building for various science classes like biology, chemistry, physics and more.

Since the science courses have moved to SciTech, Centennial has been closed and all exterior doors have remained locked. Signage is posted on the doors stating that the building is closed.

The only exception of this is for students who use the observatory for classes, a professor would need to unlock the building for them.

The move was made because the previous facilities in Centennial Science Hall were outdated and, according to university officials, presented safety hazards.

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Police's website posts the building hours for each of the buildings on campus, including the times that each hall is open during a certain semester. According to the building hours posted for the spring 2026 semester, it says that Centennial Hall is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

No public announcements have been made on what will be happening to Centennial Science Hall.

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 at Sports

Kristy Moore

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A deep dive into the Student Voice archives reveals moments from UWRF's history, highlighting sporting events from previous years.

1926

Now that our boys are really wearing their new red sweaters, we cannot help but feel pleased at the change of color in the sweaters awarded for football this year.

1936

With the close of the basketball season, the sports calendar of the college is largely filled with intramural volleyball. Eight volleyball teams have been organized, and play got underway this week.

1966

Eight intramural basketball teams will clash tonight and tomorrow night to decide which two teams will battle in the IM championship game Thursday at 7 p.m. in Karges Gym.

1976

Techniques of Rape Prevention were demonstrated by wrestlers Baron Von Raschke and Joe Leduc at the All-Star wrestling matches at Karges Tuesday night. Von Rasche (the clawmaster) and Leduc (the lumberjack) wrestled in the featured bout on a card sponsored by the River Falls men's track team.



1976: Wrestlers Baron Von Raschke and Joe Leduc at All-Star wrestling match. (Photo by Randy Johnson)

2016

The Falcons Women's Hockey team capped off a memorable winter by achieving its greatest season to date. The Falcons fell 5-1 in the NCAA Division III National Championship Game to Plattsburgh State a few weeks ago, securing second place in the country. This comes on the heels of two third place finishes in the NCAA tournament in 2014 and 2015.



MAR. 2016: The women's hockey team fell to the reigning NCAA National Champs, Plattsburgh State, in Plattsburgh, New York on Saturday, March 19. The Falcons conclude their season with a 23-6-2 record and a 2nd place national finish, which is the farthest the UWRF women's hockey has gotten in program history. Chloe Kinsel, the lone senior on the roster, finishes her outstanding career at UWRF by making the 2016 AHCA/CCM Division III All-American First Team. Kinsel was also named WIAC player of the year." (Photo from Student Voice archives)

Want something to be included in
our next issue? Email us at:
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UW-River Falls Breadstick Incident Caused Student Riot on YikYak

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Feb. 24 began as an ordinary Tuesday for students at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls, until dinner.

Students expecting the usual supply of golden, soft breadsticks at Riverside Commons found the trays empty. While no direct witnesses reported the moment the supply ran out, students on campus joked that tears were likely shed.

Posts on the campus social app YikYak claimed that some diners had taken platefuls of breadsticks. Users urged others to limit themselves to one or two to prevent a similar shortage.

For many students, the reaction underscored the unexpectedly strong attachment to the dining hall's breadsticks. Some praised them enthusiastically, while others said they were tired of hearing about them.

Regular diners often took at least one breadstick with their meals, describing them as warm and flavorful. But some said the response to the shortage

seemed excessive, until they tried what they considered an unusually perfect breadstick. Students described it as soft, warm and seasoned with just the right amount of garlic and salt.

Some students said the breadsticks could rival those served at Olive Garden, a comparison that carries weight among fans of the chain's signature item.

Despite the lighthearted tone of the online discussion, students said the shortage served as a reminder to take only what they need, and not to take breadsticks for granted.

YikYak is an anonymous social media app that is popular among college campuses. It allows users to post text-based messages and leave comments, all while remaining incognito.

Universities of Wisconsin Launch New AI Course for Students

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The Universities of Wisconsin's Office of Online and Professional Learning has launched an optional course called "AI Literacy for Students." The course was announced at the University of Wisconsin–River Falls on Feb. 17 in an email from Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Wesley Chaplin.

In a statement on its AI policies, the Universities of Wisconsin said, "AI is not a replacement for human insight, it's an accelerator of it."

The self-paced, ungraded, noncredit course includes four modules that provide an overview of artificial intelligence. Its goal is to introduce students to AI, explain its uses, and teach appropriate application in academic and professional settings.

Ryan Anderson, senior director of instructional design and media at the Office of Online and Professional Learning, said the system wants students "to be AI literate and prepared for emerg-

ing technology even as a UW education provides the durable skills such as critical thinking, adaptability, judgment, and communication that last a lifetime and transcend careers. We also want students to understand the best uses, and some of the downsides, of using AI."

Student Carter Epley, who completed the course, said he disagreed with some of the guidance. "The course says to ask AI for advice, not complete the entire assignment, as you wouldn't have your friend write your entire assignment. But I'm not friends with a computer. Those are not the same thing," he said. "The course says if you're using this tool, you should follow these rules and be good about it. But it's just easier to not use the tool."

Anderson said the university system knows students are already using AI and wants them "to be AI literate and understand both best uses and some of the dangers of using AI. We want them to use AI safely."

Epley also questioned who the course is intended for, noting that its optional nature may limit how many students engage with the material.

UWRF Holds Jazz Ensemble Concert

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On March 7, the University of Wisconsin–River Falls Jazz Ensemble performed in Abbott Concert Hall with guest artist Dave Hagedorn.

Hagedorn, a faculty member at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, teaches percussion, jazz studies and world music. He earned degrees from the Eastman School of Music, the New England Conservatory and the University of Minnesota.

He released the duo album *Horizon* with pianist Dan Cavanagh in 2010, and in 2003 contributed to the trio recording *Solid Liquid*. In addition to his jazz work, Hagedorn has participated in numerous orchestral recordings. He frequently performs throughout the Twin Cities in a variety of group settings, including trios, quartets and tribute bands.

The ensemble performed a wide selection of pieces, including the fan favorite "Spain," which encouraged audience members to clap along.

The concert drew a strong turnout of community members and families.



Sections of the Jazz Ensemble from the concert on Mar. 7. (Photos by Emma McNulty)

Follow the Student Voice on Instagram:

@uwrfstudentvoice

UWRF Head Coach Matt Walker Resigns After 15 Seasons; River Falls Bids Farewell

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Weeks after leading the University of Wisconsin-River Falls football team to its first national championship, head coach Matt Walker announced his resignation on Feb. 22 to accept a Division I head coaching position at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

The departure came as a surprise to many across campus, capping a remarkable 15-year turnaround that transformed the Falcons from a struggling program into a national contender.

Walker expressed gratitude in a statement released by UW-River Falls Athletics. "I'm not sure there are words to properly explain how much I love River Falls," he said. "I've given everything I had to UWRF and feel good about leaving it in a better place than we found it."

In his first nine seasons, the Falcons compiled a 23-68 record, including a winless campaign in 2013. At the time, the program had not recorded a winning season since 2000.

The trajectory shifted after the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2020, UW-River Falls has gone 44-13, including a school-record of 14 wins in 2025 and the program's first NCAA Division III national title.

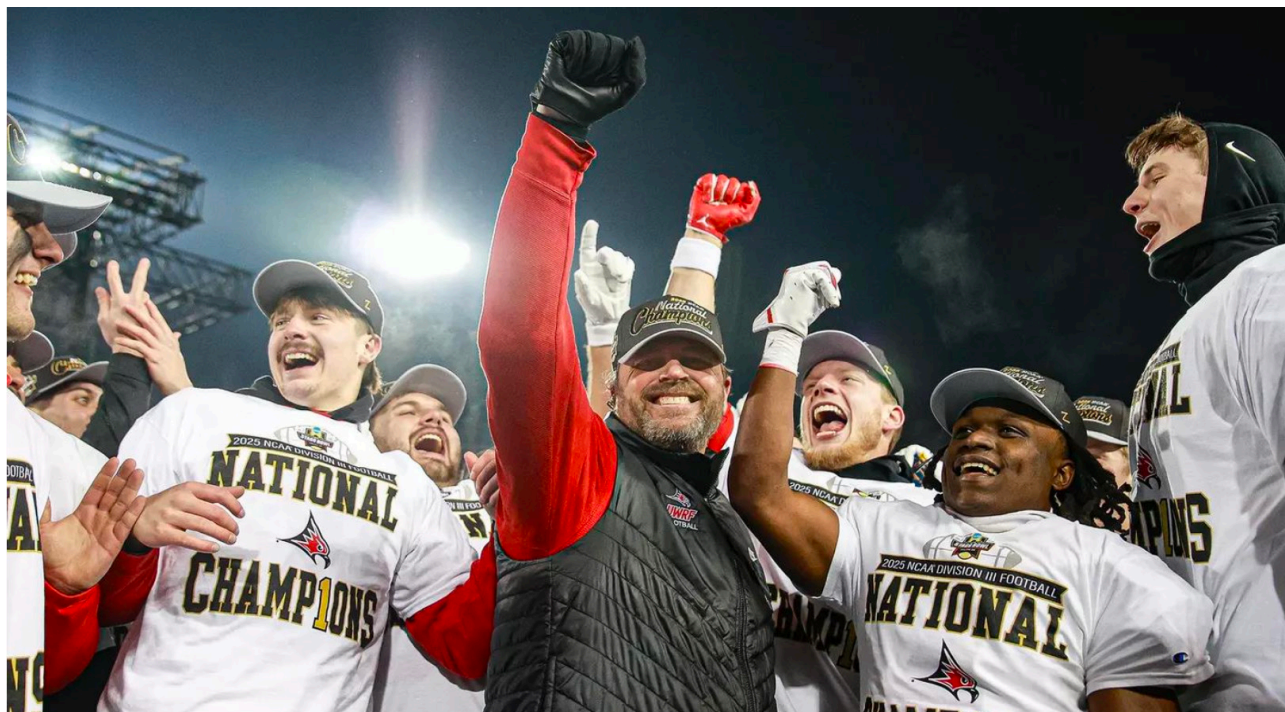
Walker's impact extended beyond wins and losses. He was named WIAC Coach of the Year in 2025 and under his leadership, the Falcons produced more than 140 All-WIAC selections, 13 All-Region honorees, six All-Americans and the 2025 Gagliardi Trophy winner, quarterback Kaleb Blaha. Blaha also set an NCAA single-season record with 6,189 total yards.

Players consistently credited Walker for reshaping the team's culture.

"Coach Walker built a culture of belief and accountability that changed the standard. He pushed me to be a better quarterback, but more importantly a better leader and teammate."

- Kaleb Blaha

***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.**



Coach Matt Walker (center) and the UW-River Falls football team celebrate their 24-14 win in the national championship game on Jan. 4, 2026. (Photo by Carly Lynch, @carlys__captures)

Wide receiver Blake Rohrer described Walker's influence as "everlasting," noting the program's transformation from a struggling team into a close-knit unit.

"He [Walker] says he inherited a team that didn't feel like a college team," Rohrer said.

"Through a lot of perseverance and many losing seasons, he formed a culture that resembles a family."

Defensive back Peter Ladu emphasized Walker's belief in the program's long-term potential. "He's been through it all and ultimately won a national title without giving up," Ladu said. "He had the vision that the program would become what it is today."

Blaha echoed those sentiments, highlighting both on-field and personal development.

"Coach Walker built a culture of belief and accountability that changed the standard," Blaha said. "He pushed me to be a better quarterback, but more importantly a better leader and teammate."

Players also pointed to Walker's ability to build personal relationships as a key factor in the team's success.

"A lot of coaches put the sport first," Rohrer said. "Walker made it personal. That made me want to play harder for him."

Reactions to the news of Walker's resignation from players were mixed, combining surprise with support.

"I was filled with emotion," Ladu said. "I wasn't expecting it, but I'm happy for him and his family."

Blaha said he had "mixed emotions" about the resignation, adding that opportunities at higher levels are expected for successful coaches.

Walker's new role at Drake marks a significant step up to Division I football. The Bulldogs have posted eight wins over the past three seasons and compete in the Pioneer Football League.

For Walker, the move represents an "ideal opportunity."

Despite his departure, his legacy at UW-River Falls remains firmly established. "Winning the national champion-

ship together is something I'll remember for the rest of my life," Blaha said.

Rohrer recalled a defining moment before the title game.

"He started tearing up during his speech," Rohrer said. "In that moment, we knew we were going to make him proud."

Walker leaves behind more than a championship team. He leaves a reshaped program defined by belief, accountability and a winning culture, a foundation his players say will endure.



The NCAA Division III national champion football trophy. (Photo by Alison Keeler)

ANONYMOUS POLLS

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

Q: Do you think the dining hall food is worse, better, or the same, compared to last year?

142 students polled on dining hall food



51% of students voted that the food this year is worse compared to last year.



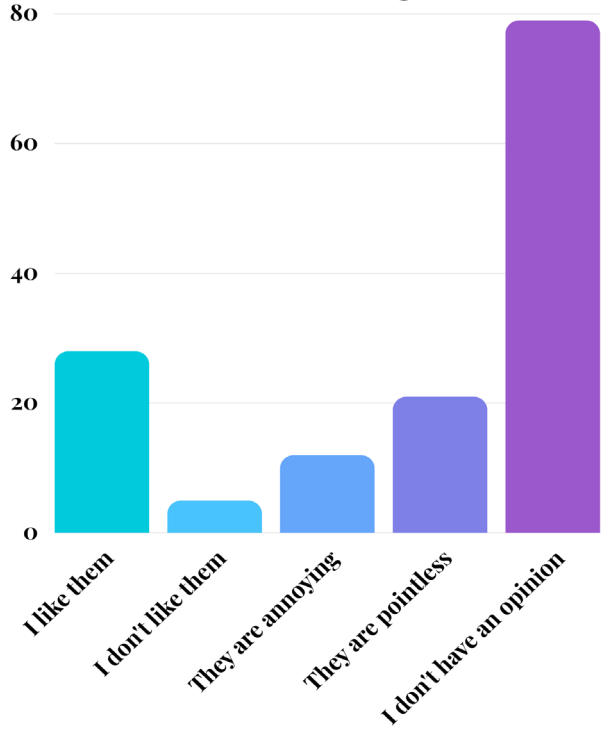
25% of students voted that the food this year is about the same compared to last year.



23% of students voted that the food this year is better compared to last year.

Q: How do you feel about the new cleaning robots in Sci Tech?

145 students polled about the new cleaning robots



Anonymous data compiled by Alison Keeler

Staff Editorial: Severe Weather Awareness Week Reminds Us That Preparedness Is a Community Effort

Student Voice Staff
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Every spring, as winter finally loosens its grip on the Midwest, the region enters a season defined by renewal, unpredictability, and too often, danger. Severe weather is as much a part of life in Minnesota and Wisconsin as snowbanks and summer festivals.

In the week following this paper’s release, communities across Minnesota and Wisconsin will observe National Severe Weather Awareness Week, running from April 13th through April 17th. The annual event is designed to keep residents sharp, informed, and ready when the skies turn dangerous. For students and staff at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, this week carries particular relevance, not just as a civic reminder, but as a backdrop to meaningful changes taking shape right here on campus.

While the Twin Cities will host a variety of activities throughout the week, the most immediate impact for our campus community comes from the City of River Falls itself. According to the city’s website, River Falls will conduct two tornado siren tests on April 16th, one at 1:45 p.m. and another at 6:45 p.m., with a backup date scheduled for April 17th. These tests are routine, but they are also symbolic. They serve as a loud, unmistakable reminder that severe weather is not hypothetical. It is a reality that demands preparation long before the sky turns green or the radar lights up.

Sirens, however, are only one piece of the larger safety puzzle. On campus, the work of preparing for severe weather is quieter, more methodical, and often invisible. To better understand what UWRF is doing behind the scenes, we spoke with Matt Peterson, the primary contact for Risk Management at the university. His insights reveal a campus actively working to strengthen its emergency readiness, not through dramatic overhauls, but through thoughtful, practical improvements.

One of the most significant updates underway is the release of new emergency floor plan maps for campus buildings. These maps will replace the current versions and will include updated information such as the locations of AED stations. More notably, they will also shift the terminology used for designated safety areas. What were once labeled “Tornado Shelters” will now be called “Areas of Refuge.”

This change may seem subtle, but language matters. “Tornado Shelter” implies a single, specific threat. “Area of Refuge” acknowledges that emergencies come in many forms and that designated safe spaces must serve multiple purposes. It’s a broader, more flexible term, one that reflects the evolving landscape of emergency planning in higher education.

However, these updated maps won’t be made publicly available until they are officially released for each building. This decision, according to Peterson, is rooted in a commitment to maintaining public safety for students and faculty. In other words, the university is taking care to ensure that the information is accurate, complete, and responsibly distributed. It’s a reminder that preparedness is not just about having a plan; it’s about having the right plan, communicated at the right time.

Still, the fact that these updates are happening at all is encouraging. It signals that UWRF is not content to rely on outdated materials or assumptions. Instead, the university is actively evaluating and improving its emergency infrastructure. That kind of proactive approach is exactly what severe weather awareness week is meant to inspire.

But awareness week is not just for institutions. It is also for individuals. Students walking across campus with earbuds in, faculty rushing between classes, staff members working late in quiet offices. Too often, we assume that emergency preparedness is someone else’s job. We trust that the city will sound the sirens, that the university will send the alerts, that someone somewhere has thought through the details.

And while it’s true that cities and campuses carry enormous responsibility, personal preparedness is equally important. Knowing where your building’s Areas of Refuge are located, understanding the difference between a watch and a warning, recognizing the sound of the sirens on April 16th; these are small acts of awareness that can make a meaningful difference.

National Severe Weather Awareness Week is not meant to scare us. It is meant to empower us. It is a chance to pause and consider how we respond when the unexpected happens. It is an invitation to ask questions, to learn, and to take ownership of our safety.

For those who want to understand more about UWRF’s emergency planning, Risk Management encourages students and staff to reach out through the university’s website. This is not a passive suggestion. It is an open door. If you have concerns, ask. If you are unsure where to go during a tornado warning, find out. If you want to understand how the new maps will work, inquire. Preparedness is built on communication, and the university is signaling that it is ready to engage.

Likewise, for those interested in the broader activities planned throughout the Twin Cities during National Severe Weather Awareness Week, the National Weather Service website offers additional information. Whether you are curious about storm spotter training, emergency kit recommendations, or the science behind severe weather, the resources are there.

Ultimately, awareness week is not about the siren tests or the updated maps themselves. It is about the mindset they represent. It is about recognizing that severe weather is not an abstract threat but a real one, one that requires planning, communication, and collective responsibility.

As April approaches, we would all do well to take a moment and reflect on our own readiness. When the sirens sound on April 16th, they will be only a test. But the next time they sound, they may not be. And when that moment comes, the preparation we do today, on campus, in the city, and as individuals, will matter.

Preparedness is not dramatic. It is not glamorous. But it is essential. And this year’s National Severe Weather Awareness Week is a timely reminder that safety is something we build together, long before the storm arrives.

Hathorn Hall Hosts Sex Bingo Event on Sexual Health

Emma McNulty and Landon Zientara

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On Feb. 25, residents gathered in the basement of Hathorn Hall for “Sex Bingo.” Despite the minimal description provided ahead of time, the event drew more than 50 participants from Hathorn and other residence halls. Members of Pierce County Reproductive Health also attended.

Upon arrival, residents signed in and received a goodie bag containing condoms, an instruction manual on contraceptive use, a BUBBL’R and a flyer noting that February is National Condom Month. The bags also included a magnet and a can koozie from Pierce County Reproductive Health.

Bingo prizes ranged from snacks to rice cookers to plush toys.

To break ties between players who called “Bingo,” Area Coordinator Sam McEathron asked true-or-false questions related to reproductive health.

The Hathorn basement was filled with laughter, friendly competition and community building.

Residents can stay updated on upcoming hall events by signing in to their residence hall on the Band app and following their hall’s Instagram account.



Four winners from Hathorn Hall’s Sex Bingo event pose for a photo on Feb. 25. (Photo by Emma McNulty)

“Blind Date with a Book” Attracts Students

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On March 2, the University of Wisconsin–River Falls book club, All Booked, hosted its only event of the semester, “Blind Date with a Book.”

Books were scattered across tables, each wrapped in brown paper with its Goodreads rating and a short synopsis taped to the outside. The setup prevented students from judging a book by its cover and encouraged them to choose based on content alone. After reading through the summaries, students selected a book and then unwrapped it to reveal their pick.

According to club president Rylan Danielson, the goal of the event was to make reading more accessible on campus. “We wanted to give back to the

campus because coming by books shouldn’t be a hard thing to do. It’s a skill people are lacking nowadays, reading, it’s a necessity to have,” Danielson said.

The event drew an unexpectedly large crowd. The room became so full that moving between tables was difficult. “We spent two hours wrapping books, we bought about one hundred and ran out in the first five minutes,” Danielson said. “So now we know better for next time.”

The turnout highlighted both the popularity of the event and the continued interest in reading among students. All Booked meets every other Monday at 6 p.m. in the UC Falls Room 004. Students can stay updated on meetings through the club’s Instagram account, @allbooked_uwrf.



Books wrapped in brown paper hide their covers at the “Blind Date with a Book” event on March 2. (Photo by Landon Zientara)

STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin-River Falls

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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

Baseball

The UW-River Falls baseball team has a current record of 5-8 overall as of Mar. 30. With a rocky start of away games, the team plans to work hard to continue their spring season.

Women's Basketball

The UWRF women's basketball team's record this season ended 16-12 overall. Their last game of the 2025-26 season was in the NCAA tournament against Ripon and the Falcons lost in overtime with a score of 81-84.

Women's Hockey

The UW-River Falls women's hockey ended their season with a record of 30-1-0. The team recently won the NCAA Division III women's hockey championship for the third year in a row. Read more about it on page 8.

Softball

The Falcon softball team just started their spring season in the middle of March. With a current record of 7-14 overall as of Mar. 30, the softball team has been training hard in preparation for their upcoming busy schedule.

Men's Track and Field

The men's track and field team had their first outdoor meet of the year at St. John's University where the men's team scored pretty well overall. Jacob Balcome won the 400 meter event title. 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 had success so far in the outdoor season. Laina Viere had a meet-record performance and Ali Clifford won in shot put. 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 Tennis vs. Northwestern

April 7, 3:00 p.m. at tennis courts

Softball vs. Carleton

April 8, 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. at softball field

Women's Tennis vs. Gustavus

April 11, 12:00 p.m. at tennis courts

Softball vs. UW-Platteville

April 11, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at softball field

Baseball vs. UW-Superior

April 15, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at First Nation Bank of River Falls Field

Softball vs. UW-Eau Claire

April 15, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at softball field

Women's Lacrosse vs. Hamline

April 15, 7:00 p.m. at Ramer Field

UW-River Falls Baseball Comes Up Short in Home Opener

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The University of Wisconsin-River Falls baseball team fell to Bethel University 22-15 in its nonconference home opener on March 25 at First National Bank of River Falls Field.

The Falcons struck early when Max Krebs hit a first-inning home run, the first of his career, to tie the game at 1-1.

UWRF later capitalized on walks and timely hitting to stay within reach, but Bethel responded quickly. The Royals scored five runs in the eighth inning and added five more in the ninth to pull away.

The Falcons finished with 13 hits and drew 12 walks, consistently putting runners on base against Bethel's pitching staff.

UW-River Falls opened its 2026 WIAC schedule with a four-game road series at UW-La Crosse on March 28. The Falcons dropped both games, but the team noted that the season is still in its early stages.



The Falcons cheer after a homerun was made by #4 Max Krebs.



The UWRF baseball team huddles up for a moment of silence before their home opener of the 2026 season.



#2 John Santelman takes a swing during the home opener against Bethel University on Mar. 25.



The Falcons stand along the baseball diamond for the singing of the National Anthem.

Back to Back to Back

The UWRF women's hockey team wins the WIAC Championship, securing the O'Brien Cup once again. The Falcons then moved on to compete in the NCAA Division III tournament, eventually taking victory in the finals, making it their third straight win.

WIAC Championship Game

Mar. 7 with 4-0 victory over UW-Eau Claire



The players on the ice huddle up during a timeout against UW-Eau Claire in the WIAC championship game.



Defense #17 MaKenna Aure skates with the puck, passing it to Forward #23 Alexa Niccum for the third goal of the game. The Falcons took a 3-0 lead.



The UWRF women's hockey team won the WIAC championship with a final score of 4-0 against UW-Eau Claire. The Falcons secured the trophy, the William O'Brien Cup.



The women's hockey team poses with their newly won trophy and WIAC champion sign. UWRF fans in the back cheered loudly in excitement.

NCAA Quarterfinal Game

Mar. 21 with 1-0 score versus Williams College



Forward #21 Sophia Hess attempts to score on Williams College, adding to one of the 46 shots on goal that game.



Forward #3 Madison Kadrlik takes the puck back from Williams College, she had three attempted shots on goal on Mar. 21.



Forward #7 Kylie Jones skates past an opposing player from Williams College. The one goal of the game was made by Forward #17 MaKenna Aure.



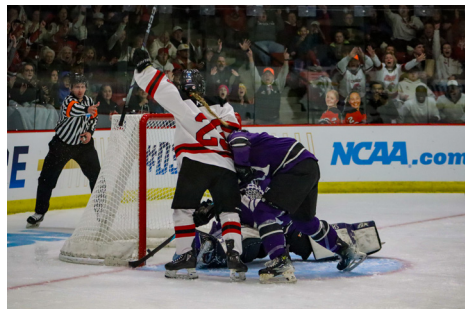
The Falcons team celebrates their win against Williams College in the semifinals of the NCAA tournament with a final score of 1-0.

NCAA Semifinal Game

Mar. 27 with 3-1 score versus Amherst College



A fast first period of the semifinals has Forward #23 Alexa Niccum handling the puck past two Amherst players.



Forward #23 Alexa Niccum scores the first goal of the game against Amherst on Mar. 27, making it her tenth goal of the season.



The Falcons skate back to the locker room feeling confident with a score of 3-0 after the second period of the NCAA semifinals.



UWRF huddles up with smiles on their faces as the semifinals game comes to an end, with a final score of 3-1. River Falls advanced to the championship.

NCAA Championship Game

Mar. 29 with 4-0 victory against Nazareth Uni.



UWRF lines up on the ice for the National Anthem before the NCAA championship game.



Forward #15 Katherine Bell goes in for a face-off against an opposing player from Nazareth University.



Forward #21 Sophia Hess led all players with two goals and 12 shots in the championship game versus Nazareth on Mar. 29.



The quiet ice after a victorious win for UWRF in the NCAA championship game. The Falcons got their third straight title in a row.

(All photos by Alison Keeler)

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