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"Frozen" delights audiences.

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New confessions page does not reflect inclusivity of University.

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STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

December 6, 2013

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 100, Issue 11



Horticulture Society sells holiday plants



Desi Danforth/Student Voice

The UWRF Horticulture Society will continue its annual Plant Sale in the University Center on Friday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A variety of plants will be sold.

WRFW raises funds for foster care

Meghann Witthoft
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With 500,000 children enrolled in the United States' foster care system, there are no shortage of those foster children that need aid. Together We Rise (TWR), a nonprofit organization, has the goal of helping kids in foster care around the country. The UW-River Falls campus radio station, 88.7 FM WRFW, will be airing a fundraiser from Dec. 8, through Dec. 13, that will raise funds for TWR to continue to help children in foster care in a variety of ways.

Some of the ways that TWR helps foster children are through camps, mentor-

ing and other unique programs. These programs include Build-a-Bike and Sweetcases. The Build-a-Bike program allows foster children the experience of utilizing parts and tools to build a bike for their own personal use.

Sweetcases also provides positive opportunity for foster children by giving them a duffel bag filled with items like toothbrushes and stuffed animals; in place of the plastic trash bags they are normally provided when first enrolled in foster care.

The charity also works towards an easier transition from foster care to becoming a functional member of soci-

ety. According to TWR, one in three foster children after one year of turning 18-years-old (the cut-off age for foster care) go homeless.

This statistic led to the organization finding ways to ease the transition such as teaching them about necessities to society like obtaining a drivers license and health insurance.

This organization has made a huge difference across the United States. One unique thing about TWR is that unlike some nonprofit organizations 100 percent of all donations go directly to foster children. This is possible as they are ran by all unpaid interns under the age of 25. As

a 2012 Do Something Award finalist for the creation and continuation of TWR, Danny Mendoza, the founder of TWR, has worked hard to voice the difference that can be made helping foster children.

From an on-campus standpoint, TWR and WRFW are working together to inform the UWRF and the River Falls community of the organization's goals.

The current project goal of WRFW is to contribute funds towards scholarships for foster children. This is a growing issue as only 3 percent of foster children graduate from college, according to togetherwise.org.

Within WRFW the entire staff is working toward aiding TWR in their cause. WRFW Program Director Paul Langfellow has been working with WRFW's DJs.

"Most of our DJs love getting the chance to help out with these types of special events and we have all been very excited in the result," Langfellow said.

Langfellow also expressed his hopes for the event and its effects on campus.

"On most commercial stations you would not find an event such as ours, but since we are public radio we have the special opportunity of using our radio waves for something positive like this,"

Langfellow said.

WRFW's Ryan Tibbitts, an intern for TWR and advocate of this fundraising event, will kick off the main part of the fundraising event on his radio show, Study Break, on Monday, Dec. 9, with a live performance by Twin Cities band MANALIVE from 3-5 p.m.

MANALIVE is a band that consists of mainly full-time college students who had an interest in helping the community.

"MANALIVE decided to support this event, because we saw this as a great opportunity to showcase our tal-

See TWR on page 3

AFAB begins budget hearing meetings

Amanda White
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The Allocable Fees Appropriation Board (AFAB) started budget hearings Wednesday night to determine how much money student organizations will be receiving for the next school year.

AFAB Chair Bobbi O'Brien said that about 66 student organizations have submitted budgets, and each organization needs to present its budget to AFAB in order for AFAB to determine how it will distribute funds. O'Brien said that there is \$179,410.57 available for allocation to student organizations.

The funding process for sports clubs and student me-

dia have been going through changes this semester because both groups of organizations are large operations that require a lot of funding. O'Brien said that these changes would allow more AFAB money to be distributed to other student organizations.

After Student Senate approved a motion that allows the Recreation and Sports Facilities (RSF) Committee to allocate the money set aside for sports clubs, AFAB allocated \$48,000 for sports club budgets. Therefore, the RSF Committee will oversee sports club budgets instead of AFAB.

O'Brien said that this amount allocated for sports

clubs probably would have been larger if AFAB was still in charge of allocating money for sport clubs.

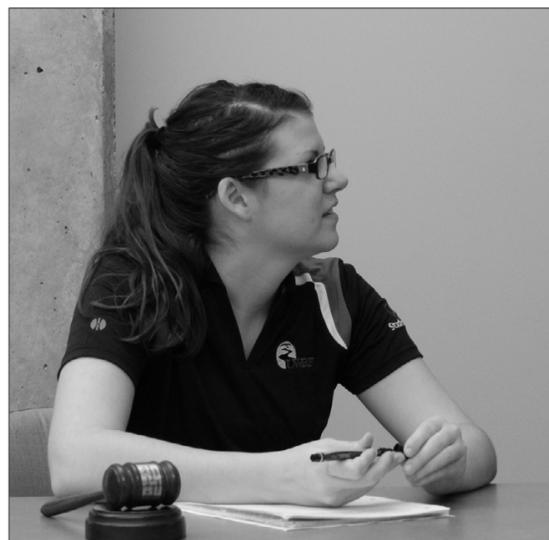
"Between all the sport clubs, they requested around \$85,000, so I think this is going to greatly help the other student organizations because it's opening up a whole lot more to them," O'Brien said. "I guess maybe not so much in sense of their budgets, but especially within single-event funding."

Single-event funding will be bumped up from 5 percent to 7 percent of AFAB money, which means that \$17,116.63 will be allocated for single-event funding. Sports clubs have historically applied for a lot of single-event funding

because they need funding for tournaments that they are not sure they are attending. However, O'Brien said that sports clubs would be required to estimate the amount of money required for tournaments and ask for that money in their budgets.

Also, there is a proposed change to the way student media are funded. If the Student Media Budget Process is approved for the next academic year, an allocable fee of \$8 will be collected to fund student media on campus. This change is just another way to open up more funding for the smaller student organizations on campus.

See Budgets on page 3



Desi Danforth/Student Voice

AFAB Chair Bobbi O'Brien leads a budget hearing.

News briefs:

UW-River Falls presents holiday swing dance

The next RADD Jazz Series event with the UW-River Falls Jazz Ensemble features guest vocalist Charmin Michelle at 7 p.m., on Friday, Dec. 6, in the Falcon's Nest in the University Center.

The evening begins with swing dance lessons at 7 p.m., guided by the UWRF Swing Dance Club with live music and dancing to begin at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to everyone. Refreshments and a cash bar available.

The Minneapolis Star/Tribune compares Michelle to the late Billie Holiday and other legendary ladies of jazz, delivering "Taste and understatement. Swing and savoir-faire. Grace and grooves. Intimacy and panache."

For more about Charmin Michelle, visit <http://www.charmsongs.com/>

The RADD Jazz Series is dedicated to the memory of John Radd, professor of Music and Jazz Ensemble director at UWRF. The UWRF Jazz Ensemble is directed by David Milne.

Upcoming RADD Jazz events include events: Jazz Club Cabaret featuring the UWRF Faculty Jazz Ensemble with Jazz Pianist Matt Harris at 7:30 p.m., on Friday, Feb. 14, 2014, on the Falcon's Nest. UWRF Jazz Ensemble Concert featuring Guest Pianist Matt Harris at 7:30 p.m., on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, in Abbott Concert Hall. UWRF Jazz Ensemble Concert at 7:30 p.m., on Saturday, March 8, 2014, in Abbott Concert Hall. Universal Language Concert at 7:30 p.m., on Saturday, April 26, in Abbott Concert Hall.

For more information on these events or accommodations, call Student Life at 715-425-4444 or visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/StudentLife/ActivitiesAndEvents/RaddJazzSeries.cfm>.

Society of Physics Students (SPS) earn national recognition

The UW-River Falls chapter of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) has won an Outstanding Chapter Award for 2012-13 from the SPS National Office. This is the 17th time the UWRF chapter has been recognized for its excellence as a top-tier student-led physics club, a designation given to fewer than 10 percent of all SPS chapters at universities in the United States.

The SPS is a professional association designed for students and membership is open to anyone interested in physics. SPS operates within the American Institute of Physics, an umbrella organization for professional physical science societies.

The SPS chapter at UWRF is advised by Professor Earl Blodgett and is led by student officers.

The UWRF SPS chapter presented demonstrations at UWRF's Family Day and at 3M Super Science Saturday. Public outreach efforts by the SPS students include judging events at several Science Olympiad tournaments and presenting a Halloween Haunted Lab. The SPS students presented demonstrations for several hundred high school students at Physics with the Minnesota Twins. Four students attended the Women in Physics conference at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, and eight students attended the Sigma Pi Sigma Congress in Florida, the largest meeting of undergraduate physics students ever held.

SPS chapters are evaluated on their level of interaction with the campus community, the professional physics community, the public, and with SPS national programs. The Outstanding Chapter Award recognizes high levels of outreach as well as unique approaches to fulfilling the mission of SPS to "help students transform themselves into contributing members of the professional community."

For more information on the SPS, visit www.spsnational.org.

Masquers present 'Mr. Marmalade' in Davis Theatre

The UW-River Falls theatre group Masquers will tell a story of an emotionally disturbed child, her cocaine-addicted imaginary friend, and her suicidal best friend through a comedy, "Mr. Marmalade." The show runs at 7:30 p.m., from Dec. 10-14, in the Blanche Davis Theatre in the Kleinpell Fine Arts (KFA) building.

UWRF senior Kelsey Miller is directing "Mr. Marmalade" by Noah Haidle, a play about Lucy, a 4-year-old with an interesting imagination. Her imaginary friend, Mr. Marmalade, has hardly any time for her. He is abusive to his assistant and struggles with addictions to work, cocaine and pornography.

Each year Masquers nominates a student to direct a full production and the show they will be directing. The production crew is also nominated and completely made up of UWRF students. The students are usually theatre majors or minors and have taken classes helpful in putting together a production.

In October students were invited to audition for the show. The cast is made up of nine UWRF students. The cast rehearses five nights a week in preparation for the show.

"This production is an absolutely ideal learning experience," said Miller. "Being completely student run, we are able to dive in head first to become well-rounded theatre students. I am learning with my production staff and cast and am so grateful for what we are able to produce."

Tickets are available at the Box Office in KFA and are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students.

For more information, email kendra.yarke@my.uwrf.edu or call 763-567-9737.

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Oct. 24

- A men's mountain bicycle was stolen from the University Center bicycle rack. The bicycle is valued at \$600.

Nov. 16

- Taylor Lane Struckman was fined \$326.50 for possession of drug paraphernalia at Crabtree Hall.

Nov. 17

- Devon McGowan Beach was fined \$719 for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia at Ames Suites.

Nov. 18

- Brandon J. Fritz was fined \$326.50 for possession of drug paraphernalia at Crabtree Hall.
- Jack Williams Kelly was fined \$716 for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia at Crabtree Hall

Nov. 19

- Briana Marie Olson was fined \$716 for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia at South Fork Suites.

Nov. 23

- A BMX bicycle was stolen from the North end of Hathorn Hall. The bicycle is valued at \$50.

Dec. 2

- Thomas Jon Jung was fined \$716 for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia at Grimm Hall.

Editor's note: Information for this section is taken from River Falls Police and River Falls Police Department incident reports.



Thursday, Dec. 12th

@



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Fine the hidden feather in this week's Voice issue! Email the Voice on Friday at 10 a.m., and win two free movie tickets to the Falls Theatre!

Check out the Student Voice online uwrvoice.com

AFAB: Decisions will wait until spring

From page 1

Sophomore Laura Robey attended the budget hearing on behalf of Students Today Leaders Forever (STLF) and said that the organization applied for a budget because it needs funding for a spring break service trip.

“Mostly, our main event is the trip, so we will be using the money from AFAB for things like renting the bus for the tour,” Robey said.

O’Brien said that student organizations should prepare for their budgets to be cut by 40 to 60 percent, but she doesn’t know the exact numbers since deliberations do not start until the beginning of spring semester. She said that AFAB would be asking hard questions because it wants to be fair as possible.

“The biggest thing we’re looking for is student inclusivity,” O’Brien said. “We’re really going to cut back on things like conferences. Our number one priority as AFAB is student involvement.”



Desi Danforth/Student Voice

Senators Matthew Hobbs, left, and Joe Schmit participate in a budget hearing on Wednesday, Dec. 4. At a hearing, student organization leaders present their budgets to AFAB so they can take their requests into consideration. Deliberation will continue in the spring.

UWRF grads report low unemployment

Miranda Hammel
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Recent UW-River Falls alumni are enjoying post-graduation success despite the challenging economy, according to a survey conducted by the UWRF Survey Research Center.

In securing employment and graduate school placements at a high rate, graduates were asked earlier this year about their employment and educational status through a survey. Among those who responded, this was a higher rate this year compared to other years, 81 percent reported that they were employed while an additional 15 percent specified they were continuing their education.

Melissa Wilson, director of Career Services at UWRF said, “The University of Wisconsin-River Falls works closely with industry and businesses to ensure that students are professionally prepared to compete in the job search process and receive job and internship offers with competitive companies.”

Alumni of three undergraduate programs: agricultural engineering technology, land use planning, and computer science and information systems, reported 100 percent employment and average annual salaries of more than \$40,000, according to that same survey.

John Hunchar graduated in December 2012, with a Bachelor of Science majoring in

Computer Science, Economics and Business Administration, with an emphasis in Management. Before graduating he applied to 20 places of employment, interviewed at 19, and was offered eight

“River Falls did an excellent job in preparing me for my current job,” said UWRF grad John Hunchar.

different jobs before finishing out interviews.

According to Hunchar, the application process was hard by: finding jobs where you believe that you can fit into the company culture and have the qualifications, easy

by filling out the standard application, and stressful when interviewing for the perfect job / company and declining potential job offers for another job in which you just began interviewing process.

Currently utilizing all of his degrees in some aspect of his job at Lancelot Data Sciences as a Systems Administrator, he shared that he has an excellent starting point in pay for the information technology (IT) industry between the pay and the benefits. He shared some advice to other students who are graduating soon:

1. Treat LinkedIn as your

friend and make sure to take the time to update it and keep it updated.

2. Networking is essential in finding that right job. It helps provide you with some insight about jobs at other companies.

3. Internships are vital; if you are graduating in the spring, find an internship.

4. Don’t be afraid to say no to a job offer if you don’t believe that it will be a perfect fit.

“River Falls did an excellent job in preparing me for my current job. The classes provided me with the fundamentals and theories. My internships provided me with the bridge to fill the gap between the theories and the actual practice,” Hunchar said.

Compared with 261 other public comprehensive institutions nationally from 1976 to 2006, UWRF ranks fifth in sending students on to receive a Ph.D. in agricultural sciences, ninth in physics and 12th in chemistry.

“It is further evidence that a degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is a smart investment,” said Blake Fry, special assistant to the Chancellor.

For more information about the survey conducted or have questions about internships and jobs contact Career Services at 715-425-3572 or Melissa Wilson, director of Career Services, at melissa.wilson@uwrf.edu or at 715-425-3572.

On-campus organization volunteers in community

Alexa Hilt
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The National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) is an on-campus organization that facilitates and encourages the involvement of Communicative Disorders students to partake in community activities focused around individuals who are at risk or have communicative difficulties.

The national chapter of NSSLHA was founded in 1972, according to the National website. It is the only official national student association recognized by the American Speech Language Hearing Association. UW-

River Falls has had an active chapter since the mid 1970s.

Lindsay Laramy has been the president of NSSLHA since September of 2013. She said that the organization is a great way to get to know people within the Communicative Disorders field, make professional connections, and help people within the community.

“Students and professionals work together and help each other excel academically as well as personally in NSSLHA,” Laramy said.

The on-campus organization initiates community service projects, volunteers at charity events, and hosts

fundraisers each year. One of the volunteer activities that NSSLHA works with on a regular basis is the domestic abuse shelter in River Falls called Turning Point.

“We read and promote literacy to at risk children,” Laramy said. “It is a great way to get to know fellow community members and advertise the speech and hearing clinic on campus and who we are.”

Sharyl Samargia is the faculty advisor for NSSLHA and supervises the organizations involvement with the community and UW-River Falls.

“We host story nights twice per month at Turning Point

to the children of the shelter who have been exposed to domestic violence and may be at risk for language and literacy problems,” Samargia said. “The work NSSLHA does with the shelter is to promote prevention of these problems in the River Falls population and to work to prevent, evaluate and treat language disorders in children.”

Some of the other events that NSSLHA has taken a part in so far this year are volunteers at the River Falls Swim Club annual swim meet, a gymnastics lock-in, volunteering at the Crown- ing Achievements Beauty

Pageant, attended a Speech-Language-Hearing Association student conference and played BINGO at the Lutheran home in River Falls.

“We are a very involved organization and we take pride in that,” Laramy said. “We like to be able to help people and raise awareness for people with a variety of disabilities.”

NSSLHA is primarily for Communicative Disorder majors and minors who are studying to become speech pathologists or audiologists.

Nationally, NSSLHA has approximately 13,000 members with chapters at more than 300 colleges and univer-

sities. You can be a part time or full time student at one of these universities, or a graduate or undergraduate student interested in the study of communicative disorders.

“Right now we have 55 active members of the local chapter of NSSLHA who are all undergraduate students,” Samargia said. “We also have approximately 20 students who are national members, undergraduate and graduate students.”

If you are interested in becoming a part of NSSLHA you can join via OrgSync. For more information about, visit <http://www.asha.org/> students.

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Together We Rise: Fundraiser goal sits at \$500

From page 1

ents for Together We Rise’s cause,” said MANALIVE guitarist Adam Hendren. “We hope not only to reach the station’s fundraising goal but exceed it through UWRF’s dedicated listeners, families, friends and fans.”

Throughout the fundraising event, WRFW’s DJs are afforded the opportunity to discuss TWR and its goals with the idea of spreading the word and providing a way in which listeners can donate to the cause. The donation goal sits at \$500, which will go towards one scholarship for

a Wisconsin resident foster child. The long term goal is to reach \$1,000 to provide two scholarships for Wisconsin resident foster children. All donations will be received by TWR and used by TWR’s unpaid interns to bring hope to foster children.

Donations may be mailed to WRFW at 306 North Hall 410 S Third Street River Falls, Wis., 54022 or made on the fundraising page <http://www.togetherwerise.org/fundraise/FosteringaFuture>. For more information on the event and/or TWR contact Ryan Tibbitts at ryan.tibbitts@my.uwrf.edu.

EDITORIAL

Students need to take extra precautions in cold, winter months

Winter is not coming, winter is here. This is just the first week of another long season of fighting the Wisconsin weather that we have all come to know. The right amount of awareness, preparation, and planning will help to make sure we all get through it safe.

As some of you may have noticed, there are new crosswalk lights on Cascade Avenue. With the mass amount of students that cross between classes and all the traffic that drives on Cascade Avenue safety issues can become a big concern. These lights are automatic and were added to provide safety while students cross the road to and from campus.

What students need to realize, however, is that this does not mean they can carelessly cross the street without looking, something we all learned at five years old but tend to forget.

Another concern with students crossing the road to and from campus is that many of them do not even use the crosswalks. To many students jay-walk which can put drivers in a bad situation and cause close calls. It only takes one misjudgment to cause an accident and catastrophe that none of us want to think about.

Drivers should still be aware of the fact that some students do not use the crosswalks, and cross wherever they want so to keep driving cautious. There is no need to speed down Cascade. With all the people it is just to dangerous.

This time of year it is especially important to be aware of safety issues on the road with all of the snow and ice. Taking extra time to avoid having to rush to class in these conditions is important for safety. The grounds crew works hard trying to keep the sidewalks clear and putting in rigorous hours to do so, but sometimes it is impossible to stay on top of mother nature and the sidewalks are ice covered and dangerous.

Commuter students need to take into account leaving early to make it to campus as well this time of year with the road conditions. Another thing we want to advise to students is to carry emergency kits in vehicles. It is always better to be prepared.

In these emergency kits it would be wise to always have a shovel as parking can become a problem in wintery conditions as well. If the parking lots are not cleared of snow it makes it difficult for students to park or leave their parking spot. Similar to the sidewalks though it can be difficult to keep the parking lots cleared as fast as the snow is coming so having a shovel will come in handy to get out of snowed in parking spots.

While it is a pain it is important to be cautious and smart during the winter months. Just taking a few extra minutes, watching when you cross the road, and having the right gear can make all the difference in having a safe winter.

Editorials represent the opinion of the Student Voice Editorial Board and are prepared by the editorial staff.

STUDENT VOICE

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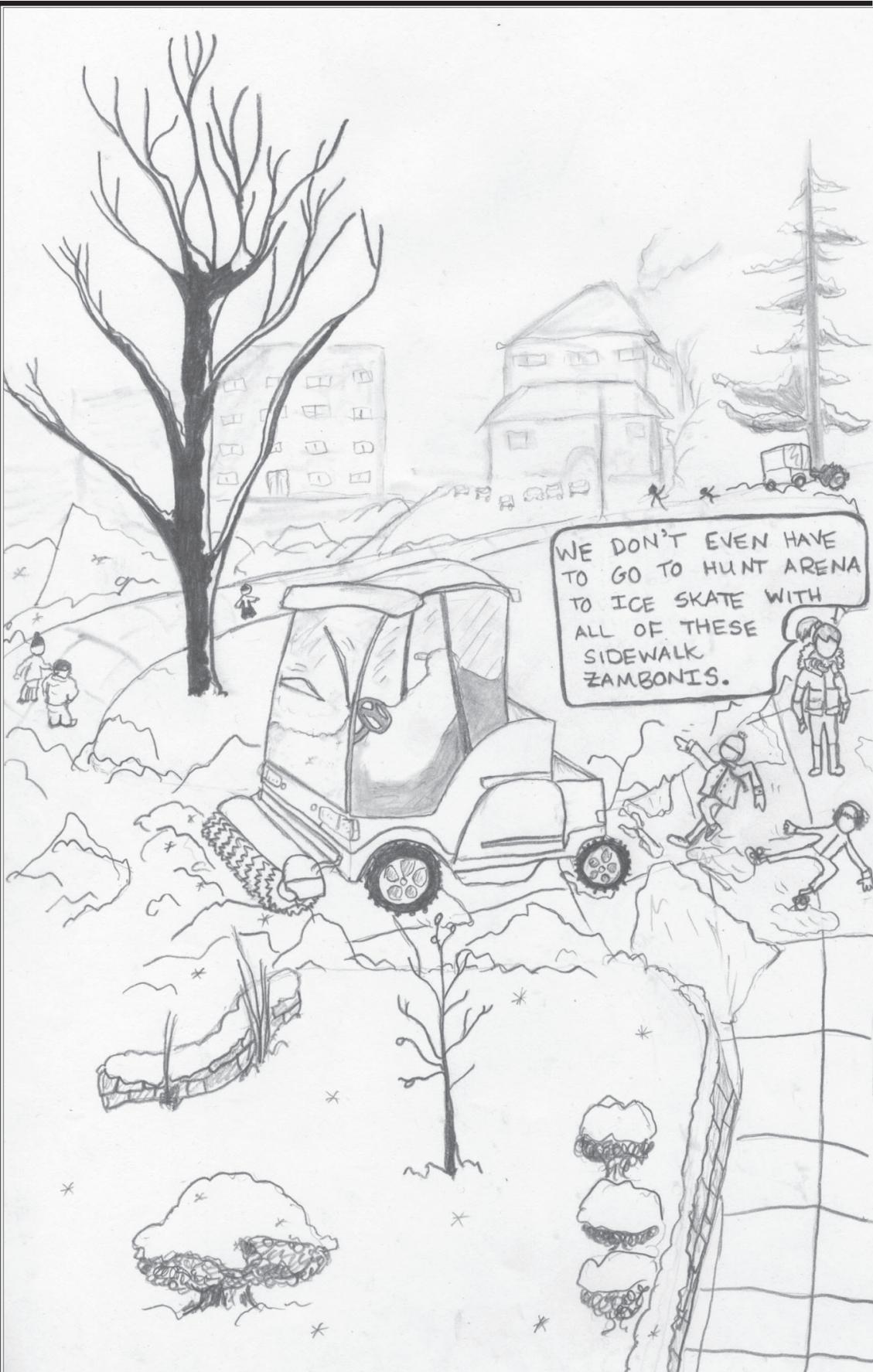
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Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI 54022 or to editor@uwrfvoice.com.

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 also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

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 by e-mail through editor@uwrfvoice.com.

WISCONSIN NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.



Hannah Timm/Student Voice

Senate Corner: Senate considers future possibilities

Joseph Schmit
Diversity Senator

Whenever Student Senate has a long agenda and everyone anticipates a long meeting, we joke with the phrase, "Well, we do have the room until midnight."

A long meeting is exactly what happened at the last meeting which went from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., or 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., for Executive Board members. So here is three and a half hours of information for all the students and other people interested in Senate. Don't worry. It is paraphrased.

How about some lighter miscellaneous information to start off? Alexander Carr and Alexandra Mikle have finally filled the remaining At-Large position and the Military Representative positions on Senate, respectively.

Also, there is a good chance that senators will have scheduled office hours. In this manner, a senator will always be in the office to answer questions or to pass on a message to a specific senator for students. On a last note, the Senate section of the Involvement Center area will only be available to Senate and members of certain committees, starting on Dec. 9. Please check the poster near the entrance of the Student Senate section of the Involvement Center to see if a committee you are in is able to use the area.

There are a few interesting ideas stirring around in Senate. One is the potential of having a TEDx conference here at UW-River Falls. Both Student Life and the Allocable Fee and Appropriations Board (AFAB) have been collaborating to research and plan it; however, everything is still in the very early planning stages. If everything goes according to

plan for Student Life and AFAB though, this campus will throw a TEDx event the spring semester of the 2014-2015 school year. Taking a step toward this event actually happening: Senate recently passed motions to partially fund the event from the Student Senate Funding Pool and the Organized Activity Account. If anyone wishes to know more about TED or TEDx, just Google them or go to their website.

Another event that has come to the attention of Senate is the changing parking policy coming into affect by this summer. When summer starts, parking enforcements will extend into J Term, summer term and all academic breaks for all student parking spaces. Basically, no more free parking during breaks unless you have a parking permit.

Senate is currently collaborating with the Parking Office to get more concrete information about the situation to ensure that students are fully informed.

While on the theme of future possibilities, Anthony Sunnicht, the vice president of Senate, has introduced a motion that will potentially modernize the Student Shared Governance Structure. There is not much to report on it until the information is more certain. However, the new structure seems promising and Sunnicht has researched other University structures to find a way to increase the effectiveness of Student Shared Governance

Finally, the Involvement Center reception is on Jan. 29. There will be cookies and lemonade from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor:
editor@uwrfvoice.com



SHE SNORES MORE THAN I DO, BUT I STILL LOVE MY HUMAN.

-BANDIT adapted 11-26-09

A PERSON IS THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO A SHELTER PET

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Confessions page disgraces students, University

Morgan Stippel

Columnist

The new UW-River Falls Confessions page has exactly 1,889 “likes.” In addition, even if UWRF students do not directly “like” the Facebook page, they are often exposed to the content when their Facebook friends “like,” share or comment on posts from the page.

This confessions page was created to replace the old confessions page that was shut down at the end of spring semester last year. This confessions page is heading down a familiar path. While the administrator of the page claims to be filtering the posts to prevent cyber bullying, it is obvious that these efforts are nothing short of pathetic.

On Tuesday morning of this past week, I was scrolling through my Facebook news feed and came across a post from UWRF Confessions. The post read, “Tell the [racial slur] to quit there [expletive] about the rebel flags and deal with it yee yee.” This post was “liked” by 39 people. This is just one of many posts that can be classified as derogatory. I normally do not get involved in Facebook banter, but in this case, I was unable to resist due to my sheer rage.

First, we are all college students who should know the difference between there, their, and they’re, by this point in our schooling, as well as how to correctly spell “rebel.” Second, “yee” is not a word. If you will not take my word for it,

please look it up in a dictionary.

Beyond these basic grammatical errors, I had a major issue with the racial slur that was used in the post. I am positive I am not the first person to realize that UWRF is not the most ethnically diverse campus on the face of the planet, and I am also positive I will not be the last. However, this lack of diversity cannot be used as an excuse for ignorance and disrespect.

When one pulls into River Falls on Cascade Avenue, the first sign he or she will see ironically states, “Visit our inclusive campus.” How can our campus claim to be inclusive when the administration and students allow a page like this to represent the entire campus and student body?

Although I am not a member of the targeted minority group, I was not unaffected by the post. In fact, I can empathize with the targeted group. This past summer, I worked in the heart of North Minneapolis and was exposed to more cultural groups than I can count on my fingers and toes combined. As a white female, I found myself, for the first time, in the minority. I know what it feels like to be on the outside looking in, constantly wondering if you are fitting in.

Nobody at UWRF should ever have to feel this way because every student here is unique and has positive qualities that enrich our campus. However, if we continue to pigeon-hole one another based on the color of our skin, where we

come from, or what our majors are, we will never have the “inclusive campus” we claim to have.

When I read that post, I was ashamed to be a student at UWRF. I am downright embarrassed to attend the same university with people who believe this kind of language is acceptable, and I am embarrassed when employers read my resume and see UWRF plastered across the top of the page. If I had not already transferred schools once in my college career, I would consider transferring again. I can now say I understand why the admissions office is constantly worried about retention rates.

I understand the administration is not directly responsible for the content posted on this confessions page, but for all extensive purposes, it is. We all are. The opinion of one is the opinion of all because each one of us makes up UWRF, and that is the name listed at the top of the Facebook page.

As a UWRF student, I not only request, but demand that the administration takes swift action to shut down the confessions page. It is not only damaging to students, but also to the reputation of our university as a whole.

Stillwater Area High School was able to successfully shut down two Twitter accounts that were similar to the UWRF Confessions page on Facebook. If a high school can take this action, I would certainly hope our University can too.

Morgan Stippel is a junior majoring in political science and minoring in professional writing. She enjoys playing sports, reading, writing, and being politically engaged.

Students encouraged to support racial diversity

Hannah Timm

Columnist

When I began classes at UW-River Falls last year, I noticed many international students on campus. I also noticed most of them spent time in groups primarily with students of the same race.

At first, I believed it to be normal; forming friendships with people of similar interests and backgrounds is a usual behavior. Upon second glance, I realized that the majority of racially ignorant white students on campus prevented international students from establishing diverse friendships.

On a daily basis, many white students raise their eyebrows when they hear international students speaking in native languages. Many crinkle their noses in disgust when they smell international students cooking meals in the residence halls. Many mutter derogatory insults under their breaths and a few even directly address international students with derogatory terms. Recently at UWRF, students noticed a confederate flag - an insulting symbol of racism and historical imprisonment - hanging in a residence hall window.

Although I am a part of the 88.2 percent white majority of Wisconsin, I am not numb to racist insults. I do not need to be a minority to feel the damage of derogatory remarks.

Many students seem to want to avoid the issue of racism. For them, avoidance may mean acting as a bystander, walking away from racist situations, or simply pretending not to hear racist comments or see racist actions. But avoidance is not the answer. Just because students pretend that racism does not exist, it does not mean racial divisions will diminish or disappear.

Instead of avoiding issues of racism, students need to stand up for racial equality as well as increase racial awareness. This academic year is UWRF’s year of Germany, which provides students with the opportunity to learn more about German culture. Other on-campus events include culture fairs and guest speakers. In addition, UWRF Residence Life is offering an International Themed Living Option for the 2014-2015 academic year.

It is time to start seeing international or racially different students as equals rather than “black” or “Asian” or “white.”

Hannah Timm is a sophomore majoring in English: Professional Writing and minoring in Creative Writing. When she graduates, she intends to work as an editor.

Vote in our online poll:

What is your favorite thing to do during the holiday season?

- playing outside in the snow
- curling up by the fire with hot chocolate
- shopping
- other

Visit uwrvoice.com to cast your vote!

STUDENT VOICES

What is your favorite holiday movie?

Compiled by Desi Danforth



Anthony Tumbarello
Junior

“The Santa Claus.”



Raishma Majeed
Junior

“Charlie Brown Christmas.”



Sarah K. Pellerino
Freshman

“How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”



Trevor Garrison
Senior

“How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”



Ashley Hemann
Sophomore

“Home Alone.”



Becky Gruening
Senior

“The Santa Claus.”



Tyler Carlson
Sophomore

“Elf.”



Jade Rosengren
Junior

“White Christmas.”



Eric Hansen
Junior

“Laurel and Hardy in Babes in Toyland.”



Jake Kent
Junior

“How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”

Find Freddy Falcon’s Feather!

Be the first person to find the lost falcon feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theater!
(105 S. Main St.)

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7 p.m. & 9:40 p.m. daily
(Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m.)

The first person to report the find to editor@uwrvoice.com
AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins! The winner will be announced on the Voice’s account of Twitter @uwrvoice

Last week’s winner:
Benjamin Lemmer

Sports Wrap-ups:

Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team played three games over Thanksgiving Break, compiling a 2-1 record in those games.

The first of the three games was a struggle as the Falcons lost a road tilt at St. John's University, 88-58. Ollie White's fourth straight game scoring in double figures was not enough to keep pace with St. John's, which shot 65.6 percent from the field in the second half.

On Nov. 31, and Dec. 1, the team returned to action at the UW-Stout Thanksgiving Classic. The Falcons opened the tournament with a dramatic 63-59, come from behind win against Wartburg College, after trailing by 18 points at half-time. Senior Ben Gressmer, White, and freshman Grant Erickson led the way, scoring 15, 14, and 13 points, respectively.

In the next game, UW-River Falls faced Ashford College, but didn't need a comeback this time. The Falcons never trailed in the game, and were bolstered by shooting 61.9 percent from behind the three-point arc. The Falcons won 79-66, and were again led in scoring by Gressmer, who scored a career high 19 points.

The Falcons returned from their 2-1 Thanksgiving Break and opened WIAC play on Dec. 4. However, the Falcons were unable to extend their winning streak in UW-La Crosse. The team was unable to keep pace with the hot shooting Eagles, who jumped out to a 49-26 lead by halftime. White's seventh straight game in double figures was not enough to bring the Falcons back, as they lost 80-52.

The team will be at home for its next two games against UW-Platteville, Dec. 7, and Stout, Dec. 11.

Women's Hockey

The women's hockey team began the season slowly, losing three of its first five games. However, since then the Falcons have won three straight games by a combined score of 15-2.

The winning streak began in UW-Eau Claire as the Falcons notched a 2-0 victory over their conference opponent. Senior Katie Batters recorded her fourth goal of the season a little more than five minutes into the first period to give the team an early lead. Sophomore Chloe Kinsel added the Falcons second goal in the final period. Senior goaltender Ashley Kuechle recorded the shutout, while compiling 24 saves in the game.

The next night, the Falcons returned to Hunt Arena to again take on Eau Claire. This time Falcons won in dominant fashion. Freshman Dani Sibley and Batters scored a minute apart in the first period to give the Falcons a quick lead. The Falcons defense was stifling as it held Eau Claire to 12 shots on goal, while Kuechle recorded another shutout. The offense stayed hot as the game went on, leading to a 6-0 victory for UWRF.

On Nov. 26, the team played at home again, this time against



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communication

Richell Mehus driving into the paint during the game against Bethel University. Mehus has led the team in scoring the last two games.

non-conference foe St. Olaf College. The offense continued its scoring streak, putting five shots into the net by the end of the second period. The Falcons would score seven goals on the night, winning 7-2, and, for the second straight game, held an opponent to under 20 shots on goal.

After not playing over Thanksgiving Break, the team returns to action on Friday, Dec. 6, and Saturday, Dec. 7, against UW-Superior. The Falcons also play on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at home, against Gustavus-Adolphus College, which has eliminated the Falcons from the NCAA tournament the last four years.

Women's Basketball

Featuring a team with 12 freshman, it has taken the women's basketball team a little while to find its footing.

The team took its 0-3 record into the College of St. Benedict on Nov. 23. After playing close to the Blazers early in the game, the Falcons fell behind 29-17 by halftime. However, the Blazers took control after a 12-0 run in the first five minutes of the second half. The Falcons played primarily entire freshman lineups in the second half. Freshman forward Ali Clark led the Falcons scoring with a career high 12 points. Senior Tess Lueders led the team with six rebounds.

On Nov. 26, the team

played its first home game of the season against Bethel College. For the second straight game, the Falcons stuck with their opponent early in the game, but let the contest slip away as the game went on. Despite going on a late run, the Falcons were unable to regain all of the ground, and lost 70-61. Sophomore guard Richell Mehus led the way tying her career high with 16 points. Freshman Katie Messman added a career high nine points as well.

The team played no games over Thanksgiving Break and returned to action on Dec. 4, at the Karges Center against La Crosse. It was similar story for the Falcons early in their first WIAC game of the season. The Falcons hung with the Eagles early, but found themselves down 19-13 at halftime. With 6:53 remaining in the game, the Falcons reclaimed the lead. After trading blows for the next four minutes, the Falcons went on a 7-0 run and didn't look back, recording their first win of the season, 59-56. Mehus again led the way, with a team-high 16 points and nine rebounds.

The team will be on the road for its next two conference match-ups. It plays at Platteville on Dec. 6, and at Stout on Dec. 11.

Men's Hockey

The men's hockey team has enjoyed success early in its season, compiling a 4-1-1 record.

The team traveled to Concordia University on Nov. 22, to face them for only the fourth time ever. UWRF got on the board early with goals from sophomore Alex Murphy and junior Willie Hess, who scored his sixth goal of the young season. In the second period UWRF extended its lead to 4-1 with goals from freshman Ryan Doner and sophomore Mike Williams. UWRF was able to withstand a late charge from Concordia in the closing minutes to win the contest 4-3.

The next day, the Falcons travelled down the road to face the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE), for only the sixth time ever. This game did not see the high scoring action the Falcons had seen the night before. Williams scored his second goal in two days in the second period of the game. That goal turned out to be all the Falcons needed as sophomore goaltender Tanner Milliron earned both his first win, and first shutout in the 1-0 Falcons victory.

The Falcons played its first conference game on Thursday night at Stout. The team will return home on Friday against Superior.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communication

Kait Mason, senior forward, handling the puck in a women's hockey game. Mason has scored four goals and three assists so far this season.

Nordic Ski Team continues to promote sport, events on campus

Ben Lamers

benjamin.lamers@my.uwrf.edu

There are 13 club sports at UW-River Falls, according to the University's website, but some of the sports are not well known around campus.

The Nordic Ski Team is one such club sport, which some students on campus don't know exists.

"I didn't know we had a team. We had one in high school, so it doesn't surprise me, but I have never heard of UWRF having one," said junior Sarah Stoneburg.

Some students have heard that the team exists, though, through word of mouth.

"I did know we had one only because one of my

cross country teammates was also on the ski team," said graduate student Kylie Dekkers. "Otherwise I wouldn't have known about it."

Team president Jenna Lisowe said that she is aware that many students do not

know the team exists, but has put forth efforts to promote the club sport, but added that it is difficult to recruit new members.

"We did a lot of recruiting at the involvement fair and we do have a growing team. Last year we had six people on the team, this year we have 18," Lisowe said. "It's hard to do stuff without snow for promotions."

The team also held a fundraiser in the Agricultural Science building on Dec. 4. The money from the fundraiser will go toward the team's trip to Ironwood, Mich., over J Term.

"It's probably the best trail system in the Midwest, and it is really easy for beginners too. We really want to promote that you don't have to be a great skier to come with us, we aren't that hard core," Lisowe

said.

In addition to going on ski trips to different trails, like the one in Ironwood, the team also competes in citizen races as well.

"The more serious skiers do it to com-

pete. Mostly it is just to go out and have a good time, it's all about getting outside and seeing the woods and the wilderness," Lisowe said.

The team does not currently participate in a competitive league, however, Lisowe said it is something which the team would consider doing in the future.

"We would be interested in joining a league if our numbers keep growing. I was looking into joining one, but I don't know if it will happen this year," Lisowe said. "It really isn't that hard, it would take a joining fee. There are a lot of other club teams in the area which are in leagues. A lot of the leagues are on the east coast, so there would be a lot of traveling."

Lisowe pointed out that nordic skiing is not just a sport to participate in while students are in college, but it is something anyone could continue to do in their life.

"It's a life sport, so it isn't like basketball, volleyball or track. I've been passed on the trail by 80-year-old guys," Lisowe said. "You're out on the trails along with everyone else and you recognize people, it's a very small community of skiers."



Photo courtesy of Rec and Sports Facilities Members of the Nordic Ski Team practice skiing outside of the Knowles Center last year.

Dedicated student athletes work hard over break

Ryan Tibbitts

Columnist

While the majority of us on campus are looking forward to a nice month long break where we can sit back, drink a nice mug of hot chocolate, and re charge from the crazy first semester, the winter athletes will still be hard at work.

Men's and women's basketball, hockey and swimming and diving are all right in the middle of the busiest part of their seasons over J Term and indoor track has their first meet toward the end.

The last day of scheduled finals is Thursday, Dec. 19. Just nine days later the women's basketball team will have to be back to play in two games on Saturday, Dec. 28 and Sunday, Dec. 29. The men's basketball team will have to stick around until Dec. 20 to play a game and will have to be back to play Dec. 30 and again on New Year's Eve on Dec. 31 at the UW-Eau Claire Holiday Classic.

Then starting January 4 all the teams will be competing on a regular basis. Basically these athletes get one fourth of the break that most students get over J Term. While some might see this as an annoyance, exhausting or even crazy, Zach Schrotenboer of the men's hockey team said the only disadvantage he sees is that there are not as many fans at home games to support. Other than that he has taken a lot of positives out of it.

"It is definitely hard not to have a longer break, but at the same time you get used to it pretty quick," said Schrotenboer. "It's nice to have the down time as well to just relax with the team, and some of us are taking J Term classes as well to keep busy."

Ollie White, senior on the men's basketball team said that basketball makes it worth not having the break everyone else does. "I wouldn't say it is a disadvantage, it kind of is disappointing not being able to have a full break like other students, but it comes with the territory. Also, Coach (Jeff Berkhoff) does a great job with finding a time for a little

break during J Term."

I think that both Schrotenboer and White's responses are similar to how all the Div. III winter athletes here at UWRF would respond. One thing that is easy to forget is that Div. III athletes play the sport strictly for the love of the game. That is something that I have fallen in love while covering Falcon sports the past couple of years. They receive no scholarships to come play and have no extra benefits yet they put in so much time, dedication and hard work year round in order to compete at the collegiate level.

This clearly comes out when looking at the rigorous J Term schedule these teams have. Men's basketball has nine games, women's basketball and men's hockey each have eight, women's hockey team plays seven games, and the women's swimming and diving will compete in three meets while the men compete in two.

The commitment that these student athletes put in is encouraging and motivating to see and something not to be overlooked when watching Falcon athletics.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communication

Players of the men's hockey team celebrating a goal. The team is off to a strong start with a 4-1-1 record so far this season led by Willie Hess who has scored six goals.

Seven UWRF football players named All-WIAC teams

According to the UWRF athletics website, seven Falcon football players have been named to All-WIAC teams.

Defensive end Alex Hohenstein and cornerback Nick Zimmerman were named to the second All-WIAC team.

Hohenstein recorded 37 total tackles on the season. Six and a half of those tackles were for a loss. Hohenstein also registered one and a half sacks on the season.

Zimmerman led the team in total tack-

les, with 54, despite only playing in seven games. He also led the team with 12 passes defended.

Center Jake Litecky, wide receiver Jordan Christianson, linebacker Cole Sirek, and all-purpose back Robbie Flom all earned honorable mention.

Quarterback Ryan Kusilek was named to the All-Sportsmanship all-WIAC team.

Congratulations to all of these Falcon football players.

Tia Harris competes at nationals, finishes cross country season

Junior Tia Harris competed at the Div. III national meet on Nov. 23, in Hanover, Ind.

Harris was the first Falcon runner to qualify, and run, in the national meet since 2008, and was only the third UW-River Falls runner to ever qualify.

She completed the 6k course in a time of 23:19 and placed 194th overall, out of 280 runners.

Harris' finish at the national meet capped off the most successful cross country season in UWRF history for the women's team.

The team captured a third place finish at the WIAC Championships, and defeated six-time defending champion UW-Eau Claire. The team also had three runners named to the All-WIAC teams, the most the team has ever had.

Harris went on to capture All-Region honors at the regional meet. However, the team's run ended at the meet.

The team, and Harris, will continue to build on its success next season.

See where your UW-River Falls Falcons teams rank in WIAC standings

Women's Hockey

School	WIAC	Overall
UW- Stevens Point	3-1	7-1-1
UW- Superior	2-1-1	5-1-2
UW- River Falls	2-2	5-3
UW- Eau Claire	0-3-1	1-5-2

Men's Hockey

School	WIAC	Overall
UW- Stevens Point	0-0	8-0
UW- River Falls	0-0	4-1-1
UW- Eau Claire	0-0	5-2
UW- Superior	0-0	4-5
UW- Stout	0-0	2-6

Women's Basketball

School	WIAC	Overall
UW- Oshkosh	1-0	7-0
UW- Stevens Point	1-0	5-1
UW- River Falls	1-0	1-5
UW- Whitewater	0-0	6-1
UW- Superior	0-0	2-2
UW- Stout	0-0	2-5
UW- La Crosse	0-1	4-3
UW- Platteville	0-1	4-4
UW- Eau Claire	0-1	1-6

Men's Basketball

School	WIAC	Overall
UW- Stevens Point	1-0	5-0
UW- La Crosse	1-0	5-1
UW- Platteville	1-0	5-2
UW- Whitewater	0-0	5-0
UW- Stout	0-0	5-1
UW- Superior	0-0	2-3
UW- Eau Claire	0-1	4-3
UW- River Falls	0-1	3-4
UW- Oshkosh	0-1	1-4

WIAC standings as of Thursday, Dec. 5.

www.pureradio887.com

LIVE

FALCON BROADCASTS

<p>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AWAY VS STOUT 7:00 PM TIP OFF 6:35 PM PREGAME</p>	<p>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH MEN'S HOCKEY AWAY VS ST. JOHNS 7:30 PM DROP OF THE PUCK 7:00 PREGAME</p>
<p>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH WOMEN'S HOCKEY AWAY VS GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS 7:00 PM DROP OF THE PUCK 6:35 PM PREGAME</p>	<p>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AWAY VS VITERBO 2:00 PM TIP OFF 1:35 PM PREGAME</p>

'Frozen' brings holiday cheer to theaters

Ryan Funes
Reviewer

With winter finally here, Disney has come out with its latest animated feature "Frozen," which weaves snowmen, a heroic journey and sisterly love into a fine addition to the Disney canon.

Elsa and Anna are the two princesses of the kingdom of Arendelle, with Elsa hiding a taboo power: the power to control ice and snow. Having almost hurt her sister, she and her parents decide to hide her powers from the world, leaving Anna distanced from her beloved sister. But as people pass away and the years go by, Arendelle is seeing Elsa as the new queen, with Anna happier than ever.

But when Elsa's power gets loose and she is accused of being a witch, she can only run and douse the land in eternal winter. Now with the help of some friends along the way, Anna must get her sister back and show her that the one thing that will never freeze over is the love they have for each other.

"Frozen" from the beginning, had me a bit flustered with the rampant advertising of the snowman character Olaf and reindeer Sven, but

as more and more trailers were released over time, the true colors of the film began to shine to reveal what could be a Disney movie returning to its endearing fairy tale roots. With that said, "Frozen" is by far one of the best entries in the Disney canon since it has switched to 3-D animation.

There are two areas that Frozen shines very clearly in: story and animation. Despite what some trailers may imply, the film at its heart is about two sisters looking out for each other and trying to bring everything back to the fun way it was when they were kids.

"Frozen" does an excellent job reinforcing this relationship in the film, while also enforcing themes of nostalgia and the different forms of true love. This is not to say it does not have its laughs. The film injects a healthy and clever dosage of jokes and laughs that will appeal to almost everyone who sees the movie, though some may stumble slightly.

Aside from the story, "Frozen" is also beautiful to look at. All the scenes are extremely well directed with an eye for detail and know just when to play it up or slow the moments down, really adding to the emotional depth the movie has.

Speaking of music, I did not realize how much I missed the catchy music of

Disney movies past until I listened to the music of "Frozen." The music and songs, attributed to Christopher Beck, invoke the fun and magic expected from a Disney musical. It is the songs, along with the characters, that make them so much fun to see and sing along to.

The voice actors do a fine job at portraying their characters, as well. Kristen Bell is great as the energetic and optimistic Anna, while Idina Menzel does an excellent job at portraying the disturbed, yet caring Elsa. Even the comedic voices chosen do well, with Josh Gad as the cheerfully naïve snowman, Olaf, stealing many of the laughs in the picture. Each actor does their role great justice and brings out the best and worst of each.

With one of my only complaints being that I wished it were longer and set up over a longer duration, "Frozen" still manages to be a highly satisfying mark in Disney's lineage of animation. It manages to ensnare you and take you on a sleigh ride of laughs, sadness and fun that manages to make you remember the charm that Disney films have always been meant to deliver.

Ryan Funes is a lover of all things movie, TV, video games and stories and wants to become a television writer someday. In his spare time he enjoys hanging out with friends, tapping into his imagination and watching cartoons of all kinds.



Christmas carols have varied international roots

Cristin Dempsey
Columnist

One thing about the holiday season that is sure to get everyone in the holiday spirit are all of the holiday tunes played on the radio and at places, such as the mall or a Christmas party.

There are several well-known Christmas and holiday songs during the holiday season that will surely get everyone singing along.

For as long as anyone can remember, even hundreds or thousands of years ago, Christmas music has always been a staple of the holiday season and an important way of getting people in the holiday spirit.

What is interesting is that Christmas and holiday music did not just suddenly appear one day. There is actually quite an extensive history of this festive music, dating back all the way to the Middle Ages. It has changed quite drastically over time, evolving into the hits that we all know and love today.

The earliest works of the holiday season were in Latin during the Middle Ages. This music included chants, litanies and hymns. At first, all music relating to the holiday season had a religious affiliation and was only meant for use in the church, rather than serving as popular songs.

During the 13th Century, people started to sing carols, influenced by a Saint named Francis of Assisi. The carol gained its name from when the English combined circle dances and singing together.

The meaning changed later, however, to define a carol as a religious topic treated in a style that is familiar or festive

to its audience. Carols began to rise in Italy and later spread to other European countries such as France, Germany and England.

Christmas carols translated into English first appeared in 1426 in a work done by John Audelay, a Shropshire priest and poet. He listed off around 25 "carols of Christmas." These were likely sung by a group of wassailers who went from house to house to sing the various carols.

Because of the developments during just the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, Christmas music quickly became one of the greatest tributes to the holiday, and it produced some of the greatest works from several very famous musicians.

However, not everyone around that time was enjoying the music. In England under the government of Oliver Cromwell, the Rump Parliament considered Christmas carols to be Pagan and sinful and prohibited them. Protestant Puritans widely disapproved of Christmas music, as this was considered a custom widely popular with Catholic Christianity. In fact, Cromwell disapproved of many traditions with the holiday prohibited any kind of holiday celebrations.

It was not until May of 1660 when Charles II restored the Stuart family to the throne that Christmas music and customs were allowed once again. This revival of celebration coincided with the King's own beliefs and traditions. Soon, it became a tradition that carolers would go out into the streets and sing in order to collect money for charity or alms. This became a tradition in the 18th and 19th centuries in the few weeks preceding Christmas, and it still occurs in the present day.

Original versions of holiday music that we hear today, such as "Deck the Halls" or "Angels we have Heard on High" originated several centuries ago. The oldest carol heard today, "Wexford Carol," dates all the way back to the 12th century.

English translations had the same idea as the original tune, though not all the same lyrics, especially in the 19th century and the early 20th century. In addition to traditional carols, several secular Christmas tunes began to appear in the mid-19th century. This would include the popular tunes "Jingle Bells," "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas" and "Up on the House Top." These started to appear more with the turn of the century.

Now that we are right in the middle of the tumultuous holiday season, it is always easy to get in the mood just by simply turning on some Christmas music. Whether you are hurting your ears listening to "The Little Drummer Boy," some bratty kid who wants a hippopotamus for Christmas or listening to a traditional tune such as "Jingle Bells," any song is sure to lighten the mood.

It can especially lighten the mood after a long, cold trudge through all of this slush to your warm house, apartment or dorm room. So let some cookies bake, decorate your living space, turn on the music and get some holiday spirit.

Cristin Dempsey is an English major and music minor from Eagan, Minn. She enjoys writing, playing the flute and swimming. After college, she would like to pursue a career as an editor.

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