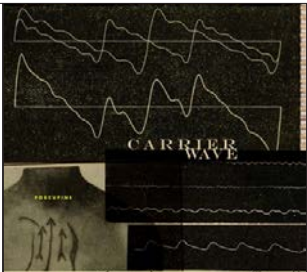




SPORTS, PAGE 7
Men's hockey
loses 2-4 in match
against St. Mary's
University.

NEWS, PAGE 3
Student Senate to begin Safe Ride
pilot program.

ETCETERA, PAGE 8
Porcupine retains
quality through end-of-
year lull.



University of Wisconsin

River Falls

STUDENT VOICE

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UWRF football ‘Senior Day’ met with team loss



Tori Schneider/Student Voice

Falcons football fell to UW-Whitewater at home on Senior Day despite a strong season, including a three-game winning streak.

Zach Dwyer
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The UW-Whitewater Warhawks were too much to overcome on Senior Day, dropping the Falcons 42-6 on the last home game of the season.

The sixth-ranked Warhawks started off hot right from the opening kickoff, returning the ball 54 yards to the River Falls 36-yard line to set up great field position. Seven plays later, running back Jordan Ratliffe punched in a touchdown from 3 yards out to put UW-Whitewater up 7-0 only 3 minutes into the game.

The Falcons came out looking to stay competitive early, with freshman quarterback Ben Beckman completing a 20-yard pass to freshman receiver Nick Studer. The two would connect for 135 yards through the air in the game. In his first start, Beckman completed 20 of his 34 passes for a total of 296 yards with no turnovers.

“He showed great poise against such a strong team and didn’t make the mistakes you

worry about in a first career start. His decision making and showing the moment wasn’t too big for him is a great sign for the future,” Head Coach Matt Walker said.

However, the Falcons struggled all afternoon in finishing drives and making the big plays to pressure the Warhawks. The exception to this was in the second quarter when running back Brandon McCarthy completed two huge passes out of the backfield to keep the drive alive. His 28-yard pass set up running back Rance Ashley’s seventh touchdown of the year to close the gap to 14-6 as halftime was closing in.

But with three minutes left, UWRF looked to even the score when Beckman completed a 61-yard pass to Studer to give some life back to the offense. The Falcons later came up just short on a fourth down run to kill the drive with only 1 minute remaining in the half.

Being the dominant offense they are, UW-Whitewater took advantage of the Falcons’ missed opportunity and marched all the way down the field in less than a minute. Quarterback Chris Nelson capped the drive with a

9-yard touchdown pass to receiver Tony Guma to put the Warhawks up 21-6 heading into halftime.

“A game like this really makes you realize how precious every snap and every inch of the game is. When you have a chance to tie it up going into halftime you have to take advantage of it against a team like Whitewater. That way they have to feel pressure going into the second half, which is something they usually don’t face,” Walker said.

The Falcons had success moving the ball in the second half as well, but failed to finish a drive that stalled at the 1-yard line. Even with 400 yards of total offense on the afternoon, going 1-4 on fourth downs killed the Falcons’ chances of keeping the game competitive.

One bright spot on the day was the electric play of freshman for the UWRF offense. The trio of Beckman, McCarthy, and Studer carried the offense on Senior Day and showed great promise for the future.

“Their play on offense has just proven how many young, talented players we have on the roster. These guys are the ones who have al-

ready taken advantage of their opportunities, but we have the same type of firepower at other positions. It’s just a testament to how great of leaders we have and how hard our staff has worked to recruit,” Walker said.

But overall it was a disappointing day for the Falcons. Luckily, the Falcons move away from playing the top 10 teams in the nation to going on the road to play UW-Stevens Point. The Pointers are 4-5 on the year and are looking to tie the Falcons for fourth in the WIAC with a win. But with fourth place still up in the air, the Falcons still have a lot to play for.

“Our mindset is strong going into this last game and we’re proud of the steps forward our program has taken this year. But these seniors deserve this last victory for all they’ve been through and to solidify the stamp they’ve left on our team. We definitely want them to walk out with a win on Saturday,” Walker said.

Kickoff for the game is at 2:00 p.m.

More photos on Pg. 7

News briefs:

UW-River Falls named a top performer in 2015 Sustainable Campus Index

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) has recognized UW-River Falls as a sustainability leader in the 2015 Sustainable Campus Index. UWRF ranked fourth in the Buildings subcategory.

The 2015 Sustainable Campus Index highlights top-performing colleges and universities in 17 areas, as measured by the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS). The report highlights the best sustainability practices and innovations from more than 50 institutions in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico that have submitted a STARS report in the last 12 months.

UWRF earned 58.6 percent of points available in the Buildings subcategory which recognizes institutions that are improving the sustainability performance of new and existing buildings. Factors contributing to the ranking include building operations, maintenance, design, and construction, as well as indoor air quality.

“UW-River Falls participation in STARS and strong performance in the area of Buildings demonstrates significant leadership and commitment to advancing sustainability,” said AASHE’s Executive Director Meghan Fay Zahniser. “We are pleased to recognize UWRF for working to secure a brighter future by incorporating sustainability into campus operations, academics, administration and engagement.”

“Over 75 UWRF faculty and staff assist with completing the STARS assessment each year by submitting information on the numerous sustainability initiatives on campus,” according to Mark Klapatch, UW-River Falls Sustainability Supervisor. “The support from across campus to complete this report demonstrates UWRF’s commitment to advancing our sustainability efforts in order to stand out as a leading campus and is why we are able to excel in areas such as buildings within the assessment.”

UW-River Falls STARS report is publicly available on the STARS website.

For more information about sustainability efforts at UW-River Falls, email mark.klapatch@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-3820.

About STARS

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. STARS was developed by AASHE with broad participation from the higher education community. The credits included in STARS span the breadth of higher education sustainability and are organized into four categories: Academics, Engagement, Operations, and Planning & Administration. All reports are publicly accessible on the STARS website. For more information, visit stars.aashe.org.

UW-River Falls named a Best for Vets College

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has again been named a Best for Vets College by the Military Times’ Best for Vets: Colleges 2016 rankings.

In their sixth year, the rankings factor in the results of Military Times’ annual survey, the most comprehensive school-by-school assessment of veteran and military student services and rates of academic achievement. More than 600 colleges took part in this year’s detailed survey.

“It’s been amazing to witness how colleges all across higher education have embraced service members and their families,” said Amanda Miller, editor of Military Times’ Best for Vets rankings and special editions. “Over the past six years of our surveys, we’ve seen so many schools first begin to foster – through new policies, services and dedicated facilities – and

then nurture these wonderful communities.”

Military Times’ annual Best for Vets: Colleges survey asks colleges and universities to meticulously document a tremendous array of services, special rules, accommodations and financial incentives offered to students with military ties; and to describe many aspects of veteran culture on a campus. Military Times also factors in data from the Veterans Affairs and Defense Departments, as well as three Education Department sources: the IPEDS Data Center, College Scorecard data and the Cohort Default Rate Database.

“We award the Best for Vets designation to the very best – the colleges that really are setting the example,” Miller said.

According to student veterans attending UW-River Falls, the award is rightfully deserved.

“The UWRF campus shines in terms of veteran acceptance,” said Charles Hayes, a U.S. Air Force veteran in his sophomore year studying biomedical science at UW-River Falls.

Kelsey Gilkison, a UWRF junior studying psychology, echoed Hayes’ remark. When asked how it felt to be a member of the veteran community on campus, Gilkison said, “I love it. UWRF is very supportive of the military and our veterans.”

For the full Best for Vets: Colleges 2016 rankings, visit www.militarytimes.com/bestforvets-colleges2016.

The rankings are published in full in the issues of Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Corps Times on newsstands the week of Nov. 9 and online at MilitaryTimes.com, as well as ArmyTimes.com, NavyTimes.com, AirForceTimes.com and MarineCorpsTimes.com.

Military Times’ series of Best for Vets rankings include colleges, career & technical colleges, business schools, franchises, employers, law enforcement and places to live.

For more information about Military Times, contact Christine Aquino at 703-658-8339 or caquino@tegna.com. For more information about UW-River Falls Veteran Services, email robert.bode@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-3141.

Two University of Wisconsin-River Falls students are benefiting from a scholarship established in honor of an alumna with a passion for special-needs children.

UW-River Falls students benefit from McDermott Scholarship

Jordan Lacher, of Hugo, Minn., and Dana Smith, of Lakeville, Minn., were each recently awarded \$3,000 from the annual Mickey McDermott Special Education Scholarship.

Lacher, an elementary education major, said the scholarship has enabled her to focus on her student teaching, and not finances, during a crucial period of her education.

“When I saw I had received the McDermott Scholarship I didn’t believe it at first,” Lacher said. “This covers the remainder of my fall tuition. This scholarship will allow me to focus on meeting the needs of my students and growing as an educator during this semester of student teaching. I am extremely grateful to the donors for this honor.”

Smith recently returned to UW-River Falls to get her licensure to become a Spanish teacher. She graduated with a degree in communicative disorders, Spanish and international studies in 2010 and since returning to UWRF, she’s been balancing work and school. Thanks to the scholarship, she is able to be a full-time student this semester.

“Because I continued working while I returned to school, it has been challenging to plan for a semester of student teaching,” Smith said. “This scholarship makes it possible for me to focus completely on student teaching, and get more from the experience so that I will be prepared to teach.”

The Mickey McDermott Special Education Scholarship was first awarded in 2010 with the mission of financially supporting students with an interest in special education.

McDermott was a longtime resident of New Richmond who taught special education for 30 years and pioneered a teaching program that was a model for schools around the state.

Her niece, Nancy McDermott Fouks, called her aunt a “phenomenal” educator who “changed the lives” of countless students.

“Special education was so important to her,” Fouks said. “She devoted her whole life to it.”

Fouks said McDermott would be amazed at all the students her scholarship has aided.

“I know she’s up in heaven clapping,” Fouks said.

For more information about the scholarship, contact Larry Solberg, dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies, at 715-425-3774, or larry.c.solberg@uwrf.edu.

Retirement concert to celebrate career of J. Michael Roy


On Sunday, Nov. 15, the Music Department will be throwing a retirement concert for J. Michael Roy, who for the past twenty years served as music director for the St. Croix Valley Summer Theatre and the UWRF University Theatre. During this time he conducted musicals including “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” “Hello Dolly,” “Man of La Mancha,” and “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown.” Roy also taught at UWRF, teaching courses such as music theory, composition, and orchestration.

The concert in Sunday, Nov. 15 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. People are encouraged to donate, with the donations going toward percussion equipment and scholarships to celebrate Roy’s time at UWRF. Donations can be made here: <https://www.uwrf.edu/Give/GiveNow.cfm>. For more information, contact Kris Tjornehoj at kristen.tjornehoj@uwrf.edu.

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River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Monday, Nov. 2

- A harrassment complaint was filed at the Karges Center around 6 p.m.
- A theft was reported at the University Center around 10 p.m.
- A theft was reported at the Chalmer Davee Library around noon.

Tuesday, Nov. 3

- A theft was reported at the University Center around 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 4

- There was a suicide attempt/threat in Parker Hall around 11 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 6

- A case of underage alcohol was reported in Hathorn Hall around 9 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 3

- A theft was reported near the University Center around 5 p.m.

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

Community solar program to provide clean energy

Natalie Howell
Falcon News Service

A new community solar program is coming to River Falls in which residents and businesses, along with the University of Wisconsin, can subscribe to renewable energy.

The Community Solar Program, operated by the River Falls Municipal Utilities, will allow residents and businesses in the city to purchase subscriptions to solar panels in a community solar garden. Subscribers will own the energy output of the panels and receive a credit on their monthly utility bill for how much energy the panels produce, according to the program.

The cost of one solar panel through the program is \$567, with no additional costs for maintenance or upkeep. A subscription lasts 20 years, with the energy output of one panel approximating 315 kilowatts, equaling the energy produced by about 252 pounds of coal each year, according to River Falls Municipal Utilities.

River Falls is the first city government in Wisconsin to have a community solar program, according to Mike Noreen, conservation and efficiency coordinator for River Falls Municipal Utilities. He said that the program gives individuals and businesses an opportunity to invest in renewable energy that was not previously available and builds upon the

city’s goal of developing a conservation ethic within the community.

“We are always promoting the city, the community as a clean energy alternative, kind of a green community,” Noreen said. “This is a good visual reminder that we’re clean and that we’re progressive and innovative.”

The solar garden is under construction at the Sterling Ponds Corporate Park off of Highway 35, north of downtown. A total of 807 solar panels will be installed. So far 60 subscriptions have been purchased since the program started in October, with more coming in daily, according to Noreen. A number of individuals and businesses also have committed to buying subscriptions.

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls is one of those commitments, with both the university and Student Senate discussing the possibilities of buying panels.

According to Mike Stifter, executive director of facilities planning and management at UWRF, the university is looking to purchase 15-25 panels in order to “walk the talk” when it comes to working to make the campus more sustainable.

This is not the first time that UWRF has gotten involved in city sustainability initiatives. The university currently invests in the Renewable Energy Block Program, in which residents and businesses in River Falls pay an extra \$3 per month on their utility bill for a

block of renewable energy that is used instead of other nonrenewable energy options. The money then gets reinvested in “new, energy-efficient alternatives that will help control energy costs in the future,” according to the City of River Falls website.

The university has been a part of the Renewable Energy Block Program for about 10 years, said Stifter, and will continue to invest as it becomes involved in the Community Solar Program, although perhaps not to as much of an extent as in the past.

“It’s a great program, it’s a program we’ll continue to participate in, but it’s a hard one to describe,” Stifter said. “You can’t wrap your arms around it, you can’t point to it as you’re driving down the road. In this case, you can say that solar park over there, we have an investment in that. It’s a very tangible project, and yet another demonstration and illustration in terms of trying to walk the talk in supporting a very worthy effort in sustainability.”

Noreen said that the university has been a great partner when it comes to sustainability efforts, and that UWRF has been one of the biggest buyers for the Renewable Energy Block Program.

“Because the university has been so aggressive in reducing their carbon footprint and adopting renewable energy, that’s one of the main reasons why we got this (Community Solar) program,” said Noreen.

UWRF Student Senate also is looking at investing in the Community Solar Program. Brady Murphy, director of external relations, said that he believes that Senate will approve the purchase of a solar panel because it fits in well with Senate’s focus on sustainability this year.

“This place is very dedicated to sustainability and I think that’s something we should be very proud of,” Murphy said. “And as representatives of students who chose this school, it’s only fitting.”

Noreen said that the Community Solar Program is an opportunity for people to really put their money where their mouth is when it comes to becoming more sustainable and to take pride in the fact that they are part of the solution.

“If they want to fight climate change, if they want to fight environmental degradation, this is a way to do it,” Noreen said. “And it’s a community effort, we want everyone to participate, whether it’s a small or large purchase.”

Construction on the solar garden has started a few weeks ago and will ideally be completed by Dec. 1, Noreen said, with customers starting to see credit on their utility bills in early 2016.

Yik Yak app causes controversy for college campuses

Derin Loe
Falcon News Service

Yik Yak is one of the newest social media apps to become popular on college campuses, including UW-River Falls, but it also has been the cause of controversy.

Yik Yak, based in Atlanta, Georgia, is a mobile app that allows a person to post a comment on a live feed anonymously. The posted comment, called a “yak,” can only be seen by people within a few miles of where the comment was posted. The “yak” can either get “up voted” or “down voted.” The more up votes a comment gets the longer it stays in the feed, but once the “yak” gets a negative five score it disappears.

Yik Yak Communications Associate Olivia Boger explained that the app allows students to post about a variety of topics.

“On Yik Yak, students can share news, crack jokes, ask questions, and offer support about life’s casual, relatable and hilarious moments,” Boger said via email.

Boger also said that UWRF is very active and also funny.

Sometimes, though, a “yak” can be offensive and cause controversy for a university. Some campuses around the country have had incidents where a “yak” was posted that contained offensive comments about professors or students. Since Yik Yak users are anonymous it is incredibly difficult to track down the people who post these offensive comments.

Steve Reed, chief information officer at UW-River Falls, said that he has not received any formal complaints regarding Yik Yak, but there have been discussions regarding the app. Location, according to Boger, is very im-

portant for Yik Yak as the app is focused on keeping posts contained within a small area like a college campus. Yik Yak uses “geofences” to restrict use around elementary and high schools.

A geofence is a virtual barrier that uses GPS or radio frequency identification to define geographical boundaries. These geofences can detect when someone enters a restricted area like an elementary school and prevent the user from using an app like Yik Yak, if the administrator wants to prevent the use of the app. Yik Yak manages its own geofences and can change them if needed.

Some college campuses have restricted or blocked students from using Yik Yak on their network to prevent the problems the app may bring. UWRF does not restrict Yik Yak, because doing so would be against the freedom of expression the university believes in, Reed

said. For the most part, he said, a social app is used in a positive fashion rather than a negative one.

Reed explained that even if UWRF wanted to block social apps it would be hard to do because the university can’t block people from using them off campus.

“Even if we were to block them, which one, it’s very difficult to do,” Reed said. “What do they do off campus? All those applications are still available to do whatever they want to do.”

While technically there is not much the Division of Technology Services can do to prevent problems that Yik Yak might bring, the one thing UWRF can do to help avoid the problems is to educate students.

“We need to educate people to be appropriate users of this technology,” said Reed.

Safe Ride program meant to provide safe transportation

Ryan Odeen
Falcon News Service

The Student Senate at UW-River Falls recently approved a pilot program to provide students a free ride home anywhere in River Falls from Thursday to Saturday nights, but some opponents say the service will encourage students to drink.

The program, which will cost \$5,400, would offer a free ride home to UW-River Falls students who present a valid student ID. The program would extend River Falls Taxi Service hours from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., Thursday through Saturday, starting in November and would run for 15 weeks.

Student Senate President Christopher Morgan said the program did not get started in order to promote drinking.

“It simply didn’t,” he said.

He said the need for the program was first brought about after hearing stories surrounding the death of Robert “Bobby” Sontag, a 20-year-old dairy science major who was found dead May 4 in the Kinnickinnic River. He last had been seen in downtown River Falls after a night of drinking and had become separated from a friend as he walked home.

“We used a tragedy from last year, where someone died from unsafe drinking,” Morgan said. “That’s what really fostered this program. But the larger discussion at hand was how do we use this tragedy to promote student safety as a whole.”

UWRF Police Chief Karl Fleury said this is more than just a “sober cab” for students. It gives students access to a ride when they did not have one before the program.

“Unfortunately, we get those nights that dip well below zero,” Fleury said. “They might find themselves at a friend’s house, activity, or an event off campus where they may have walked in the past. This gives them opportu-

nity to make that phone call and have a ride back to campus.”

Morgan said students should use this program whenever they feel unsafe getting home at night, and also hopes students will use this instead of deciding to drive after they have been drinking.

“The sole purpose of the program was to get students out of unsafe situations, back into wherever they live at night,” Morgan said.

“I think it has merit to take a look at it, to go ahead and see if it’s going to work,” Fleury said. “I think with the fact that it’s a pilot program, they will be able to gather more data.”

Morgan said that during the 15 weeks that the service will run, Student Senate will extensively evaluate the effectiveness of the program looking at things like ridership, where most of the calls are coming from, and where the high traffic areas are going to be. After those 15 weeks are completed, Student Senate will re-evaluate the need for the program.

Fleury said that there are not a lot of ways in which students can get around as it is right now, citing a lack of public transportation in River Falls.

“We’re not a large city that has a bus service or multiple taxi services that are available for (students),” Fleury said. “Our services are not as extensive as that.”

The program not only would provide another method of transportation for students, but offer it at no cost to them.

Morgan said he is proud of the fact the allocation passed by a supermajority, or a two-thirds vote across the Senate.

“I know the majority of student body knows that this isn’t an enabler of drinking,” he said. “It’s simply a way to get students out of harm’s way in the middle of winter at night.”



Despite popular belief, alcohol won’t warm you for winter

Ryan Odeen
Falcon News Service

Fall is coming to an end and colder temperatures are starting to set in. Health officials and practitioners warn that harsher weather only further complicates staying safe while drinking.

The common myth is that alcohol keeps your body warm in cold weather. Alcohol affects the body in a number of ways including slurred speech, distorted vision and impaired judgment, but increasing the body’s temperature is not one of those side effects.

According to MayoClinic.org, alcohol actually makes the body more susceptible to hypothermia. Alcohol makes the blood vessels near the surface of the skin expand, which in cold weather causes heat to escape faster from the skin than it would without the presence of alcohol. Also, alcohol diminishes the body’s ability to shiver, which is a natural mechanism to warm ourselves.

UW-River Falls Health Education Coordinator Keven Syverson says drinking may create the illusion that a person is feeling warmer than they actually are.

“So you feel warmer for a bit, but then you soon get colder,” Syverson said. “That fake feeling, that myth of feeling warmer, but actually you do get colder — faster.”

This feeling can be a hazard to people venturing home in cold Wisconsin winters who may not realize the dangers surrounding this sensation. Jeff Rixmann, director of River Falls Emergency Medical Services, said this can be dangerous.

“When people get intoxicated,” Rixmann said, “they think they’re feeling warmer but they’re not, and then they go outside, and they might not wear a jacket or they may pass out in the cold, and that’s where you find them, extremely hypothermic. And we see that all

the time.”

Syverson added, “You don’t have as much blood in the core of your body. But it feels like you’re warm because your skin is warm, but your vital organs are not as warm, because the heat is going away. So it might be too late, before you really realize that you’re cold.”

Paramedic Garrett Gill said the River Falls EMS runs across quite a few hypothermic patients during the late night into early morning hours, with a reasonable chance alcohol was involved.

“The alcohol is a depressant, and it just slows you down, you may have that sense of well-being but it’s not.”

Gill and Rixmann both said utilizing the buddy system can eliminate a lot of the cases they see, mentioning specifically the tragedy earlier this year with the death of UW-River Falls student Robert “Bobby” Sontag, a 20-year dairy science major who got separated from his friends after a night of drinking and never returned home.

Syverson says drinking alcohol, even when it is not cold out, can still be unsafe. It’s important to always use caution when drinking, no matter what temperature it is outside.

“The overconsumption of alcohol is really what leads to many of the problems,” he said. “Over-drinking in any weather is not a good idea. If you’re out there by yourself, and you’re in that state where you don’t know what’s going on, it’s hard to function, so it’s trying to prevent getting to that state.”

The best way to prevent hypothermia, especially while drinking, is to dress properly for the conditions.

“It’s that misperception that I’m warm enough, I can walk back fine and not need any jacket,” Syverson said. “If anything it’s just not dressing properly, that would be one of the biggest things I see.”

Do you have something to say?
Write a letter to the editor.
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EDITORIAL

Protesters should cooperate with journalists for their own benefit

If you follow the news to any degree, you’ve likely heard of Tim Tai, a student journalist who recently had a confrontation with a large group of protesters at the University of Missouri. The protests, lasting several months by now, stem from what was felt was an inadequate response to several cases of racist activities around campus. A swastika made of feces and a few reports of others freely calling black students – specifically Student Body President Payton Head – the “N-word” were major catalysts in the growth of the protest.

The confrontation took place when Tai was attempting to photograph protesters and the tents they had set up in the university. A crowd grew to attempt to block Tai and others, including the person filming the confrontation, attempting to push him back physically (saying “we’re just walking forward”).

The reasoning that has been voiced about why the protestors acted so harshly toward the journalist was that they thought that he would put a negative slant on what the protestors were doing. This stereotype when it comes to journalists and media, that they are biased and misrepresent situations for ratings, is an unfair way to look at people who have dedicated their lives to seeking and reporting the truth. Yes, one can look at a news organization like FOX News and see a clear bias, but is that really how we should judge all news organizations and journalists?

It’s a shame to see protestors and activities turn away from journalists, because the truth is that activists need journalists in order to further get the word out about whatever problems they are fighting against. Without journalism and reporters, the public would not know about many of the movements that are going on in the world that they do, and therefore would not be able to stand behind those movements and allow them to flourish. Another thing that can come from cooperation with journalists is that they will be able to further understand and report the truth. If the truth cannot be found without cooperation, or if one side of the story isn’t willing to speak about their perspectives and how they see a situation, how is a journalist supposed to report a completely accurate story?

As a group that includes many student journalists, it’s upsetting to see people turn away from their fellow students. Your average journalists aren’t looking to harm others through bias and to slant stories to gain more publicity. Although there are exceptions to this, the majority of journalists just want to report on the story as transparently as they can, so why the resistance?

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

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The *Student Voice* is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Fridays 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 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 email through editor@uwrfvoice.com.

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Value of J-term opportunities vary depending on the student

Melanie Meyers	Registration for J-term opened Monday, Oct. 12, on eSIS. J-term is the University of Wisconsin-River Falls’ four-week winter term held during the month of January between the Christmas holidays and the beginning of the spring semester. Students have the opportunity to take up to four credits during the university’s J-term, whether they choose to take the course online or on campus. Financial aid is available for the 2016 J-term to those who were enrolled at the university during the fall semester and who have a current FAFSA filed.
Columnist	J-term courses benefit students in multiple ways. Students who may find themselves bored while at home over the Christmas holidays are welcome to occupy their time through participation in one of the university’s 58 J-term courses, most of which are offered online. Students seeking to get ahead will also find this opportunity to be a great benefit from the academic offerings of the university, while, typically, passing up a J-term opportunity won’t affect one’s ability to graduate within four years.

Upperclassman Luke Fleck finds the opportunity to work a greater benefit to him rather than taking advantage of the

J-term courses, because, in his words, “By the time fall semester ends, I’m broke.”

Sara Joslin, a junior, has similar sentiments. “I haven’t taken a J-term course because I typically work 40 hours a week over J-term. I depend on the money I make during those weeks of J-term and during the summer to help me pay for the cost of living in an apartment. Also, I would have to pay out of pocket about \$1,000,” she said.

Whereas Tiffany Miller, a freshman, seeks the opportunity to earn her degree in a shorter time period, while it will also give her something to do during the winter break at home. She is waiting to consult her advisor as to whether or not a J-term course would be the best decision for her.

According to the university’s website, J-term benefits students by offering “small class sizes, more interaction with faculty and the ability to complete a course in a shorter time with fewer distractions.”

Melanie Meyers enjoys Greek Bible Study, Ballet I (Dance 224) and Einstein’s surprisingly well-done Americanos here at the university. When not in River Falls, she takes great pride in cheering on the Mondovi, Wis. Buffaloes. Meyers is majoring in dairy science and communication studies. However, she also academically pursues a variety of unique subjects including political science and French.

Student protests validated as Keystone XL Pipeline rejected by Obama

Gregory Mathews	In March of 2013, I, along with eight other UW-River Falls students, embarked on a trip which had a profound impact on the future of my college career, my beliefs as a citizen of the United States and as a human being on this planet. The nine of us packed into a minivan headed for Madison, to meet with students from throughout the UW System, where we planned to take rented vans to Washington, DC.
Columnist	After a short time in Madison and a few changes of plans, we came to the realization that there would be no rental vans, and we would be taking this trip in the minivan. Nine students, mostly unfamiliar with each other, in a minivan for 24 hours. I knew this would be a trip to remember, but I had no idea what would come of it and where this trip would lead me in my future. The trip was focused around a protest against the controversial Keystone XL Pipeline. Students from all over the country would be gathering at the nation’s capitol to express concern over this project, which would have dissected the country, extending from the northern to southern border. This pipeline would put our nation’s largest aquifer and largest source of irrigation water, the Ogallala Aquifer, at risk. I had never before experienced this type of event; protesting and direct action was stuff I’d only studied in my history courses and heard about in the lyrics of that Buffalo Springfield song “For What It’s Worth.” I was excited, I was nervous and I had no idea what to expect, but I felt like I was doing the right thing. It was important to take action against this toxic project.

The morning of the event, over 1,000 people met at Georgetown University for a rally before the protest, followed by a march past Secretary of State John Kerry’s home, whose approval was needed to greenlight KXL. The march ended at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., the White House. It was here where 398 people were arrested, the official charge being blocking traffic. Many of the activists had zip tied their hands to the fence outside of the White House, others laid themselves upon a giant sheet of black plastic, representing an oil spill and staged a die-in. Before leaving for the trip, I

had informed my family of my intent to get arrested, which was met with confusion, worry and judgement. This was expected, but again, it felt like it was the right thing to do. I was new to the environmentalism thing, but I knew that fossil fuels were not the future of our nation, and this pipeline was not in our nation’s best interest. It would only benefit a very few, very rich group of people.

This past Friday, after the oil company TransCanada had already suspended its permit application with the State Department, President Obama made an announcement that I and many others had been eagerly awaiting for almost two years: he denied the project. Near the end of his official statement, Obama said, “We’re continuing to lead by example. Because ultimately, if we’re going to prevent large parts of this Earth from becoming not only inhospitable but uninhabitable in our lifetimes, we’re going to have to keep some fossil fuels in the ground rather than burn them and release more dangerous pollution into the sky.” This was a move of profound importance. No president has ever made such a monumental statement against the fossil fuel industry. President Obama must be commended for his bravery to stand up to the fossil fuel industry, and for proving himself to be a climate champion, instead of the pipeline president. In a society where we rely so heavily on the use of fossil fuels in almost every aspect of our life, on a planet which has a finite amount of these fossil fuels; it is refreshing to see a person in power taking the right steps toward a brighter future.

Being a part of blocking a major pipeline project via nationwide social action, whether its KXL, or the illegal expansion of Enbridge’s tar sands pipelines, are just a few examples of how The Environmental Corps of Sustainability (ECOS) has done its part to advocate for a cleaner planet. To find out more about what ECOS is currently doing to promote the idea of sustainability at UWRF, please come to a weekly meeting on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in room 332 of the University Center.

Greg Mathews is a senior history major with a political science minor. He is also an environmental activist, adventurer and outdoor enthusiast.

The Student Voice is hiring all positions for the spring semester! Pick up an application outside of 304 North Hall. Email editor@uwrfvoice.com with questions!



Cartoon by Benjamin Heer

Cartoon Caption Contest

Visit the Student Voice’s Facebook page at facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice and leave a comment with your best caption!

The winning caption will appear in next week’s issue.



Cartoon by Benjamin Heer

STUDENT *Voices*

What social or political issue do you care about the most?

Compiled by Molly Kinney



Misturat Amode
Sophomore

"I'm really concerned about the racial tension going on at the University of Missouri."



Zach Tate
Junior

"Gender issues in general."



Max Hamill
Senior

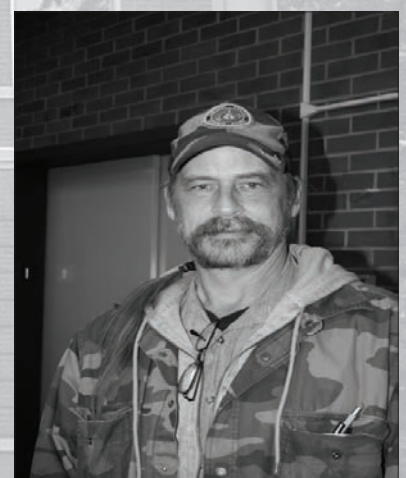
"Overall egalitarianism."



Lauren Olson
Senior
"Campus sex assault."



Joe Schmit
5th year senior
"I'm concerned about how we're going to deal with racial tension and policing right now."



Paul Schmidt
Junior
"Veterans administration."

Find Freddy's lost feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre!

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 Twitter and Facebook accounts:

@uwrvoice and facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice

Now Playing: Spectre

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor.

Email your thoughts to editor@uwrvoice.com

Men’s basketball plays Badgers to open season

Zach Dwyer
zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

There’s buzz at the beginning of every basketball season, but this year the Falcon Men’s basketball team got the opportunity to play one of the top teams in the nation.

This past week, the Falcons traveled to Madison to play the University of Wisconsin Badgers at the Kohl Center for an exhibition game. The Falcons fought tough all night, but fell to the previous year’s national runner-ups 101-46.

Playing a Division I team is a huge task, but the Falcons came out strong from the start. Junior forward Garrett Pearson scored eight of the team’s first 13 points to keep the Falcons close midway through the first half. Pearson would end the night 3-3 from beyond the arc and be the team’s high scorer with 11 points.

“We made a lot of our shots

early on and forced the Badgers to work hard for their baskets. The environment didn’t seem to affect the guys too much and they managed to keep everything focused on the court,” Head Coach Jeff Berkhof said.

But being the Division I powerhouse they are, the Badgers eventually pulled away in the first half. Standouts Nigel Hayes and Bronson Koenig continued their success from the previous season, scoring 16 and 10 points, respectively. The Badgers also came out on fire from beyond the arc, going 6-6 as a team in the first half and finishing 45 percent shooting on the night.

“When you face a Division I team they’re going to eventually wear you down with their athleticism and length. That’s when it really starts to show the difference between teams, but we still managed to have great composure and play our

game,” Berkhof said.

The Badger’s offensive attack led them to a 46-27 advantage at halftime. But the real story of the game was the Badger defense and their ability to grab rebounds over the Falcons all night. The Badgers managed to hold UWRF to a 20 percent field goal percentage and outrebounded them 57-25 on the glass. Domination in these key stats proves once again why the Badgers will be dangerous in the Big Ten.

Senior forward Jack Herum saw this is an area to work on, saying, “The biggest takeaway from the game for us is that we must be able to guard for the full 30 seconds of the shot clock and secure a clean rebound on the first shot attempt. We were out rebounded by the Badgers by a large margin (which is expected) but still have to make sure that doesn’t carry over to WIAC play.”

Coach Berkhof added, “When you

shoot 20 percent, it’s a combination of a lot of factors. Wisconsin makes you want to go at a faster tempo than you’d usually like and forces a lot of difficult shots. We came out strong but just had some trouble hitting some open shots when we started to get behind.”

With the Falcons struggling to shoot the ball, the Badgers pulled away to make the final score 101-46 at the Kohl Center. But being as it was just an exhibition game, it was more the experience and practice they’ll take away from it.

“The atmosphere playing at the Kohl center was electrifying and it was an amazing experience. Playing in front of 15,000 isn’t something most athletes get to do (especially at the D3 level). It was an experience of a lifetime,” Herum said.

Berkhof added, “It was a great experience for our players and coaches getting to travel to

Madison for the game. There’s obviously a lot of excitement with how they’ve finished the last two years and we got to be their first game back. But being as it was just a preseason game, we’ll mostly just use it as good preparation for when our season really starts to take off soon.”

UWRF is returning 4 of 5 starters this season and are looking to improve on their impressive 10-6 WIAC record from last year. They’re also projected to finish fourth in the conference, according to the WIAC preseason coaches’ poll.

The Falcons open their regular season by traveling to Concordia University (WI) on November 14. UWRF’s first home game is November 17 against Bethel at 8 p.m. at Karges Center.

UWRF men’s hockey plays double header for home opener



Left; Alex Murphy, senior captian warms up before the game. Right; Michael Lant plays defense. They won their first game and lost the second game. The Falcons play next at Augsburg on Saturday, Nov. 14.

Tori Schneider/Student Voice

Women’s soccer finishes respectable season against UW-Eau Claire

Kate Vruwink
Falcon News Service

The UW-River Falls women’s soccer team fell to UW-Eau Claire, 1-2, on Nov. 3 after going the last third of its season unbeaten.

According the UWRF Sports Information website, the women gave up two goals early in the first half allowing the Blugolds to lead 2-0. However, the Falcons dug deep and quickly answered back with a goal of their own putting the score at 1-2 going into half time. Head Coach Sean McKuras said he felt the women kept playing their hardest even as the clock ran down. To keep them mentally in the game, he kept coaching them from the sideline.

“That last 15 minutes was just encouragement to be honest. You could tell they were getting really tired,” McKuras said. “They played a lot of games and had been going hard. It certainly wasn’t a lack of effort.”

Hannah Litfin, outside defender for the Falcons, echoed the

same thoughts as her coach.

“Everyone stayed strong and even though we were losing and even in the last couple minutes, and you’re kind of starting to give up, everyone still played their hardest and didn’t give up,” she said.

But as their 19th game of the year came to an end, so did the Falcons’ season.

The team finished with a 9-8-2 record and fourth in the WIAC. However, there was a lot more to the season than the numbers determining the overall record. Both McKuras and Litfin said they felt the women started out strong and then hit a rough patch in the middle of the season.

From Sept. 16 to Oct. 6, they played a total of seven games and only had one win.

“We just had a stretch there where that I think a lot of teams could have quit, and I don’t mean quit showing up or quit working hard, but it’s mentally draining to work that hard and have those things happen, and this team didn’t,” McKuras said.


In fact, the women didn’t just stop themselves from giving up, they came back and went on a five-game win streak with one tie mixed in, to go into conference play.

“For that last third of the season to just really turn it around, it’s something that I’ll remember in this program forever,” McKuras said.

Not only was McKuras proud of how hard his team worked throughout the season, and how the athletes mentally worked their hardest, but the women were also proud of themselves and their team. Litfin said that there was a positive way to look back at this season.

“You know we ended with a loss against Eau Claire, but the end of our season was ending really strong and I think thats something we can all look back on and be proud of,” she said.

The women may not be able to walk away with a record, or an ending, that reflects their hard work on and off the field, but they will be able to walk away with something much better: The memories of a team that had the tenacity to fight to the end.



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WOMENS’S HOCKEY FRIDAY, NOV. 13 AWAY VS. STEVENS POINT PUCK DROPS- 7:00 P.M.	MEN’S HOCKEY SATURDAY, NOV. 14 AWAY VS. AUGSBURG PUCK DROPS- 7:30 P.M.
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UWRF football falls to UW-Whitewater 57-12



Tori Schneider/Student Voice

Top left; Matt Woller catches pass and is forced out of bounds. Top right; Ben Beckman runs with football out of bounds. Bottom; the Falcons celebrate on the sidelines as a team. The Falcons fell to UW-Whitewater 57-12 on Saturday, Nov. 7 at home on senior day.

Women's hockey starts 2015-2016 season strong



Tori Schneider/Student Voice

UW-River Falls women's hockey starts the 2015-2016 season 2-1 with wins against Hamline and Bethel. Their only loss has been to University of St. Thomas. The Falcons will play UW-Stevens Point in their first conference game at away at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13.

Wisconsin band Porcupine impresses with fourth release

Matt Clark

Reviewer

As the year winds down, so does the amount and quality of musical releases. Music promoters start to slowly shift their focus on giant box sets with the hope of attracting Christmas shoppers while many musicians shift their musical direction to subpar holiday records. Every once in a while, a record comes out during this time that provides just enough hope to get through the temporary musical darkness. On their fourth release, *Carrier Wave*, La Crosse, Wisconsin rockers, Porcupine, create an EP

The lyrics make a clear statement that this is a new era in the bands progression, the growing pains are gone and a clear path has been laid before them. Musically, the sound retains the classic Porcupine flavor while adding a bit more pop into the melody.

of fuzzy bass lines, angsty guitars, and punchy drums.

Any fan of the band knows that half of the fun is waiting to see how the band will follow up the previous release. After the release of the much anticipated and successful EP, *I See Sound*, many fans were left wondering how the band would top the EP's exciting and punky sounds. For the members of Porcupine-Casey Virock, Davey Reinders, and Ian Prince-the challenge was accepted. With the help of high profile producer, Steve Albini (The Pixies, Nirvana, Mogwai), Porcupine has slammed

back with a powerful collection of six songs that sound straight out of the late 90's alternative rock scene.

Wasting no time, the band jumps right into the record's opening track, "The Big Window," with the line "I look like someone you know/are voices different/un-

canny but close." The lyrics make a clear statement that this is a new era in the band's progression, the growing pains are gone and a clear path has been laid before them. Musically, the sound retains the classic Porcupine flavor while adding a bit more pop into the melody. The track makes up to be one of the most enjoyable in their entire catalogue. "The Big Window" clears the way to the new Porcupine, which leaves the listener pleasantly anxious to see what's next.

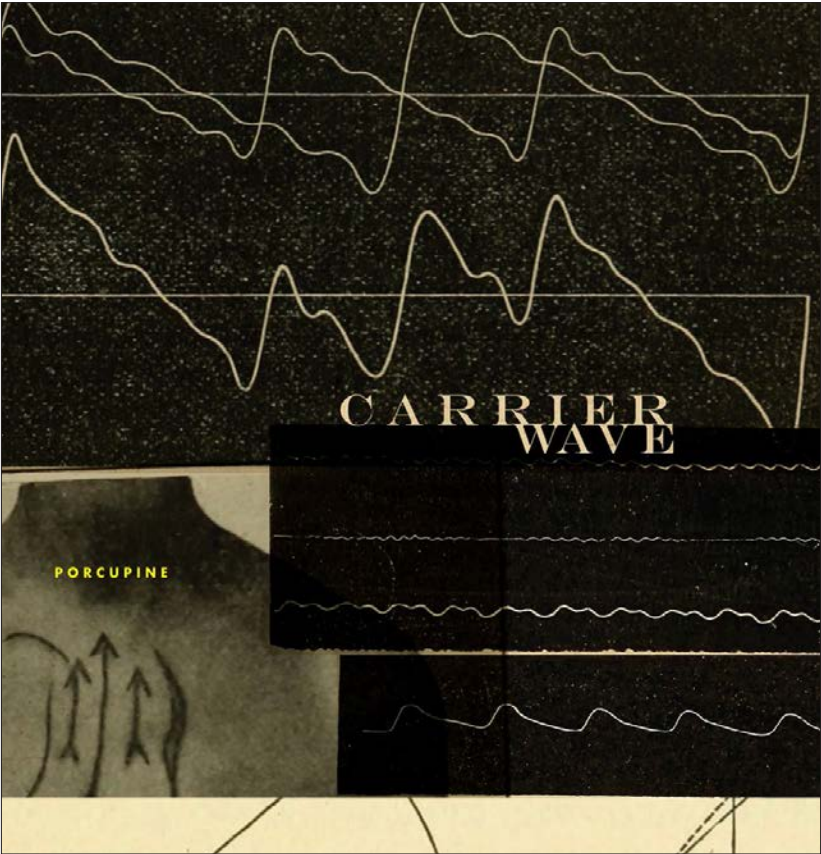
The third track on the record, "Connecting the Dots," finds the song's character lost in the fallout of a poisonous romance

and desperately trying to stick it all back together. With its chimey and dissonant guitar part and well-defined drums and bass, the song screams for the live setting. As the drums keep the song moving, the bass line sneaks through the verses like the unwanted thoughts of regret and unfounded hope. The end of the track finds the character asking, "Will she notice?" which can lead to several conclusions about the character's plans to rebuild.

One of the more sonically different tracks is "I Watch You Float,"

a song about the doubt of a new and stable relationship. Opening with a slower tempo and a prominent acoustic guitar and then quickly jumping to a faster pace, the track perfectly displays the tender yet nervous feelings that arise during the early phases of love. The song's character repeatedly asks, "Is everything good? Should I assume the worst?" which is a connectable question for anyone in a budding relationship. The song is a unique moment of vulnerability in an otherwise confident EP.

On *Carrier Wave*, Porcupine finds itself in a new world. Their plan of action no longer involves needing to prove themselves. Their salad days are gone and they have found themselves in the middle period. Unlike other bands that get caught in the middle road, Porcupine has redefined themselves and have come back better than ever. With this new set of tracks, Porcupine shows off their confidence while not being afraid to show of an element of vulnerability.



Matt Clark is a journalism student. On campus he is an active DJ at WRFW as well as the circulation manager for the Student Voice. In his free time, Matt is an active guitarist, playing in successful rock bands.. He has opened for rock bands Chicago and Huey Lewis and The News as well as modern bands such as Daughtry. Matt hopes to one day become a music journalist and work in radio.

Reveling in silence can be refreshing after midterms

Lauren Simenson

Columnist

lights illuminating shadowy trees as I sped past them. My shiny black car disappeared in the darkness as it wound up the road that signified I was almost home. The unpainted

As often as I am able, I roll my windows down and turn off any sound to just listen to the owls, coyotes, the wind, and of course the constant crunch and rustle of gravel under my car.

horses inside or already asleep for the night. On my left, a huge expanse of brown marked the cornfields, already harvested for the year with rusting red equipment laying forgotten in the field. A huge and dilapidated white barn was next, a sight I'm so used to seeing I often don't even see it anymore—a landmark that has faded out of existence for me. My gravel driveway leaves faint white tracks of crushed rock on the asphalt and underneath the cluster of our mailboxes.

Passing the white expanse of the barn, I reached a finger over to gently touch the button that operates my power windows. Icy night air stabs at my face and neck as the cold wind invades my car, crawling under my heated seats and onto my hands resting on the wheel. Nothing signifies leaving school

Agitated, I pressed the gas pedal of my borrowed car closer to the floor, my bright headlights illuminating shadowy trees as I sped past them. My shiny black car disappeared in the darkness as it wound up the road that signified I was almost home. The unpainted and graying black-topped roads near my house were totally deserted, as per the usual, as I drove right down the middle. I had two hands wrapped around the slick, leather steering wheel and two watchful eyes, itchy from dry contacts, scouting for deer as I silently urged the car to move faster.

An opulent horse farm on my right was motionless and dark, the horses inside or already asleep for the night. On my left, a huge expanse of brown marked the cornfields, already harvested for the year with rusting red equipment laying forgotten in the field. A huge and dilapidated white barn was next, a sight I'm so used to seeing I often don't even see it anymore—a landmark that has faded out of existence for me. My gravel driveway leaves faint white tracks of crushed rock on the asphalt and underneath the cluster of our mailboxes.

and work behind more than the sound of gravel crunching under tires. As often as I am able, I roll my windows down and turn off any sound to just listen to the owls, coyotes, the wind, and of course the constant crunch and rustle of gravel under my car.

I slowed to a crawl on the driveway, partly because it's Dad's rules, usually because of the mess of potholes littering the entire drive, but mostly just to savor sound. Every day I revel in the relief from the day's noise; the music on loop at work, the contest drone of voices at school, the sound of alerts, emails, and reminders from my phone...the gravel is my detox. Every day I am able to tune out everything for a three-minute white noise drive, a quick fix at the end of seemingly endless days.

Now the midterms are over, but are they

I so recommend that everyone allow themselves to enjoy and revel in the silence of it all. Sometimes I think we are all afraid of the quiet.

Everything has a noise, an indicator that demands our attention. Studying can no longer be done without a distraction: music, talking, T.V... does anyone else feel overwhelmed by all these stimuli sometimes? I wish quiet and the absence of noise wasn't awkward, and wasn't a luxury only enjoyed alone in a car creeping down a gravel driveway.

Lauren A. Simenson is a sophomore majoring in communication studies. Her interests include eating dark chocolate, online window shopping and reading anything she can get her hands on. While not at work, at school, taking naps or doing homework, she likes to cook, canoe, fish and write.

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