



SPORTS, PAGE 7
Womens basketball heads to NCAA tournament following championship loss.

NEWS, PAGE 3
UW-River Falls Pathways program helps students who are non-native English speakers succeed.

ETCETERA, PAGE 8
'Zootopia' entertains while offering life lessons along the way.



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More painted utility boxes coming to River Falls

Molly Kinney
Falcon News Service

Snow along Main Street has mostly melted away in downtown River Falls, making the painted utility boxes visible once again, and another round of public art is in the works.

The Utility Box Beautification Project was started by the POWERful Choices! Committee, part of River Falls Municipal Utilities. The art project was proposed to the committee by Mike Noreen after he took a trip to Menomonie, Wisconsin, with his family.

He was walking around Menomonie with his 10-year-old daughter when she pointed out a painted utility box on the roadside. His daughter asked if River Falls could do something like that.

“After that, it was kind of a family challenge,” Noreen joked.

Another important factor to launching the program was the appointment of Kevin Westhuis as the new directory of River Falls Municipal Utilities, Noreen said.

“He was really open to try new stuff,” Noreen said. “So, that gave me a lot of freedom to really work on some of these more creative ideas... We ended up able to cobble together a program.”

Noreen looked at the projects completed in Menomonie and talked to the utility director there, as well as Fort Collins, Colorado, who has a similar community arts program.

“We took these two models and figured out what would work here,” he said.

Noreen wrote up a proposal and first presented it to the POWERful Choices! Committee early last spring. Once the committee was on board, he reached out to Steve Preisler director of the non-profit River Falls Community Arts Base.

“Getting Steve on board was pretty easy,” Noreen said. “It was a pretty small town kinda deal — I just happened to know the director of the arts board, called him up on his cell phone, and we talked about it over coffee.”

The collaboration between POWERful Choices! and Community Arts Base resulted funding four artists to complete the work at \$500 each, with an estimated \$100 spent on paint. The artists had about one month to complete their work before River Falls Days last summer, which was the weekend of July 10-11.



The utility box located on Main Street in front of Royal Credit Union is part of the Utility Box Beautification Project.

blue, green and purple fish utility box, located on North Main Street across from Ace Hardware.

Despite ending up a little crunched for time, Noreen said that there weren't many problems when it came to actually working on the utility boxes.

“There were a few things the artists had to consider: they couldn't be too dark so they wouldn't overheat, the vents couldn't get covered, the keyholes and meters couldn't get splatters on them... things like that” Noreen said.

Preisler of Community Arts Base the organization was thrilled when the city approached it with the project.

“It was easy to decide that, if we could find the right people, this project would be great for River Falls,” he said.

POWERful Choices! and Community Arts Base will collaborate on the project again this year, which will soon be underway with the warmer temperatures. Four more utility box locations have been chosen: one by the Hoffman Park baseball field, one by the North Main Kwik Trip, another by Horizon Chiropractic near Dairy Queen, and one on the University campus.

Noreen said that the campus utility box would likely be painted by a student or faculty member and the theme would have something to do with the history of UW-River Falls.

Preisler said Community Arts Base is once again looking forward to the collaboration.

“Once the deadline is up we'll get back together and go through the whole process again,” he said. “Projects like this really add to the direction the city is working towards — to make River Falls known as an arts destination.”

The Utility Box Beautification Project has been one of the most successful projects he's worked on, Noreen said.

Painting of a utility box on campus is being discussed between the University and the city, and will likely need approval from Assistant Chancellor for Business and Finance Elizabeth Frueh, Noreen said.

While this project is small in comparison to the work POWERful Choices! does with energy, it's been by far the most successful in terms of citizen response, Noreen said.

“I've gotten a lot of comments,” he said. “All positive things. Everyone likes it, whether it's the fish or the history aspect of the fire department design... I helped my sister paint one, and when we left for a while, there was a Post-it on the box that read ‘This is looking great! — A Stout kid.’ That was really cool to see; I took a picture of it.”

While there are no major plans for more art installations in the city yet, Noreen does see something else like this happening in the future.

“There are canvases all over, like those utility boxes. We have a pretty strong art community in this town,” he said. “You start adding a little beauty, a little history, and people ask what does that mean. I think it does a nice job presenting that side of the community.”

Local services help to protect sexual, reproductive health

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UW-River falls has seen a large increase in risky methods of birth control among students, according to a triennial survey most recently conducted in 2015. However, services nearby are available to help those in need of it.

The National College Health Assessment survey suggests a significant rise in the use of “withdrawal” among UWRF students questioned what they had last used to prevent pregnancy, with an increase from 24 percent in 2009 to 39 in 2015 (compared to a reported national rate of 29 in 2014). Birth control pills also appear to be less popular by about 6 percent since 2012.

The NCHA, published by the American College Health Association, surveys many colleges. Among them is UWRF, where students are given the option to take the survey every third year.

Condom use among students — specifically in vaginal intercourse — has, however, remained fairly stagnant, with 2015's survey showing a rate of 66.2 percent among UWRF students. Meanwhile, at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, condom use has fallen from 60 to 52 percent since 2010, which has caused concern in the area. One university official even said the new numbers are the lowest in recent memory.

On the rise, on the other hand, is the use of emergency contraceptives (ECs), often referred to as the morning-after pill. EC rates have increased from 5 percent of respondents having used ECs in in the last 12 months in 2000 to 12 percent in 2015.

Students have access to services both on campus and off which offer help in various situations.

On campus, students may go to Student Health and Counseling Services (SHCS) in 211, Hagestad Hall. That's where Keven Syverson works as the office's first and only health education coordinator. In September, he will have been in the position for 15 years. SHCS serves students by covering a broad range of potential problems, from alcohol to tobacco to sexual

assault and, of course, sexual health.

Covering such a variety of subjects means having to sometimes focus on certain issues more than others. “It's hard to get everything out there for everyone to see at all times,” said Syverson. “For example,” he said, regarding a question from the NCHA which asks students if they have received information from their university about certain subjects, “if you look at sexual assault, that's gone up [in regards to students being informed about it by UWRF]. People have received more information about that — it's a hotter topic now.” While sexual assault and violence information at UWRF rose by about 26 percent since 2000, information on pregnancy and STI prevention have remained roughly the same since then.

Student awareness of available help is one factor which determines how much SHCS is able to work with students. “There's only so many ways to get information out on this campus, and that's always a challenge and always has been — how to get information out to students, and consistently,” Syverson said.

There is plenty that SHCS offers regarding reproductive health, including giving out free “sexual choices” kits, complete with condoms and information about their usage (“The biggest problem with using condoms, for them being effective, is user failure — not being put them on properly,” explained Syverson).

The kits also come with a breath mint.

SHCS will also be working to organize the UWRF Health Fair, scheduled for Wed., April 13.

On a local level is Pierce County Reproductive Health Services (PCRHS), just a short walk from the east side of campus. While SHCS paints in a broader stroke and covers a great variety of subjects, PCRHS delves deeply into a single area, as its name implies. PCRHS offers testing for pregnancy, STIs, cervical cancer and urinary tract infections among many other services related to sexual and reproductive health.

In the waiting room are magazines as well as brochures featuring stories of people with HPV and cervical cancer. On the

front, it reads, “HPV & U,” and “Real-life stories of courage and hope from women like you.” In the corner is a box of toys side-by-side with a bead maze. Beyond the waiting room is a hallway leading to the offices. Attached to the wall are hundreds of condom packets split between 30 plastic pouches to sort them into different sizes and colors.

PCRHS maintains a contract with UWRF, which doesn't have its own reproductive health office. This contract allows students with to take advantage of many services PCRHS provides at no cost. Such services include emergency contraception, testing for pregnancy and certain STDs/STIs including HIV, genital wart treatment and pap smears. Other services allow students to access them at a reduced price.

Two registered nurses, Kelsi Winter and Michelle Klechefska, who work in the offices of this building had much to say about sexual and reproductive health and safety.

Klechefska gave an example of how her job with PCRHS has been rewarding in allowing her to help others. “You get these young women, generally,” she explained, “Usually with STDs, they're scared to death — they've had a partner who has told them, ‘I have chlamydia.’ They're not always entirely sure what chlamydia is,” she said with a small laugh and a “Yep” and a nod from Winter. “So then you just say, ‘This is what it is — if you don't treat it, it's a big deal, but it's very easy to treat and then it's gone,’” she concluded. “So you feel pretty good about doing that... You kind of feel you did your good deed for the day.”

“The biggest thing is to educate yourself, look at reputable websites or just come in and talk to someone — talk to us. Use condoms,” Winter advised.

“And the morning-after pill is not a birth control method!” Klechefska added.

In 2012, the NCHA's UWRF survey showed an unplanned pregnancy rate of 1.4 percent, consistent since the survey began in 2000. In 2015, the rate was .6 percent.

News briefs:

UW-River Falls campus media wins big at award ceremonies

Student journalists for the campus newspaper and radio station at UW-River Falls once again have been recognized for their work by Wisconsin’s two leading professional media organizations.

Both the Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA) and the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association (WBA) held their annual conventions at the end of February. Among events at the conventions were ceremonies awarding the best in professional and student journalism in the state.

In the Collegiate Better Newspaper Contest sponsored by the WNA Foundation, the Student Voice won a second place award for best editorial. The staff-written editorial, published in May, provided context after the campus learned of a student’s death.

“Great editorials can take sensitive topics and in a compassionate way use the issue to call for a needed change,” a judge wrote. “This column achieved that.”

In the WBA Student Awards for Excellence, two students earned first place honors for their work on WRFW. The contest saw more than 290 entries from colleges and universities across the state.

Sophia Koch, a journalism major from Spring Valley, Wisconsin, won in the category “Long-Form Storytelling (Radio, Non-news).” Her story was about the Asian Culture Fest that occurred on campus last semester.

Ian Martin, a communication studies major from Siren, Wisconsin, won in the “Radio Public Affairs” category. His story was about The Gunnar Project, which is based in St. Paul. The project was started by the father of Gunnar Miller, who died in a skateboarding accident.

The Student Voice and WRFW are student-run campus media organizations supported primarily by student fees and advised by faculty in the Department of Communication and Media Studies.

For further information, contact Professor Sandy Ellis, chair of the Department of Communication and Media Studies, at (715) 425-3169 or sandra.ellis@uwrf.edu, or Associate Professor Andris Straumanis, andris.straumanis@uwrf.edu.

UW-River Falls art faculty to exhibit at arts center

Faculty artwork on view will include ceramics, printmaking, drawing, installation, fibers, sculpture, photography, glass and painting.

Artwork by UWRF Bachelor of Fine Arts students will also be on view at The Phipps as demonstrated in the department’s mission. The mission of the UWRF Art Department is to provide in-depth and comprehensive exposure to and expertise in the visual arts, while providing a creative environment in

which students develop aesthetic skills, conceptual thinking, visual awareness and technical expertise.

Faculty exhibiting their work are Randy Johnston, Bernice Ficek-Swenson, Brett Kallusky, Dan Paulus, Peter Mak, Lyz Wendland, Tracy Krumm, Jan McKeachie-Johnston, Jeannine Kitzhaber, Ann Lawton, Eoin Breadon, Jeffrey Stenbom, Mary Rohl, Rhonda Willers and Heather Delisle.

An opening reception is Friday, March 4, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Phipps.

In addition to the exhibition in The Phipps galleries, UW-River Falls instructors and art historians Laura Sivert and Kaylee Spencer will present slide lectures on their recent research on Wednesday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the Black Box Theater at The Phipps. The talks are free and open to the public.

Sivert’s talk will focus on representations of waterways in modern American art and visual depictions of the New Deal’s hydroelectric project of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Spencer will share her investigations of Maya art and architecture in a presentation titled “Activating Architecture: Performance and Experience in the Ancient Maya World.” High school students, college students, and lifelong learners are encouraged to attend.

Phipps Gallery hours are Sunday from noon-4:30 p.m. and Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Galleries are also open one hour prior to performances.

The UW-River Falls campus police have warned

Fraudsters are targeting college students

about the return of fraudulent phone calls requesting money from students. Students who have received a call have been threatened with various types of legal action unless they withdraw money from their bank accounts.

UWRF Police Chief, Karl Fleury, said that these types of calls happen in streaks and typically target more than one campus at a time. The calls can either be made in the form of a live representative or a robocall. Robocalls of this nature are illegal and should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission.

For more information, call the UWRF Police Department at 715-425-3133

The Music Department at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is hosting two public concerts this weekend.

February 23, 2016—The Music Department at the Music department to host March concerts

University of Wisconsin-River Falls is hosting four public concerts in March.

The Frances Cohler Coffee Concert on Friday, March 4, is a noon event featuring Nataia Moiseeva, violin, and Layton “Skip” James, harpsichord, in “Music of the Baroque: Bach, Vivaldi and Mozart,” in the William Abbott Concert Hall of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Parking can be found in pay lots behind the University Center and on the west side of North Hall. Coffee and refreshments follow the concert in the lobby. Free and open to all.

The St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra will present “Classics of Europe” on Sunday, March 6, at 3 p.m. in the William Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building at UW-River Falls. Join Director Kristin Tjornehoj, and special guests Layton “Skip” James, harpsichord, and Natalia Moiseeva, violin, in Vivaldi’s “Four Season: Winter and Spring.” The musicians will also perform J.S. Bach’s “Brandenburg Concerto No. 3,” and “L’Arlésienne” by George Bizet. Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/seniors, and \$2/students.

The UW-River Falls Music Department will present “Classics of the Band World” on Thursday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the William Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Kristin Tjornehoj, director of the Symphony Band, and Gary Bird, director of the University Band, join forces to share music representing Sousa, Grainger, Persichetti, Beibel and more. Selections include “Foshay Tower March” by John Philip Sousa; “Fanfare and Allegro” by Clifton Williams; “Ave Maria” by Franz Beibl; “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night” by Elliot del Borgo; “Alla Barocco” by Cesar Giovannini, and Persichetti’s “Pageant.” Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/seniors, and \$2/students.

The Frances Cohler Coffee Concert on Friday, March 25, is a noon event featuring Natalia Moiseeva, violin, Tanya Remenikova, cello, and Ivan Konev, piano, in the William Abbott Concert Hall of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Parking can be found in pay lots behind the University Center and on the west side of North Hall. Coffee and refreshments follow the concert in the lobby. Free and open to all.

For further information, contact the UWRF Music Department at 715-425-3183, kristin.tjornehoj@uwrf.edu, or visit www.uwrf.edu/music/events.

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River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Friday, Feb. 26

- Suspicious activity was reported at 650 S Main Street around 5 a.m.
- Suspicious activity was reported by the Agricultral Science Building around 11:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 28

- Underage alcohol consumption was reported at the Melvin Wall Amphitheatre around 2 a.m.

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

UWRF program helps give non-native English speaking students opportunities



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Diane Jacobson, director of the Pathways program, discusses project ideas with Sonia Jibicho, a freshman in Jacobson's Advanced Oral Communication course which is part of the Pathways program.

Katie Galarno
Falcon News Service

A new program at UW-River Falls for students who didn't grow up speaking English as their first language and might have been denied admission to college is seeing success. Of the 14 students who enrolled in the Pathways program in fall 2015, nine finished the semester early.

To finish the program early, students had to pass the ACT Compass test, receive grades of 80 percent or higher in every course and get recommendations from all of their professors.

One of the students to do so is biology major Long Vue, who was born in Minnesota and grew up speaking Hmong. Vue said that he saw Pathways as a chance to get into a four-year university that he may not have had otherwise.

"Coming from a family of three older brothers, I was expected to do a lot," Vue said. "Back in high school my dad would always stress education, and I felt like I let him down when I got denied admission for UWRF, but then I heard about the Pathways program and it helped me get to college."

Vocal music education major Dianne Paje is another student who finished Pathways after one semester. Paje, who moved the U.S. from the Philippines in 2011 with her family, speaks Tagalog primarily but knows three other languages. She said in an email that her experience with the program was a good one.

"I would say that being in that program was a blessing to me because it helped me a lot with my study techniques," Paje said. "It helped me improve my language, and I met a lot of friends."

Pathways was designed as a two-semester program where elective courses like General Psychology (Psychology 101) correlate with English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. In the corresponding ESL class, the Pathways students cover the same material and vocabulary as the elective course.

Director of Pathways Diane Jacobson taught Advanced Reading I (English as a Second Language 301) in the fall, which correlated with General Psychology. She said that the co-teaching model isn't used often in universities, but that she thought it was effective.

UWRF non-traditional student appointed to UW-System Board of Regents

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A UW-River Falls student has been selected to serve on the Wisconsin Board of Regents, Gov. Scott Walker announced on Feb. 12.

Lisa Erickson, 47, is a junior and non-traditional student at UWRF pursuing a degree in journalism and minoring in food sciences. The Board of Regents consists of 18 members, 16 of which are appointed by the governor. Of those 16, two are students, one traditional and one non-traditional. "It's open to any non-traditional student over the age of 24," Erickson said. "Anybody could have applied for it."

With a representative on campus, students at UWRF will have a way to more directly access the Board of Regents. This is important because the Board, as the UW-System website explains, wields a considerable amount of influence over how campuses within the System function: "The Board is responsible for establishing policies and rules for governing the System, planning to meet future state needs for collegiate education, setting admission standards and policies, reviewing and approving university budgets, and establishing the regulatory framework within which the individual units are allowed to operate."

It is an extensive list and, until now, UWRF has never had a student representative on the Board of Regents. Tricia Davis, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said that, "A lot of people talk about how we're part of the UW-System, but we're at UWRF, which is four to five hours away from the hub of Madison. Sometimes we feel that we are not heard."

UWRF does have some representation: the Provost and Chancellor regularly sit in on Board meetings and have the chance to speak periodically. In addition, a pair of assigned regents visit campus each semester to meet with students.

Erickson's position, which she will hold for a two-year term, will add another layer of representation for UWRF. As a Board member she has a vote, and will be attending the eight regular meetings each year as well as a number of subcommittee meetings, where members do research and put together arguments to be presented before the rest of the Board. It's a lot of responsibility, she said. "We're making decisions for thousands

"Everything we did in that ESL class was all about psychology," Jacobson said. "We used the psychology textbook. We did all the psychology vocabulary words. We practiced psychology quizzes and tests. If they had to write a paper, we did it in that class."

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Bradley Caskey taught the General Psychology course, which included Pathways students, incoming freshman and a few international students. Caskey said that the diversity in the class made discussions a lot more interesting.

"One of the best things about it was, when you start to have discussions about different kinds of issues and different kinds of cultures, all of a sudden you had someone talking about what it was like in Latvia or what it was like in Uganda or what it was like in Somalia," Caskey said. "There were just some great discussions that went on, and it made the class really exciting."

Caskey said that he suspected some of the students would get out of the program early when he saw the progress in his class. He said that the students usually lack experience with English but are capable of being good students.

"The fact that these students' English skills aren't where they're supposed to be isn't because they've gone through a typical learning of English and just haven't gotten it," Caskey said. "Sometimes this is like year three, and we're expecting them to speak and read and listen to English at that level."

Jacobson said that she knew the students were working hard, but that she didn't expect such a high success rate so quickly.

"I mean, this being so successful was great, but because it was so successful, we're running classes that are really small, so financially it's not very sustainable," Jacobson said. "We need more students in the program."

The goal is to gradually increase the number of students enrolled in the program. Of the 65 students who met the criteria, only 14 enrolled. Jacobson said that she'd like to see more people actually enroll in the program next year. Caskey said that he thinks that after a few years of slow building, Pathways could become a major program on campus.



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Lisa Erickson, a journalism major, is now a UW Regent.

of people, now and to come. It's kind of a humbling thought."

Students will be able to approach Erickson with ideas and propositions regarding issues at UWRF and she can then bring those ideas before the Board for consideration and voting. Through her, she said, students have access to the people with the ability to make changes, and she wants to get the message out that UWRF now has this voice.

"Even though Madison is on the other side of the state," she said. "It doesn't mean we can't achieve something crazy."

Students to go through required sexual assault awareness class

Ryan Odeen
Falcon News Service

Starting this fall, incoming freshman and returning students at UW-River Falls will have to complete an online course about sexual assault and harassment before they can register for classes.

The course is aimed at raising awareness about the issue. UW System President Ray Cross commissioned a task force in 2013 to combat the climate of sexual assault and harassment on college campuses in Wisconsin.

Gregg Heinselman, UW-River Falls associate vice chancellor for student affairs, served on the task force. He said that national data about sexual assault show that the crimes goes substantially underreported. According to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, rape and sexual assault victimizations of students go unreported to the police 80 percent of the time.

The task force found that providing some sort of baseline education and training about sexual assault was a best practice, but was not being offered in the UW System.

In the past, at new student orientation, there has been a sexual assault awareness program that students could attend. However, Heinselman said, this did not really meet the federal standard.

The new program, Heinselman said, should result in an increase in reporting of sexual assault and harassment.

"As we build a culture of reporting and awareness amongst our student, faculty and staff," Heinselman said, "our numbers should increase, because people are reporting what went underreported before."

In 2012, there was one reported case of a sex offense on UWRF campus, according to the annual security and fire safety report. In 2013, there were no reports of sex offenses, but in 2014 there were eight.

At UW-Madison, which three years ago instituted the same type of training that is coming to UW-River Falls, reports of sex offenses increased from 15 in 2012 to 34 in 2014, according to that university's annual crime and safety report.

The new training program will be introduced to River Falls in three phases.

First, the university will address incoming freshman and new students. Starting this fall, they will receive an email explaining how to go online and take the class.

The second phase will address returning students. Before registration for spring 2017 classes, students will have to complete the course. The university will restrict registration until completion of the class.

"There is no way for us to guarantee that every student sat in that session. We are obligated by federal law to verify that students have been trained," Heinselman said.

The third phase will address faculty and staff who also will be required to complete the online training.

Student Senate has drawn attention to the It's On Us initiative that was put in place by the Obama Administration in September 2014. The main focus of the campaign was to create conversation and engage the community about the issue, according to Christopher Morgan, Student Senate president. These conversations then might create policy changes, Morgan said.

"Now every student will be mandated to complete training," Morgan said. "That is coming out of the Obama-Biden Administration, but we see it has a significant victory in combating sexual assault."

With this new training, the University will now be able to verify that every student has been educated. Heinselman said the University is simply striving to comply with federal standards. However, the training will not replace other sexual assault awareness programs, Heinselman said, because they remain a key factor in prevention.

The cost of the class has not been finalized, as the University is currently analyzing bids from software companies. However, Heinselman said the cost is estimated at roughly \$1.50-\$2 per student. Heinselman built in a \$2 increase to the new student fee through the New Student and Family Programs budget, which was approved Feb. 23 by the Student Senate.

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EDITORIAL

UW-River Falls pulls off another great, informative TEDx event

When it came to the second annual TEDx event at UW-River Falls on Saturday, Feb. 27, there seemed to be a lot of doubt. Following the great success of the first TEDx just last year, there was concern that perhaps those who worked to create the event wouldn’t be able to top what they did, or even match it. More concern grew as we found ourselves within a month of the event and there were only two speakers announced. Despite these concerns, students, faculty and members of the community went online to register for the event in the hopes that they would leave the event with their minds broadened with new and unique topics. Luckily, that is exactly what happened.

The lineup for the event included three students, one faculty member and former graduate of the university, two TED Talk videos and two alumni that have gone on to be successful in their chosen fields. With a diverse set of speakers when it came to topics, background and the emotions that the different talks evoked, there was never a dull moment as the day went on. It was clear that each speaker put a great deal of thought into their words and what they wanted the audience to take away from their talks. With care being put into every aspect of the event, the day moved along smoothly and without a dull moment. As TEDx drew to a close, it was clear that the event lived up to the precedent set by last year’s.

UWRF puts on a good amount of events every semester, but one thing that can be lacking is those which feel intellectually stimulating. TEDx is one great example of an event that does this right, as well as such things as the Fall Gala, where undergraduate students get a chance to show off any research projects and other scholarly and creative undertakings. Events like these, which allow people -- particularly students -- the chance to show of their knowledge in a great variety of subjects and pass it on to their peers, really help give UWRF an additional air of erudition. Thus, more opportunities such as those above could attract more students and appeal to current ones with a desire to have their brains tickled.

Although this year’s event was smaller than the previous year’s, the ideas and conversations that came out of it were nothing but significant. TEDx is the kind of event that one expects from a university, one that is thought-provoking and offers those in attendance the chance to expand their minds. Student Involvement and everyone else who was involved in the planning and execution of this day should be proud of what they accomplished, and we hope to see more of these kinds of events in the future.

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

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Lauren in London: traveling to big city gives plenty to see, do

Lauren A. Simenson
Columnist

I landed in London’s Gatwick Airport on a very un-British day, as far as the weather goes. The sun stretched out its long rays for miles — excuse me, kilometers, into an almost cloudless sky. If I was not continuously picking up random conversations, all held in lovely British accents, I might have forgotten where I was completely. Of course, another clue that I was en route to another destination was my bulbous ‘Mega Pack’ which was securely strapped to me. It loomed threateningly over my head as well as the heads of others who dare step into my tractor-trailer-sized turning radius. I’m a terror out on the streets without essentially another person strapped to my back and to my front. Yes, two backpacks. A term coined by the previous ITC group is to call yourself a “pregnant turtle” when traveling with your daypack strapped to your front and with your actual pack strapped behind you. It’s a look. Although I suppose if I were to fall over backward, which has happened numerous times already, with Mega Pack I think I might sort of bounce right off the pavement and back onto my feet.

London is exactly what I thought it would be, but grimier, which is not a complaint actually.

But back to London. London is exactly what I thought it would be, but grimier, which is not a complaint actually, just a reminder that this is an authentic living and working city with millions of people swarming around it every day, year after year. It was difficult for me not to become too taken over by the sheer amount of history that seems to be oozing out of the city of London and the country of England itself. Well, it was problematic for *me* as English Monarchy is one of my favorite aspects of world history. I could spend too much time pouring over a letter written by Anne Boleyn that I saw in the National Library. Probably my favorite souvenir to date is a King Henry VIII mug that has a large pictures of King Henry, but also of all of his wives around the face of the mug. The best part? When you add hot liquid all his wives disappear, because he either divorced or beheaded all of them! Maybe a teeny morbid, but easily the best £10 I spent in London. And for all inquiring minds, I picked up this essential souvenir at a museum right off the Greenwich pier. I never miss the opportunity to go into a gift shop, never, and neither should you! They are often delightfully tacky and full of weird and unique gifts that you shouldn’t pass up even though you may barely have room in

your backpack for them. More cannot miss things to do in London? Walking tours. Our group went on three walking tours while in London on various topics ranging from history in a square mile around our hostel, to a Magna Carter tour to Salisbury and Stonehenge, to another law and government type tour around London’s famed barrister halls and churches. We were able to learn so much more than we could have discovered on our own through very knowledgeable and friendly guides. We actually invited them to spend more time with us after the tours were over! I can accredit our experienced guides, rather than our faulty GPS, for being able to recognize and navigate more successfully out on the streets of London. Another travel tip for London? Before you set out for the day, be sure to arm yourself with an “unlimited” seven day subway pass! I more than got my money’s worth out of this little card that allowed me to breeze in and out of the subway system without any worries. The last day I spent in London was gloomy, grey, and drizzly, exactly as a day in London should be. Thinking back over my time in London, I tried to think of everything I was able to do in such a short period of time. My day-to-day London schedule was jam-packed and would start with a cacophony of church bells that kept me awake at night and woke me up way too early in the morning. I saw three musicals in three days, had a bunch of cathartic music classes, visited a handful of free museums, probably too many gift shops and definitely experienced too many late nights. London made me feel terribly homesick, to plain regular sneezy-coughy sick, to lose about a third of my left toe nail in a bloody run-in with a heavy door. But most importantly made me fall in love with this city more than I thought I was already. Another travel tip? Just go anywhere and everywhere.

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.

‘The Golden Ass’ provides unique look into many aspects of ancient Rome

Brady Johnson
Reviewer

“The Golden Ass,” written by Lucius Apuleius Madaurensis around the years 170-180 A.D., is the only ancient Roman novel surviving in its entirety. Written nearly 2,000 years ago, this book is just as interesting today as it was then. The book revolves around a young man named Lucius, who, through a series of misadventures, is transformed into a donkey (hence, ass). The author, known as Apuleius, was from what is now Algeria but, in his time, was known as Numidia. An incredibly talented writer, he was born into wealth and had the opportunities to study in Athens, visit Egypt, Rome, much of Italy and Asia minor. These travels, which would be a great time for the modern man, were much more difficult back then when the best means of travel was a trireme or one’s own two feet through Gaul-infested land. These many travels clearly led Apuleius to see a great many things and hear a great many tales.

Apuleius himself was a very interesting man, being part of several secret cults and secret religious schools. He himself was put on trial after being accused of using witchcraft on a wealthy widow in order to gain her property. His experience in magic and the occult translates well in the book, as it is apparent he is knowledgeable. These experiences and stories are wonderfully transcribed in the book itself.

The book is set up in a simple manner. It is written as the first hand account of a man (Lucius) who, after stealing a potion from a local witch, is turned into a donkey. In his time in this form, he still has the mind of a man, hearing and seeing all as a man does, but being trapped in the body of a donkey. The book takes a raw look at the inequality of ancient Rome, and the life lived by the lower class or plebeians. This is interesting, as, for the most part, not much was written of their lives because this lower class was unable to read and

The book shows an insight to the way the average Roman lived and spoke, and the modern reader may find it to be a bit vulgar and at times grotesque.

write. The Roman authors liked to speak of the glory of Rome, and to mention how the poor live would be an embarrassment. Lucius forgoes this worry and instead tells the truth, albeit in a strange way. The adventures of Lucius in the form of a donkey are far from a good time; despite how poorly the plebeians lived, their livestock was often treated far worse.

The book tells many interesting stories, and it almost feels like an anthology, as the stories often do not pertain to the overarching narrative. The book shows an insight to the way the average Roman lived and spoke, and the modern reader may find it to be a bit vulgar and at times grotesque. While reading such unsettling and descriptive scenes such as a murderous witch who pulls out a man’s heart through a stab wound in his throat, we must remember the time and place this was written. The book was written at the height of the Roman empire, not long before its decline and the destructive barbarian invasions, and yet the average man had a life expectancy of about 40 (not including those who died in childhood). Much has been said of the decadence of Rome, and often that is blamed for the fall of the Western Empire in 476 A.D. This book does an excellent job of showing such decadence. The world was rough, violent and dirty, and “The Golden Ass” illustrates this world. The novel is host to a multitude of fascinating and unique characters, such as an appearance by the Goddess Isis. A modern reader could see the book as surreal or even absurd, but it is difficult to use modern labels on a book written so long ago.

The book, translated into modern English, is an easy read, fluid and clear in its design. I would recommend this book to anyone with an interest in history, ancient Rome, magic and the occult or anyone who needs an excuse to have a book with “ass” in the title.

Brady Johnson is a junior at UW-River Falls with a double major in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and Spanish. He has a passion for literature and hopes to teach English abroad in the future.

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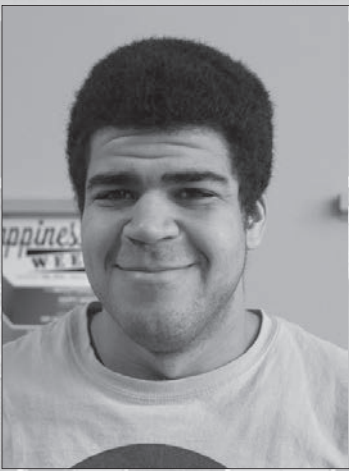
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STUDENT *voices*

What do you hope the world will be like in 30 years?

Compiled by Tori Schneider



Hakeem Ayinde
Junior

“Hopefully more progressive, especially as far as technology, I think.”



Cassandra Hillstead
Junior

“I hope that we continue taking care of our environment and being more sustainable, more peaceful.”



Jon Braun
Junior

“Being an exercise and sports science major, thinking that the world hopefully would be healthier. Because we look how a high percent of the world doesn’t do physical activity and how obese it is.”



Jordan Derby
Freshman

“I hope that 30 years from now we’ll be doing more to help solve problems around the globe such as child hunger and poverty, and I hope that there will be more peace between the countries around the world.”



AJ Bush
Senior

“I want my flying car. The Jetsons promised me a flying car; I didn’t get it. Hover boards would be cool. Maybe some free health care or a cancer pill.”

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@uwrfvoice.com** AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

The winner will be announced on the Voice’s Twitter and Facebook accounts:

[@uwrfvoice](https://twitter.com/uwrfvoice) and facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice

Now Playing: Zootopia

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor.

Email your thoughts to editor@uwrfvoice.com

UWRF winter athletic teams advance to WIAC Tournament



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
The women's basketball team played in the WIAC Tournament last weekend. After finishing first in the conference, the Falcons were given a bye in the first game of the tournament. UWRF beat UW-Eau Claire at home on Thursday, Feb. 25, in the WIAC Tournament Semi-final game. The 53-47 victory sent UWRF to the WIAC Championship game against UW-Oshkosh on Saturday, Feb. 27. The Falcons had the home court advantage, although it did not help them in the end, as they fell to UW 64-65. However, their journey does not end there. The Falcons will continue play in the NCAA Tournament on Friday, March 4, at home against Wheaton College at 7:30 p.m.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
UWRF women's hockey finished first in the conference. They played UW-Eau Claire in a double header on Friday, Feb. 26, and Saturday, Feb. 27. UW-River Falls was able to pull off an impressive win on Friday, beating the Blugolds 4-1. In their second meeting on Saturday, UWRF and UWEC tied 3-3. The women's hockey team will play in the O'Brien Cup Final on Saturday, March 5, at home against UW-Stevens Point at 2:05 p.m. The Falcons will most likely advance to the NCAA Tournament, which starts on Saturday, March 12.



Russ Gamache/UWRF Athletics
The men's hockey team ended the regular season finishing first in the conference. The Falcons played UW-Stout in a double header at home on Friday, Feb. 26, and Saturday, Feb. 27. On Friday the Falcons pulled off a victory against the Bluedevils 3-1. On Saturday, after a hard fought battle, UWRF and UWS ended the game in a 1-1 tie. The Falcons will play in the championship game on Saturday, March 5, at home against UW-Stevens Point, at 7:05 p.m.



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
The UW-River Falls men's basketball team played in the WIAC Tournament last weekend. They went into Friday's game confident, after an 80-66 win at home against UW-Whitewater on Wednesday, Feb. 24. The Falcons traveled to La Crosse to play UWL on Friday, Feb. 16. UWRF beat UWL 75-59, sending them to the WIAC Championship game on Sunday, Feb. 28. After a tough game vs. UW-Oshkosh, the Falcons were defeated 63-66.

UWRF athletics launches self-audit of Title IX compliance

Jacob Rogers

Falcon News Service

To make sure that its athletics department is in compliance with federal Title IX regulations, UW-River Falls is in the beginning stages of a self-audit, according to Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Gregg Heinselman.

Heinselman, who is the Title IX coordinator on campus, said that in his 11 years UWRF, this is the first time that the school is performing a self-audit of the athletics department.

“When you look at Title IX as a federal mandate, athletics is a part of Title IX when it comes to equity,” Heinselman said. “Most people think of Title IX as an athletics law because that is just how it has resonated with the general population.”

Passed in 1972, Title IX of the Education Amendments aims to avoid the use of federal money to support sex discrimination in education programs and to provide individual citizens effective protection against those practices, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Courtney Kanipes is a junior and she used to play on the UWRF women’s basketball team. She is among those who associate Title IX with athletics.

“First thing that comes to my mind about Title IX is having

equal numbers for men and women regardless the amount of teams there are,” Kanipes said.

Heinselman has to keep in mind a number of factors when dealing with Title IX in athletics, including making sure the University serves current student needs and that there is equity in what is available for students who choose to participate in sports.

“Equity has to be measured in a variety of ways,” Heinselman said. “You have to look at rosters of teams, number of men’s sports and women’s sports, equipment budgets, staffing budgets, and travel budgets.

“As we started to look at things, we really felt that we could not make some firm decisions as an institution until we understand, comprehensively, how we measured up with Title IX within our athletic department,” Heinselman said. “So we asked for and commissioned a firm to come in and pitch a proposal for auditing our athletic department.”

A firm out of San Diego, California, is in charge of auditing UWRF’s athletic department. Heinselman said that it is always better to self-audit and know where the department stands than to have an individual come in and challenge the way Title IX is being enforced in the athletics department.

If UWRF did not request a self-audit, someone could chal-

lenge the athletics department about its Title IX compliance and they could file a complaint with the federal Office for Civil Rights (OCR). That could result in the OCR investigating the athletics department, which could ultimately lead to punishment.

Heinselman and the Title IX deputy coordinators are working with the California firm. Before that, officials from the UW System met with Title IX officials at UWRF, coaches, the Faculty Senate’s Athletic Committee, and the University cabinet to walk through the self-audit process.

After the initial contact with the auditing firm, UWRF is now answering a series of questions, assessments and surveys from the firm.

“All of the information will be collected. The firm will analyze it and they will submit a draft report to the UW System,” Heinselman said. “UW System will review the report and release it to campus and the audit team will review the draft report.”

Based upon the draft findings of the firm, UWRF will respond to any gaps that are in the draft and will send the audit back to the UW System. The UW System will send it to the firm. The firm then will issue a final report to UWRF and the report will be available for staff to comply with on campus.

TEDx event brings students, faculty and alumni together

Natalie Howell

natalie.howell@my.uwrf.edu

The second annual TEDxUWRiverFalls event took place on Saturday, Feb. 27 in the University Center ballroom. There were six speakers and two Ted Talk videos that were presented at the event, with all the speakers connected to UW-River Falls through teaching or being a current or past student. The day started off with UWRF alumnus and entrepreneur Mark Lacey talking about time and living every day to its fullest. Next was Rebekkah Hite, an undergraduate student at UWRF, who talked about how undergraduate research has changed her way of thinking and how you shouldn’t be afraid to ask questions. Before the break there was a Ted Talk video about teaching music as a language and undergraduate student at UWRF Joshua Gustafson talking about the difference between American and Japanese horror in video games and movies.

Senior undergraduate student Michael Mader started the event back up after a short break with his talk about his Hippy Feet and finding his passion through helping others. Next, UWRF lecturer and UWRF alumna Ann Lawton talked about the benefits of art therapy. Following a Ted Talk video about food engineering, the event ended with a talk from Cathy Wurzer, host of MPR’s “Morning Edition” and UWRF alumnae. Wurzer recalled memories about a story she did on a man who was terminally ill and what she learned from that experience. The day ended with a networking social in which members of the audience could talk to the speakers. There were 230 people in attendance out of the 320 who registered for the event.



Natalie Howell/Student Voice

Senior undergraduate student at UWRF Joshua Gustafson showed the difference between Japanese and American horror video games in a video he made during his talk “How They Horror: The Difference between American and Japanese Horror.”



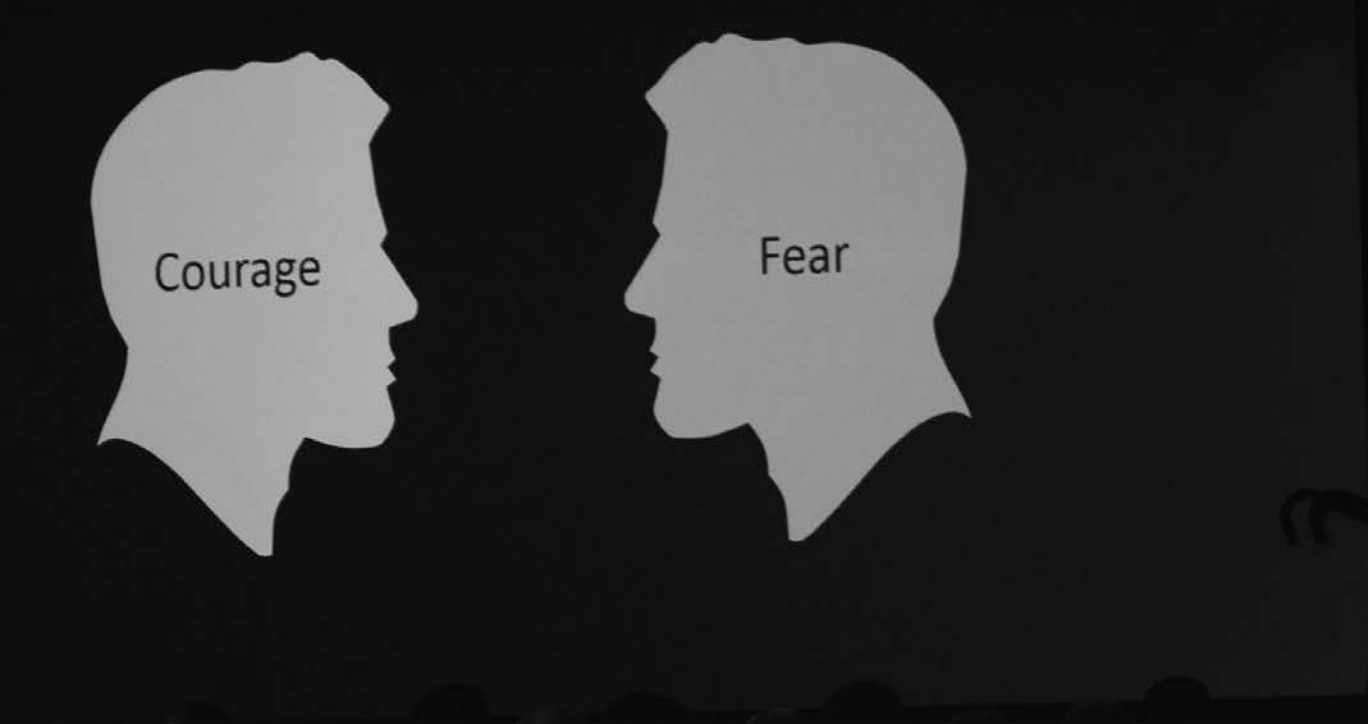
Natalie Howell/Student Voice

Host of MPR’s “Morning Edition” and UWRF alumna Cathy Wurzer talked about her experience of telling the story of a terminally ill man and learning the power of love in everyday life in her talk “Prescriptions for Living (Take as Directed from the Dying).”



Natalie Howell/Student Voice

Ann Lawton, associate lecturer and alumna at UWRF, talks about the power of art therapy and allowing art into our daily lives in her talk “Art as Empowerpoint: The Virtue of Art Therapy.”



Natalie Howell/Student Voice

Rebbekah Hite, senior undergraduate student at UWRF, talked about overcoming the fear of being dumb and asking questions in her talk “That One Professor You’re Scared Of: Undergraduate Research and Why You Should be Interested in It.”



‘Zootopia’ both entertains and affords life-long lessons

Nick Weninger

Reviewer

Zootopia, a Disney movie written and directed by the people who have brought us Tangled, Wreck it Ralph, and Bolt, delivers what very well might be their best movie yet.

Judy Hopps, a female bunny who has always dreamed of being a police officer in the big city of Zootopia, finally gets her chance. After Judy becomes the first bunny ever to complete police academy training, she is then off to pursue her dreams and make a difference in the world. However after arriving at the big city, she realizes that her dream will be a lot harder than previously imagined.

While this movie is marketed as a kid’s movie, it is so much more than that. Zootopia floored me in just how good this movie really was. Not only will kids love it, but it can truly be admired by adults as well. It has good clean humor throughout the film that ranges from jokes the kids will laugh at to parodies of The Godfather and Breaking Bad.

Alongside the humor, there are very obvious morals to be learned throughout the film. Judy is a bunny and typically bunnies aren’t police officers, let alone a female bunny. However, it is her dream to help the helpless and to truly make a difference, so she doesn’t let societies gender or social norms get in the way of her dreams. Going against what her parents want, she pursues her dream and is off on her own. Following our dreams and going off on our own is something that many of us college students might be able to relate to.

While this movie is marketed as a kid’s movie, it is so much more than that. Zootopia floored me in just how good this movie really was. Not only will kids love it, but it can truly be admired by adults as well.



When Judy gets to the big city of Zootopia, she is met with all of these prejudices with everyone telling her she can’t and won’t be able to make it as a cop. Alongside the prejudice that a lot of the animals hold, they are also segregated into groups of predator and prey. These two groups have learned to live peacefully alongside one another but that doesn’t mean that there aren’t stereotypes that follow. Everyone assumes that if you are a bunny you will be dumb or weak, if you are a fox then you are also sly, and if you are a sloth then you are slow. These are great lessons to teach throughout this movie; that we shouldn’t have preconceived notions as to who someone is and what they will be like.

Overall, this is right up there with the quality and the life lessons of Pixar’s Inside Out. It is fun for the whole family, perfect for a date, and great for anyone who admires a well-made movie. I would highly recommend seeing this movie and give it 5 out of 5 stars!

Nick Weininger is a fourth year broad field social studies major and has hopes to be a high school history teacher. He has a passion for movies, video games, sports, and being outdoors. If you enjoy his reviews, check out his movie review website on Facebook called The Average

Three fun things to do in River Falls this weekend:

1. The Grow to Share garden is kicking off the growing season this weekend, with a day long seminar type event taking place at the River Falls Middle School. The day will start with 9 a.m. with free coffee, all natural breakfast foods, and yoga sessions. From there community members are invited to attend multiple sessions throughout the day, such as Beekeeping 101, fermenting foods, homescale mushroom cultivation, and knife sharpening lessons. The cost is only \$10, and this is a great way to get involved with your local community garden!
2. Falcon Outdoro Adventures (FOA) is planning a day trup of skiing and snowboarding at Afton Alps on Saturday, March 5. If you’ve never been on the slopes, of you’re an expert, FOA encourages you to com e along. The trip costs \$% but does not include the cost of a lift ticket, rental fees, or lunch. to register for this trup you can visit the Trips, Clinics, and Events tab on the FOA website and click “Register Here.” This trip would be a great way to try something new or just ge tout of your dorm or apartment and beat the winter blues!
3. The Falcons women’s basketball team will host the NCAA tournament, taking on Wheaton college at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. Saturday will be a busy day for UWRF sports. If the women’s baskeyball team wins on Friday, you could swing by their game at 5 p.m. in between the two hockey games. The men’s and women’s Falcons hockey teams will both fight against the UW-Stevens Point Pointers for the WIAC Championship titles this weekend. The women will paly first at 2:05 p.m. followed by the men at 7 p.m. on Saturday at Hunt Arena.

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