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STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

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Somali author, refugee shares personal story at UWRF

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This year’s Diversity and Inclusivity speaker series kicked off on Sept. 22 with two events detailing the firsthand story of a Somali refugee.

Habibo Haji, who is now a registered nurse at the Mayo Clinic, spoke about her experiences growing up in and ultimately fleeing from Somalia and her journey from shepherd to American citizen.

When Haji was 3 years old, her grandmother began training her as a shepherd. By the time she reached 4, Haji was trusted to handle the sheep and goats alone. This involved leaving in the morning, walking with the animals and returning approximately 14 hours later every day of the year.

“That was my school,” Haji said. “Where you go preschool, kindergarten, first grade, for me it was how to get through the day without getting attacked by boys, not losing the sheep or goats and not having them eaten by jackals or hyenas.”

Once Haji turned 7, she was given responsibility for the cows, which involved much longer trips, sometimes lasting months. Haji said that she was gone for extended periods of time twice before she turned 13. The role involved sleeping outside completely alone every night.

“Imagine being 12 and having to sleep outside every night and being afraid that you might be molested while you sleep,” Haji said.

Haji said that she made a rope and tied her feet and legs together to protect herself from being raped while asleep. She said that the goal was that if something did happen, she would wake up before the attacker finished untying the rope.

That was Haji’s life until 1993, when the civil war that had broken out in Somalia in 1991 reached her. She went to live with her mom, eventually ending up at the largest refugee camp in the world in Dadaab, Kenya. The civil war in Somalia is still ongoing, and the site now holds over 260,000 Somali refugees, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Food was given out once every month, and Haji said that nights were difficult because they had to make sure no one took their things or attacked them. She said that she remembers her mother needing to buy milk for her sick brother and not having enough money.

Around that time, Haji was selected to come to the United States through the lottery process, which involves filling out paperwork and hoping that one gets chosen. Coming to the United States alone at age 16, Haji said that she was scared but knew that she could endure anything.

“I didn’t speak English. I didn’t have any money. I had no resources. One thing I had was me. I’ve always survived on myself since I was 4,” Haji said.

Haji initially worked as a dishwasher, but later took steps to further her education by getting her GED certificate and earning a college degree. She eventually moved from nursing assistant to registered nurse and now lives in Rochester, Minnesota, with her three children. Haji now is one of approximately 25,000 people with Somali ancestry living in Minnesota, according to 2010 information from the U.S. Census Bureau.



Amara Young/Student Voice
Author Habibo Haji speaks to students about her life experiences as a Somali refugee in the Kinni Theater on Sept. 22 as part of this year’s Diversity and Inclusivity speakers series.

Jill Coleman Wasik, assistant professor of environmental science at UWRF, is part of Faculty Senate’s Diversity and Inclusivity Committee. She said that the committee, which organized the events along with Journey House Campus Ministry, chose immigration as a theme for this year’s speaker series.

Coleman Wasik said that it is easy to discuss the refugee crisis and people fleeing violence in the classroom because many students at UWRF are not directly affected by the events. She said that having Haji tell her story seemed like a good way to show the humanity of the situation.

“Bringing someone who has actually had these experiences, I think, can touch people in a different way,” Coleman Wasik said. “Instead of just reading news stories or hearing about it in a class or having to do some sort of reading or homework around it, you can talk to the person who’s actually experienced it.”

Continued on Page 3.

New CAFES labs soon to be finished

Sophia Koch
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The finishing touches on the new Design and Innovation Center labs for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) are nearly complete for the fall semester.

“We’re about 99.9 percent finished,” said Dean Olson, associate dean of CAFES and a professor of agricultural engineering technology. The ag engineering technology program is one of two that

The ag engineering technology program is one of two that will be utilizing the newly renovated lab spaces this year.

will be utilizing the newly renovated lab spaces this year, the other being Agricultural Engineering, a new program as of this semester, according to eSIS.

The Design and Innovation Center consists of a collection of rooms in the southwest corner of the Agricultural Engineering Annex (the southernmost wing of the Agricultural Science building), each of which has been designed for a different aspect of the engineering process. It starts in the Computer-Aided Design (CAD) lab, where students take the first glimmer of an idea and begin digitally drafting the plans for it.

“CAD is really the start of most design engineering processes,” Olson said. “You can electronically build [a machine] down to each and every part, and then you can do engineering analysis on it.”

Students can perform computerized stress tests on new designs, optimize the amount of materials needed to build the finished product and ensure that each part fits correctly before actually beginning the building process. These facilities existed before the renovations began over the summer, but the technology has since been updated and the capacity of the room expanded from 24 to 32 seats.

Andrew McLean is a junior ag engineering technology major who has had classes in the CAD lab in years past. The new CAD lab, he said, is an improvement over the old.

“I always felt like it was just an extra place to sit and socialize before lab, but now it actually feels like a classroom,” McLean said.

In addition to the renovations in the CAD lab, space is being set aside for an Additive Manufacturing and Conceptual Room, which will include 3-D printing and virtual reality technologies through which students can further plan how their engineering projects will function in the real world.

“You can put yourself in the seat of that tractor,” Olson said, which allows a student to test the workings of their designs for factors like the ability to see while driving and to reach steering

mechanisms.

The neighboring electrical and instrumentation lab has also been expanded to accommodate bigger class sizes, and the technology is in the process of being updated to allow students to study farm equipment computer programming.

In addition to the renovations in the CAD lab, space is being set aside for an Additive Manufacturing and Conceptual Room, which will include 3-D printing and virtual reality technologies.

A smaller computer lab has also been added for students wishing to work on projects while the CAD lab is full, as the computer programs in the lab are typically expensive and difficult to run on most laptops.

All that is left to do for the overall renovations is to move in equipment for the Additive Manufacturing and Conceptual Room and to finish off odd touch-up jobs. There have been considerations for future projects regarding the renovation of the old, underutilized wood shop in the Ag. Engineering Annex, but Olson estimates that it will be two to three years before those plans begin to get under way.

Former coach, professor named interim provost

Ace Sauerwein
Falcon News Service

Faye Perkins, a longtime professor and former Falcons softball coach at UW-River Falls, since July has been serving as interim provost and vice chancellor.

The hiring came after former Provost Fernando Delgado left at the end of the 2015-2016 school year for the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Delgado served in his previous role since 2009.

Perkins officially took on the two-year interim position at the beginning of July. As vice chancellor, Perkins is “second in command, like vice president, to Chancellor Van Galen,” she said. The provost position “is specifically responsible for all academic programs. The four deans and the four colleges are each responsible for their academic programs in their colleges, and then all the department chairs are responsible for their specific department. All of those people report up to me,” she added.

Other departments such as the Registrar’s Office, the Division of Technology Services, International Education, the library and testing and tutoring all report to Perkins, as well.

Chancellor Dean Van Galen, who was in charge of hiring the interim provost, said the decision to go with Perkins was a confident one.

“Being a department chair, a softball coach, a great faculty member... it’s those combinations of qualities that she brought to the position that made it an easy decision for me,” said Van Galen.

Continued on Page 3.

News Briefs:

UWRF dairy judging team takes third place at Harrisburg

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Dairy Judging Team took third place overall at the 2016 All-American Invitational Dairy Cattle Judging Contest Sept. 19 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. A total of 13 universities competed in the collegiate division where team members judged 10 classes of cattle and gave oral reasons on five of the classes. The top five individuals and teams were recognized.

The UW-River Falls team placed just behind the teams from the University of Kentucky and the University of Minnesota, who finished first and second, respectively. The UW-River Falls team took first place in the collegiate division for Holsteins.

Representing UWRF was Tim Abrahamson of Lindstrom, Minn., Valerie Kramer of St. Cloud, Minn., Trent Miller of Spring Valley and Charlie Moore of Fennimore. Abrahamson was the 4th high individual overall and Miller was the 5th high individual, out of the 52 individual competitors. Abrahamson, Kramer and Moore are all agricultural business majors and Miller is a dairy science major. Steve Kelm, professor of dairy science and co-chair of the Animal and Food Science Department, coached the team.

Wisconsin was well represented in other divisions at the 2016 competition. The Wisconsin FFA team took first place in the FFA Division. The team was coached by Gwen (Betzold) Dado of Amery, a 1986 graduate of the agricultural education program. In the 4-H Division, Wisconsin was represented by a team from Dodge County and took second place in that division.

For more information, email laura.walsh@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-3535.

UWRF celebrates successful comprehensive fundraising campaign

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls celebrated the conclusion of its first ever comprehensive campaign, Rising to Distinction, on Sept. 23 as part of UWRF’s Homecoming and Family Weekend. The five-year campaign was a stellar success with an influx of gifts at the end of 2015 that enabled UWRF to cross the \$20 million threshold six months before its anticipated June 30 campaign conclusion.

“The hope and vision for the Rising to Distinction campaign was that it would advance the university in significant ways,” said Chancellor Van Galen during his celebration address. “The most important outcome of this campaign is the positive impact it has on the students, present and future, that we support, mentor and educate. Rising to Distinction has in fact played a key role in making UWRF more distinctive within Wisconsin, and within American public higher education. “

During the event, Campaign Chair Bill Boehm announced that the campaign raised \$21,920,619 from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2016. Even more remarkable, Boehm noted, is that 93 percent of pledges have already been paid and are currently at

work on the UWRF campus.

The daylong celebration included the dedication of the new Bill Boehm Outdoor Classroom on the campus mall as a tribute to the campaign and to its campaign chair, a tour of the Falcon Center currently under construction on the south edge of campus, and exhibits highlighting the impact the campaign has had on UWRF and its students.

Among the campaign’s most important accomplishments were increasing annual scholarship awards from \$588,000 to \$1.1 million, establishment of the Falcon Scholars program, renovation of Smith Stadium at Ramer Field, support for the Falcon Center project and private funds raised to support the soon-to-be-renovated Dairy Pilot Plant.

“The campaign story is about the generosity of more than 10,000 donors who have supported generations of current and former Falcons,” said Chris Mueller, assistant chancellor of University Advancement and president of UWRF Foundation. “The campaign was a fulfillment of President Eugene Kleinpell’s vision in 1949 that the Foundation would “give a spark and ensure the university’s progress.”

In a testament to that vision, Chancellor Van Galen shared four ways in which the campaign is enabling UWRF to achieve many aspirations: to be an uncommonly student-centered university of academic excellence and opportunity, to be a national leader in undergraduate research, to be a national leader among peers in internationalization, and to provide learning spaces that support active, engaged teaching, learning and student development.

Throughout the campaign, 10,153 unique donors paid and pledged \$21.9 million to bring the university’s vision to fruition. These generous gifts are important to UWRF in pursuing the goals of its new strategic plan, Pathway to Distinction.

Gillian McDonald, a 2015 UWRF graduate and Falcon Scholar, and Bailey Vitek, a UWRF senior and scholarship recipient, also spoke at the evening celebration of the widespread impact of the campaign through their experiences such as undergraduate research and study abroad.

For more information about the campaign, email chris.mueller@uwrf.edu or visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/RisingtoDistinction/>.

Kernahan receives Dykstra Faculty Excellence award at UWRF

Cyndi Kernahan, psychology professor and assistant dean for teaching and learning in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, has been named the recipient of the 2016-17 Paul B. and Robert Dykstra Faculty Excellence Award.

“Cyndi presents an excellent example of the application of high-impact practices that support our students both educationally and in terms of professional development,” said Travis Tubre, professor and chair of the Psychology Department, in his nomination letter.

The Dykstra award is designed to support faculty research, creative and scholarly activity and is awarded to a tenured or tenure-track faculty member who is either currently involved in a project or has proposed a research, creative or scholarly project.

“She exemplifies what a scholar should be,” said Tricia Davis, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, in her nomination letter. “She is enthusiastic about her research, shows dedication to scholarly work with undergraduate students, and is committed to helping others engage in the scholarship of teaching and learning. She is deeply passionate about good evidence and using the scholarship of teaching to improve teaching/learning that I truly believe that she deserves this recognition.”

Kernahan, of River Falls, is a social psycholo-

gist, teaching Social Psychology, the Psychology of Prejudice and Racism, Careers in Psychology, and Senior Seminar. As a specialist in racism and prejudice, she regularly conducts research (in collaboration with other faculty and students) that examines the ways in which students learn and learn best with respect to this controversial topic. She regularly publishes articles and book chapters on the teaching of race.

Kernahan also coordinates a number of faculty development programs for other instructors, including a workshop for new faculty and for those teaching in the new First Year Adventure program (for students in the College of Arts and Sciences). She has an additional appointment at the UW System level as co-director of the Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars program. In all of these programs, Kernahan tries to help instructors think deeply about the learning goals they have for their students and to construct evidence-based solutions for teaching and learning challenges.

For more information on the award, email wes.chapin@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-0629.

News briefs courtesy of University Communications and Marketing

Student Senate Update:

At the Sept. 27 Student Senate meeting:

- Student Senate approved the allocation of \$9,600 from Student Senate’s funding pool to fund the It’s On Us Week of Action from Oct. 24-28.
- The Student Shared Governance Office Allocation motion was introduced. The motion is to allocate \$8,000 from the Student Senate funding pool to purchase five desktop and two laptop computers for the Student Senate office. It will be voted on next week.

The information in this update comes from the minutes posted to the Student Senate FalconSync page every week. Student Senate meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

Campus Events Calendar:

- **Plant Sale**
Friday, Sept. 30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
University Center
- **Open Mic Night**
Friday, Sept. 30, 7 p.m.
University Center
- **Karaoke**
Saturday, Oct. 1, 7 p.m.
University Center
- **Sunset Paddle**
Saturday, Oct. 1, 4 p.m.
Falcon Outdoor Adventures (A103 Falcon Center)
- **KINDRF: National Taco Day**
Tuesday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m.
Involvement Center, University Center
- **25th Annual Outdoor Art Exhibition**
Wednesday, Oct. 5-Thursday, Oct. 6
University Center Mall

Visit uwrf.edu for a full schedule of events



Weekly UWRF Crime Report

Thursday, Sept. 22

- A theft was reported at the Wyman Education Building at 1 p.m.
- An ordinance violation was reported at Johnson Hall at 11:44 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 23

- Police assistance was requested at Johnson Hall at 1:44 a.m.
- A welfare check was conducted at Hathorn Hall at 10:39 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 24

- Suspicious activity was reported at Grimm Hall at 8:11 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 25

- An underage alcohol complaint was reported at Parker Hall at 12:43 a.m.

Election to blame for media distrust, UWRF experts say

Matthew Clark
Falcon News Service

For the third year in a row, Americans’ trust in the mass media is at historically low levels, but two experts at UW-River Falls say it reflects a shift in the way the news is consumed.

According to research organization Gallup, only 32 percent of Americans have expressed a great or fair amount of trust in mass media outlets. The new data show a sharp 8 percentage point drop from 2015, another notably rough year for the trustworthiness of the nation’s major media sources.

Low approval ratings are common for news organization during elections, but this year’s drastic numbers reflect a new trend for Americans as more are utilizing online platforms to receive news. In a study by the Pew Research Center, 50 percent of Americans under 30 years old received almost all of their news online. Experts point to the change in how news has been distributed over the last 20 years, in addition to the heated election, as reasons why Americans have questioned media.

“The American public is starting to choose, more and more, only what they wanted to hear, not what may contradict their beliefs. And then once the internet came along, that made it real easy to limit your exposure to one set of information,” said Sandy Ellis, chair of the UWRF Communication and Media Studies Department. “Our politics have gotten more and more contentious and this year more than any other, so what happens is people don’t trust media because they think some-

body is pulling the fast one.”

According to Gallup, only 26 percent of Americans 18-49 years old have a great or fair amount of trust in the mass media. Some younger Americans think the mass media are more biased than smaller online organizations.

“There is bias on the internet, too, but there are more credible sources with little to no bias on the internet if you look for them,” Nick Brost, a UWRF student, said.

Gallup’s poll shows the mass media approval rating from Republican voters has also slipped, going from 32 percent last year to only 14 percent this year. Political scientists believe

In a study by the Pew Research Center, 50 percent of Americans under 30 years old received almost all of their news online. Experts point to the change in how news has been distributed over the last 20 years, in addition to the heated election, as reasons why Americans have questioned media.

the rise of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has caused more media backlash.

“The Republicans have been a lot more explicit about sort

of beating up on the press — really since Richard Nixon, I think it goes back to — so it’s kind of the culmination of many decades I think of doing that,” said Neil Kraus, chair of the UWRF Political Science Department. “And it’s also the current campaign. Trump is beating up on the press pretty much every day so, stands to reason, that’s going to have an impact.”

While republican voters lost faith in the mass media, the poll shows democratic and independent voters generally still support the mainstream media. However, Kraus said extensive media time for Trump has led to disappointment among Trump opponents.

“You get this criticism from very different people. There are a lot of folks who are very upset with how the press is covering Trump who are not Trump supporters, who are very much opposed to Trump,” Kraus said.

Ellis said if Americans shift back to well-rounded news consumers, trust in mass media will turn around.

“If you only get the news that you tell your browser to receive, you’re really not being exposed to stuff. I don’t think people are thinking hard enough about it. But I don’t know what the answer is. You can’t make people do stuff like that,” Ellis said.

Ellis said Americans’ trust in mass media will get better, but it will take time.

Gallup’s poll was compiled Sept. 7-11 by telephone interviews with a random sample of 1,020 adults.

Somali author, refugee shares personal story at UWRF

Continued from Page 1.

Coleman Wasik said that it is easy to discuss the refugee crisis and people fleeing violence in the classroom because many students at UWRF are not directly affected by the events. She said that having Haji tell her story seemed like a good way to show the humanity of the situation.

“Bringing someone who has actually had these experiences, I think, can touch people in a different way,” Coleman Wasik said. “Instead of just reading news stories or hearing about it in a class or having to do some sort of reading or homework around it, you can talk to the person who’s actually experienced it.”

Coleman Wasik said that the committee may plan more events centered around sharing stories similar to Haji’s later this academic year.

Some audience members could relate to Haji’s story. Chris-

topher Jurewitsch, a UWRF junior, said that he attended the presentation because he enjoys motivational speeches and events but ended up seeing some similarities to his own life.

“Both of my parents are immigrants,” Jurewitsch said. “My dad is originally from Germany and my mom was a refugee

Kate Maiers, a junior, said that she went out of curiosity and to see what she could take away from it. Maiers spoke with Haji after the presentation and called her gracious.

For others, Haji’s story was interesting. Kate Maiers, a junior, said that she went out of curiosity and to see what she could take away from it. Maiers spoke with Haji after the presentation and called her gracious.

Haji said that she believes there is always a way for people to achieve their goals and that people have to be persistent and look for it, even if it isn’t pleasant.

“There’s always a way. If you want something bad enough, you’ll find a way,” Haji said. “Just never give up, always be persistent and don’t be afraid to ask for help, because sometimes we think other people don’t care or won’t help, but you’d be surprised.”

Haji has written a book about her experiences, called “Conquering the Odds, Journey of a Shepherd Girl.”

Former coach, professor named UWRF interim provost

Continued from Page 1.

Perkins agreed that “For 22 years, Perkins was the head softball coach at UWRF. She retired following the 2015 season, and during her time with the Falcons “learned a lot about leadership through coaching. It’s about getting people to work together to toward a common goal, so whether that’s being softball coach, department chair of Health and Human Performance... those experiences have provided me a really broad range at the entire university,” Perkins said. That, she said, has helped her adjust to the role of provost.

Outside of being a head coach and a department chair, she has also been a full-time professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance at UWRF

since 1997, a member of the Faculty Senate in the 1990s and served on many university committees.

“Faye is a highly respected and trusted colleague on the UWRF campus, with a long history here in which she has built such a wonderful, well-earned reputation.”

Mialisa Moline, chair of Faculty Senate, said via email that “Faye is a highly respected and trusted colleague on the UWRF campus, with a long history here in which she has built such

a wonderful, well-earned reputation.”

Like Van Galen, Moline had the same vote of confidence.

“I have full confidence in not just her abilities, but also her willingness and ethical spirit in which to accomplish great things on our campus,” she said.

Although both Van Galen and Moline have the utmost confidence in her, Perkins said she does not think she’ll apply for the permanent job as provost.

“When I took the position, I told the Chancellor I was not interested in pursuing it full time, but I want to leave my options open as well,” Perkins said.

Whether she changes her mind or goes back to teaching, Perkins “won’t be going back to coaching,” that’s for sure.



Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice
It was announced on July 9 that Faye Perkins would take over the position of interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs for the next two years.

Students agree: Geology professor Ian Williams rocks

Natalie Howell
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When one’s career involves the pursuit of knowledge and adventure, awards seem secondary. Recognition from students, however, would make any educator feel honored.

The UW-River Falls Distinguished Teacher Award, described on the university’s website as “the most prestigious honor bestowed on campus,” is awarded every year to talented and dedicated educators at UWRF and is chosen by recent graduates and graduating seniors. This year, geology professor Ian Williams was the recipient.

An accomplished educator, Williams said that he knew he wanted to be a geologist at a young age, but never really gave much thought to teaching. Looking back, however, it wasn’t hard to guess that he would become an educator.

“Even as a young kid, like in grade school, every now and then our teacher would give us a project where we had to explain things, and that was like my favorite thing to do,” said Williams. “I always joke that I like the sound of my own voice.”

Having earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in England, Williams moved to the United States in 1975. After earning his Ph.D. at the University of California-Santa Barbara, Williams said that he applied for teaching jobs all across the United States, eventually landing in River Falls in 1982.

“When I came to River Falls I found that this was an establishment that valued teaching, and that’s what I valued,” said Williams. “It’s exactly what I wanted to do.”

Although he said that moving from England to California was a shock, Williams said that his first experience with the Midwest climate was the ultimate culture shock. Williams recalled getting his car stuck in the snow on Cascade Avenue and having some students help push him out.

“I’ve never seen so much snow in my life,” said Williams.

“The first deep snowfall was horrifying.”

At UWRF, Williams teaches courses such as Introduction to Geology (Geology 101), Structural Geology (Geology 326) and Environmental Geology (Geology 269). He said that what makes teaching worthwhile for him is the idea that he is giving back.

“It’s a sense of passing something on to the next generation,” said Williams. “It’s the idea that my students can have a better life because of something I taught them, they can understand the world better.”

When teaching general education classes and knowing that many of his students may not be interested in geology, Williams said his goal is to make his students better understand and appreciate the world around them.

“Know what the heck you’re looking at and why it’s there,” said Williams. “It doesn’t seem much, but it enhances your life. That enthusiasm for the environment you live in, I think, is important.”

An educator that believes that learning can happen outside the classroom, Williams became involved in Study Abroad: Europe, a program in which students spend a semester doing independent research abroad, as soon as he could.

“I’m obviously European myself, so when I learned about Semester Abroad: Europe, I was obviously very interested in that,” said Williams. “It’s a challenging program, but one that gives a huge amount of benefit to the students that do it.”

Williams said that his experiences with study abroad programs at UWRF have led to many unforgettable memories.

“I can remember every dinner I’ve had with students in some strange place in the middle of nowhere,” said Williams.

When it came to describing how he felt when he heard that he had received the 2016 Distinguished Teacher Award, Williams said that he had the perfect English term.

“I was gobsmacked,” said Williams. “I was surprised, but I think anybody would be surprised. You wouldn’t be human if

you didn’t appreciate it.”

While Williams was surprised by the recognition, his students weren’t. Brett LaCoy, a senior geology major at UWRF, said he remembers taking trigonometry and feeling completely lost until Williams offered to tutor LaCoy for an hour a week to help him keep his grades up.

“He always make the time to sit and talk with you, whether it involved advising or one of the classes he teaches,” said LaCoy. “Ian is one of my favorite people. He’s been a friend and a mentor since day one.”

Looking back, Williams described his 34 years at UWRF as “Lots of good memories, too many memories.”

One of those memories is when Williams took his students on a field trip to the Appalachian Mountains. While camping out, the group was caught in a rainstorm.

“Virtually the second we finished dinner the heavens opened and they just chucked it down and we split,” said Williams. That’s when a student noticed an electrical wire above their tents that became damaged and had sparks flying out of it. “There are events like this that have happened so many times, ranging from quite frightening to incredibly satisfying.”

While Williams said that he has collected too many memories to count, many of his students feel the same way. LaCoy said he remembers when Williams visited him in Bude, England, where LaCoy was studying abroad. Williams and his wife had rented a car and took LaCoy to sightsee and explore Williams’ home country.

“In reflection, it’s amazing to me that I was able to share these experiences with him,” said LaCoy. “It’s still surreal.”

Having never taught anywhere else, Williams looked back at his time at UWRF with fond memories and a continuing dedication to his students.

“It’s a fabulous place to work,” said Williams. “Obviously, like any road it can be rocky, but for a geologist that isn’t always bad.”

EDITORIAL

Enforcement of university smoking ban should be up to the smoker, not others

UW-River Falls is supposed to be a tobacco-free campus, but this semester, a visible increase in smokers can be seen in front of North Hall. It seems that the cement and brick structure near Cascade Avenue has become the new “smoker’s corner,” often filled with groups of people puffing away as students pass by during the day.

The tobacco-free campus policy was implemented on July 1, 2013, according to the university’s website. It was up for review in August 2016 and will not be reviewed again until 2019. This means that we should have three more years of fresh air while walking to and from class. It sounds wonderful.

The policy, while great in theory, is poorly enforced. Under the FAQ section of the page dedicated to the policy, it states, “The expectation is that persons will voluntarily comply with the policy.” Clearly, that is not working. The official document itself says, “Enforcement of this policy will depend upon the cooperation of all faculty, staff and students to not only comply with the policy, but also to encourage others to comply in order to promote a healthy and clean environment in which to work, learn and live.”

On the website, a card is available with a “friendly reminder” that smoking is banned on campus, also including resources for those who are looking to quit. Students, staff and faculty members are encouraged to give these cards to those who they see smoking on campus.

The thought of confronting a total stranger, even with prepared materials, is terrifying to some. It may even be impossible for those allergic or sensitive to breathing in smoke. The friendly reminder card and the script provided on UWRF’s website give options for those who are bold enough to say something. The thing is, a lot of us would rather glare at the person and hold our breath while walking past as quickly as possible.

To the smoker standing on the corner of Fourth Street and Cascade Avenue receiving dirty looks and exaggerated coughs from pedestrian traffic, please take the hint. Don’t make us bust out the passive aggressive cards. Quitting is hard, and we understand that. Putting in the effort to walk across Fourth Street, off-campus, before smoking, however, is not.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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

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Ask Colleen: Finding my people and trying to be a good friend

Colleen Brown

Advice Columnist

Dear Colleen,

I am having a really hard time finding “my people” on campus. It is my sophomore year on campus and I feel like the friends I do have aren’t really the people I want to hang around with. I don’t know if I should ditch them and find new friends or just keep the ones I have. I’m scared to try and join a new friend group.

Help,

Finding My People

Dear Finding My People,

There are definitely people on campus who are “your” kind of people. River Falls is a small campus and sometimes it feels like you’ve already met everyone, but I can assure you that you haven’t. My freshman and half of my sophomore year I lived on campus, that lead me to create a close-knit bubble for myself. I hung out with the people that lived in my dorm or friends that I knew before I came to campus. I just stuck with that same routine and never really branched out. To be honest, I’ve felt exactly the same way you did during my sophomore year as well. The good news is that I did find “my people,” but I had to put myself out there in order to find them.

If you feel like you haven’t found those people, I would suggest joining clubs or going to events that you are interested in. This is the perfect opportunity to get to know new people and you will already share a common interest with them. There are so many different student organizations on campus; I bet there will be something you are interested in! If not, try taking different classes that spark your interest. I’ve actually become really good friends with people from my classes, especially ones specific to my major.

It can be scary to approach a new group of people or to try to join a different friend group. There are two things that could happen: 1. They are just as excited as you are to meet new people and welcome you with open arms. 2. They are not interested in going outside of their friend group and shrug you off. If people shrug you off, just ignore it. They are clearly too closed-minded and will ultimately miss out on meeting great people.

If the people you are hanging out with now aren’t people you want to want to be around, then don’t hang out with them. That is much easier said than done, but it’s okay to have a friendship transition. I think a friendship change just shows how people grow and change over time. There isn’t anyone to blame here, it’s a part of life and will happen more than once. As far as feeling like you may be ditching the friends you have now, don’t worry about it. If they are truly your friends, they will support you wanting to try different activities and wanting to meet new people. Who knows, they might want to join you too!

At the end of the day, the people you surround yourself with is a choice that YOU make. Don’t let the pressures of others decide your relationships or even make you stay in a

friendship that doesn’t seem right. You may have to go out of your comfort zone a little, but you will find “your people” on campus.

Best of luck,

-Colleen

Dear Colleen,

My friend had a “thing” with this guy for just one night a couple weeks back. She never really talked about him since. Recently, him and I have been talking a lot. I really like him, but don’t know if I should pursue anything cause I don’t want to hurt my friends feelings. What should I do?

From,

Trying to be a good friend

Dear Trying to be a good friend,

I see why you’re seeking advice; this could definitely turn into a very complicated situation. Don’t worry, I think a lot of people have been through something similar to this. It’s a classic question: Is it okay to be with someone your friend has had a relationship with? It doesn’t really matter the type of relationship it was, there could still potentially be line that you wouldn’t want to cross.

Honestly, I think the best thing to do is to talk to your friend. Maybe it was just a one-night thing and they don’t want to pursue anything more than that. On the other hand, maybe your friend developed feelings towards this guy as well. You’ll never know how she’s feeling unless you talk to her. I think the fact that you’re already conscious of your friends feelings shows that you do care and are trying to be a good friend.

If you really want to pursue a relationship with this guy, you’ll have to talk to your friend first. It’s kind of an unwritten rule of all friendships, but it’s more out of respect for your friend. The response may be good or bad, but either way you’ll never know until you have that conversation.

The best outcome would be that it was just a one-night thing and feelings weren’t attached. Still keep in mind your friend at least for a little bit. They may still have some mixed feelings towards the idea of you pursuing someone they were once with. Hopefully they will be honest with you from the beginning, but they may not want to hurt your feelings by telling you it would make them feel uncomfortable.

That leaves the outcome of your friend not wanting you to pursue a relationship with this guy. This is tough, because you don’t want to lose a friend over a guy. However, you wouldn’t want to miss out on a guy that could potentially lead to a great relationship. This is where it gets tricky. Again, your friend might have some reservations about this or they may take it to the extreme and end the friendship. No matter the response of your friend, remember being honest with yourself and others really does go a long way.

Good Luck!

-Colleen

Colleen Brown is a senior at UWRF going for an English Literature degree. One thing that makes her qualified for this advice column is that she is a college student trying to make it through, just like everyone else.

Authentic adventure abroad may involve avoiding the ‘tourist blob’

Sophia Koch

Columnist

I spent a month this summer traveling abroad in Scotland through the UW-River Falls Wisconsin in Scotland (WIS) program. While I was there, I happened across an exploration phenomenon that seasoned travelers likely recognize and which first-timers should beware of. I’ve come to call it the “tourist blob.”

A common theme in the WIS orientations was “Get outside your comfort zone.” We were encouraged to try new foods, explore strange places, talk to natives, etc., and I discovered that the very worst way to do this is to tour around with a large crowd of people you’re familiar with.

It’s difficult to talk with natives when you’re cocooned inside a crowd of fellow Americans. It’s difficult to wander into shops you find interesting, or towards food you’d like to taste. You are, in effect, insulated from the culture.

I met a woman named Aileen (Gaelic for Helen) while taking a ferry off the coast of Scotland, and she told me that her daughter had gone traveling alone when she was about my age.

“She liked it better because she found people talked to her more and she saw more of the culture when she was alone. When you’re traveling with someone, you’re talking with them, and you never get to talk with anyone else,” Aileen told me.

I disagree with her slightly; the ideal number of companions is, in my opinion, one. A traveling partner is nice to have because two heads are better than one—two pairs of eyes watching for critical information, two brains keeping track of tickets and schedule—and

and sometimes it’s just nice to have a buddy. Bad situations seem a little less terrifying when you have someone familiar to share them with, and having someone to watch your back is invaluable (especially if you’re petite and female). At the same time, you’re still open to talk with strangers and meet new people, and it’s fairly easy to move about with and keep track of just one other person.

Another thing to beware of is tours. They can definitely be a fun, interesting way to see a country and a good one will get you off the bus and into the culture—the MacBackpackers tour organized by WIS, for example, was

Personally, I found that I like to avoid tours altogether. They can be a good way to get insight and history about an area (as well as accommodation and transportation), but they do not provide the same level of personal challenge and freedom that comes with going it solo.

fantastic. The danger, however, lies in falling in with a guide like Malcolm, the bus driver who grudgingly hauled myself and some 20 or so tourists on a Paddywagon tour around Ireland.

We spent a lot of time on the bus, and what time we spent off it at landmarks such as the Giant’s Causeway and the Dark Hedges was brief and rushed. Conversely, groups of us were periodically stranded in big, sketchy parts of

cities like Belfast and Londonderry, and he once abandoned us at a pub for the night without showing us where the hostel was.

The trick with tours is to pay attention to reviews. Check online, get a guide book and if possible, ask people who have gone on lots of tours to see what they recommend. Keeping away from extended tours (6 or more days) is also a good rule of thumb, on the off-chance that you end up with a guide like Malcolm.

Personally, I found that I like to avoid tours altogether. They can be a good way to get insight and history about an area (as well as accommodation and transportation), but they do not provide the same level of personal challenge and freedom that comes with going it solo.

I ended up doing a lot of solo traveling in Ireland after I escaped the Paddywagon tour. I figured out the train system, rented a bike, booked my own hostel and ended up doing a self-guided tour of the Gap of Dunloe. I met and talked with a variety of interesting people, and time and again had to rely on myself to deal with a crisis when things went bad.

It was terrifying, but in the end immensely gratifying to know that I can handle myself when things go horribly wrong. Traveling is an opportunity to “get outside your comfort zone,” as WIS likes to remind us, and for those wishing to travel, my recommendation is this: Make your own plans.

Sophia Koch is a journalism major and biology minor. She writes a blog and investigates issues pertaining to science and the environment. Her hobbies include camping in the rain and dropping her phone in the river.

Animal companionship is the best way to relieve stress

Lauren A. Simenson

Columnist

When I was little, my mom had a little Yorkshire terrier, Jessie, the last survivor of the two yorkies she had before my brother and I were born, her babies before her real babies if you will. When Jessie finally died, after a horrific ear infection, which is a story for a different time, my mom said that Jessie would be the last animal we would ever have in the house. And she was right, for a time.

While my mom has always loved animals, especially dogs, I have never been an animal person, and particularly I have never been a person who likes animals in the house. While my family has always had chickens, a cat for catching mice and a black lab for duck hunting and barking at the UPS guy, they always stayed outside excluding really bad weather. Years passed and the chickens ended up in the freezer, Luke the Labrador retriever got cancer and Misty the smoky-grey cat passed away of natural old age. While more chickens were ordered, we did not make any motions to replace the positions of rodent catcher or a dog to follow the lawnmower around.

My family and I got used to going on vacations worry-free because we no longer had to ask someone to come over to our house to look after various animals.

Before too long, however, I became possessed with a crazy idea that was without a doubt born from the plethora of cat videos I watch online. My great idea was that I wanted, no needed, a cat. A tiny, cute, fluffy kitten to be exact. When I brought this up to the people who allow me to still live at home rent-free, my idea was vehemently opposed. Never one to back down from what I want, I introduced facts into my arguments because clearly my emotive pleadings were getting me nowhere. My strongest argument began with evidence pulled from an article from the website Psychology Today, where studies illustrated that pet owners are happier, healthier and even less stressed. Being less stressed, I pointed out to my parents, was not only vital to my success as a college student but would also be very helpful for parents who still live with that college student. Again my arguments were met with severe disapproval by parents who did not want to hear anything about getting a cat.

My pleas for animal companionship became so desperate that on June 12, 2015, my best friend intervened to inform me about a place where there were more kittens than their owners knew what to do with. Not only did she divulge this infor-

mation, she even drove me to this magical place and set me free among the kittens that were scampering around our feet. After some hard decisions I got back into her car with a kitten in each hand and no immediate plans to inform my parents of the new additions to our household. After about a week in our screened-in porch, a place my parents mandated that they could stay until they had to move outdoors, Oscar and Lemon have lived inside ever since.

While we have all had to come to terms with the many threads dangling off of the couches and chairs that are being used as scratching posts, and the squeaky cat toys that someone always accidentally steps on, my two cats have incorporated themselves seamlessly into the family. Even my dad, my biggest opposition, loves them, though he will never admit to it. And I can say, with certainty, that not only am I happier and but also definitely less stressed because I now have two little cats who are just as excited to see me as I am to see them.

Lauren Simenson is a junior majoring in journalism and 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.

Students are encouraged to achieve mental, physical awareness through Wellcheck event on Tuesday

UWRF Student Health and Counseling Services

Wellness is wellness, right? Wrong. Wellness is made up of many different facets. From financial and academic wellness to nutritional and physical wellness, all areas are important to consider as representative of UW-River Falls. Whether you are busy with coursework, attending endless extracurricular meetings or on the hunt for new experiences, wellness follows you all throughout your life and it is never too late to learn more about how to be well.

At UWRF Student Health and Counseling Services, we are dedicated to encouraging students to achieve overall wellness in many different forms, including hosting events on campus. One such event is the annual WellCheck event. WellCheck this year will take place from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 4 in the Falcon’s Nest and boasts the goal to provide students, faculty, and staff with information and resources on how to “eat well, move well, think well, sleep well, feel well and be well.”

Using the multiple facets of wellness as the event outlines, UWRF Student Health and Counseling Services looks for-

ward to presenting an exciting list of vendors including River Falls Chiropractic, UWRF Health and Human Performance and Chartwells. Each vendor offers an exciting insight into the many facets of wellness and offers interesting tips and resources. For instance, First National Bank of River Falls, this year’s WellCheck sponsor, represents the financial aspect of wellness that many of us often overlook but is nonetheless an essential component of overall wellness. New to this year’s WellCheck is the addition of a pet therapy dog that will be available all throughout the event.

Jennifer Elsesser, a personal counselor at UWRF Student Health and Counseling Services, is coordinating WellCheck this year and is very excited about the focus of this event and its center on wellness.

“My favorite part of WellCheck is giving students the opportunity to see all of the different services that are offered on campus and in the community that keep students healthy and successful,” said Elsesser when asked about her opinion on the event and its ability to give students, faculty and staff insight into the resources that are already in place around them.

“One of the most common things I hear as students are leaving is, ‘I never knew all of this existed.’” said Elsesser.

One such resource is UWRF Student Health and Counseling Services. At WellCheck UWRF Student Health and Coun-

selling Services will be offering a myriad of useful resources, tools and tips for being well. Goodies such as cold/flu kits, sleep kits and kits that are designed to help individuals quit using tobacco will be free to attendees. Representatives from UWRF Student Health and Counseling Services will also be conducting body composition testing, which measures body mass index, basal metabolic rate and fat percentage. Additionally, there will be representatives answering questions about the UWRF Tobacco-Free Campus initiative and the Step Up, It’s On Us campaign. Both of these initiatives have an important role in the wellness of UWRF as a whole and all those who are involved on campus.

This year’s WellCheck event hosted by UWRF Student Health and Counseling Services promises to be an experience that highlights the importance of being well and explores the multifaceted world of wellness. From vendors focusing on all areas of wellness to free snacks and goodies to help you on your journey to being well, there is something for every student, faculty member and staff member at WellCheck.


*Written by: Meghann Witthoft, Student Health Services Intern
In coordination with: Keven Syverson, Ph.D, MPH- Health Education Coordinator at UWRF.*

STUDENT

voices


What is something you dislike about fall?

Compiled by Samantha Decker




Emma Kiecker
Freshman

"Going back to school."




Racheal Savage
Freshman

"I can't go to the beach!"




Conor Rose
Super Senior

"The Packer Fans!"



Nicole Ferreira
Senior

"I don't like not having free time!"



Kaitlyn Palmer
Senior

"All of the good TV shows play at the same time but different channels."

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

Email your thoughts to editor@uwrfvoice.com

UWRF football brings down Southwestern for homecoming win

Zach Dwyer
zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

The Falcons’ offense exploded in the second half on Saturday to roll over Southwestern 42-22 and claim their second straight homecoming victory and first victory of their 2016 season.

The electric atmosphere around the entire weekend culminated with the Falcons putting up 35 second-half points to deflate any hopes the Southwestern Pirates had of spoiling UWRF’s homecoming.

It didn’t start easily for the Falcons though, as they trailed 9-7 at the break. The Falcons’ offense had trouble putting points on the board in the fist half, similar to their first two games.

The lone touchdown came off of a beautiful quarterback throwback play that quarterback Travon Hearn took untouched into the end zone for a 25-yard reception. The throw from wide receiver Tyler Halverson seemed to give the offense some life as they took the lead for the first time in the second quarter.

“That was something we had cooked up for them and were waiting for the right time to pull that off,” Head Coach Matt Walker said.

The crowd was so fired up after the play that Walker said, “The field was shaking, and that’s one of the first times I’ve felt that out there.”

The offense may have struggled early, but the defense made big plays in the first half to keep the Pirates close. The Falcons knew they needed a strong second half to avoid dropping to 0-3 after such high expectations to enter the season. Walker knew his team would be playing with some pent up frustration and urgency after two tough losses in weeks one and two.

The defense continued their hold on the Southwestern offense after halftime by forcing a turnover on downs as the Pirates entered the Falcons’ red zone. On the first play of the next drive, starting quarterback Sawyer Moon broke loose for a 48-yard gain to set up a six-yard Michael Diggins rushing touchdown that gave the Falcons a lead they wouldn’t relinquish the rest of the afternoon.

“We had a lot of confidence coming out to play well in the second half. Despite the score we were physically wearing on them pretty hard and knew our three and four yard runs were gonna be big in the second half,” Walker said.

Those three and four yard runs stretched to huge gains in the fourth quarter when senior running back Rance Ashley broke free for a pair of 54- and 44-yard touchdown runs that put the game out of reach. This came moments after the Pirates had brought the game back within five points.

“The first run I had was amazing blocking. I just ran straight

through the hole and the hole was huge. And on the second [touchdown run], I just had to break a couple tackles on the secondary guys,” Ashley said.

Ashley ended the day with 115 yards on only seven carries, adding to the 264 yards the Falcons gained on the ground on Saturday. UWRF had a much more balanced offensive attack than previous games, throwing for 179 yards on 16-23 attempts split between quarterbacks Moon and Hearn.

“All units worked together to put up big numbers offensively. We’re designed to be a balanced attack and a pro-style offense. We have a lot of different personals because we’re not as good when we’re one-dimensional,” Walker said.

Credit was due to the UWRF defense even though the offense excelled in the second half. The defense forced two fumbles and cornerback Kyle Narges picked off Southwestern quarterback Frederick Hover in the fourth quarter to set up the offense for easy drives. The Falcons ended up scoring 20 points off turnovers, identical to their margin of victory.

Senior Tyler Ledbetter led the defense by forcing one fumble and totaling 3 tackles for loss and 10 solo tackles. Kyle Hunter also continued his strong season by adding two sacks to his forced fumble and 3 tackles for loss on the afternoon.

Walker especially praised his two quarterbacks for their play on Saturday. The debate on two quarterbacks is over for the head coach. He promises he doesn’t care what other’s opinions are, he’s going to continue playing Hearn and Moon together.

“We have two great players who can be starters on a lot of teams. They both have weapons and can both can run the whole offense,” Walker said.

The win puts the Falcons at 1-2 for the season as they end non-conference play and enter their difficult WIAC schedule. This performance in all aspects of the game will only give fans and players more confidence after another homecoming win.

“We showed what we can do offensively and defensively and showcased what we’re capable of on both sides of the ball,” Ashley said.

Apart from the game, Ashley and Walker both praised the atmosphere and homecoming crowd that greeted them on Saturday. Ashley described it as “the greatest energy I’ve been around,” while Walker wanted to thank all the fans and students for the clear home-field advantage the team felt.

“The guys appreciate it and alumni had tears coming back to this atmosphere on Saturday. I’ve never coached in a better home-game atmosphere,” Walker said.

While the Falcons will surely want to cherish and reminisce about this win, there is still work to be done as the team travels to undefeated UW-La Crosse this Saturday to take on the Eagles. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m.



Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice
After winning the game 42-22, the football team huddle on the field and hear from Head Coach Matt Walker.



Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice
Quarterback Travon Hearn celebrates after successfully executing a “quarterback throwback” play with wide receiver Tyler Halverson for the Falcons’ first touchdown.



Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice
Running back Michael Diggins (32) scores a touchdown in the third quarter of the game.

UWRF Athlete of the Week: Daniel Borash

Zach Dwyer
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Daniel Borash, a senior cross country runner from Bowlus, Minnesota, had a historical performance at the Roy Griak Invitational at the University of Minnesota last Saturday. Borash won the meet with a time of 27:00.0, which made him the first men’s Falcon runner to win the individual title at Griak in school history. Borash also took first place two weeks earlier at the UWRF Falcon Invitational. The Student Voice sat down with Borash to discuss his recent success and future goals as the cross country season hits the halfway point.

Q: When did you start running cross country? At UWRF?

A: I started in seventh grade so I’ve been doing this for 10 years. This will be my fifth year.

Q: What was the toughest thing you’ve had to overcome in your career?

A: I broke my foot last fall so I had to sit the season out. It was on a run when I twisted my ankle on a rock on a trail and found out later I had fractured three bones in it. It took a little while [to overcome] because I didn’t get it diagnosed right away and I didn’t think it was as severe as it was. The whole process probably took two months to get back into running. I started off mostly biking and throughout track I got a lot stronger and by summer I was ready to go again.

Q: What was the feeling to be first men’s individual winner at this meet in school history?

A: It was awesome. Just the whole way down the chute I was like I did it, I’m here, I got it. It was a great feeling, just knowing that it was a goal of mine since my freshman year and that feeling of accomplishment to know I crossed that line first.

Q: This was your second meet in a row with a first place finish, so what’s different this year?

A: Training-wise it’s been pretty consistent the last few years. I’ve been putting in a lot of miles over the summer so I knew I was physically strong but my racing tactics are a bit different than I used to do. It’s nice because I run with my teammate Julian [Manley], who’s also very good and did well at the meet. We were able to run together through most of the race, which made it easier to run comfortably through most of the race. Then when you really need to hammer it out you have a little bit extra. I got to about three quarters of the way through the race and I was able to take off where the guys in front were tiring out by then.

Q: What’s your favorite memory from being part of the cross country team for four years?

A: The whole experience of how close the team gets every year. I always think we’re as good of friends as we can be and the next year we’re even closer. It’s a great experience to be part of a team like that.

Q: What are your goals for the season now that you’ve won multiple meets?

A: Personally I would like to do well in conference and place top 10 hopefully and then go onto the national meet from the regions. It’d be really nice to get me and Julian onto the national meet. And for the team I’d just like to see improvement. I think our team can do really well in the later season meets. Just to do better than last year is the goal.



Kathy Helgeson/UWRF Communications

UWRF Falcon Sports Schedule

9/30 Women’s Cross Country @ UW-Eau Claire Blugold Invitational 4:15 p.m.

9/30 Men’s Cross Country @ UW-Eau Claire Blugold Invitational 5:15 p.m.

10/1 Women’s Volleyball vs. Crown 1 p.m.

10/1 Women’s Volleyball vs. St. Catherine 3 p.m.

10/1 Football @ UW-La Crosse 4:05 p.m.

10/1 Women’s Soccer @ UW-Oshkosh 7 p.m.

10/1-2 Women’s Golf @ UW-Stevens Point Mad Dog Invite

10/5 Women’s Volleyball @ Carleton 7 p.m.

10/5 Women’s Soccer @ UW-Stout 7 p.m.

UWRF sports teams load up on freshmen, knowing some will drift away

Zach Bares
Falcon News Service

A lot of freshmen are found on this fall’s sports teams at UW-River Falls. While it might seem this is a product of the biggest class of incoming students in campus history, the coaches of those teams would disagree.

Freshmen make up 40 percent of this year’s football team and 48 percent of the women’s soccer team.

Head football coach Matt Walker said that large freshmen classes are a big part of football.

“It’s pretty typical of football,” Walker said. The word attrition gets thrown around a lot when talking about recruiting. “No matter how you slice it, whether it’s scholarship or non-scholarship, you just lose guys.”

Football teams have to bring in a lot of players because on average they will lose about half of those athletes before that group is seniors.

“The adjustment from high school to the college game, because of the physicality of the game, it just always isn’t for everybody,” said Walker. Since arriving at UWRF five years ago, Walker has brought in at least 55 players in every recruiting class knowing that he will lose a fair amount of those players.

One of the many challenges the coaching staff faces is having enough people to manage that many student athletes. Walker gave credit to other members of the athletic office in helping with his team’s effort.

“Guys like Carmen Pata, our strength coach, our training staff and administrators. They help us with managing these guys so it’s become easier than it was when I first got here,” Walker said.

Walker said that the culture has definitely gotten more positive since he arrived and that his coaching staff can now be more selective in recruiting. They’ve also caught up with the top of the league talent-wise so River Falls has

become a popular place for transfer recruits. “We probably have six or seven Division II transfers on the team right now, and we’ve had three North Dakota State guys too,” Walker said.

Women’s soccer Head Coach Sean McKuras doesn’t typically go after large recruiting classes, but knows that situations arise where he will lose players.

“Opportunities change for juniors and seniors where athletics don’t always fit in the mix. Those kids are looking at what’s next,” McKuras said. When committing to an athlete, McKuras hopes that they stay for four years but understands the challenges they face.

The biggest challenge for McKuras’ team this year has been mixing the older students with the young talent that they’ve brought into the program and experiencing success.

“It’s varied how much playing time is available, but what’s not is how hard they’re working and what they bring to the team as a whole,” said McKuras. He added that “40 percent of our team hasn’t experienced a win. They’ve had a heartbreaking loss and faced a couple of Top 20 teams in the country.”

It’s a matter of experience now for this young group.

“You have to keep your head up and not only point out the flaws. Our program has been through versions of this through the years,” said McKuras. Once the players can experience what it feels like to walk away with a win, McKuras hopes they build off that.

For some sports, the nature of the beast is bringing in a lot of athletes knowing that some will move away from athletics. For others, it depends on the year and the current situation of that program.

Both UWRF teams next see action on Saturday, Oct. 1. The football team faces UW-La Crosse in an away game, while women’s soccer travels to UW-Oshkosh to take on the Titans.



Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice
Jared Johnson, a freshman defensive lineman, was injured while recovering a fumble during the homecoming game against Southwestern University.

New recycling effort sees removal of classroom garbage cans

Natalie Howell
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Garbage cans are being taken out of classrooms at UW-River Falls in an effort to increase recycling on campus.

The removal of garbage cans in certain classrooms is part of a new initiative by the UWRF Office of Sustainability, Refuse and Recycling, which was started last year in order to increase recycling efforts on campus, according to Mark Klapatch, sustainability and custodial supervisor at UWRF.

Through this program, garbage cans have been taken out of the classrooms in South Hall and the second and third floors of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. In place of those garbage cans, side-by-side containers have been placed in the hallways for students to dispose of waste and to recycle.

The program is being funded through the Surplus Property Program, a program through the UWRF Office of Sustainability to environmentally and fiscally remove items from campus buildings that are no longer used or needed.

The idea to bring this project to UWRF came from the success of similar refuse and recycle programs at other universities, including Purdue University and UW-Stout, with both universities seeing a significant increase in recycling across the campuses.

“As more campuses have been doing it and having success with it, we decided that it was something that we wanted to look at,” said Klapatch.

In a waste minimization survey by the Office of Sustainability in which 546 students, faculty members and university staff participated, 58 percent said that they would support this initiative. Also on the survey, only 57

percent of participants knew what “single sort recycling” is.

Signs will also be put on top of the new hallway bins that will lay out what should be recycled and what should be thrown away. Klapatch said that a trend at UWRF is that things that can be recycled are usually thrown into the trash, and hopefully proper signage will keep that from happening.

Klapatch said that this seemingly small change will save custodial time and improve recycling rates, as well as better educate students and faculty members through effective signage.

“With any of the areas that we’ve switched to this transition, as soon as you walk out of a classroom, you can see at least one set of bins, or two or three. So it’s not terribly inconvenient,” said Klapatch. “People may have to carry things with them outside of the classroom, but then by having side-by-side containers more of the correct items will go in the recycling.”

Klapatch said that although UWRF’s recycling program, which was started over 25 years ago, is considered successful, there is a lot of room for improvement, with the recycling rate in the containers around the university around 24 percent from January to August in 2016.

“I would estimate that if we phased this into the rest of the academic buildings on campus, we would see probably about a 10 to 14 percent increase [in recycling],” said Klapatch.

Although the initiative has only been in place since the beginning of the semester, Klapatch said that it is going very well and it is likely that the garbage cans will be taken out of all the classrooms in the academic buildings for the spring semester.

At UWRF, scholarships make the difference in recruiting strong students

Molly Kinney
Falcon News Service

UW-River Falls has a reputation as one of the more affordable schools in the UW System. It’s being made even more so for incoming freshmen through the Scholarship Guarantee program.

The idea for the program was announced last fall and used as a recruitment tactic to get the largest class of freshmen the university has seen in a number of years. Regardless of their financial needs, students accepted to UWRF who achieved a score of 22 or higher on the ACT, or who rank in the top 40 percent of their high school class, are automatically given a \$1,000 scholarship for their first year of school. Students with a 25 or higher are awarded a \$2,000 scholarship for both their freshman and sophomore years at UWRF.

Beth Schommer, executive assistant to the chancellor, said the program was developed to start changing the academic profile of students at UWRF, as well as to alleviate some budget issues.

“We realized that one of the most important ways we could help solve budget issues would be to encourage bigger recruitment efforts and enrollment,” Schommer said. “Based on data from admissions, scholarships make a difference. Keeping it affordable and accessible is important, especially to the students we’re trying to recruit. This is getting students to consider River Falls.

“One of the components is trying to impact the metrics related to our strategic plan,” Schommer added. “Improving the academic profile of the university. A lot of schools, in trying to recruit more students might say, ‘OK, we’ll bring in the 17s and 18s ACTs.’ But what happens? Those people might not be ready for college, they maybe don’t have the mechanisms to succeed and you lost them after the first year. Whereas, trying to focus on academic profile means getting students who are better prepared, more equipped to succeed. We’ve raised the percentage of 25 and higher ACT scores by 25 percent.”

A little more than half of the students offered these scholarships enrolled at UWRF this fall. A total of 301 received the \$1,000 Academic Achievement Award, and 240 received the \$2,000 Outstanding Academic Achievement Award.

“When we talked to admissions about this, the question was really, does \$1,000 make a difference?” Schommer said. “And the an-

Crashes with deer likely to be high again this season, WisDOT warns

Lisa Erickson
Falcon News Service

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) estimates deer and motor vehicle crashes will be high again this fall when deer activity increases.

The deer mating season is just around the corner. Deer become very active and travel across land and busy roadways, like Highway 35 and Interstate 94. According to a press release from WisDOT, Wisconsin law enforcement agencies reported more than 18,000 “deer-related” vehicle crashes last year.

Deer are the third most common object struck in Wisconsin traffic crashes.

“During the rut (deer mating season) we will have 37 or more cars in the shop at one time and half of those are from deer accidents, especially on Interstate 94,” said Dennis Auld, the manager of Abra Auto Body in Hudson. According to Auld, deer and automobile accidents can be costly. Most of the time deer are hit head on and it affects the inside of the engine compartment, not just the outside body of the car and that is when things can get expensive.

“I didn’t see it coming very much,” said River Falls resident Tim Gavin. He has been involved in two crashes with deer. According to Gavin, one accident cost more than \$3,500 and the second time wasn’t more than minor damage, but he said he was very lucky, because he was on a motorcycle.

According to WisDOT, motorcyclists need to be even more careful. Last year, motorcyclists were involved in eight of the 10 fatal deer-related motor vehicle crashes.

“Generally, dusk and dawn are when our deer are the most active,” said local Conservation Warden Brad Peterson. “Deer are a lot more active during the rut.”

When deer are in the rut they are moving around a lot more and can cover a large territory. The deer mating season typically starts in mid-October and runs through November, added Peterson.

swer that we heard pretty resoundingly is that, yeah, it does. Students look at two or three schools they’ve been accepted at, and that \$1,000 could be the difference maker.”

That’s rang true for freshman Anna Broll. The biomedical sciences major said getting a scholarship made a difference in her decision to come to UWRF.

“If the university offers you grants and scholarships, that’s important because that’s money you wouldn’t have to pay. It brings the total price down,” Broll said. “I got accepted to another school and they offered me more in scholarships, but it was still more expensive than UWRF.”

Karissa Ferguson, a journalism major, said that getting a scholarship influenced her decision, too.

“People like to say that money doesn’t matter, but it does,” Ferguson said. “It’s a fairly big investment, college, so I would say that it does matter, how much you can offset the price.”

The program is still in a pilot phase, but Schommer said that it will hopefully become self sustaining after a couple years. Right now, the program is being funded through UW System one-time funds and institutional reserves.

“Dipping into our already very limited reserve fund was decided, because we believe strongly that this is an investment,” Schommer said. “The more students we recruit and retain, the bottom line increases with tuition dollars.

“We’re continuing to monitor the program and being cautious in demonstrating self sustainability, so we’re hoping to kind of seed fund this investment with institutional dollars and see where we’re at in two to three years.”

For now, the program is planned to continue for next year’s freshman class. Schommer said that in the end, making UWRF an accessible and exceptional institution drives the decision to offer these scholarships.

“At the end of the day, this institution is student centered,” Schommer said. “That’s really what it comes down to. I think the administration, from the chancellor on down, cares about the students, providing access to higher ed for as many students as possible. The fact is that some students can’t succeed at the rate they hoped to because they’re working three jobs to try and pay for their education, so this idea of providing an institutionally guaranteed scholarship to students who are at that level just makes sense.”

Deer are unpredictable and drivers don’t know how they are going to react when approached, said Peterson. The main highways and interstates are where most accidents happen, because there is more traffic, Peterson warned. He said people should be more vigilant when they are driving by scanning the ditches and when driving past wooded areas that are on both sides of the road, as that is where deer are most likely to cross.

“If you see one deer, there usually is more,” Peterson said. Slow down and pay attention when driving. Hunting will reduce the population a little bit, but not by that much, he added.

“Don’t swerve,” said Sgt. Denton Anderson, from the River Falls Police Department. He said some accidents are unavoidable, but there are safety recommendations people should follow.

Swerving is the worst thing can drivers do when they see a deer jump out in front of them, said Anderson. The River Falls Police Department, WisDOT and State Patrol all recommend braking and advise people to hit the deer if it is in their path.

“Hit the deer. It’s OK. It happens,” Anderson said. When a driver swerves they are more likely to drive into oncoming traffic or go into a ditch.

With over 30 years of experience working on cars, Auld said he has seen it all. He said it doesn’t matter whether a person is driving 35 mph or 55 mph when they hit a deer head on. Cars are designed to collapse for safety reasons. This will cause damage to the engine compartment, but hopefully keep the occupants safe. He also added that airbag deployment is unusual because the car is still moving forward after the deer has been hit, so people don’t have to be afraid of that.

Auld advises people to eliminate as many distractions as possible while driving, especially using cell phones.

“There is not much you can do,” Gavin said, when it comes to deer jumping out in front of a vehicle. His advice: “Do not overreact and stay calm.”

‘Drive’ is a crime drama which suffered false advertising

Wesley Sigsworth

Reviewer

“Drive” is a film that, upon its release, garnered much praise from critics and won Best Director at Cannes Film Festival. Unfortunately, the audience reaction was like that of seeing a second rate “Fast and Furious” movie, which is the fault of misleading marketing. Essentially, “Drive” is a perfectly paced, incredibly well-acted and beautifully shot film about a story we’ve all seen before.

“Drive” is a 2011 crime drama that stars Ryan Gosling as the main character (who is only referred to as Driver) and is directed by Nicolas Winding Refn.

The movie starts out with the Driver doing what he does best: driving. He acts as a getaway driver at night, and a stunt-man/part-time mechanic during the day. Driver is the employee of a garage owner named Shannon (Bryan Cranston) who also supplies cars for Driver to use on heists. Shannon gets involved with a local gangster named Bernie Rose (Albert Brooks) in order to fund the purchase of a racing stock car that Driver will, well, drive.

Later on, we are introduced to Irene, a young single mother (Carey Mulligan). The relationship that Driver and Irene develop is definitely the emotional focal point of the movie.

Driver, at least from what we see in the first few scenes, is a man that shows little emotion and seems to not have much of a personal life outside of work. But through his relationship with Irene and her young son we get to see Driver’s personality come out, and it is an absolute pleasure to watch.

Of course this isn’t just a romantic film, so through a certain turn of events Driver gets in too deep with Bernie as well as another local gangster, Nino (Ron Perlman). And this is where we are faced with the focal point and main plot line for the latter three quarters of the movie.

Now as previously said, the trailer for “Drive” touts the film as basically a Ryan Gosling fronted version of “The Fast and the Furious.” However, that is a far cry from what we actually have here, which is for the better. This is not an action movie; it is, at its core, a drama. There is of course action, but it isn’t what makes this movie stand out, (although the intensity and raw violence we see is spectacular). It is instead about the situations Driver gets into trying to protect Irene and her family from these gangsters.

Where there is action however, it is some high quality, edge of your seat, oh-my-gosh-what-is-he-going-to-do-now type action. Some of it towards the end might put some people off due to the the extremity of the violence, but it isn’t gory just to be gory; it adds a sense of mortality to the situations, and in some scenes further characterizes Driver.

Ryan Gosling, without a doubt, is the perfect choice for this role. He shows so much constraint throughout the first half of the movie and that makes the second half an absolute thrill to watch as his character has to perform some dirty deeds. It’s

a perfect emotional contrast, and it makes his motivations and raw emotion so much more palpable and believable. He doesn’t even need to say much; all the context and emotion is shown through his expressions. And every word that is said has meaning. There is not a single line of dialogue that isn’t important in this film. It all builds the characters, especially Driver, and points the story forward while giving keen listeners clues for what is to come.

Driver is a normal guy, and seeing how he deals with events and situations which are way over his head is refreshing. Rather than watching a special operations trained man or a martial artist fight his way through a situation, we get to see how Driver deals with problems he has never had to deal with before, and he gets out of some by only the skin of his teeth.

It really is a shame that this film was so falsely advertised. In truth, it may not be for everyone, especially if all you want is a cliché action flick. This is much more than that. If you are interested in watching this film then the following recommendation is for your own good: Do not watch the trailers. They give away and show you every great moment in the film and it literally has every action sequence in it. It is best to go in with the least amount of info possible and just experience all it has to offer. Which, in this case, is a treasure trove.

Wesley Sigsworth is a junior journalism major. He enjoys watching and reviewing movies.

‘Sully’ proves heroes can come from unlikely places

Nicholas Weninger

Reviewer

On Jan. 15, 2009, Captain Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger (Tom Hanks) makes an emergency landing in New York’s Hudson River after Flight 1549 strikes a flock of birds. Miraculously, all of the 155 passengers and crew survive the ordeal. Sully becomes a national hero in the eyes of the public and the media. However, the airline starts an investigation that threatens to destroy his career and reputation. Did he actually make the right decision by landing on the Hudson or not?

Director Clint Eastwood and Tom Hanks come together to make a film. You know it’s going to be good when these two are involved (Please, God, let Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman and Michael Caine find the fountain of youth). Clint Eastwood has not only been a talented actor for the last 60 years, but he really has established himself as a very talented director as well bringing us “Gran Torino,” “Million Dollar Baby,” “Unforgiven” and most recently “American Sniper.” This film is right up there in those categories in the quality of direction and suspense. Then we have Tom Hanks who is, well, Tom Hanks. He is one of the best. Once again he delivers a powerful and spot on performance. Possible Oscar nominations out of Eastwood and Hanks? It’s too soon to tell but they really are both fantastic. Aaron Eckhart is the other big name in “Sully” and he is a very solid actor, as well. Both he and Hanks rock some very solid mustaches.

Is this movie a suspense thriller? Is it a drama? Yes to both of those and good ol’ director Clint Eastwood brings these events forth in a very interesting fashion. “Sully” feels like a

documentary-biography-mystery almost. He doesn’t give you all the events right away. Eastwood slowly brings the events that build up to everything to really keep you engaged and wondering what is going to happen. Yes, we all know or have heard of what happened that day, but this movie is shot as if nobody had and I loved that. Like I said, it feels like a biography because we really get into the mind of Sully. It feels like a documentary in how it showcases the time frame and events that followed. It lastly nails the suspense and the horror that everyone felt during these events. It really feels like you are in the plane with them.

One last thing that I’d like to say is that the driving theme behind “Sully” is that anyone can be a hero. Sully wasn’t a superhero with special abilities that allowed him to fly the plane to safety; instead he was just an average man that handled the pressure of these events really well and knew how to execute his job perfectly. Anyone can be a hero. I feel like this is portrayed beautifully through the writing and the acting of Tom Hanks.

Two criticisms would be that it does start a little slow. It takes a while to build and for some people, I think that they might already be tuned out and then won’t really give the rest of the movie a fair chance. Next is that I don’t feel “Sully” has a rewatch value. Yes, it is a really great movie, but is it one that you will want to watch over and over? No. Not really a bad thing because “Sully” achieves exactly what it wanted and needed to but it’s just that kind of story. Overall, a great story with some great acting and directing.

Nick Weninger is a fifth-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 Man Review*.

‘The Magnificent Seven’ is a remake worth watching

Nicholas Weninger

Reviewer

Greedy, ruthless, slimy, industrialist Bartholomew Bogue and his hired guns take control of small town called Rose Creek looking to mine their gold. Desperate for help, the town seeks out some men who have the skill to drive out these men once and for all. They find a man named Sam Chisolm (Denzel Washington) who agrees to take on this impossible mission. His first recruit is a gunfighter named Josh Farraday (Chris Pratt). Together they round up five more talented fighters who form the Magnificent Seven.

This “Magnificent Seven” has been on my radar for quite some time now. I was excited when they heard they were making a remake of the classic western 1960’s “Magnificent Seven” (which is essentially a remake of the 1954 Japanese movie called “Seven Samurai”) and became even more excited when I heard who they were casting. They gave us an all-star cast that includes Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt, Ethan Hawke, Vincent D’Onofrio and more. Along with a talented cast, we have a director, Antoine Fuqua, who is a great talent and also has prior experience working with Washington (“Training Day” and “Equalizer,” both excellent films).

Alright alright, enough introductions to the movie. You guys want to know if it is any good or not, right? The answer is a definite yes! Now this is one magnificent movie! I had an absolute blast with “Magnificent Seven!” The two hours blew right by because I was having so much fun with this movie. As I mentioned before with the talented cast, they

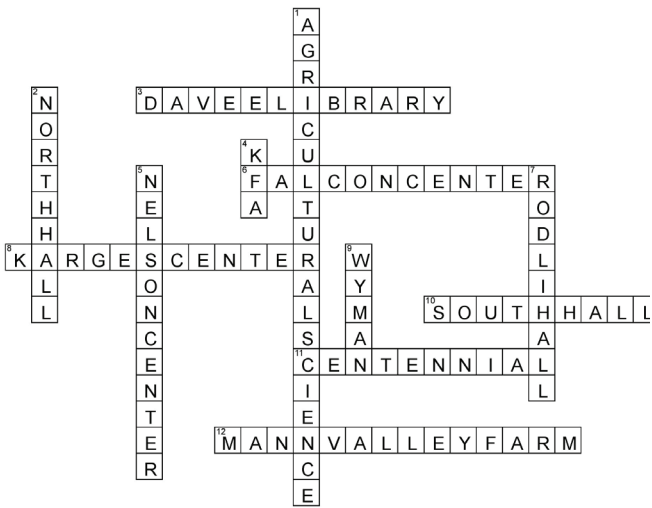
all gave some terrific performances. Each character I felt has some depth to them or at least something really likable about them that makes you feel interested and root for them. Fuqua then uses each one of their talents to make the movie fun, funny and have some more serious tones to it from time to time. He also delivers some great action as well. Smaller actions scenes are thrown in here and also two big shootouts, all of which are really something fun to watch.

As I stated earlier, I thought this movie was “magnificent.” I said that for a number of different reasons. It was “punny” and fit the title, I really did have a great time with this film and lastly aspects of the movie are done really well. However some people I have talked to have had some issues with “Magnificent Seven.” Their reasons are that it doesn’t really bring anything new to the western genre, that it was only really a cash grab opportunity by Hollywood and that it lacks depth to it. While I can see their points and even agree with some of them to a point, for me those aspects don’t matter. I went into this movie wanting to be entertained for two hours and have a good time while doing so, and that’s exactly what I got! “The Magnificent Seven” doesn’t try and reimagine the Western genre, it doesn’t try and overcomplicate itself and it doesn’t try and do too much different than what the originals gave us. This movie does exactly what it was supposed to do, and that is to entertain you and give you a good action movie with some laughs and drama here and there. Yes this movie has some flaws here and there, but none of which ruin or bring down the film.

If you go into this movie wanting to have a good time, I almost guarantee that you will.

Last Week’s Answers

Getting to know UWRF



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!

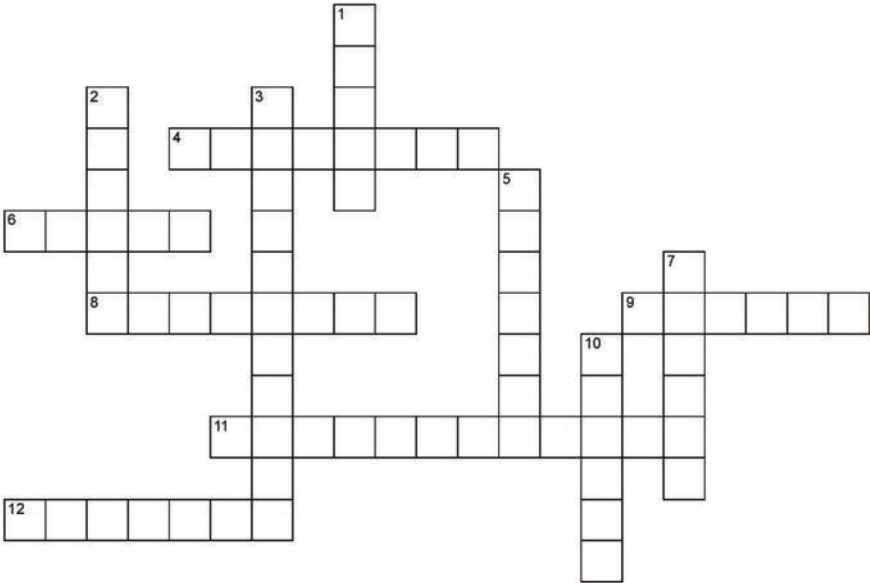
The winner will be announced on the Voice’s Twitter and Facebook accounts:

[@uwrvoice](https://www.facebook.com/uwrvoice) and [facebook.com/uwrstudentvoice](https://www.facebook.com/uwrstudentvoice)

Now Playing: Sully

Puzzle of the Week

Homecoming Recap



- ACROSS
- 4 The picnic-style lunch before the football game
 - 6 This is the stuffed animal students and their families could make Saturday morning
 - 8 The group that kicks off the parade every year
 - 9 This procession down Main Street happened Saturday morning
 - 11 The school the Falcons faced in the football game
 - 12 This took students and their families on a tour of River Falls
- DOWN
- 1 Make a line on your card as the numbers are called and you get to yell this
 - 2 These graham cracker, chocolate and marshmallow treats were available at the bonfire at the Lydecker fire pit
 - 3 This film was shown several times over the weekend (two words)
 - 5 The name of the husband and wife psychic mentalist duo
 - 7 Falcons got _____
 - 10 The name of our mascot

Puzzle created at: puzzle-maker.com