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University of Wisconsin

River Falls

# STUDENT VOICE

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## Chancellor goes to head of the class-to teach, not just oversee

Tori Schneider  
Falcon News Service

If you have two identical steel buckets that you cannot open but you know one is full of pure water and one is full of pure neutrons, how do you know which bucket has which inside?

This is the critical thinking question Chancellor Dean Van Galen posed to the 20 students in his honors seminar course on Oct. 9.

A group of four freshman girls in the front of the class made the chancellor laugh when they suggested, “Just close the garage door and wait for your wife to handle it.”

Others suggested putting the buckets in the freezer to see if the water would expand.

“Think about an atom and how it’s organized,” Van Galen said, asking the class to step back to consider the question after discussing the answers they came up within their groups.

In the end, group three had the correct answer. They knew that the bucket of neutrons would be extremely heavy.

A former chemistry professor at Truman State University, the chancellor began teaching one section of the Honors Program last fall semester and is doing the same this fall.



**Chancellor Dean Van Galen laughs with freshmen Sarah Sweeney, left, Grace Heimdahl and Melissa Melcher in the chancellor’s Honors 190 course in Hagsted Hall, Monday, Oct. 9, 2017.**

“I think it’s important in my role as chancellor to stay connected to students and to stay connected to the teaching and learning process,” Van Galen said.

When the Honors Program was reorganized four years ago, the chancellor mentioned something to Kathleen Hunzer, director of the program, about how the honors seminar sounded interesting to him. She asked if he wanted to teach it, and he said he would think about it. She said she kept asking him until eventually last fall he agreed and taught his first section.

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## UWRF Young Americans for Liberty OK with UW rule for expelling protestors

Lauren Simenson  
Falcon News Service

The leadership for the new student organization Young Americans for Liberty, whose champion cause is protecting the right to freedom of speech, could not come up with any examples of their free speech being limited or attacked on campus. When told that the University of Wisconsin System is implementing a student policy that calls for suspending and expelling students who disrupt campus speeches and presentations, UWRF YAL Vice President Elijah Anderson’s answer did not change.

This new policy is still waiting on written administrative rules and final approval from the governor and lawmakers, but it states that students found to have twice engaged in violence or other disorderly conduct that disrupts others’ free speech would be suspended. Students found to have disrupted others’ free expression three times would be expelled.

Anderson, a previous UWRF student senator, is very focused on protecting the First Amendment and hopes to use this club as a forum to further discuss the topic. He said that the

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## ‘Green fund’ advocates planning new campaign to raise awareness and fees

Sophia Koch  
Falcon News Service

The space in 14B North Hall is officially the custodial services office for UW-River Falls, but it makes for a decent meeting room in a pinch. A group of five committee members were gathered around a table in the smallish basement room Tuesday evening, surrounded by shelves filled with organizational binders and windowsills cluttered with potted plants.

In the background is the desk area of Mark Klapatch, UWRF sustainability supervisor and leader of the committee. His desk and the wall behind it are a cluttered affair, with pieces of evidence of his extensive involvement with the Office of Sustainability layered on top of one another in the form of photos, posters and heaps of paperwork.

The purpose of this committee meeting was to discuss one of Klapatch’s biggest projects, an initiative called the “green fund.” Klapatch has been pushing the idea since it was first brought up on campus around two years ago, and this semester he has managed to put together a research committee on the subject, consisting of students from sustainability-related clubs and courses. The committee will be researching the green fund and coming up with a recommendation for the Student Government Association on how to implement it.

“I really wanted to get involved with my major and get experience and do something that makes a difference on campus and towards students,” said Abigail Rice, a junior double-majoring in international studies and conservation. She got involved with the committee when Klapatch came to talk to her environmental sustainability class about the green fund.

The concept of the green fund, “green fee” or “greenovation fund,” as it has been called in the past, has been floating around campus for a while. The idea, Klapatch said, is to



**Kiana Johnson, left and Abigail Rice, center, from the UWRF Resource Management Club meet with sustainability supervisor Mark Klapatch, right, on Tuesday, Oct. 10 to discuss the structure of a new potential fee for sustainability.**

pool together segregated fees from students so that the money can be put to use funding sustainability initiatives on campus like composting and solar power. Past estimates of the dollar amount were around \$5 per student per semester. For comparison, the UWRF website reports that students each pay \$3 per semester to support media clubs on campus and \$243 to run the University Center.

“This is the first time I’ve heard about it,” said Tyler Johnson, a sophomore criminology major at UWRF. “It seems like it would be a good thing, and five, six dollars is a cup of coffee worth of difference.”

The green fund started out as little more than a concept, but in the 2015-2016 academic year the then-student body president, Chris Morgan, began making a push to implement the idea.

“Student Government Association formed the committee CASE (Committee for Advancing Sustainability Efforts),” Klapatch said. “(The green fund) was then discussed more during the 2016-2017 academic year and was approved by the Student Government Association last spring, but it did not get the required number of votes for the referendum.”

After the first attempt at getting the fund in place failed, Klapatch began conversing with the new leaders of the SGA, President Abby Wendt and Vice President Kaylee Kildahl, about reviving the idea. So far, Kildahl said, there’s no opposition from the other members of the SGA.

“Everyone that we’ve talked to so far has been in support of it,” she said. “We just need to make sure that we have all of the solid little details to back it up, to really bring our plan to the chancellor.”

SGA put together the research committee this semester in order to figure out those “solid little details.” Last semester, SGA made a motion to create the fund in the form of a non-allocable segregated fee. They had plans to use some of the money to put up new lighting on the southern path that runs between the campus amphitheater and the Falcon Center.

“Wouldn’t have been able to do that,” Klapatch said, due to University of Wisconsin System regulations on segregated fee funding allocation that the research committee is only just beginning to understand.

The research committee has since begun researching the

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## Faculty Senate aims to keep profs from losing pay on technicalities

Zach Dwyer  
Falcon News Service

Doug Margolis has been a professor in the TESOL (teaching English as a second language) program at UW-River Falls since 2012. In 2014, he took six students to South Korea for a J-term trip to help them teach English to Korean students in high schools.

The goal was to allow interactions for teaching English as a second language and help develop partnerships with schools in Korea. Margolis expected the university to compensate him the standard amount for the work he put in. However, he was in for a big surprise.

“In my mind I was going, and I had a job, and I would be paid for doing it,” Margolis said. “When I got back, I was told that some of my pay wasn’t going to be given to me because I went over the 2/9ths rule.”

The rule can be found in the UW-River Falls Administrative Policy Handbook and at the University of Wisconsin System level. It states, “Faculty are restricted to earning no more than a total of 2/9ths of their annual contractual salary unless they receive written permission from the provost as the chancellor designee.”

The UW System also clarifies by saying, “Persons employed on an academic year basis shall be compensated for additional assignments during the summer session at the rate up to the

equivalent of 2/9ths of the previous academic year salary rate for a full work load for an eight week summer session.”

This especially applies to professors on nine-month contracts. Professors use these months to work on other writing projects and to accomplish research. This time isn’t available during the nine months when professors have to teach classes.

Margolis said he was a victim of the 2/9ths rule and thinks staff should be compensated for the work they perform.

“I’ve worked at a lot of different universities,” he said, “and I’ve never worked at one where they ask you to do work and when the work was done say, ‘We’re not going to pay you for your work’ because of some policy.”

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# News Briefs:

## Danielle Krysa is Wyman Visiting Professor in Art at UW-River Falls

Canadian collage artist, writer, curator, and podcast host Danielle Krysa is the fall 2017 Walker D. and Helen Bryant Wyman Visiting Professor in Art at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Krysa will present a free public lecture, “Full Circle,” on Monday, Oct. 23, at 5 p.m. in 222 North Hall. Krysa has a BFA in visual arts from The University of Victoria and a post-grad in design from Sheridan College. She is the writer/curator behind the contemporary art site, The Jealous Curator, found at [www.thejealouscurator.com/blog/](http://www.thejealouscurator.com/blog/). Krysa has curated shows from Washington D.C. to Los Angeles, San Francisco to Toronto. In 2014, she published two books, “Creative Block” and “Collage.” Her third book, “Your Inner Critic Is A Big Jerk,” was released in October 2016. She has also presented at TEDx, PIXAR, Creative Mornings, CreativeLive, and was interviewed for several video segments on oprah.com. She hosts the podcast “Art for Your Ear,” which is available through iTunes and her website. The Jealous Curator has been featured by Oprah Magazine, The Huffington Post, Fast Company, Brain Pickings, Frankie Magazine, InsideOut Magazine, Flow Magazine, Apartment Therapy, Glamour Paris, and more. During her week-long visit, Krysa will conduct workshops with UW-River Falls art students addressing their “inner critic,” visual prompts and collage making. For more information, call the Art Department at 715-425-3266 or email [lyz.wendland@uwrf.edu](mailto:lyz.wendland@uwrf.edu).

## Fall observatory talks/viewing sessions set at UWRF

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Physics Department begins its fall season of free, public observatory viewings and astronomy discussions on Tuesday, Oct. 24. The viewings and talks are suitable for all ages. The first stargazing session on Oct. 24, begins with a talk, “Other Earths Out There? Kepler’s Final Count” by physics Professor Eileen Korenic at 8 p.m. in 271 Centennial Science Hall. Then, if the sky is clear, a telescope viewing session will follow at 8:30 p.m. on the third floor observation deck. Uranus and Neptune should be visible as well as the waning crescent moon. A faculty member and/or student will staff each telescope and be available to answer questions. Objects to be seen in the telescopes include planets, globular clusters, open clusters, nebulae, galaxies, moons, and double stars. To verify that the sky is clear enough for viewing, call 715-425-3560 after 6 p.m. or visit [www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/Schedule.cfm](http://www.uwrf.edu/PHYS/Schedule.cfm). The 8 p.m. talks will go on as scheduled regardless of the weather. Since the viewing dome is unheated and the observation deck is outside, visitors should dress appropriately for the weather.

Other talks/viewings this fall include:

- **Wednesday, Nov. 15**, at 8 p.m., “Cassini’s Grand Finale: ‘Crash’ into Saturn” presented by Korenic in 271 Centennial Science Hall, followed by an 8:30 p.m. telescope viewing on the third floor observatory deck if the sky is clear. A waning crescent moon should be visible.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 12**, at 8 p.m., “God’s Eye on the Sky: The Vatican Observatory” presented by Korenic in 271 Centennial Science Hall, followed by an 8:30 p.m. telescope viewing on the third floor observatory deck if the sky is clear. A waning crescent moon should be visible.

For more information about the observatory, email [glenn.spiczack@uwrf.edu](mailto:glenn.spiczack@uwrf.edu). For more information about pre-observatory talks, email [eileen.korenic@uwrf.edu](mailto:eileen.korenic@uwrf.edu) or call the Physics Department at 715-425-3560.

## Seven UWRF seniors to present thesis exhibitions

University of Wisconsin-River Falls seniors Tynan Pratumwon, Kylie Hommerding, Sor Her, Liz Schultz, Adrian Harvieux, Darielle Dahnke, and Molly Ruoho will present their Bachelor of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition in Gallery 101 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building October 13-24. On display will be blown glass, printmaking, ceramics, photography, mixed media installations, painting and drawing. The exhibition is free and open to the public. Darielle Dahnke of Colfax has a major emphasis in ceramics and a minor emphasis in painting. On display is a ceramic installation that explores the use of line, pattern, and imagery using ceramic slip trailing techniques. Adrian Harvieux of New Richmond has a major emphasis in ceramics and a minor emphasis in glass. On exhibition are large ceramic forms that invite the viewer to ponder the combination of natural and man-made forms. Sor Her of St. Paul has a major emphasis in drawing and a secondary emphasis in graphic design. On exhibit are mini-cartoon stickers as well as a digital projection of the cartoon designs inviting viewers to dwell on the colors and detail of the figures. Cute, colorful, and high definition figures will be presented through the digital designs, giving the viewers a depth of quality from the designs. Kylie Hommerding of Proctor, Minn., has a major emphasis in graphic design and a minor emphasis in drawing. On exhibit are three handcrafted long boards made from repurposed hockey sticks used in her youth and collegiate years of playing. The long boards, along with her company Hart is aimed to change the perceptions of athletes and how they view art and artists. Hommerding wishes to create an identity the viewers can still connect with, based on strong aesthetics and repurposed materials. Tynan Pratumwon of Mahtomedi, Minn., has a major emphasis in glass and a minor emphasis in printmaking. On display are a mix of sculptural and functional glass made with the traditional off-hand glass blowing technique and a collection of prints utilizing copper plate intaglio. His work narrates his experiences as an undergraduate. Liz Schultz of Hudson has a major emphasis in graphic design and a minor emphasis in photography. On display are designs and photography about The Diamond in the Rough, an equine trainers challenge. Molly Ruoho of Stillwater, Minn., has a primary emphasis in photography and a secondary emphasis in graphic design. On exhibit is a photographic installation exploring the idea of transitioning from one space to another, the things we take with us, and the traces we leave behind. An exhibition reception is Friday, Oct. 20, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Gallery 101. Free and open to everyone. Regular gallery hours are Monday-Friday from 3-8 p.m. For more information, call the Art Department at 715-425-3266.

Follow the Student Voice on Twitter

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Weekly UWRF Crime Report

**Wenesday, October 11**

- Theft was reported at Kleinpell Fine Arts building at 1:04 p.m.
- Theft was reported at Johnson Hall at 5 p.m.

**Thursday, October 12**

- Underage drinking was reported at Grimm Hall at 2:24 a.m.
- An all drug complaint was reported at Mc-Millan Hall at 11:31 p.m.

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

## Campus Events Calendar:

- **Frances Cohler Coffee Concert: Prihodko/Keiserman**  
**Friday, Oct. 20, 12 p.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Abbott Concert Hall, KFA**
- **BFA Thesis Exhibition 1**  
**Friday, Oct. 20, 3 p.m.-8 p.m.**  
**Monday-Tuesday, Oct. 23-23**  
**Kleinpell Fine Arts**
- **BFA Thesis 1 Reception**  
**Friday, Oct. 20, 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.**  
**Kleinpell Fine Arts**
- **Open Mic Night**  
**Friday, Oct. 20, 8 p.m.-10 p.m.**  
**Falcon’s Nest, UC**
- **Traveling Karaoke**  
**Saturday, Oct. 21, 8 p.m.-10 p.m.**  
**Location TBD**
- **Language Opportunities in Government Sponsered Programs**  
**Monday, Oct. 23, 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.**  
**University Center**
- **Wyman Visiting Professor: Danielle Krysa “Full Circle”**  
**Monday, Oct. 23, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.**  
**North Hall**
- **St. Croix Symphony Orchestra**  
**Monday, Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.**  
**Abbott Concert Hall, KFA**
- **Pansori and Korean Dance Workshop**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 24, 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.**  
**University Center**
- **A Mouth with Flame Performance**  
**Tuesday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m.-8 p.m.**  
**Syse Theatre, KFA**
- **TESOL Virtual Seminar**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 25, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.**  
**University Center**
- **BINGO**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 25, 12 p.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Pete’s Creek**
- **Ideathon**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 25, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.**  
**University Center**
- **Diversity Dialogue: Privileges We Hold**  
**Thursday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**University Center**

Visit [uwrf.edu](http://uwrf.edu) for a full schedule of events

## Student Senate Update: Oct. 17

Adviser Gregg Heinselman brought up two issues currently ongoing within the UW System Board of Regents:

- UW System President Ray Cross’ recent proposal to merge Wisconsin’s two-year schools with its four-year campuses to boost enrollment.
- A potential resolution by the UW Board of Regents to ramp up punishment for students whose protests are disruptive to the free speech of others.

Heinselman wanted to impress on SGA that the two issues will be hot-button topics moving forward and that they should be involved in the upcoming discussions.

President Abby Wendt briefly discussed the Homecoming week budget, which was under budget by about \$30.

Week of Action will be starting next week, and SGA discussed plans that it is finalizing in preparation.

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



# UWRF Young Americans for Liberty OK with UW rule for expelling protesters

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incoming System’s policy to regulate student disruptions during speeches is “a pretty good idea”. He hopes it will be used to hold students accountable for damaged property caused during campus riots and will hopefully prevent students from making any immature outbursts in the middle of someone else talking. Anderson thinks that suspension after two strikes does seem harsh but that the new rule is not completely unjustifiable due to the protests he heard about from when Milo Yianopoulos tried to speak at UC-Berkeley.

As of the Sept. 26 Student Government Association meeting, AJ Plehal and Elijah Anderson, president and vice president of the UWRF chapter, were granted approval for the Young Americans for Liberty to be recognized as a student organization on campus. This new student club gives UW-River Fall’s students one more outlet through which they can explore their political leanings and rights.

The student organization Young Americans for Liberty was founded in 2008 after the end of the presidential campaign of then-U.S. Rep. Ron Paul (R – Texas). While Paul campaigned as a Republican candidate, the student organization is heavily influenced by libertarian values and was formed on college campuses soon after the end of his campaign.

The current description and mission of YAL, and of the UWRF chapter, is to “recognize the natural rights of life, liberty, and property set forth by our Founding Fathers ... to identify, educate, train and mobilize youth activists committed to ‘winning on principle.’ Our goal is to cast the leaders of tomorrow and reclaim the policies, candidates and direction of our government.”

The SGA decision to approve the new student organization, however, was not a unanimous one. After SGA members questioned Plehal and Anderson about their chapter, what they would bring to campus and what events they intend to have, one SGA senator still had some doubts. At-large SGA senator Halley White, a junior at UWRF, was the sole member of the SGA to vote no to approving this new student club.

White cited hate speech incidents written on free speech boards that the UW-Eau Claire YAL chapter experienced, which went seemingly unresolved by the school and by the

YAL student organization. She said that was one of the reasons she felt she needed to cast an opposing vote. White said that she is particularly concerned by the effect potential hate and violent speech will have on campus culture and that as a student of color she is personally wary of how this chapter of YAL will deal with this type of language.

When SGA senator Halley White’s concerns were brought to Plehal and Anderson’s attention after her vote, they said they did not know of any hate speech incidents that took place at the UW-Eau Claire campus. The UWRF YAL chapter president and vice president further felt that such fears of hate speech here at UWRF seemed unfounded due to what they feel is an inclusive environment on campus.

The UWRF YAL chapter hopes to give students the opportunity to be politically active without declaring themselves as a Republican or a Democrat. This Libertarian-focused organization intends to collaborate with the Republican and Democrat student organizations on campus for debates and other activities.

Plehal, who identifies with Libertarian values, will be focusing on increasing awareness for freedom of speech, even though he does not think that his or general free speech on the UWRF campus is under any kind of attack. One activity that Plehal intends to promote an awareness of the First Amendment is by having a free speech beach ball where anyone can

write anything they want on it.

“We don’t have the First Amendment to talk about weather,” he said. “It is so we can say very controversial things. It’s important we can all speak our minds in order to have an inclusive university.”

Plehal did note that he knows there is a difference between free speech and hate speech, and that their YAL chapter is “very connected with the chancellor’s message of being inclusive of free speech.”

The new student organization, which meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in KFA 281, is starting to garner some interest among students, according to YAL chapter president Plehal. “I want to stress that we are a non-partisan organization,” he said, “open to anyone across the political spectrum who is really just interested in the idea of liberty and what that means to you.”



Photo courtesy of Doug Margolis  
**Doug Margolis, center, stands with his students who were part of the Korea J-term trip in 2014.**

# Faculty Senate aims to keep profs from losing pay on technicalities

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The problem resulted from a lack of communication among administrators, Human Resources and Margolis on how the rule should be applied. Margolis said that if the amount were calculated correctly, the rule wouldn’t have affected his pay in the first place.

This case shows the complexity and confusion that can be found in the 2/9ths rule that has been put in place by the UW System. This means UWRF doesn’t have a choice on if they want to administer the rule or not.

Human Resources also plays a role in determining how the 2/9ths rule is enforced. Brenda Creighton is a Human Resources manager in her fourth year at UWRF, and she said that Human Resources is on the back end of the pay process.

“We can only administer according to the policy, and there are guidelines that we have to follow,” Creighton said. “We can monitor it, and once it comes to where the limits are, we can request exceptions.”

One common scenario that forces the 2/9ths rule to be applied is when professors teach summer classes. Professors are paid according to enrollment, and if there is a jump in enrollment after plans were initially set, it can get into the danger area of earning more than 2/9ths of the yearly salary.

“If it’s enrollment based, we can reconcile on that,” Creighton said. “We send them a reminder, but we can’t speak to payment until later in the summer.”

This forces a scenario where HR has to be the messenger for why a professor can’t fully get paid for the work they accomplished. Creighton says they have to explain why they can’t pay them, which isn’t their intention but is the rule they must follow.

Interim Provost Faye Perkins was able to give a reason behind the enforcement of the rule: “It was put together by the Board of Regents and focuses on a reasonable workload for professors and how much they should be allowed to work.”

Perkins said this rule never comes into play for most professors, but is decided upon on a case to case basis.

“We can make exceptions,” Perkins said. “There’s even been times it comes all the way up to the dean and he says no.”

Faculty Senate has tasked the Faculty Welfare and Person-

nel Policies Committee, along with the Faculty Compensation Committee, to develop a policy that makes sure that rules like the 2/9ths rule aren’t the responsibility of the employee but rather the responsibility of supervisors. This would ensure that supervisors have to calculate the costs before the contracted work is agreed upon.

However, Perkins maintained that faculty and administration are constantly trying to avoid the situation arising.

“We try to have good planning and both (faculty and administration) work together on this,” Perkins said. “It’s all about communicating to new faculty.”

Tyler Theyerl, a TESOL graduate student, hadn’t previously heard about the 2/9ths rule. Once he dug deeper into it, he said it seemed wrong to not pay the full amount for work that had been done under contract.

“My initial reaction was, ‘Why?’,” Theyerl said. “If they’re willing to take on more classes ... I don’t see why there should be a limit.”

UW System institutions have been shown to pay 18 percent below the average pay of peer institutions. This raises the bigger question about why staff should be restricted in the amount of work they try to put on their plate. But as Perkins alluded to earlier, it’s all about putting a reasonable workload on the professor’s shoulders.

Margolis did end up getting an exception for his J-term project to receive full compensation, even though his situation was extraordinary because the 2/9ths rule is only supposed to cover summer compensation.

Grants, summer teaching, consulting work and research are all activities that can add up to reach the 2/9ths maximum that faculty has to avoid. With the policy in place, the only way to avoid headaches similar to what Margolis went through is to increase communication.

“Some are very involved in grants, and most of that work comes in the summer,” Perkins said. “It depends on how much they can take on before reaching that limit. A brand-new person may have to be more diligent.”

However, Perkins and other administrators would be forced to be more diligent if the Faculty Senate plan was put into place to take responsibility for calculating the rule away from professors.

# Chancellor goes to head of the class-to teach, not just oversee

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“It’s a different perspective,” Hunzer said. “Everybody thinks of a university chancellor as just going out and shaking hands. I don’t know what people think a chancellor does, but our chancellor is very engaged in students. It gives him that opportunity to connect with them, but it gives them an opportunity to connect with him.”

Out of 600 honors students, only about 20 students have the opportunity to learn from the chancellor in the fall semester. One of them is freshman Melissa Melchar.

“I think it’s beneficial,” she said. “It creates a personal relationship.”

Melchar sat in the front of the class with three other freshmen: Sarah Sweeney, Grace Heimdahl and Madeline Kohn. All four said they felt lucky to have the chance to take the course with Van Galen.

“I don’t know anyone else who has an opportunity to have the chancellor as a teacher,” Sweeney said.

“It’s helpful being freshmen having someone that knows so much,” Heimdahl said.

The students aren’t the only ones who feel fortunate.

“I always have enjoyed teaching,” Van Galen said. “It’s a passion and love of mine so I really enjoy the opportunity to do some teaching.”

But he doesn’t want his title to distract from the coursework.

“I probably am able to bring in some other perspectives in my other role as chancellor, but I really want them to see me as their professor first and not the chancellor when we’re in this room,” he said.

The role of chancellor is tasking in itself. Van Galen is a busy man, but he still makes time to spend two to three hours of his week preparing for the class, which is an introduction to the Honors Program.

Honors 190 focuses on the five pillars of the Honors Program: global engagement and awareness; rhetorical and communication skills; community engagement; sustainability; and undergraduate research, scholarly and creative activity (UR-SCA).

“The course itself is structured to engage students in those different types of thinking and introduce them to opportunities at River Falls,” Van Galen said.

The Honors Program is designed to allow for each professor to develop his or her course to match their teaching style, as long as all of the pillars are covered.

Van Galen emphasizes collaborative learning and requires his students to attend the Study Abroad Fair and the URSCA gala during the semester.

Honors teachers get a small stipend for teaching the course but Van Galen has chosen not to get paid to spend the extra time teaching this course. His reward is more than monetary.

“I’ve known some other university presidents that do occasionally do some teaching,” he said. “I think for many leaders it’s a very enjoyable part of the job and many presidents and chancellors come from an academic background, so it’s very energizing to be back in the classroom.”

# ‘Green fund’ advocates planning new campaign to raise awareness and fees

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limitations and options that they face. They began by looking into how other universities with programs similar to the green fund use and organize the money.

UW-Stout, for example, has a “green fee” that amounts to \$11.40 per person per year, according to their Sustainability Office website. The money is put into a funding pool, and then students, faculty and staff can apply to a sustainability council with project ideas. If the ideas show potential, the council then distributes the money accordingly. It has been used to put up covered bike shelters, install solar panels and build a shed for the campus garden.

The rest of this month, Klapatch said, will be spent compiling the committee’s research and figuring out what they want the green fund to be able to do. They’ll then work with the budget office to make sure their plan complies with UW System regulations.

By the end of the fall semester the committee aims to have a concrete plan drawn up. They will then require a member of SGA to author a formal motion, which will be brought up and discussed in one of the weekly SGA meetings. If the motion passes, the fund will be put on the spring election as a referendum so that the student body can vote on it. From there it would need the approval of the chancellor, followed by the approval of the UW Board of Regents.

“Ultimately,” Klapatch said, “I’m really glad we have the chance to get an organized process and that we have such strong interest from students on the committee.”

Student interest, he said, is important since the green fund is supposed to be a student-led project. If the SGA approves the motion for the green fund, Klapatch plans to begin a marketing campaign between the months of January and April to make sure students know the details of the fund and how it would affect them before they vote on it.



EDITORIAL

Shuttles, new lot spaces could alleviate campus parking problems

Parking is one of the issues on campus that pretty much everyone complains about at some point in time. The problems typically involve the price of parking passes and the lack of available spaces, and the issues with parking most acutely affect students that commute from out of town.

The options available to people seeking to park are limited; people can pay \$1 an hour to park in a pay lot, or try to find spots elsewhere in town. There isn't much free parking, and it's typically very far away from campus. In the warmer months it's less of a hassle, but Midwest winters are frigid and unpleasant for students walking from halfway across town to class. Student parking can also cause a problem for local business owners, who need the limited spaces downtown for their customers.

One of the simplest solutions would be to implement a standard parking pass that grants students access to any lot on campus. This would eliminate empty spots in certain lots near dorms, and reduce the amount of tickets given out to students parking in an incorrect lot.

The larger issue at work is a lack of space, which is not an easy one to solve. UW-River Falls campus is mostly enclosed on all sides by the rest of town or busy roads. There is not much room to expand outward, so more creative options will have to be explored. Our suggestion is to use the space currently occupied by Karges Center, which the university is planning to tear down in the coming year and convert to green space. While the university may already have plans for that space, we believe that parking is a pressing matter that could easily be improved with this plan.

Beyond creating new parking space on campus, we also propose that UWRF could explore the possibility of shuttle services. The Falcon Center already has a lot of parking space, but it goes largely unused because of its distance from the rest of campus. That space is also needed during games, but during the school day it could be put to use as a commuter lot. Students could park their car in the lot and be shuttled by a van to central points on campus like the University Center or North Hall.

Taking the shuttle idea further, UWRF could set up a system that eliminates the need for students to drive into town entirely. Since there's a good number of students that come from the Hudson and Twin Cities area, it would likely be worth the gas to set up a system that connects UWRF with any of the free park and ride spaces in Hudson. Not only would this allow students from out of town to get to campus without the burden of parking their car, but it would also give students on campus easier access to Hudson.

While the issue of parking can't be solved overnight, there are options that UWRF could explore. We encourage the university to take this issue seriously, as it is one of the most common complaints that students discuss on a daily basis.

Editorials represent the opinions of the Student voice Editorial Board and are prepared by the editorial staff.

STUDENT VOICE

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All editorial content in the Student Voice is determined by the newspaper's Editorial Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper's advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

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

The Student Voice reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

Because of high production costs, UW-River Falls community members are permitted to collect one copy of the Student Voice per issue. A single copy of the Student Voice is valued at \$1, and additional copies may be requested from the editorial staff by email through [editor@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com). Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

VIEWPOINTS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pruitt helps continue trend of anti-environmental Trump administration

Dear Editor,

On October 11, the PBS program Frontline aired "War on the EPA," an alarming documentary focusing on Trump appointee Scott Pruitt's ties to the big oil and coal industries and how he has acted to further their interests as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The day before PBS ran this program, Pruitt had announced the repeal of President Obama's Clean Power Plan, which nudged states toward curbing greenhouse gas emissions from coal-burning power plants over the next two decades.

In his brief tenure as EPA head, Pruitt has repealed or blocked many other common sense regulatory measures protecting public health, such as banning chlorpyrifos, a pesticide shown to damage the brains of fetuses and infants. Chlorpyrifos is manufactured by Dow, and Pruitt vetoed the ban after a private meeting with Dow's CEO.

In a Pulitzer Prize winning series, New York Times investigative reporter Eric Lipton has publicly exposed Pruitt's beholdenness to polluters, unearthing emails from Devon Energy

in Pruitt's home state of Oklahoma with wording Pruitt used verbatim in his protests against EPA rulings.

A climate change denier, Pruitt has obstructed attempts to move our country away from dependence on dirty, polluting energy sources toward renewables. As Attorney General of Oklahoma, he sued the EPA fourteen times to kill regulations that keep America's environment and citizens safe.

Pruitt was also instrumental in organizing Republican attorneys general in other states to fight the change to clean, renewable energy. Eric Lipton, attending one of their gatherings, reported seeing fossil fuel lobbyists openly writing checks to the Attorneys General.

Wisconsin U.S. Senator Ron Johnson, another climate change denier, voted to approve the deeply corrupt Pruitt, again demonstrating his bad judgment and enabling what journalist Jane Mayer calls, "the triumph of the anti-environmental movement," in the Trump administration.

**Thomas R. Smith, a former UWRF student and poet with seven published books**

New social media campaign brings awareness to issues of sexual assault

Lauren A. Simenson

Columnist

A lot of my time this past week has been spent "liking" posts on social media, which up until recently had been a pretty standard activity. This standard activity has not been me just double-tapping a picture of a cute outfit or liking a post of a sarcastic and topical meme, however. I have been showing support in the most basic of ways by liking every post of #MeToo that I have come across. I think I have liked more posts online in just this past week than I have ever done in my time on the internet.

Celebrities, media organizations and regular people online have had a lot to say about this hashtag that has been dominating people's feeds. ManRepeller said that #MeToo is a quiet roar, while actress Mayim Bialik is being called out for victim blaming after she published her opinion on the hashtag movement. Women online have shared specific stories about how they have been harassed, assaulted or raped, while others have said they won't say it even though they have their own stories. Some men, and even women, have responded with #IWill to acknowledge the part they have in stopping sexual harassment, assault and rape and what actions they will do to stop sexual violence.

According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) the largest U.S. anti-sexual violence organization, every 98 seconds an American is sexually assaulted. For women, 1 out of every 6 of us has "been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime." That's almost 18 million women since 1998. Rape and sexual violence statistics are even scarier when you narrow down the scope to college campuses where college aged women are three times more likely to experience sexual violence. RAINN also reports that "only 20% of female student victims report to law

enforcement."

I think #MeToo has finally started to shock people into seeing the magnitude of what women, all women, have gone through their entire lives.

Unfortunately, I do not think this hashtag is quite enough. I worry that like most things on the internet, it will be too fleeting. History and the stories women have shared prove how effectively sexual assault and harassment can be made to disappear – just look how long it took for the women who Harvey Weinstein assaulted to finally get some justice.

It is difficult to not have this pessimistic and cynical view when the most prominent person of the United States, the leader of our country, is still not being held accountable for his own history of sexual violence and harassment. The complete fury I feel that the man that some Americans voted to be the President of the United States has a long and acknowledged history of sexually assaulting and harassing women is not something I will ever be able to get over. The more I see and read #MeToo stories, the more my blood boils that the President still sits in the most prestigious chair in our country. I guess I should be used to this feeling of indignation by now, because just think how many of the attackers and harassers of woman who are also sitting in their own prestigious chairs all over the nation. Men who, like the President, are seemingly unaffected by their history of abuse and assault towards women.

We will have made real progress when all the men who have inflicted violence on women are held accountable for their actions and suffer real consequences. Until then, I will keep liking every single post I see of #MeToo as a small way of recognizing what we have all gone through and will continue to experience if change does not happen.

*Lauren Simenson is a senior 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.*

Men who commit sexual assault

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# STUDENT voices

“In a couple words, what is the cause of your procrastination?”

Compiled by Yasmine Ruetz



Brittany Buro- Senior  
“Graduation and grad school applications.”



Amarea Witt- Sophomore  
“Any technical device, everything.”



Bryce Krull – Senior  
“Netflix, Starbucks and fall things”



Marquel Hardy- Sophomore  
“Laziness”



Aaron Strebe- Sophomore  
“Extracurricular activities”



Alfonso Tolbert- Senior  
“Skill, I’m good at procrastination.”

Check out the Student Voice online at [uwrvoice](http://uwrvoice.com).

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

Email your thoughts to [editor@uwrvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrvoice.com)



# River Falls loses on rainy day against UW-Stout

Owen Elle  
owen.elle@my.uwrf.edu

Despite being fairly even in time of possession and a tremendous performance by Michael Diggins, which resulted in 30 carries for 158 yards and two touchdowns, UWRF couldn’t overcome the incredible downpour or their offensive slump to beat the UW-Stout Blue Devils.

UW-Stout got the ball back from UWRF in the fourth quarter and wasted several minutes before having their drive stall out with ample time for River Falls to make a comeback late in the game. However, after driving 51-yards, senior quarterback Travon Hearn’s threw an interception to Blue Devils sophomore strong safety Jed Schlegel. This would prove to be the game-clincher, as Stout ran the clock out for the victory over River Falls.

“We played pretty good football in the second half but it just wasn’t enough,” Falcons Head Coach Matt Walker said.

UW-River Falls lost their second straight game last weekend as they were defeated by UW-Stout 21-16 in Menomonie at Williams Stadium.

The Falcons started the game on an impressive 14-play, 68-yard drive that ended with a 25-yard field goal by freshman kicker Angel Bautista, giving the team a 3-0 lead early in the first. Despite this quick start, the game would slowly start to slip away from River Falls.

Blue Devil’s junior quarterback Jay Alston would throw a seven-yard pass to senior wide receiver Brian Sandifer to give Stout the lead with 5:33 remaining in the first quarter.

Within the final minute of the half, Alston would throw another touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Kevion McDonald, giving Stout a 14-3 lead at halftime.

After trading a pair of punts to begin the third quarter, UW-Stout would get on the board again with an eight-yard touchdown reception by Sandifer, his second of the afternoon. River Falls was now staring at a three-possession game with 9:15 remaining in the third quarter.

“The short pass game was tough,” Walker said. “This was the wrong day to try and come from behind”.

Again, a pair of punts would be traded before the Falcons would cap off a 49-yard drive with a one-yard touchdown run by senior running back Michael Diggins. The two-point conversation wasn’t successful, leaving River Falls down 21-9.

“We didn’t make any plays on fifty-fifty balls, we just didn’t make any,” Walker said. “I have a ton of confidence in our wide receiver group. We needed to get chunks of yards to get back in a two-score game, we felt we had to throw it down field. He didn’t throw it terrible, it was about as bad of a time as ever to throw the ball.”

As the rain started to turn into a massive downpour, both teams had no success driving the ball down the field offensively in the fourth quarter. Four punts and two fumbles later, the Falcons got great field position at Stout’s own 22-yard line. Two plays later, Diggins ran the ball in for his second touchdown of the game. UWRF was now within one possession, being down 21-16 with 7:15 remaining in the game.

A scary moment occurred midway through the fourth quarter, as Diggins went down with a knee injury on a brutal hit by

a Blue Devils defender. Players on the Falcons sidelines were visibly distraught.

“Your heart drops into your throat pretty good when something like that happens,” Coach Walker said. “I’ve been around the game long enough to know it might be nothing or you might be done for the year, so you just never know.”

Walker did admit that he felt much better when he saw Diggins walk off under his own power.

Walker knew the game was going to be out of hand when he looked at his starting quarterback.

“Travon Hearn’s has as big of hands as any quarterback I’ve ever been around in the history of college football, and even he’s having trouble throwing the ball in the conditions of the game.”

While it’s easy to point fingers at the rainy conditions, Coach Walker made no excuses for his team relating to the weather.

“Losing teams come out and talk about things like the rain and the balls,” he said. “Teams that win the games don’t talk about those things.”

The Falcons now sit at 3-3 on the season and 1-2 in the WIAC. However, Walker isn’t concerned about the future of his team.

“I’m not worried about it,” Walker said. “We will bounce back. We have a resilient group and we put way too much time, effort and energy to throw in the towel.”

Walker added that every week will continue to be a challenge, because there are no games off in a league as tough as the WIAC. UWRF looks to bounce back against UW-White-



Tori Schneider/Student Voice  
Travon Hearn’s (11) hands the ball off to Michael Diggins (32) during the UW-River Falls homecoming game between UW-River Falls and UW-Platteville at Ramer Field at David Smith Stadium, Saturday, Sept. 10, 2017.

## Falcons Sports Schedule

**Oct. 21: Football vs UW-Whitewater 12 p.m.**

**Oct. 21: Women’s Volleyball vs Bethany Lutheran College 3 p.m.**

**Oct. 21: Women’s Soccer vs UW-Stevens Point 3:30 p.m.**

Oct. 21: Men’s Hockey at Augsburg (exhibition) 7 p.m.

**Oct. 21: Women’s Hockey vs St. Thomas (exhibition) 7:05 p.m.**

Oct. 21: Women’s Tennis at WIAC conference tournament

Oct. 25: Women’s Soccer at UW-Eau Claire 3 p.m.

**Oct. 25: Women’s Volleyball vs UW-Stevens Point 7 p.m.**

Home games in BOLD

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# Forget marathons; Special Olympian has his sights set on a 200-mile race in Minnesota

Nathan Lukasavitz  
Falcon News Service

For Special Olympics athlete Isaiah Kasay, who is ultimately aspiring to one day compete in a 200-mile race that winds from Winona to Minneapolis, 5K runs are nothing but training and practice.

His goal of competing in a race of this length, which makes marathon runs seem short and sweet, comes across as highly ambitious and, perhaps, far-off for a seventh-grade cross country runner. However, to Isaiah it is just one more challenge out of many that he has already conquered.

“My biggest fear when he started cross country was we’d get stuck in the middle of a course and not know which way to go,” said Amanda Kasay, the athlete’s mother, who described numerous challenges she and her son have overcome as a result of Isaiah being a Special Olympics athlete.

“For Isaiah, we deal with autism. That’s his spectrum,” Kasay said. “There are just life things that we have to deal with every day. For cross country, when the gun goes off, we stall because that noise is very distracting.”

Despite the difficult distractions that Isaiah has to contend with as a Special Olympics athlete, his supportive family is the reason why he continually seeks to progress and improve.

“They cheer me on,” Isaiah said, “and tell me to keep going and not stop.”

Support from his mother and sister was especially helpful at a recent 5K event, Run With The Cops, that Isaiah competed in to help raise money for Special Olympics Wisconsin. This event gave people the opportunity to legally outrun local law enforcement officers as a way of gaining funds to help competitors like Isaiah pursue their athletic goals.

“The money that’s raised is directly benefiting all of the athletes that are here tonight,” said Karen Kraus, the director of special events for Special Olympics Wisconsin. “All totaled, we have 1,000 athletes in this area,” which covers the entire northwest portion of Wisconsin, including all of Pierce and St. Croix counties. “So this money is paying for facility rental fees, equipment, everything associated with putting on a sports competition for our athletes.”

The majority of law enforcement officers that participated in the 3.1 mile event were officers from either the River Falls Police Department or UWRF Police Department. However, there were multiple officers present from surrounding communities such as Hudson, Ellsworth, Hammond and Somerset, each officer representing his/her own department.

“They were all invited,” Kraus said. “River Falls takes the lead on planning the event since they’re the host city, and then

they put the call out to other departments all around the area.”

The call that the RFPD put out was one that nearby police departments were very receptive to, given the quantity of communities that were represented.

“It’s completely volunteer on their part to do this,” said Dave Laatsch, a former agency manager for Special Olympics. “We can come out and appreciate the effort that the police officers do for raising money for the organization.”

Perhaps the greatest form of appreciation that was shown toward the officers who participated in the event came from a local gas station.

“Kwik Trip is a sponsor,” said Nancy Johnson, a Special Olympics bowling coach. “Kwik Trip sells donuts, and officers eat donuts, so we have a donut eating contest here.”

In addition to Kwik Trip, the event had multiple sponsors, all of which helped to raise money for an upcoming bowling competition.

“We actually have our regional bowling tournament coming up, end of October, and that we need to pay for,” Kraus said, “and facility fees have gone up. We need two entire bowling alleys in Eau Claire, and we have to pay for facility rental, we have to pay for volunteer background checks, we pay for volunteer T-shirts, insurance, all of those things that go into putting on that large of a tournament.”



Seventh-grade Special Olympics athlete Isaiah Kasay is anxiously waiting to begin his race with police at Ramer Field on Oct. 10. Nathan Lukasavitz/Falcons New Service

## New Title IX guide raises questions over reporting sexual assaults on campus

Zach Dwyer  
Falcon News Service

Safety is an essential aspect of the college experience. Many measures have been put into place in the University of Wisconsin System to ensure that students have a variety of resources at their disposal to deal with situations when they arrive.

However, there’s been a recent lack of knowledge about the potential new Title IX rules for reporting sexual assault on college campuses. Title IX is an education amendment and federal law passed in 1972, which prohibits sex discrimination in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Title IX comes up many times in college athletics, but it goes much deeper than that. It prohibits sex discrimination in academics, activities, admissions, employment and housing. It also prohibits sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, according to the UWRF Title IX Resource Guide.

The Education Department announced on Sept. 22 that the Obama-Era guidelines for investigating and handling sexual assault cases would be rescinded and replaced by a new interim guide. Betsy Devos, the Education Secretary in the Trump administration, has said this new guidance allows for more due process and raises the standard of proof.

Gregg Heinselman, the Assistant Chancellor for Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator, said the initial ruling shouldn’t have a great impact on the University.

“I don’t see it affecting the University,” Heinselman said. “There will be a waiting and comment period and it won’t change at an institution level ... it will be operation as normal, because the interim guide doesn’t have the force of the law.”

The University of Wisconsin System is uncommon in the fact that its student code is legally structured. By definition it is the law, and the only other state that shares this claim is Washington.

Heinselman predicts it will take a while to change state law, once the interim guidance ends and decisions are made on how to

amend the process set forth in 2011 and 2014.

“The past guidelines align nicely and are at a good place,” Heinselman said. “I’m curious to see how it changes the landscape and how we operationalize those changes.”

Besides the rules for reporting sexual assault, creating awareness for the cause and administering training are the most essential steps in keeping the campus safe. Required training for UWRF students like “Think About It” and successful programs from Student Government Association like “It’s On Us” have helped push the issue to the forefront.

“I think we’re building a reporting culture on campus,” Heinselman said. “If you see something, say something. I think faculty and staff are understanding that.”

However, Heinselman notes that there are difficulties in training the campus. With a large turnover rate in new students every year, it can be complicated to make sure safety concerns are clear and the students don’t become lulled into a false sense of security.

The Week of Action has steadily been gaining attention on the UWRF campus. The campaign raises awareness for sexual assault and provides resources and guidance on the topic, especially to new students.

Temi Abiodun is a junior and the Student Affairs Director for Student Government Association. She stressed the importance of understanding the signs of sexual assault.

“We see it all the time and never really what it’s about,” Abiodun said. “Until you’re the victim or know somebody is when people start knowing.”

Abiodun also said it is essential for people to learn more about how to prevent it from happening and how to be educated about it.

“We have a lot of resources and events that can help talk about it,” she said. “We’re showing support of what campus has and it does make people feel safer.”

Student Health and Counseling, Turning Point (a program for victims of domestic and sexual violence) and professionals in counseling are all part of the network of people who are willing to help for those who have suffered sexual assault of sexual violence.

The Week of Action begins on Monday, Oct. 23 and runs through Thursday, Oct. 26.

## Survey says: River Falls quality of life up, but it needs more jobs, less traffic

Destrey Zarfes  
Falcon News Service

Bailey Knight, 22, lives just blocks away from downtown River Falls. Before she heads out the door for work, she runs a lint roller over her black apron. With a new puppy in the house, that sort of tidying up is to be expected.

Before she laces up her black sneakers, she prepares her purse. Crumpled bills come pouring out. A handful of loose change bangs against the counter top; dimes and nickels roll in every direction.

She heads out the door. Instead of beginning the walk to downtown River Falls like she has so many times, she gets in her car and heads north on Highway 35 toward Hudson.

Knight is a server and bartender. She has worked in River Falls for a couple years but decided the bustling downtown area of Hudson was a better fit. “It’s a lot busier (in Hudson) especially during the summer. When the college kids leave (River Falls) it is hard to make enough money serving,” she said.

The city of River Falls conducted a Citizen Survey in June and July of this year, and the results are in. As Knight knows all too well, one of the biggest things citizens wanted to improve in the town was the economy.

Participation was randomly selected, with 1,500 households chosen. Those households completed a survey, which was then mailed straight to the National Survey Center. City Council received the results in mid September.

When questioned about the economy of River Falls, respondents ranked it below the benchmark. In the employment opportunities

category, only 36 percent answered positively, while the businesses and services category received a 64 percent. Overall economic health was rated at 74 percent.

Another area citizens would like to see improvement in is safety. Anna Swenson, mother of three and River Falls resident, would have to agree. She has noticed a stop sign by her home often being ignored and is worried about the potential hazard.

“This intersection is crazy,” she said. “I was out jogging with the baby the other day, and if I would have gotten to that intersection five seconds sooner, I probably would have gotten hit by the guy who ran that stop sign.”

Neighborhoods in River Falls scored 86 percent positive, but traffic flow ended up with 58 percent. Police and crime prevention results are trending upward but room for improvement remains, as the scores were 89 and 85 percent respectively.

“River Falls, I would say, is generally a fairly safe community,” Swenson said. “I am a mom of three, I’ve got a 7 year old and a 2 year old and a baby and I’ve always felt safe with them.”

When her children go out to play, she feels at ease. She said, “I never feel unsafe about where they are, but it’s just these little things that I think that we can do to better ourselves as a community, and it’s little things like that: obey the stop signs, look both ways before you pull out, that kind of stuff.”

Although the survey indicates some areas need improvement, overall quality of life in River Falls is on the rise, from 86 percent in 2013 to 90 percent in 2017. The complete results of the survey can be found here.



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# ‘Spirit of Christmas’ brings Ghostly Glee to Halloween

Bethany Lovejoy

Reviewer

First and foremost, I would like to apologize to those five people who I told I was reviewing “Scooby Doo and the Witch’s Ghost,” as it turns out that every quality “Scooby Doo” movie is not available for streaming.

For a moment, I almost considered not writing this column this week as I could not find the appropriate Halloween movie for an October review. However, I thought of those art students who use my articles to wrap their pottery and persevered.

I decided that almost any movie with a slight allusion to ghosts would have to do.

Enter “The Spirit of Christmas.”

You may be thinking that this movie is simply a Christmas movie, but dear god it is so much more.

I almost passed it up until I read the Netflix description: “a woman oversees the sale of an inn, where she falls for a handsome but cursed ghost.”

Yes.

Forget “Twilight,” “Beautiful Creatures,” and whatever other romantic creature-based movies Hollywood is trying to tell. Ghost loving time.

The beginning is just this dude wading through the snow in the Christmas season, wearing old clothes and stuff, seeing this random lady get hugged. Judging by his reaction this is obviously from a time when women didn’t have rights.

Anyway, he gets straight up murdered with a rock.

Fast-forward to a time when women do have rights. This girl Kate is getting broken up with by her boyfriend, apparently because she has no emotions. Whatever-his-name-is is trying to be all nice about it, but she isn’t having it. This woman wants to be dragged.

Kate starts listing off the reasons why men don’t want to date her, all of which kinda had me there, like, same.

She also steals his dessert. Also same.

Anyway, it’s really a useless scene except for one line of dialogue, “(An ex boyfriend) ... called me his phantom girl.” Little does she know she’s going to be a phantom’s girl. 10/10 great dialogue, could have ended the scene here and skipped straight to ghost loving.

Kate does something legal. I think she’s an attorney or something, but I’m not sure. Apparently, whatever she is also requires realtor skills because her boss tells her to sell this creepy, sad inn. Kate is not about it.

She rolls up to this inn and there’s snow, sadly no hint of Christmas yet. It’s kind of just a dirty place, not really a bad one, so the only real reason that no one wants to buy it is probably ghosts.

Even the inside is nice, but Kate doesn’t care about that. She sees a beautiful photo of a beautiful dead guy, she looks at him and is like, “oh yeah.”

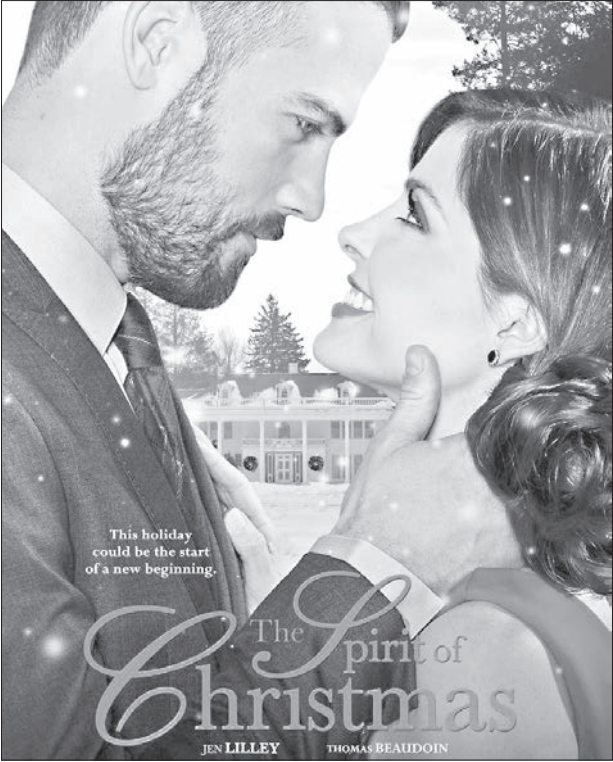
She keeps asking people why no one wants to go there and all of them say, “ghosts, man.”

Which you know kinda makes sense but not really. It makes even less sense when she’s looking at the model-quality photo of said dead hot guy and the dude who owns the inn says, “Yeah if there was a ghost it would probably be that hot guy.”

This made me think I’d also want to go to a hot ghost inn.

Kate stays the night in the Hot Ghost Motel and immediately something is up because doors be flying open and no one’s there.

Even though these doors are flying open when no one is



there, Kate thinks, “Yeah I’ll just take this pen knife and stab whatever opened my door. Even though there was literally nothing there.”

She’s walking around with her little shiv and someone comes out of nowhere, Hottie McGhostie. Hottie McGhostie wants to know why this attractive woman is walking around his inn with a shiv. Kate responds with, “Oh my god I can totally answer that.”

Just kidding, she turns too fast and gets knocked on the head. K.O. Kate.

She wakes up and Handsome Hauntie basically says, “Please get off my property.” Instead of being, you know, civil about it, he just picks her up and hauls her out to the snow. 10/10 good intruder response skills.

Eventually Kate gets back in the inn via law enforcement and is super not about this Handsome Haunty being all up in her legal project.

Anyway, hijinks ensue and this Hauntie says he owns this place. Kate still wonders, “Who is this sad, scary man who I have seen pictures of?”

Again, she’s seen pictures of this man and literally was told this man is a ghostie.

She literally does not care.

She gets all manhandly with the Ghostly mancandy and thinks, “Man, this man is not a ghostman. He’s a man man.” But the old dude who owns the inn is like, “Man, this man is a cursed man.”

Kate is so not about it.

The ghost man continues to point out that this is where he died via rock and he can never leave this property because this property is magic. Also he apparently doesn’t need a coat because he’s dead.

Kate is rude to this ghost over and over again, and the ghost is just overly aggressive.

Death and property invasion make one very crabby.

So logically Kate accepts that this man is a ghost and wants to know why this man is trapped here, but this ghost just wants to keep hanging out during the Christmas season.

Kate pushes the guy a bit further and they get on the topic of his death. The old man who owns the inn said, “People suspect foul play but really who knows.”

Ghostly Gorgeous was bludgeoned with a giant rock.

You don’t need the cast and crew of “Bones” to figure out when someone is murdered via rock. Bludgeoned to death with a heavy object is a really easy condition to diagnose, unless eyesight wasn’t invented back then.

The Ghostly Godlike Guy was a bootlegger and not only is this really cool, but it’s also relevant to the story.

Ghost Guy was selling alcohol to get in the pants of one pretty fine lady, which is pretty understandable to be honest. Lily, the pretty fine lady, enjoys speaking in sarcastic tones and cheating on Ghost Guy with Ghost guy’s brother. R.I.P. Lily.

Half an hour in, the ghost man is given a name, Daniel. This is relieving because I was running out of things to call this fine-looking man.

Daniel spews some kind of sexist stuff and asks Kate where her Handler/Romantic Attachment is and she tells him that the times has changed. Daniel asks her, “What? People don’t fall in love anymore?” If Daniel had a Tinder it would probably have a picture of him with a dog and a whole bunch of quotes about Jesus.

So throughout the movie Kate hangs in this creepy room and refuses to sleep elsewhere in this inn, while doors keep opening and closing. She thinks there’s something bad in the house.

The only thing that’s bad in the house is her lack of Christmas spirit.

We get a good look at Daniel’s brother, and he’s homely. This doesn’t matter that much because thirty seconds after we look at that we get to see Daniel’s shirtless body.

There’s a subplot about the old inn owner finding old inn owning love, but no one really cares. Basically all it means is they have to open the tavern and Daniel has to serve drinks.

Dang Daniel, back at it again with the former contraband.

This is not your typical Hallmark or lifetime movie. There’s apparently some baby conceived of pre-marital sex which is a pretty far stretch for a Christmas movie, and then there’s some heavy conservatively dressed make outs between Kate and Daniel.

So later on in this movie, Kate has the traditional almost together tussle, where Daniel gets mad at her and will never love her again. Then five minutes later, he decides that he loves her again. In-between getting their loving groove on, they realize there must be a second ghost (gasp), the murderer.

He’s a murderous murder ghost.

Who killed him? Is it his brother who hugged his lady friend? His cousin who was all about selling liquor with him? Or is it just some rando with a rock?

Spoiler alert, it was his cousin. Also his cousin is forever cursed to hold the rock with which he murdered Daniel. What a really great curse.

But Daniel? Daniel’s all about forgiveness on Christmas, because he has the Christmas spirit.

He is the Christmas spirit. (Subsequently in the spirit of Halloween, I urge you to forgive your rock wielding murderers.)

If you think that this movie would end with Daniel moving on into the afterlife you’re wrong. He reappears as a real human and charges at her through the snow. Kate, panting like I do when I go up the stairs, runs to kiss the man of her dreams.

Truly a Halloween Miracle™ to find a movie like this.

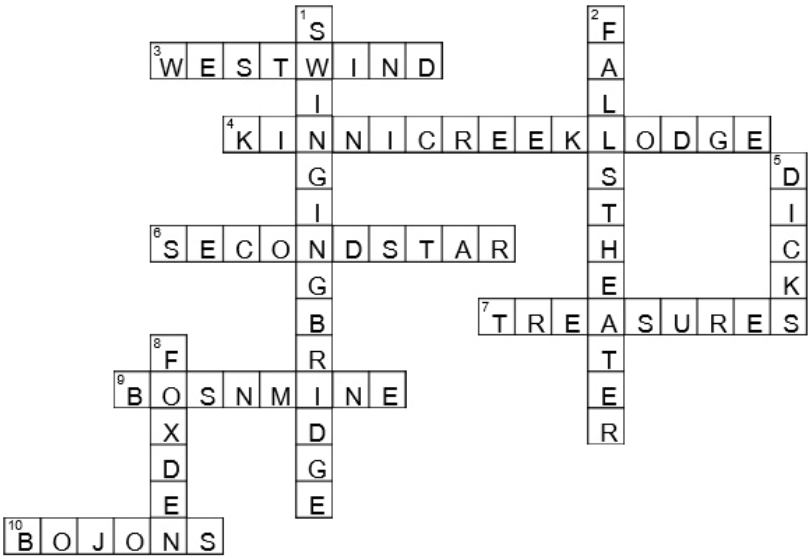
I give it a 2/5.

It’s got a great premise to me, mainly because I’m all about ghosts, but was conceived poorly. Honestly just watch it, it was probably the greatest movie I’ve ever seen.

Bethany Lovejoy enjoys chicken tenders, trips to Aldi with her mom, and pasta.

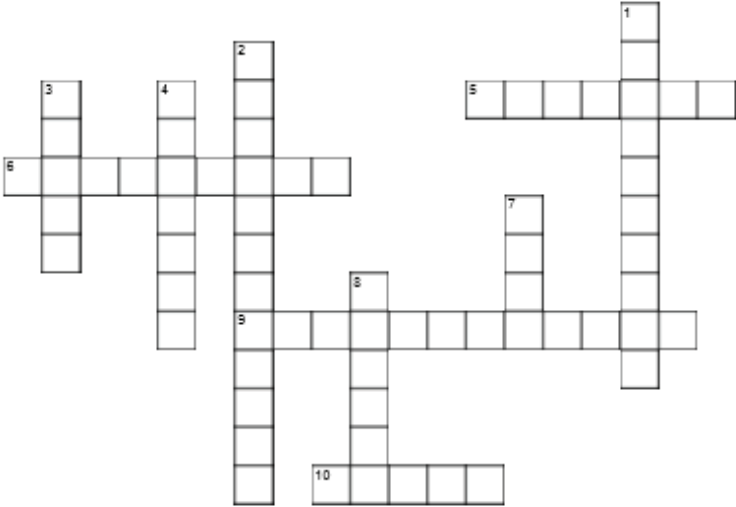
## Last Week’s Answers

### Local Businesses



## Puzzle of the Week

### Famous Movies



- ACROSS
- 5 Bruce Willis leads a one-man war against a building full of terrorists.
  - 6 The first rule of it is not to talk about it.
  - 9 Four ghost nerds fight off the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man.
  - 10 Sylvester Stallone wrote the script and played the lead role.
- DOWN
- 1 Mel Gibson plays William Wallace in the First War of Scottish Independence.
  - 2 Famous line from this movie: "\_\_\_\_\_ is people!"
  - 3 The cast of the movie didn't know about the chest-burster scene before it happened.
  - 4 Famous quote: "I'll never let go, Jack. I'll never let go."
  - 7 A killer great white shark menaces a New England beach resort.
  - 8 Hitchcock movie known for the shower scene murder.

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

The first person to report the find to zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

Now Playing: “Lego Ninjago” and “American Made”

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