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Candidates making Glen Park Project a major issue in city's upcoming Tuesday election

Nathan Lukasavitz

Falcon News Service

Loving the sense of peace and relaxation he gets while hiking and fishing, trout fisherman Jonathan Xiong, accompanied by his two brothers, returned to Glen Park last week where they, like many fishers and kayakers, utilize the park's access to the Kinnickinnic River.

"It's a good place to relax; that's just what I come for," Xiong said. "It's nice to catch fish, but just enjoying the outdoors is really the main point."

As a casual visitor to Glen Park, Xiong has occasionally seen kayakers as well as other fishermen struggle in their effort to get down to the river or back to the parking lot.

"A lot of people like to do kayaking, and I know it's hard for them to get down the hill and back up," he said. "Some trout fishermen just go over there to get down (to the water), but we like more of the hiking portion."

With the city's Glen Park Project a top issue in the April 3 election for alderperson at-large, the park's access point to the river is something being considered. As one of four candidates running, Michael Page thinks the plan for the project is in need of revision, largely because of a strong suspicion that the access point will eventually become obsolete.

"No one's going to park at Glen Park to utilize that access point anymore," said Page, who, in addition to running for the seat is also president of Friends of the Kinni. "In the future, with that river restored, kayakers are not going to park at the tennis courts and haul their kayaks all the way down that huge hill. There's going to be parking where the yard waste dump is right now, down below the power plant building, where people can launch their kayaks into the river without having to walk down a hill at all."

Having numerous concerns about the plan for Glen Park, Page said he thinks the City Council needs to consider future changes in the city, such as the removal of the Kinnickinnic dams.

"They need to look around," he said. "They need to come up for air and see what else is changing around us before we invest all this money in tearing down trees and tearing down playground areas."

Also greatly concerned about the money being invested, Jeff Bjork, a candidate and at-large incumbent, believes the park is a community park and should be upgraded, at least in part, by the River Falls community and not by the city.



Photo by Nathan Lukasavitz/Falcon News Service
Steven Xiong (left) and his brother Jonathan prepare their fishing gear outside the tennis courts at Glen Park on March 22.

"I have some problems with we as a city being willing to spend \$4.3 million to upgrade that," Bjork said. "Everything that's in there has been donated or generated by organizations, whether it's the Lions Club or Moose Lodge or whoever."

Though he does believe various aspects of Glen Park are

in need of upgrades and/or repair, Bjork would rather see the money invested in an ongoing plan to relocate the police and fire departments to more modern facilities.

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City of River Falls prepares to vote on School Board election

Chris Gregg

Falcon News Service

As the residents of River Falls prepare to vote on Tuesday, one portion of their ballot will present a lot of choices. With six candidates and seemingly endless issues, the School Board election is a hot topic among some residents but support appears to be lacking in UW-River Falls students.

Mike Miller, candidate for the School Board, said that he hopes that students will vote on Tuesday.

"UWRF students will benefit from strong public school districts," Miller said. "Today's UWRF students are tomorrow's River Falls School District parents."

Six candidates are running to fill four soon-to-be vacant seats on the School District of River Falls' School Board during the April 3 election. Candidates include business leaders and educators from River Falls and the surrounding area. Each candidate was given the opportunity to respond to questions that would be put into a portfolio of each candidate.

Todd Andrews

Andrews has a background in the private sector of business. He said that this experience gives him a different perspective that will allow him to assist in budget management, work collaboratively with other board members and manage projects in an efficient manner.

"My goal will be to dig in deep into the budget numbers to make sure we are maximizing the limited funds we have," Andrews said. "This is nothing new for me as I have a history of being provided with a fixed budget and finding ways to get the highest number of top priorities accomplished effectively and efficiently, without just being cheap."

Andrews said that he wants the River Falls School District to be a district that strives to be a leader among local districts, both in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

"It is very important that we are not just comparing ourselves to the rest of Wisconsin," Andrews said. "We also need to make sure we are also out pacing the folks on the other side of the St. Croix River."

One of Andrews' goals is to communicate with as many



Photo courtesy of the City of River Falls
Screen capture from the school board candidate forum held on March 15.

members of the district as feasible.

"I have received a lot of feedback over the past few months that people within the district do not feel like they have a voice," Andrews said. "I find that very disturbing, and I want to make sure that everyone knows that they can come to me and provide me with input and feedback."

Cindy Holbrook

Holbrook also brings a varied perspective to the board since she is both a coach and instructor at UW-River Falls and a parent of students in the district. She said that both of those responsibilities would benefit the board and the district.

"Being on the School Board isn't just administrative – it impacts children, teachers and parents every single day," Holbrook said. "Board members should have direct contact with our schools."

Holbrook wants to use her perspective to help the board set policies that are not only inclusive but also ensure the students in the district succeed. She said that it is important for any board member to approach their duties with more than a single goal or issue in mind. Rather, they should work to set up all district personnel and students for success.

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River Falls mayor race has a mix of old, new faces

Zach Dwyer

Falcon News Service

Fall can be a very difficult time for students at UW-River Falls. They are constantly in a rush around town, checking for house listings and trying to set up tours of potential rental properties. Finding enough people to fill the requirements of the lease can be difficult, with the challenging prospect of needing to know almost nine months in advance who you will be living with for an entire year.

With the university making up a large percentage of the population in River Falls, both candidates for mayor see the issue of housing as central to the growth and stability of River Falls. Aaron Taylor, one of the candidates, said that the older generations didn't have as many problems with college debt and looking for housing.

"It's impossible to responsibly buy a house that isn't a dump," Taylor said. "It's about making River Falls be affordable and understanding that higher property taxes make it harder to enjoy life."

The relationship with student housing and landlords is also important, according to Taylor. Without the university, he said the town couldn't possibly be what it is today.

Students at UWRF can show their support for candidates Dan Toland or Taylor by voting at the upcoming state election on Tuesday. Both candidates see the need for increased housing projects and will look to push the city toward the future in the next two years.

Toland has lived for more than 40 years in River Falls, where he has gone to school, owned a business and held the office of mayor for the last six years. Toland didn't have any experience in city government before being elected, but he knew that he wanted to get involved.

By contrast, Taylor is a 2011 chemistry graduate of UWRF who already has served as a member of the City Council from 2014 to 2016. He works for 3M and made a bid for state office in the Wisconsin State Assembly as an independent candidate in 2016. Taylor is pushing to bring in a young philosophy to the office of mayor.

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News Briefs: Dance Theatre’s annual spring concert April 4-7 at UW-River Falls

March 23, 2018 - The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Dance Theatre will present their annual spring concert nightly April 4-7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Blanche Davis Theatre in Kleinpell Fine Arts. The public is invited.

The concert features the work of numerous UW-River Falls Dance Theatre alumni, current students, faculty, and professionals. The evening offers diverse dance forms from contemporary, modern, jazz, swing, tap, house, and Israeli folk fusion.

Visiting Winona State University Professor Erinn Liebhard has created a rhythmic Jazz dance titled “Half Steppin’” that explores the uniquely human experience of sharing groove with an expressive tune as a guide. “My Hell; Our Stable,” choreographed by returning guest artist Danielle Ricci is a social response inspired by men and women recovered from sex trafficking rings. The piece strives to spread awareness about this concern in our communities. שלום, meaning peace in Hebrew, fuses traditional Israeli folk dance with virtuosic modern movement. This company work investigates harmony gained through nurturing community and collaboration. “Now You’re Singin’ with a Swing” combines classic swing dance steps from the 30s and 40s with jazzy tap dance in an exuberant battle of styles.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (60+), \$5 for students and children, and free for UWRF students with valid ID. Tickets can be purchased at the University Theatre Box Office beginning March 27, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and at 6:30 p.m. on performance nights, by phone at 715-425-3114 or online at <http://marketplace.uwrf.edu/collections/dance-theatre>.

UWRF Dance Theatre, a modern dance company, has brought an artistic dance program to students who love dance for over 35 years. UWRF Dance Theatre strives to provide rich dance experiences and performance to River Falls and the surrounding communities.

For more information, contact Mari Kline-Kluck, director of UWRF Dance Theatre, at 715-425-0743 or mari.kline@uwrf.edu.

Entrepreneurs complete UWRF business plan creation program

March 22, 2018 - The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls has graduated its fourth Entrepreneurial Training Program (ETP) cohort.

On March 15, 11 new entrepreneurs presented business plans to their class and instructors. Ideas included plans for a popcorn shop, equine facility, business consulting setup, land management company and granite countertop showroom.

ETP is a 10-week, 30-hour class for community members who want to start a new business or grow an existing one.

The class utilizes cutting-edge business concepts such as the Business Model Canvas, Empathy Maps and Lean Start-Up. These techniques produce businesses that are significantly more viable and likely to succeed than those started with traditional business plan writing techniques.

“I am so very thankful that I found ETP. The program has really helped me slow down and think about everything involved in starting a business. It is terrifying what I didn’t know as a budding entrepreneur,” said class participant Thomas Novak of Roberts. “I found great value in sharing ideas with classmates during the sessions which challenged the one-sided way I was looking at my business. I will have a much stronger business because of it.”

ETP classes are offered from 6-8:30 p.m. at the UWRF Hudson Center each semester. Applications are being accepted for the fall 2018 cohort.

For more information, contact SBDC Business Consultant Katherine Fossler at 715-425-3472 or katherine.fossler@uwrf.edu

Seniors present BFA exhibitions at UW-River Falls

March 23, 2018 - University of Wisconsin-River Falls seniors Gretchen Askew, Joe P. Bertelsen, Emily Holman, and JJ Knapp will present their BFA work in Gallery 101 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building March 30-April 10. On display will be glass, ceramics, graphic design, printmaking, painting, mixed media two-dimensional works, and three-dimensional sculptures.

Gretchen Askew, of Eden Prairie, has emphases in glass and ceramics. Her thesis show investigates the use of shapes and patterns to convey certain emotions. She enjoys the freedom of working sculpturally in media that is extremely hands-on while combining 2D and 3D techniques.

Joe P. Bertelsen, of Sun Prairie, has emphases in drawing and painting. On display will be digital drawings and paintings featuring members of the art community in River Falls. This series will highlight how personality and a sense of self aren’t limited to personal appearance by rendering the subjects as cats in spaces personalized to fit the subject of the portrait. In addition, there will be paintings of cats engaging

in human activities. Emily Holman, of Hudson, has emphases in graphic design and printmaking. She will exhibit work that encompasses the effects positivity and kindness can have on a person’s daily life through a public service campaign that combines graphic design and printmaking.

JJ Knapp, originally of Chippewa Falls, has emphases in art history and drawing. Knapp will exhibit work that revolves around society’s uncomfortable topics, such as identity, discrimination, and oppression.

A reception is April 6 from 4-7:30 p.m. in Gallery 101. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public. Regular gallery hours are Monday-Friday from 3-8 p.m. For more information, call the UW-River Falls Art Department at 715-425-3266.

UW-River Falls IHSA Western Show Team members advance to nationals competition at UW-River Falls

March 26, 2018 - Seven members of the UW-River Falls Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Western Show Team are advancing to the IHSA National Championships May 3-6 in Harrisburg, Pa.

UW-River Falls earned the right to advance as a team to nationals after they tied for second/third place overall at semi-finals in Hamburg, N.Y., March 17-18. Individual riders who placed 4th or better in individual categories at semi-finals also qualified to compete. Additionally, Danielle Paulson, who earned 100 points for the year in open reining and open horsemanship and was named the AQHA Cup Champion for Zone 7 Region 3, advances directly to nationals to compete in the National AQHA Cup Championships.

The seven UWRF riders competing in team and individual categories at nationals include:

- Samantha Abrahamson (agricultural education major from Minneapolis) – Team Beginner Horsemanship
- Kendyl Bennett (accounting major from Preston, Minn.) – Team Intermediate Horsemanship
- Jackie Bucher-Thayer (agricultural business major from Ridgeland) – Team Advanced Horsemanship
- Kaycee Hatch (animal science major from Racine) – Individual Novice Horsemanship
- Sydni Loose (animal science major from Cedar Grove) – Team Novice Horsemanship
- Jennifer Lorenz (agricultural business major from Onalaska) – Individual Advanced Horsemanship
- Danielle Paulson (animal science major from Pine Island, Minn.) – Team Reining, Team Open Horsemanship, Individual Reining and AQHA Cup

For more information, email janie.huot@uwrf.edu.

Follow the Student Voice on Twitter:

@uwrfvoice

UWRF Campus Events Calendar:

- **Language Matters: Teaching Experiences in Brazil**
Monday, April 2 3:30p.m.-4:30p.m.
University Center - Trimbelle River Room
 - **Mental Health Speaker: Kevin Hines**
Wednesday, April 4 12 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
North Hall Auditorium
 - **Commissioned Composer: Young Jo Lee**
Thursday, April 5th 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Kleinpell Fine Arts - Abbot Concert Hall
- **Frances Cohler Coffee Concert: United Hands**
Friday, April 6 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Kleinpell Fine Arts - Abbot Concert Hall
 - **BFA Thesis Exhibition**
Monday, April 2 - Friday, April 6
Kleinpell Fine Arts
3 p.m.-8 p.m.
- Visit uwrf.edu for a full schedule of events



Photo byYasmine Ruetz/Student Voice
Students and community members gathered to give blood in the Falcon’s Nest this week. The event was put on by the American Red Cross.

City of River Falls prepares to vote on School Board election

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“Creating a better, safer and more flexible environment allows our schools to do some of the things they can’t currently do,” Holbrook said. She hopes that she can help create plans to increase staffing and update facilities to best accomplish this goal.

Holbrook said she hopes that students will vote for her because strong school boards affect the community they live in. She also said that her experience as an educator provides her with a varied perspective.

“I have experience and a full understanding that something that looks effective on paper may not be the best for teachers and students that are actually in the classroom on a day-to-day basis,” Holbrook said.

Mike Miller

Miller has been on the School Board for nine years and is a local business owner. His wife is a teacher at Meyer Middle School.

“I am running for the board again because I feel like I have some unfinished business,” Miller said. “I was on the ad hoc committee that determined the facility needs for our current referendum.”

Miller is a graduate of River Falls High School and has had three children in the district, his youngest a junior in high school. He has also been a volunteer coach at the high school for 16 years, and currently operates both a business and commercial real estate in the city.

He said he views the duties of the board as both diverse but also very pointed: “To oversee the implementation of the policies, procedures, budget and strategic plan ... to (also) be a conduit between school district and the tax payers of the school district.”

His overall goal for the district is to graduate students who are versed in a variety of areas and have the opportunity to find and explore their passions. Miller’s goals for the future of the district are centered around the facility referendum and continuing to prepare students for the work force.

“With the successful passage of our building referendum, we will address the many maintenance items that our facilities require,” Miller said. “We will have 21st century classrooms that offer both students and staff the opportunity to prosper. We will have secure schools where everyone feels safe.”

Mike Thompson

Information to contact Thompson was not readily available at the time of publication after numerous attempts to contact the district and city clerk. However, the questionnaire provided by the River Falls School District provided his answers to several questions.

“My vision for education in the community is to provide and support a structure that encourages and facilitates our community members to discover their passions and develop their skills,” Thompson said. “This vision is based on recognizing that the things we are passionate about may change through stages of life, and we need to develop skills to pursue those passions.”

Thompson said that teachers are key to the district and need to be supported so that they can best support their students.

“Key teachers in my life inspired me to follow my dreams,” Thompson said. “Those teachers were right, and the confidence they expressed in me helped me to find my passion – understanding how our physical world works.”

Alan Tuchtenhagen

Tuchtenhagen is running for re-election after serving on the board for a number of years. During his time on the board, he has worked on adding 4-year-old kindergarten and kept the district on a positive financial path. He has also had three children graduate from the district.

He is running with several goals in mind. First (and most importantly), to continue to ensure students are successful, he said.

“One way we do that is by supporting classroom teachers through pay, working environment, advocacy and encouragement,” said Tuchtenhagen.

Tuchtenhagen’s other goals include: remaining financially stable, especially with limited increases in state aid; continuing to develop trust with the River Falls community through transparency; and getting the current referendum passed to put some money toward much-needed facility improvements.

He also hopes to continue to engage the entire River Falls community to gain even stronger support for the district.

Tuchtenhagen said he is dedicated to maintaining a close relationship between UW-River Falls and the school district.

“I (am) very connected to UWRF since I worked there for many years. I understand the issues that the school district and (the university) have in common,” Tuchtenhagen said. “There are many opportunities for UWRF students to connect with our schools and vice versa.”

Kellen Wells-Mangold

Wells-Mangold was appointed by the school board to fill a board vacancy in November and is running to continue the work he started. This work includes retaining and attracting effective teachers, implementing the strategic plan and advocating for inclusion and equality in all schools.

Wells-Mangold said that he brings a different perspective to the board due to his home life.

“I also have the youngest kids enrolled in the district of any candidate,” Wells-Mangold said. “I obviously want all families and students to feel like they are well represented, but I think other young families will look and see that my family has experiences that are similar to theirs at this point in their lives and possibly see me as someone they can connect with if needed.”

One of Wells-Mangold’s goals is to help the district work to increase diversity and continue efforts for inclusivity in the district. He also said he hopes to assist the district in implementing the various aspects of the referendum, should it pass.

Wells-Mangold said that while he has personal feelings toward many of the issues the board handles, he always reminds himself that he is working on behalf of the community. This means upholding the school district’s values and beliefs.

“It is really important to me to be a board member that works to make our district and community better,” Wells-Mangold said. “In the end, that’s really what we all want for River Falls.”

Wells-Mangold also said he thinks that UWRF students should vote for him because he understands the experiences college students have and wants to work to make the city a place graduates want to stay.

“I’m the product of a public education, I worked my way through college and my priorities are to provide the best opportunities I can for my family and to make the place where I live better,” Wells-Mangold said.

Candidates making Glen Park Project a major issue in city’s Tuesday election

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“We have an out-of-date police department and fire department down at Second Street and Elm Street,” he said. “The fire hall was built in 1955; it’s very small. The police station used to be where our city hall was; it’s also where our library was. We have that building as a police station now, and back in 1997, they did a remodel for a 7-10 year life on it because they knew they’re not going to be in there after 7-10 years. Well, guess what? That was 21 years ago, and we’re still there.”

Despite Bjork’s distaste for the city’s investment in the Glen Park Project, his fellow at-large incumbent and current election rival, Scott Morrisette, is fully in favor of the plan and believes the upgrades are exactly what citizens want.

“We did a citizen survey a couple years ago, and we heard loud and clear that citizens are interested in improving that park,” he said.

With various park features being overly outdated, Morrisette said he understands why citizens are seeking upgrades.

“Even on the hottest day, it’s kind of damp and cold in there,” he said, referring to the park’s picnic shelter. “It’s not a very inviting building. The baseball field out there is antiquated; it’s undersized.”

With both of the at-large positions set to be contested in the April 3 election, two of the candidates running will become elected, allowing them the opportunity to vote on any decisions regarding the future of Glen Park. Though there are nearly 10,000 registered voters in River Falls, only 1,180 voted in last year’s spring election according to city election statistics. Given the statistically low turnout, one of the candidates is even employing a strategy to persuade college students to vote for him.

“A lot of what I’ve been doing has just been online,” Page said. “I know that’s a much better way to reach college students than, say, putting an ad in the newspaper.”

Though not all of the candidates have made focused attempts to specifically reach college-age voters, university students are definitely being considered as candidates share their visions for the renovation of Glen Park. Candidate and lifelong city resident Judie Foster Babcock said she wants to ensure that changes to the park will only enhance its appeal and accessibility to students and campus residents.

“We work really hard to make sure trails and pathways and bikeways and the swimming pool are all accessible to the folks who live in our community,” she said. “Whether they’re permanent residents or transient, because they’re a student for a few years, they’re all welcome. It’s right in the heart of our community and it’s easily accessible by the Swinging Bridge.”

Xiong currently only comes to the park for its point of access to fishing and hiking, he said. As a college student, however, he used to visit the park regularly prior to graduating from UWRF in 2015. Now he looks forward to any improvements the city chooses to make.

“I used to come here to do some swimming. I would play some volleyball, soccer and basketball here,” he said. “It’s a good park, so if they’re upgrading – awesome! It’s a good community, good neighborhood park, all around.”

River Falls mayor race features a mix of old, new faces

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“Our parent’s generation has run this city for a while,” Taylor said. “If we want to continue to have this city be good for us, we need to get involved.”

When Taylor says we, he specifically means the younger generation of ages about 18-35. He said there needs to be more people involved with the decision-making in the city in general, and he hopes that he can bring a younger perspective to the council and lead it into the future.

“We’re a more socially conscious generation,” Taylor said. “It’s not just about me, it’s about us. We grasp it better than some of the older people on the council and in town in general.”

With the possibility of being the chief executive of the city, Taylor said it’s time for the up-and-coming citizens who are going to keep living in River Falls and show a new love for the city.

“I am the future – and by I, I mean this new generation,” Taylor said. “It’s time for us to take the reigns and guide our future and our children’s future. I have a younger way of thinking and a new generation view of things.”

While it might seem like it could make for a politically contentious race, Taylor said that isn’t the case in River Falls.

“There’s no slandering of opponents,” Taylor said. “I like Dan (Toland), and we’re friends. It’s not all woe to River Falls if one doesn’t get their way.”

Toland has been elected mayor in three consecutive elections. Now seeking his fourth two-year term, he said he initially became involved so he could do something else than just complain.

“I thought I would like to run for office, and I came and talked to the city clerk,” Toland said. “She suggested I try to get on a board first, but I decided, ‘I think I’m going to start at the top.’ Enough people liked me and voted me on, and it’s been a great experience so far.”

The role of being the chief executive of the city includes be-



Photo courtesy of Aaron Taylor
Aaron Taylor is running for the office of mayor against incumbent Dan Toland this year.

ing the public face of the city, working with the city administrator and presiding over the city council. The mayor can only vote if there is a tie, but they also have the ultimate responsibility for signing ordinances and using veto power.

Toland said that like anything in government, it takes forever for things to be accomplished. However, he’s been excited to finally be getting to works on the parks, river and inter-

change to bring more people to town.

“It’s all the little things we do and keeping the city going and providing great services for citizens,” Toland said. “Sometimes it’s stuff that people aren’t interested in, like infrastructure – but that’s what’s important and the expensive stuff, and it’s about making sure we have money in the budget for that.”

Toland also stressed making sure that they’re looking toward the future in all of the decisions that they make at the city level.

“Getting two new business parks since I’ve been mayor has been a big thing,” Toland said. “They’re one of the biggest parts of the city, and they bring in good businesses where there’s a wide range of jobs available. The more industry we bring into town, the more people that move here and put money into the businesses.”

Toland said that voters should support him if they like the way the city is moving forward and how things are getting done.

“Every decision we make at the city, it’s for making our city better and for the citizens,” Toland said. “Every decision we make affects the people in this city and all 15,000 people, not just a neighborhood. I try to make every decision we do that is financially in their best interest.”

Beyond his desire to fix the upcoming issues of how to expand much-needed housing in the city and creating new spaces for emergency services in River Falls, Toland said he was pleased with the progress in the Kinni corridor proposal.

“We had to come up with something that’s going to work for everybody,” Toland said, who served on the committee. “The whole idea was to come up with something that will work for the city. Now if we can just hold their interest going forward and see people involved. There’s a long way to go for the rest of it because it’s the whole corridor and just the dams; I’m confident we will get that done.”

You can find your local polling station and look at the rest of the ballot for Wisconsin at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>.

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

EDITORIAL

Voting in elections can be critical to a healthy democracy

We are living in a time when a lot of contentious political issues are up for debate. The future is uncertain, and we as voters have an opportunity to sway which direction it goes. However, this first requires that we get out and make an informed vote.

Most students at UW-River Falls don’t realize that they can vote in local and state elections while living in town and on campus. It is especially critical that they do, however, since local elections have a powerful and immediate impact on their lives. Changes at the state level can affect how the UW System operates and influence things like tuition and faculty pay. The local government sets property taxes, which ultimately affects how much landlords charge for rent.

The next opportunity to vote will be on Tuesday, April 3. On the local level, there will be elections for members of the River Falls School Board, alderperson at-large and mayor. Most students don’t vote on these issues because they don’t know what the candidates stand for. To remedy that, the Student Voice has run a series of articles this week detailing the upcoming elections.

On the state level, there is a referendum on whether to remove the state treasurer, and a handful of positions within the judicial system are up for election. More information about the state races can be found through the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

A lot of people don’t vote because the process can be confusing if you’re not from the state. Most information that students need to know is available on the UWRF website under “Voter Information” at <https://www.uwrf.edu/Vote/>. Wisconsin requires a photo ID. If a student does not have one already, they can request a voter ID card through the Division of Technology Services.

To be eligible to vote in Wisconsin, students also need to establish residency in River Falls and register to vote. The Wisconsin Voter Verification form is available through eSIS under “Resources” in the bottom right corner of your homepage. You have to make sure that it lists your River Falls address. To do that, you have to find the tab at the bottom of the eSIS homepage that says “Home Address” under “Contact Information” and make sure it’s correct. The Wisconsin Voter Verification form, along with your voter ID, will allow you to vote at your designated polling station.

Polling stations for UWRF students on campus are split between two locations based on which dorm you live in. Students from Hathorn, McMillan, Grimm, Parker, Crabtree, Ames or South Fork Suites go to the University Center. Students living in Johnson, Prucha, May and Stratton must vote at River Falls High School. Students living off-campus must figure out which ward of the city they are living, which determines where they go. This can be found under “Elections” on the city of River Falls website.

People are often upset that they don’t seem to have a voice in how our government is run. However, the easiest way to make yourself heard is to vote, and too often people don’t do that. It takes a bit of effort and an informed decision to make a difference in your community.

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

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The Student Voice is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Fridays during the regular school year. All editorial content in the Student Voice is determined by the newspaper’s Editorial Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper’s advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

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

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

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Head of EPA’s conflict of interest leads to potential environmental disaster

Carl Meeker
Columnist

Within a regulatory agency like the EPA, science is the fundamental basis for all actions. For DDT, there was an overwhelming amount of scientific data showing a direct link with the loss of the bald eagle. Few companies, however, were willing to voluntarily stop their use of DDT. It was therefore left to the EPA to regulate the use of DDT and numerous other concerns regarding public health and well-being.

Enter Scott Pruitt, who was active in the state politics of Oklahoma first as a state senator and eventually as the state attorney general. Throughout his career, he has been anti-science and anti-EPA. Throughout his election campaigns he received major contributions from the fossil fuel industry due to his anti-regulatory beliefs.

As attorney general, he dissolved the Environmental Protection Unit in the Attorney General’s office, which is responsible for the enforcement of environmental laws. He then went on to file multiple lawsuits against the EPA. Among those lawsuits, a few were filed jointly by corporations of the fossil fuel industry. Another of his suits was for the Oklahoma utility that objected to increased regulations of the coal-fired power plants.

In December 2016, Trump nominated Pruitt to be the head of the EPA. By January of 2017, Pruitt has sued the EPA 13 times, all of them failing. The very next month, February 2017, the Senate confirmed Pruitt, 52 to 46, as head of the EPA. This comes after he has continually fought and criticized the agency and accepted numerous donations from the industries the EPA was established to regulate. Regulatory capture in action.

Is it any surprise, then, what would follow his appointment? At the behest of Trump, he is working to repeal the Clean Power Act, which sought to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants by 32% from their 2005 levels while also encouraging the use of renewable energy and improving energy conservation.

He is working to overturn the Clean Water Rule, which provides updates to the Clean Water Act of 1972. He has supported the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement that seeks to reduce human impacts on the environment and to limit the fallout of anthropogenic climate change. Both Trump and Pruitt both believe these impacts are not happening to such an extent that they have removed the climate change page on the EPA website and to also severely cut back all funding on research of climate change.

In March of 2017, Pruitt met with 45 board members from the American Petroleum Institute who urged him to reverse a regulation of methane leaks from their wells. Pruitt went on to delay the implementation of this rule for two years. His decision, however, was vacated by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in a 2 to 1 ruling, saying that his move was “arbitrary”, “capricious” and in violation of the Clean Air Act.

All of this is but the tip of the proverbial iceberg. Can we entrust the EPA and our environment in the hands of a man that is the antithesis of the EPA and its purpose? Can we entrust these issues to a man who holds greater concern for the well-being of corporations over the citizens that he is meant to serve? It demonstrates the concept of regulatory capture, leaving the future of the EPA and the U.S. environments in a precarious position: in the hands of a man with an overwhelming number of conflicts of interest.

Carl is an environmental science major with plans to go into science, technology, and public policy.

Facial experience can lead to being more comfortable in one’s own skin

Lauren A. Simenson
Columnist

I walked into the salon eight minutes after my appointment was set to begin, which, according to my standards for time, was very late. After a hurried but heartfelt apology to the front desk, I followed my esthetician down a brightly lit hallway where the dense, cream-colored carpet muffled the sounds of our steps. She led me into a dimly lit room with a fully-reclined massage table covered in a soft, gray blanket. Behind the table was a full array of skin care tools, bottles of products, shelves of towels and a bright and professional-looking magnifying light.

As I positioned myself on the table, my toes pointing towards the ceiling, she draped a towel around my neck and put a headband around my ears and hairline to get my hair out of my face. I again apologized for being late and additionally for arriving with a shiny face full of makeup.

The anticipatory feeling of dread I had on the onset of my first facial was similar to that feeling of going to the dentist knowing full well you are going to get reprimanded for not flossing after being told at every dentist appointment to do it every day. In skincare, failing to properly care for your skin is literally written all over your face, and my face had a lot to say.

To not throw myself completely under the bus, it’s not that I do not care for my skin at all; it’s just that I am not a professional and I can only do so much with the time and money I have available to me. Additionally, I cannot seem to get a handle on my skin. I cannot control it or predict what mysterious afflictions will be waiting to surprise me when I get up and look into the mirror the next morning. Most days, it is far easier to throw my hands in the air, exclaim I have done everything I am capable of, throw makeup on and run from the mirror.

There is no running when you are laying prone and as every region of your bare skin is being scrutinized under a

magnifying lens. As someone who never goes into public without makeup on, except for on two occasions when I had to make visits to the emergency room, having someone else take off all of my makeup and so thoroughly cleanse my face was a sobering experience. When I take my makeup off alone in my bathroom at home, no one else knows what I look like without it all on.

During my facial, however, I was letting this stranger in on my “secret.” It did not help that while I was feeling slightly ashamed for exposing my secret skin, I was learning that I was using all of the wrong skincare and makeup ... perfect.

I have to continually remind myself that the status of my skin does not determine who I am as a person and that not having “perfect” skin does not mean I have to hide my face. I know this and am sometimes jealous of those who go out into the world with their bare skin. I admire them, but I still cannot seem to emulate their actions.

My first facial experience was, on the whole, really pleasant. Once I got over my initial inhibitions of being truly and fully seen as I actually am, I began to appreciate the smells of the products she carefully smoothed over my face, the slight tingle of the hydration mask that was applied to my skin and the reassuring weight and feel of a hot, thick towel draped over my skin.

My skin felt so very clean and so naked. It was a liberating feeling.

The whole facial process took an hour, and upon sitting back up off the table I felt that same kind of blurry sensation you get after accidentally taking too long of a nap. I followed her out of the dark room to the lobby flooded in bright light, and after paying for my session, I strode out into the sunshine making no moves to cover my face.

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.

Horoscopes by Beth: the overly romantic and full of clichés edition

Bethany Lovejoy
Columnist

Did you know that April is the most romantic month of all? This fact often surprises people, as there’s February, December and literally any other month. But it is; it’s all due to Easter and copious amounts of egg eating. Eggs are like an aphrodisiac that sends those hormones rolling.

In honor of the month of romance, here are all your very romantic horoscopes.

Aries

You’re going to meet someone tall, handsome and into dogs.

This is a total score if you’re not allergic to dogs but a total bummer if you are. If you’re allergic to dogs, you are going to spend the month of romance sneezing while trying to hit it off with this tall, dark hottie. From one super allergic girl to another super allergic person, you gotta let some people go.

Go on, get.

Taurus

You were just hanging out, drinking some water enhanced with flavor droplets and Hottie McHotson walked into your life. And while he’s been there for a while...?

It’s time to take some risks, rob some banks and burn some

buildings. Only with your heart. Don’t pillage anything.

Gemini

Wow, who is that babe over there?

Oh my god, it’s you. You’re the hottie for once.

This is great because you have to put in little to no effort and all of these horoscope hicks are gonna come walking up to you like, “I see that you enjoy Emma, but I must argue that it is one of Austen’s over-appreciated works.”

And then you’re gonna have a totally awesome discussion on the wicked character development of Mr. Knightley and how it literally doesn’t happen.

Like at all.

Cancer

It’s time.

I know you’re sad about the dissolution of your favorite club, but ... you gotta move on. River Falls could never sustain a Deep Sea Diving club; it just wasn’t in the cards.

You’re gonna meet a new dude/dudette, and though they may not always be an ebbing and flowing body of water, maybe this will be better for you.

I mean your skin won’t always be wrinkly, your hair will thank you a little. Just think about it buddy.

Leo

You’re going to start a WRFW show and the ladies are just going to love it.

The guys? They’ll be a bit into it.

Continued on page 5

Horoscopes by Beth: the overly romantic, cliché edition

Continued from page 4

It’s probably just going to be a long list of songs about being lonely followed by the occasional comment or two by you. However, it’s going to happen and the station is going to have to beat people off you with a stick.

Virgo
You’re going to get a Hulu subscription and it’s going to be great for your dating life.

The other person is going to be all, “Ugh there’s nothing on Netflix, maybe I should just leave.” But then you’re going to whip out that Hulu with ads subscription and wow, they are going to be about it.

Your chance of a second date? It goes up by like ten. Congratulations man.

Libra
So, lately you’ve been watching videos of people making tiny food on YouTube, which is awesome and all. But while you’re just hanging there watching those videos, someone is going to walk up to you and be all, “What’s this about?”

And you’re going to get annoyed and say, “Go away.” But you shouldn’t have. Because that was your truest of loves. So think about that; think about your antisocial behavior and how it has ruined your opportunities.

Scorpio
Normally you’re the worst person in the world, but this

week you’re going to be tolerable. This is going to lead to friendship for you, which is close to love in your case. Like, as close as you can get. Appreciate it and restrain from mentioning their weird laugh, messed up eyebrows and too-small face...

As a Scorpio, this might be your only chance, after all.
Sagittarius
You’re already in a relationship, you silly dog.

This week is going to be a great week for your relationship. Maybe they’ll take you out to eat or watch a cool documentary with you. My suggestion? Jesus Camp, but there’s also a few really good ones about hoarding on Netflix. Just remember: whatever documentary you watch will prepare you for next week’s imminent doom.

Capricorn
You too are already in a relationship, or close enough to it. This is a good week, however, to act as if you are out of it and spend some time alone. Knit or something; do a jumping jack. You can straight up overdose on a person and you are in denial about it. Stop swimming in that sea of love and start swimming in the sea of not having to wear pants before you drown.

Aquarius
What a night.
You’re going to wake up at some point this week and not be quite sure what you did, but you’ll get an idea when you

roll over and see ...
A pizza.
You, my dear, are in love with food, and it’s kind of weird for everyone else around you. Like, sure, food is great and all, totally relatable Tumblr content. However, you need to think about how much you reference it. Like, your “food is my only friend” memes are off the charts and your real friends are starting to hate you.
Pisces
Hey, you little introvert, how have you been the past week? You are well aware that you are the only person who reads my column and I am so happy with you. Though you’re not really looking and you aren’t even thinking about it, you won one heart over this week.
Mine, you dedicated little reader.
I think you are the sweetest, most wonderful reader in the whole entire zodiac, and I don’t even know you.
Keep being your bad self, Pisces.

Every single week that Bethany Lovejoy writes for the Student Voice is a surprise, likely because she holds the record for threatening to quit the most. Bethany Lovejoy is a junior ceative writing major who writes the movie reviews and horoscopes. If you asked who her favorite staff member was, she would say, “no comment.”

STUDENT voices

Compiled by Alayna Rudolph

“If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?”



Barisa Riesso
(Freshman)
“Brazil; I love soccer, which is popular there, and they have nice beaches.”



Emma Hengemuhle
(Senior)
“A road trip across America, so I could see all the continental states in one trip.”



Carter Justice
(Freshman)
“Korea; I’m a quarter Korean so that would be cool for me.”



Maddie Urick
(Sophomore)
“France; I’m learning French and would want to brush up on it.”



Chris Johnson
(Junior)
“England; it’s a nice place and they speak English.”



Bella Groover
(Senior)
“Paris, France; I want to see the Eiffel Tower.”

‘Twilight’ extended edition: same vampires, same actors, more steamy make out scenes

Bethany Lovejoy
Reviewer

I’d like to extend my hand to the “Twilight” extended edition ... and slap it.

Here is a fact that has been reiterated to the Student Voice staff multiple times this year: I watch the movie “Twilight,” like, a lot. Not a lot as in every day of the year, but a lot as in multiple times a year. More than five. This is due to a variety of factors such as:

1. It’s an easily accessible movie for me.
2. All of my writing professors like to mock the low hanging fruit that is “Twilight.”
3. I am aware that the movie is bad and for some reason find it to be the height of comedic evolution.

Stephenie Meyer is not the Davinci of books and she is not the DiCaprio of books; she’s more of the Dijon of books. This woman identified what a large part of the population enjoys, such as weird mustard and paranormal romance, and she sold it. She sold it, and she ignores those who do not enjoy her controversial mustard of a creation. So the movie artfully does the same thing.

Disclaimer: I watched the extended edition on accident. This is important because I have a very limited amount of movie-watching time, and the longer the movie takes, the later my reviews show up. Also, most of you haven’t seen the extended edition. There’s not much difference - just more music video moments and a longer makeout scene. I was okay with this.

Enter Bella Swan.

Bella Swan is a pale 16-something from Phoenix, Arizona. She has a personality, but it is buried under pages of script. Her personality is evident through the fact that she is holding a cactus in one hand and a spade in the other in the style of American Gothic. Cactus indicate good personalities.

Bella is holding this cactus and shovel because she is moving from Arizona, a land of the sun, to Washington, a land of legal marijuana and apparently vampires. Bella is very sad about this, but does not tell anyone. Bella may be depressed.

Bella is going to Forks, Washington, to stay with her dad, who is both a police chief and divorced. Her dad is like her, but better; they’re both socially awkward, but Charlie has friends and a mild personality. Charlie is played by a really cool dude who was in this one show on the sci fi channel. Charlie also looks like he smells of justice, but this is all you need to know about Charlie.

Charlie takes home his sad daughter, she is sad. He makes her happy, however, with his magical gift of a car from his best friend. His best friend is Billy Black; Billy Black is a Pretty Cool Dude™. Billy Black also has a son named Jacob, and Jacob wants some of Bella. Everyone in this town wants some of Bella.

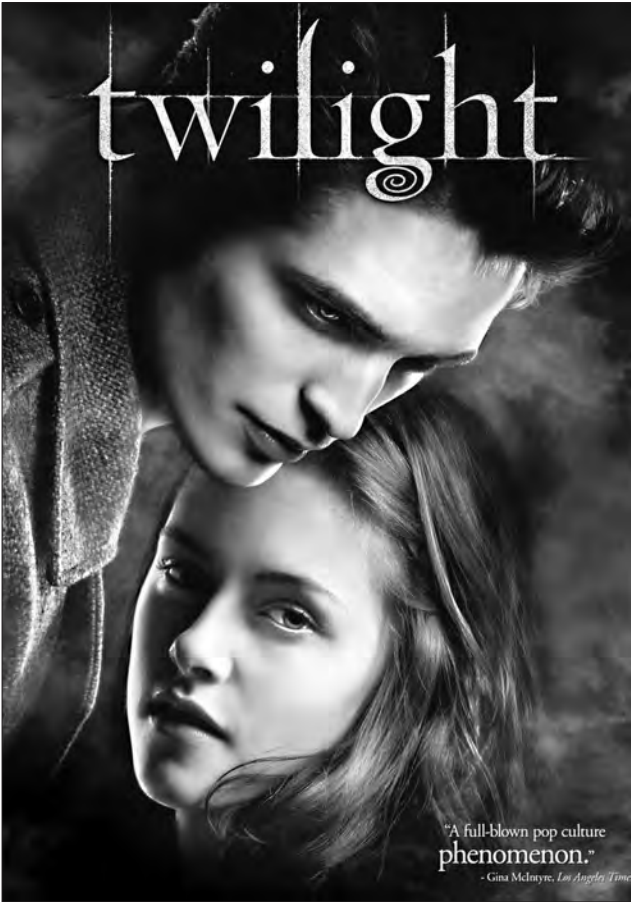
Bella uses the crappy car to drive to school, where she basically has to say, “Oi, bunch off mate,” to everyone. Mike Newton, Eric whatever, Tyler hitspeoplewithcars. All three boys in the school. Bella has lunch with her new mates and is all, “What a nice school, I hope I live a nice normal life with me mates and stuff.”

Enter the Cullens.

Who are hot.

Bella’s life is not normal.

The Cullens have the type of family tree that has no branches and are all paired up accordingly. Except one,



the mega hot, mega brooding Edward. We know he is hot because he looks like he stuck his head out of a sunroof.

Jessica is all like, “That’s Edward, don’t waste your time.” And Bella responds, “Wasn’t planning on it.” But she totally was planning on it.

During biology Bella has to sit next to Edward, who is super not about her. This is okay though, because Edward has some super unsubtle angel imagery going on with a taxidermied owl in the background, no bueno.

Also, he stares at her in a way that makes parts of you clench.

Bella’s mum calls and is all like, “Are there any good looking hunks at your hunkschool—I mean high school.”

And Bella is like, “Mum there are so many and they all watch my butt.” Only instead she just mumbles something unintelligible that hints at her dismay with the Edward situation.

“Eyes On Fire” plays. It’s a good song. Edward Cullen is gone; it’s a good day.

Charlie is like, “Did you know there’s apparently a murdering murder beast in murder forest?”And Bella does not care, because Edward is gone and death would be a release.

Also, if you’ve watched the other movies, there is always a murdering beast in the woods.

Edward finally shows up and talks to her. Robert Pattinson had to put on an American accent for this movie, and it shows.

Bella informs Edward she hates cold and wet things. This upsets Edward, as he is all of the above.

The next day, a big old murder van decides to big old murder Bella, but before Bella can experience death’s sweet release, Edward totally takes the bus for her and saves her. Despite this, she still has to go to the hospital even though the other dude looks way worse. It’s okay, though, because at the hospital they drop some straight plot information conveniently within Bella’s hearing range. This is likely because she probably should have died from shock.

Less than forty-eight hours after her traumatic experience,

she goes to the beach where a mystical Indian of bad writing legends waits to reveal the essential world building information to her. In the book she has to kind of flirt with him, but in the movie Jacob is desperate for attention.

Some makeout and sleep watching happens. It is a long makeout scene. Very long. Like I walked away because it felt long in an inappropriate way.

She learns Edward is a vampire through that and a few other moments, but no one really cared. She goes to the house of vampires and seems to be okay with it.

But then she goes out into the murder woods to play murder baseball and a gang of murderous murderers appear. One of these is James; James correctly realizes that Bella is a snack. She looks and smells like the snack of the day.

James is all like, “Girl are you a KitKat? Because I’m about to break you in half and let you linger a little too long on my teeth.” Which is a totally real line from this movie that was totally not added here for comedic effect. Totally.

Edward is upset that James realizes the crunch of this girl and is like, “We gotta take her away.” So they straight up hide her in Arizona. The place where she is from. Where everything about her is indicated to be from. Where, like, a random person on the streets of Forks would say she is from before saying her name. James finds her.

He straight up crunches her spine. And starts rag-doll-ing her.

Edward is #upset and shows up, immediately shoving her. I put on my glasses to see if the fight scene was extended. Also because I like fighting. It was not. The extended version of this movie is worse.

Bella recovers, and the movie shows her in the hospital, which I think is the main difference between these movies. She spends, like, a hot minute there before Edward decides she has to go to the prom and kidnaps her for the event.

Also, her leg is broken.

In a moment that defined my childhood notions of romance, Bella and Edward dance together alone in a gazebo; she hobbles helplessly as he leads. Looking back on it, she is either hopelessly fogged from pain pills at this moment or in immense agony, but I’m not a doctor.

As I watch them sway back and forth and discuss how much they love each other, I almost turn off the movie, but then this super fine lady comes on screen.

She is Victoria, who was James’s official girlfriend. She looks irritated. She didn’t have enough screen time for you to really know, but she is evil and very mad. She stands there in her delicate dress, watching others enjoying life; much like me at my high school proms.

The credits roll.

The extended version is about 40 minutes longer than the normal, and if I had to guess, twenty of those went to straight makeout scenes. This would normally make a movie great except, you know, I’m an adult woman who came for fighting.

So why is this movie the greatest movie ever? Why do I keep coming back? It is a gem.

Every single moment of awkward dialog, every second of fake American accents; this is the love of my life.

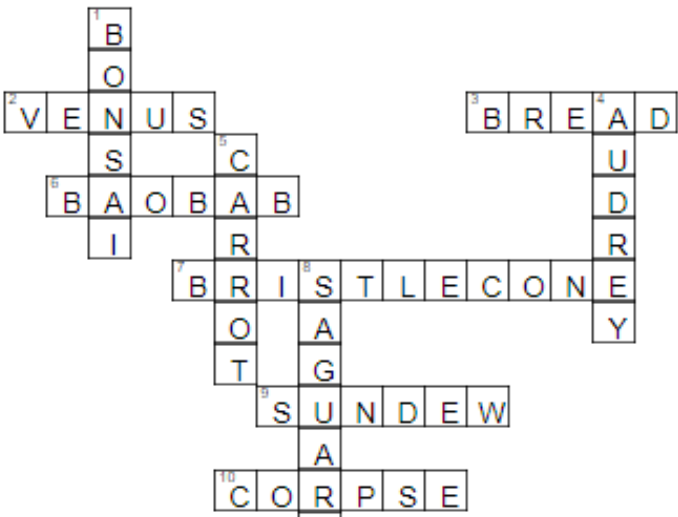
I think the extended edition is more comedic than the original, but not intentionally.

I give it a five minutes of fighting out of two hours and two minutes of movie... or a 7/10.

Bethany Lovejoy is a junior at UWRF. She is a creative writing major, and all she does is sleep, watch Netflix and tell you to watch Netflix.

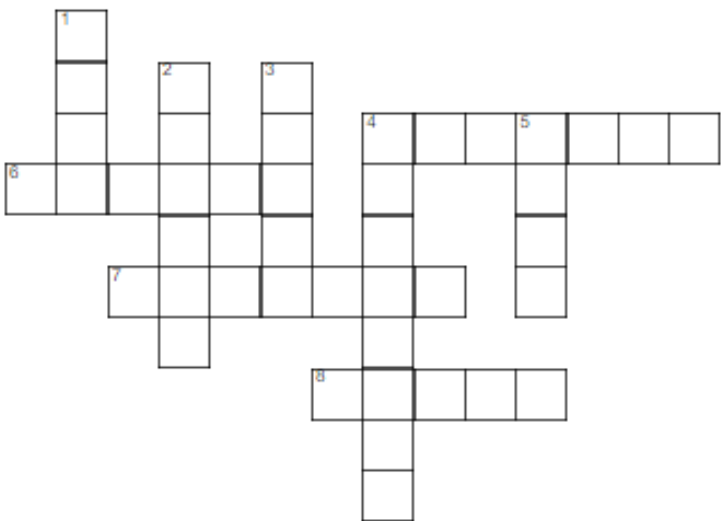
Last Week’s Answers

Weird Plants



Puzzle of the Week

Star Trek



ACROSS
4 Small, fluffy alien species that reproduces very quickly.
6 Spock is half human half _____.
7 "Live long and _____."
8 Last name of the late actor who played the original Spock character.

DOWN
1 Hikaru _____. Helmsman for the USS Enterprise in the original "Star Trek" series.
2 Jean-Luc _____. Captain of the Enterprise in "Star Trek: The Next Generation."
3 Klingon home world.
4 Captain James Kirk's middle name.
5 Recurring antagonist - alien race linked by a hive mind called "The Collective."

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 zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu. AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

Now Playing: “Ready Player One”

The winner will be announced on the Voice’s Twitter and Facebook accounts:
@uwrfvoice and facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice

Check out the Student Voice
online at
uwrfvoice.com.