

University of Wisconsin-River Falls

STUDENT VOICE

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Emerald ash borer confirmed in River Falls

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The emerald ash borer is a wood-eating green beetle. Considered an invasive species, this beetle has recently been found in ash trees in River Falls.

It entered the U.S. back in 2002, arriving in packaging materials from China, according to the Arbor Day Foundation. The emerald ash borer has spread widely through ash tree populations, now reaching 35 states and parts of Canada, according to Nate Croes, the city forester.

Croes said the bug is able to spread rapidly through the movement of firewood. Though there are firewood regulations in place, they haven't been enforced enough to slow the spread.

The first sign of the insect in River Falls was by Dick's market and Kwik Trip. Croes described that commercial areas are typically hit first, as seen in the neighboring town of Hudson. The trees identified in River Falls were all on private property. This spread is due to people traveling through and carrying firewood, allowing the bug to find a new home.

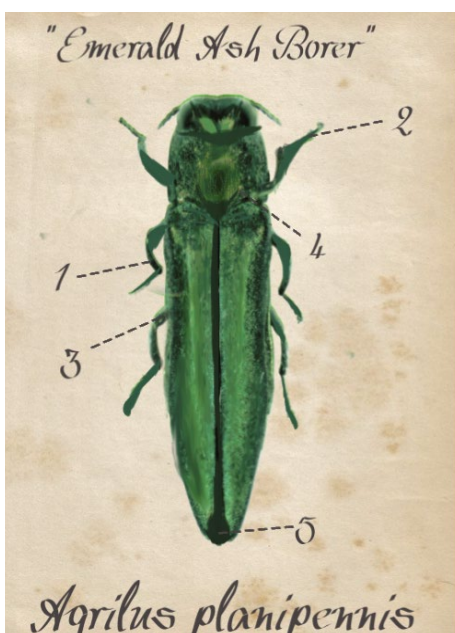
"We are trying to take a proactive approach and working with the city and school board," said Jennifer Hundt, grounds supervisor on the UWRF campus. The university plans on using the same approach as the city, focusing mainly on removal of ash trees and only treating a few.

Hundt is working to get an inventory done of all the trees on campus. The university hasn't treated any trees, since no signs have been found. "Now that we know it's in Pierce county, we're actually going to be working with some campus clubs and classes. Hopefully setting up some monitor boxes, the purple tents you see around," said Hundt.

Hundt estimates over 100 ash trees are rooted in campus. "We're going to evaluate each tree based on location, size, historical significance and overall health of the tree to begin with," said Hundt.

More established trees may get a treatment plan. "It all comes down to budget. What are we willing to pay for, what makes sense," said Hundt.

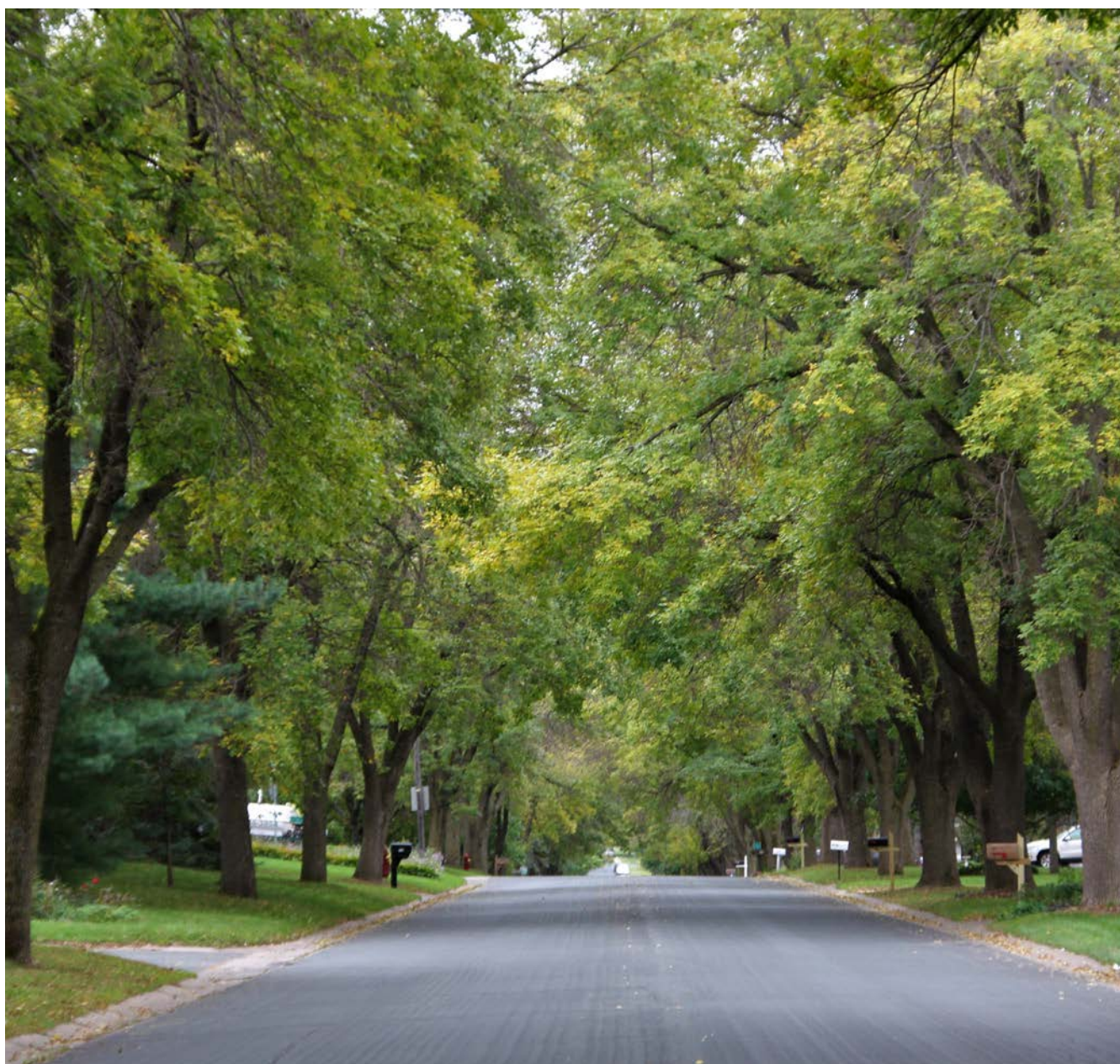
As far as signs of infection, Hundt described an infected tree as having a lot of leaves missing in the center of the tree,



Emerald ash borer, an invasive species. Graphic courtesy of Kacey Joslin

water sprouts from the ground surrounding a tree, insect damage inside of the bark, and several other indications.

Croes said the inventory of public trees in River Falls totals over 8,000. "We're thinking we have about 2,000 [ash trees] right now, we're probably on the low end because we haven't planted an ash tree since 2004, knowing emerald ash borer is coming,"



Ash trees lining Wasson lane in a neighborhood in River Falls
Photo by: Angelique Tretsven

said Croes.

An affected tree will die in about 3 to 5 years. Croes said only about 1% of ash trees survive when a population is hit by infestation. The beetles spend most of their lives in the tree, but emerge as adults in warmer months to mate, feeding minimally on the foliage of the ash tree.

They then lay their eggs under the bark of the tree. "That's where, to survive the winter, they eat the bark of the tree. And that's what does the damage. It kills the tree from the inside out," said Croes.

The tree has to be chipped after removal, since the beetle can survive in the logs. The larva can't complete its life cycle in a wood chip. The wood chips can then be moved safely. "If we move infested wood across the city, there would be new infestations," said Croes.

Croes said there are three options for affected areas. "You can remove the tree before it's infected, you can wait until it gets infested, or there is a preventative chemical injection," said Croes.

The chemical prevention branches into two types. In one, the roots absorb a chemical and are protected for a year. The more popular treatment is injections into the bark at the base

of the tree. The insecticide injected, called emamectin benzoate, protects the tree for about 2 to 3 years. The injection costs about \$10 to \$12 per inch in diameter. "It's very expensive. Our school of thought is these trees are eventually going to die, you can't treat them forever. So we are going to do a few select trees," said Croes.

Some residences have opted to pay for treatment of public trees near their home. The city has a database to track which trees are being treated and which will be removed. Croes said they are taking a proactive removal approach in most cases. "We've been doing this passively for 5 to 10 years, replacing ash trees with other species," said Croes.

The city plans to treat specific trees, like the large ash trees on City Hall grounds. They also plan to treat trees in the center median of downtown River Falls.

Croes predicted in about five years that River Falls will start seeing more signs of damage from the emerald ash borer, based off of what other communities have experienced. Though the emerald ash borer is a concern for ash tree populations, with this focused approach the city will attempt to minimize the affects of this invasive species.

What is your favorite fall activity?

By Hallie Diekoff



Riley Schultz

“I enjoy bow hunting.”



Jamal Teymurlu

“Taking Pictures.”

Eric Byerly

“Finding independent coffee shops with the best fall coffee drinks.”



Lexi Elgin

“Watching spooky movies wrapped up in a ton of blankets with my cat.”



Kailan Brown

“Listening to Jazz music.”



Megan Schuldt

“I like hiking.”

Piper Richter

“Walking my dog and looking at the beautiful fall leaves.”



Amy Brookwhis-

“Going to the county fair.”



Healthy Living Community allows substance free living choice for students

Melissa Thorud

Falcon News Service

Students at UW-River Falls who want nothing to do with drug or alcohol use can opt to live in a residence hall that is home to the Healthy Living Community.

“The main core of the community is that it is substance free, meaning no use of alcohol even if they are of age and no drug use,” said Karla Thoennes, the director of Residence Life.

The community is based in Stratton Hall and consists of the entire building. Students can choose Stratton when filling out their housing contracts. The community is committed to a zero-tolerance policy for substance use within the building. In other residence halls, alcohol is allowed if a student is of age, however, it is not allowed in the Healthy Living Community under any circumstance.

The Healthy Living Community is a resource available for those who may be in recovery or for students who may be dealing with substance abuse, along with students who wish to not take part in alcohol use in general.

“A lot of people do live there because they want to know that their roommate is not going to be consuming alcohol or drugs,” said Thoennes. The goal is to create a supportive community for any student to thrive no matter the reason they decide to live there.

According to the spring 2018 UWRF National College Health Assessment, 25.4% of students had participated in binge drinking within 30 days of the survey. Additionally, 9.5% of students had used marijuana. The university also collected data regarding the use of illicit prescriptions, opioids and painkillers and found that 3.3% of students had used these substances within the past 30 days. A total of 553 students responded to the survey out of the 5,544 enrolled at UWRF that semester.

Another study, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, found that 57.1% of those within the 18-25 age group reported being current alcohol users. The survey is a project of the North Carolina-based research institute RTI International.

Because of data like this, many universities provide communities that promote a substance-free lifestyle, Thoennes

said.

Aside from the Healthy Living Community being a substance-free place for students, Thoennes said she wants to expand on the idea of a healthy lifestyle environment, including improving physical and mental health.

“The healthy living piece is something we are still figuring out. We want to make more attempts to understand why students want to live there beyond the substance-free aspect,” she said.

Thoennes added: “We want feedback from the students to see how we can improve the community overall: What is attractive to them when they think of healthy living? Being able to go downstairs every morning to see yoga, or would it be about nutrition?”

The Healthy Living Community will be continuing to grow and improve in the coming years, according to Thoennes. Until it adds those extra aspects, Stratton Hall will be a place that is completely substance free and an option for students who want to embrace a healthy lifestyle.

Career Fair prepares students for internships

Anna Gunderson

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The 2019 Career Fair, hosted on Oct. 8 and 9, was held in the University Center’s River View Ballroom. Around 151 employers and about 1,242 students attending. The event allowed students and employers to connect, conduct interviews, and discuss future career opportunities.

From accounting firms to tree and landscape companies, the career fair had opportunities for students to connect with a variety of employers. Characteristics that employers were looking for included: dedication, drive, confidence, passion, and a desire for experience and knowledge.

There are several things employers look for in potential employees. “Just be authentic,” said Jason Agar, the human resources manager for Rainbow Tree Company. “It’s pretty intimidating, I remember what it’s like being a student. You have a lot of employers who just want you to be yourself.”

“Know your values,” said Rebecca Thraen of Lewis, Kisch, and Associates, Ltd., an accounting firm in Hastings, Minnesota. “If your values and the values of the company are the same, then you’re probably a good match.”

Students are encouraged to seek out employers even after the career fair has ended. Nicole Brant, the human resource coordinator for Loporex, mentioned her biggest piece of advice, “Just have a positive attitude, try to make good eye contact. It’s nerve-racking for a lot of the students, but a lot of the employers here are here to help.”

Lisa Wieland, a UWRF senior majoring in Communication Studies, said the Career Fair was a good opportunity to meet new people. Wieland found it difficult to find specific booths of interest to her that also related to her major. Wieland said that students shouldn’t limit themselves to specific companies, but visit a variety.

The two-day event offers students a chance to interact with employers, as well as gain a sense of understanding of what those employers are looking for. “There are all kinds of opportunities out there. So to engage with employers from a wide variety of industries, explore their possibilities and expand their horizons,” said McKenna Pfeiffer, the assistant director for Career Services. “Potentially there could be some internships and full-time job opportunities that come from it as well, but that’s just the cherry on top.”



Employer booths at the career fair providing information to students
Photo by: Angelique Tretsven

Special Olympics hosts fourth annual run with the cops

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A rainy Tuesday night didn't stop the River Falls community from coming out to Raimer Field. This was the fourth year River Falls has held Run with the Cops, an event hosted by the Special Olympics, and it has only become more successful each year.

The night kicked off with a Law Enforcement Vehicle Expo, where kids and adults got an up-close view of vehicles and equipment, including a watercraft, used by local law enforcement officials. Following was the National Anthem, where the Special Olympians presented the flag to begin the festivities. The run began and ended with a donut-eating contest between the kids and the cops.

Karl Fleury, UW-River Falls chief of police, said the community relations are the heart of this event. "That interaction builds bridges in the sense that we show that we are not always perceived in a negative situation," said Fleury.

"My favorite part of the event is the interaction with all of the kids that come out here for this event, the relationship between the officers, and the guests, our special olympians that are here. It's a partnership that builds the community relations, and to see the smiles on their faces, and just the enjoyment they get is just awesome," Fleury said.

Fleury discussed how this has become an annual event that the community is very involved in. "I believe this is year four for us here at the university, and it's been a great event from the start. Unfortunately today we have a rainy event, but as you can see, even the rain hasn't dampened the spirit of everyone that's out here," he said.

Wisconsin Special Olympics raised money with this event. Run with the Cops is also held in Oshkosh and Wisconsin Rapids during the month of October. Last year, the combined events raised over \$126,000. This annual event continues to grow each year, and the community is looking forward to future events.



Run with the cops event was held at Raimer Field.
Photo by Sara Ollig



Law enforcement from surrounding communities joined the event.
Photo by Sara Ollig

Kwik Trip considers third convenience store in River Falls

Theodore Tollefson

Falcon News Service

With a recent property rezoning, River Falls has moved a step closer to possibly welcoming a third Kwik Trip convenience store.

The City of River Falls has had discussions since July with Kwik Trip Inc. on potentially building a third gas station, convenience store and car wash near the intersection of Cemetery Road and Highway 65.

The property owners of 1520-1570 Cemetery Road, Doug

Cudd and Jerry Morrow, submitted an application to rezone the property on July 16. Soon after, Kwik Trip entered into agreement with Cudd and Morrow to purchase the property.

The property previously was zoned R-3 for high density multiple family housing, but during its Sept. 10 meeting the River Falls City Council rezoned it for B-3 highway commercial development.

"The rezoning has been approved, and that's pretty much it," said Sam Wessell, River Falls city planner. "When a project gets reviewed for approval, it goes through development review. We have not received a submittal, but now that the

rezoning is approved we will likely see one in the future."

Wessell continued, "When we come into development review we'll find more information about exactly what they (Kwik Trip) are planning, and we can provide feedback in terms of the traffic circulation, pedestrian circulation, and how that will all function."

Kwik Trip already has convenience stores at 1238 N. Main St. and 1200 S. Main St. in River Falls.

A spokesperson for La Crosse-based Kwik Trip Inc. could not be reached for comment.

Despite higher college attendance, women still struggle with workplace challenges

Brooke Shepherd

Falcon News Service

More women than men attend colleges and universities across the United States, but two UW-River Falls professors say that despite the educational advantage females continue to struggle with discrimination in the workplace.

About 63% of the 2018-2019 UW-River Falls student body was female, according to the Office of Institutional Research. This gender imbalance, which has been evident for years, has roots in many areas.

The federal law, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, is one. More women began participating in higher education because schools could no longer receive federal funding if they discriminated based on gender.

“That was supposed to ensure equal access and no gender discrimination in institutions of higher learning,” said Cyndi Kernahan, professor of psychology and assistant dean for teaching and learning in the College of Arts and Sciences. “That led to more fairness and less discrimination. Well, eventually. It took a while.”

Economics also play a major role in the gender imbalance on college campuses, Kernahan said. The United States is experiencing what economists call wage stagnation.

“What that means, if you look at the 1950s or 1960s, especially for white Americans, it was relatively easy for a white man to get a job and support a whole family, so women didn’t necessarily need to work,” said Kernahan.

Now women often go to school to be able to provide more income for their future families, since one income is no longer enough. According to the Washington-based Pew Research Center, “Today’s average hourly wage has just about the same purchasing power it did in 1978, following a long slide in the 1980s and early 1990s and bumpy, inconsistent growth since then.”

Societal norms also have changed. In the 1970s, people began getting married a little later. This delaying of marriage allowed women to better pursue their undergraduate degrees. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), “The age of female college graduates’ first marriage increased by about 2.5 years in the 1970s. Whereas from the 1950s to the early 1970s women had tended to marry a little more than a year after graduation (from high school), by 1981 the median age of marriage for college-educated women was 25.”

As far as men not pursuing a college degree as much as

women, Kernahan said the primary reason that often gets cited is also related to economics.

“While men don’t make as much as they used to, they still make more than women. This is true across races. Definitely white men earn the most. Across races, men in every group out-earn women with less education. Women need more education to be able to match their peers,” said Kernahan.

“We’re seeing shifts, but it’s far from equal,” added Melanie Ayres, associate professor of psychology and coordinator of the women and gender studies program at UWRF.

According to a 2006 study by NBER, schools are set up better for girls to learn from a young age: “The slower social development and more serious behavioral problems of boys remained and allowed girls to leapfrog over boys in the race to college.”

Ayres said it is largely a myth that men and women learn significantly differently.

“If you look at long-term trends, I don’t think it’s troubling,” she said. “It’s nuanced because girls and women still face a lot of barriers in education, especially in certain fields.”

Ayres continued, “I’m more concerned with the ongoing discrimination that girls and women face. I don’t want to downplay the struggles of men in school, but is important to look at long-term trends and see that, though it’s not the case in all males, but typically men do better in the work field



Melanie Ayres is the coordinator of the women and gender studies program. Photo courtesy of Melanie Ayres

regardless of struggles.”

According to the Pew Research Center, as of this year women now make up more than half of the college-educated workforce. Though there are still concerns with wage gaps, women continue to pursue a college degree.

Etiquette dinner to help students make good first impression

Natalie Torbert

Falcon News Service

Fall semester Etiquette Dinner gives UW-River Falls students the opportunity to polish social skills used in both formal and professional settings.

The first of two etiquette dinners put on this academic year by the university’s Career Services in partnership with Chartwells Catering takes place from 5-7 p.m. Nov. 19. A five-course meal, seminar and professional dress attire are designed to help students who are looking to refine their social skills and dining etiquette.

The event is scheduled in the Riverview Ballroom on the second floor of the University Center. Tickets cost \$15 and must be purchased in advance. A registration form can be

found on the Career Services website, <https://uwrf.edu/CareerServices/>.

Each year a dish is featured in connection with the “Year of...” initiative on campus. As this year focuses on Somalia, creamy cardamom chicken will be the main course for the Etiquette Dinner. Somali dining customs along with areas of etiquette will be highlighted.

“With all areas of etiquette, it is important to be educated on what you may encounter,” said Melissa Wilson, director of Career Services. “When you have been educated on areas of etiquette such as how to pass the bread, which fork to use, or how to properly introduce your supervisor to a friend, you feel more comfortable in formal or professional situations.”

Student Katherine Hiebl, who has participated in an Etiquette Dinner, said she was able to use her new knowledge in

a professional setting. When asked to attend a dinner with her boss, Hiebl realized that it was a formal event. While “sitting down for dinner, I recognized the familiar place settings from the Etiquette Dinner and I felt at ease due to the recognition,” she said. “With the practice I received from the Etiquette Dinner, I also could easily and comfortably navigate the place settings of a formal dinner. From the etiquette dinner, I felt comfortable and confident in a professional setting.”

Wilson said first impressions matter.

“What is most important is that you are remembered for the right reasons, not the wrong ones,” she said. “And feeling comfortable in these situations helps you be remembered for the right reasons.”

UWRF plans summit on international education

Ceci Charlsen

Falcon News Service

A Summit on International Education and Engagement is planned on the campus of UW-River Falls during the week of Nov. 18-22.

The summit, coordinated by the Office of International Ed-

ucation, is a week-long event packed with different activities and speakers for students seeking to get involved with international education on the UW-River Falls campus. It will include several study abroad oriented events, including student panels, sessions showcasing international research done by students and keynote speakers. There will also be a workshop on effective communication with non-native English speak-

ers available to students along with a celebratory Thanksgiving dinner.

Kelsey McLean, program manager in the Office of International Education, has been involved in developing and bringing the summit to life.

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Fall blood drive set next week on UWRF campus

Natalie Torbert
Falcon News Service

UW River-Falls Greek Life will host the annual fall blood drive on campus from Oct. 22-24, and according to the American Red Cross an urgent need exists for several blood types.

The blood drive is scheduled from noon to 6 p.m. each day in the Falcon's Nest on the first floor of the University Center. Appointments can be made by visiting the website RedCrossBlood.org and entering "UWRF" in the search bar.

Another way to make an appointment is by downloading a mobile phone application through the Red Cross. This allows users to create and update profiles while speeding up the appointment time if the rapid pass information is completed. Walk-ins are welcome, but it's suggested that one schedule an appointment to avoid timing conflicts with classes and other activities.

According to the American Red Cross, both O negative and O positive blood are always in demand because of their universal donor status. The Red Cross also has an urgent or critical need for A positive, A negative, AB positive, AB negative, B negative and B positive blood types. Currently, there is an emergency status on platelets.

Around 50 people are expected to donate each day of the blood drive. The University Center is a prime location for hosting blood drives because of all the student traffic it creates day to day.

UWRF fraternities are responsible for the fall blood drive, while the sororities are in charge of the spring blood drive. Alpha Gamma Rho member Russell Rogall will be handing out orange juice and cookies for the blood donors as well as advertising the blood drive around campus with flyers.

Greek Life takes the lead on finding volunteers and advertising to help give them the experience, while Student Gov-

ernment Association advisor Nathan Riel-Elness deals with the logistics. The UWRF drive is one of the biggest for the Red Cross regional office in Minneapolis.

"The Red Cross works a lot with hospitals in the area to understand the demand of blood that's needed," Riel-Elness said. "They are very reliant upon blood drives like this, especially large ones at schools to meet those demands."

Community volunteer leader Ogden Rogers is responsible for scheduling the blood drives, encouraging recruitment for new donors and social media advertising. Rogers also is the associate dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies. Rogers applauded the efforts of UWRF fraternities and sororities in volunteering for registration, donor support and running post-donation snacks and refreshments.

"When UWRF students and staff roll up their sleeves and donate blood," Rogers said, "they are literally helping to save lives all across the country."

Beef management team holds annual beef sale

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The Beef Management Team is focused on building the beef industry of tomorrow through working with faculty and farm staff to maintain the herd of beef cattle at Mann Valley Farm. The club hosts an annual beef sale.

What started as an idea in 2013 has now turned into an official student organization. The team currently has 21 members. The team goes through a selective process in order to find those who are most qualified. Any student interested in becoming a member must fill out an application with a resume and go through an interview process.

Quarters, halves, and whole amounts of premium beef are sold during the fall and spring semesters, through the team's annual beef sale. Once the order has been placed, the information goes to the processors at Sailer's Food Market and Meat Processing in Elmwood, Wisconsin. Sailer's will contact the customers on how they would like the meat cut. Pricing is based off of hanging weight, meaning the weight after the meat has been harvested. Cash and checks are acceptable and are to be made out to the UWRF Beef Management Team.

Faculty advisor Brenda Boetel emphasized the importance that the beef sales have on the team. "All money goes back to the Beef Management Team, which allows us to fund tours and further their experiences," said Boetel.

Club president, Annah Dobson, hoped to see the team attend more industry events this year. "We attend a few cattle events, but there are so many other opportunities to travel the nation and learn about the beef industry in general," said Dobson.

Team member Brittany Renn said she valued the hands-on experience with all aspects of beef cattle, as well as networking with industry professionals.

The connections that Dobson has made through the BMT have been some of her favorite parts of being on the team. "I have learned just how important it is to meet and interact with new people every chance you get, you never know who your next co-worker or boss will be," said Dobson.

Looking forward, Dobson will work to attend more industry events and continue to grow the club.



Beef Management team posing for a group picture
Photo Courtesy of: Annah Dobson

UWRF plans summit on international education

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"Each year there's a call for strategic initiatives that are related to the campus's strategic plan, and this (the summit) was put forward to really celebrate everything related to Goal Two, which is related to global education and engagement," McLean said.

The summit is meant to celebrate the accomplishments and success of international education and engagement at UWRF. It is also meant to encourage students to participate in the program, as the summit will give them a taste of what they could experience through studying abroad.

UWRF prides itself in being invested in giving students op-

portunities to expand their horizons through studying abroad, McLean said.

"A piece of it is making a commitment to this is who we are as a campus, we are a global campus and that we are committed to furthering our global education and engagement," she said.

Amer F. Ahmed, an internationally renowned intercultural speaker, will deliver a keynote speech exploring concepts of public leadership and ways to embrace and nurture an inclusive, diverse community. Ahmed will speak at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, in the Kinnickinnic River Theater on the third

floor of the University Center.

"There's a lot of sessions that are offered by our faculty on their international experiences or maybe international research that they are engaged in, and I think that some of those things come through in the classroom, but some of them may be surprising to students," McLean said.

More information about the summit, along with a schedule for the week, can be found on the UWRF website at <https://uwrf.edu/International-Summit/>.

UWRF takes stock of Falcon Center

Reagan Hoverman
Falcon News Service

The Falcon Center, the \$65 million recreational and athletic facility that opened in September 2017, has been “transformational,” says UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen.

The idea for the Falcon Center was developed nearly 25 years ago. Since its opening, according to the chancellor, the center has had a significant impact on students, faculty and the community of River Falls.

In its most basic form, the goal of the Falcon Center was to improve the lives of every individual who uses its facilities.

The Falcon Center had to address three specific goals if it was going to have success in River Falls. The first area that it was designed to address was academics and health and human performance.

Although the Falcon Center is often credited with being a state-of-the-art athletic facility, it also hosts classes daily, similar to a traditional academic building that can be found on campus. According to the UWRF website, the Falcon Center is home to three undergraduate degrees along with two graduate degrees that students can pursue.

Academic degrees that are headquartered in the Falcon Center give students access to facilities that were not available 15 years ago. Students can now work with an individualized fitness center and an exercise science lab. They also have the opportunity to get involved with sports teams that call the Falcon Center home, which includes Don Page Arena and Hunt Arena. Students’ experience working and studying at the Falcon Center will prepare them for careers in coaching, physical therapy and rehabilitation.

Since the opening in 2017, the Falcon Center also has been used as a tool for recruiting future Falcon athletes. In a May interview, Noah Wing, the former director of football operations and recruiting, said that the Falcon Center helped build the athletic programs at UWRF.

“The ability to open that new facility and sort of build our recruiting classes around some of the great things that we had going there was so much fun,” Wing said.

With the state-of-the-art facilities that are offered by the Falcon Center, coaches for school-sponsored programs were able to recruit players that otherwise would likely not have attended UWRF.

According to Wing, since the Falcon Center was opened in 2017 it has been used to recruit higher caliber players to

play football — among other sports. Since 2017, the football roster has gathered players from around the world, in part due to the first-rate facility where those players will spend the majority of their time.

According to the UWRF website, the men’s football team has players who have come from Nevada, Arizona, and Germany. Athletics at UWRF have been fundamentally changed because of the addition of the Falcon Center.

However, Van Galen said he believes the greatest impact of the Falcon Center could be something besides the aforementioned reasons.

“The third piece of it, which, in the end, may be the most transformational, is the opportunities for fitness and recreation for all of our students,” Van Galen said. “Some recent data regarding open rec shows that we had 4,641 users of the fitness center last year. Most of that would be students. And visits — 139,000 visits.”

Data is starting to emerge that shows just how much of a positive change the Falcon Center has had.

“Campus Recreation has done a great job of reaching out and bringing the community to that building in many ways. Obviously, community members attend events there such as athletic events. They can have memberships at the fitness center,” Van Galen said. “But you look at the skating school, look at birthday parties at the rock-climbing wall. Through the work of our staff, it’s being viewed as a community asset for River Falls and really, the St. Croix Valley. It’s very important for the university to ensure the public feels welcome on our campus and the Falcon Center is one way to do that.”

Van Galen said that he is pleased with how Campus Recreation has grown programming at the Falcon Center since it opened. One program that Steve Stocker, the director of Campus Recreation, has grown over the past couple of years is rock climbing.



Member of the UWRF climbing club uses the Falcon Center climbing wall
Photo by: Reagan Hoverman

“We have seen the growth,” Stocker said. “The first year we were under 1,000. The second year we grew that to 1,800. In the third year, last year, we had 2,900 distinct climbers. So, our participation has increased.”

The growth of the participation in rock climbing directly addresses one of the target goals of the Falcon Center: fitness and recreation for all students who attend UWRF. The accessibility of the Falcon Center paired with the quality of the facility has allowed for the growth that is being tracked by UWRF.

The community also has shown more involvement since the opening of the facility in 2017.

“We’re doing a lot more reservations,” Stocker said. “We had 72 reservations last year on the climbing wall alone, which is up from a year before of 50, and the year before that it was about 15.”

The addition of the Falcon Center to the UWRF campus cannot be understated. It has been the catalyst for growth in academics, athletics and the personal health of students and community members in the greater River Falls area.

Homecoming event invites students to ‘stuff a pig,’ similar to build-a-bear

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As part of the week of homecoming festivities, a “build-a-bear” style event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 19 to create a custom homecoming stuffed animal. The event starts at 8 a.m. in the Involvement Center and is open to students and

community.

Student Involvement estimates 550 attendees. For this reason they emphasized the limit of one stuffed animal per person with a first come, first served basis.

Participants will receive one pig “skin,” a stuff kit, and a homecoming shirt for the pig. Fabric markers will be available for those who want to decorate the pig’s shirt.

This type of event has been done previously with a cow and a horse. It was so popular in previous years that Student Involvement has revived the event. “We’re excited to bring back a fun homecoming tradition,” Elise Koop, student events and activities coordinator said, “Come and remember homecoming 2019 by getting yourself your very own homecoming pig.”

STUDENT VOICE

The Student Voice is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published monthly 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 554022 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 be able to be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon during the week of publishing. Information on publishing schedule can be obtained by contacting the editor.

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 via email. Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

Spikeball bounces onto UW-River Falls campus

Reagan Hoverman
Falcon News Service

Two years ago, the game of spikeball didn't have an official presence on the UW-River Falls campus, but now it's a recognized student organization and has doubled in size.

The Spikeball Club owes much of its success to a founding member and the current president, Philip Herder, who is a senior majoring in exercise and sport science.

"We didn't even have a team here when I was first here," Herder said. "In fact, it was just last year that me and some friends, we had been talking about it for a year or two, and it was just, like, all right, let's start a club and see how far we can take it."

Herder followed the university's procedures and established the Spikeball Club as a recognized student organization. Now he is in the process of getting the Spikeball Club named as an official sport club. At UWRF, sport clubs are a different entity and have different oversight compared to typical student organizations. Sport clubs usually compete against similar clubs at other universities.

Herder has been working with the Assistant Director of Campus Recreation Ryan Rudesill throughout the semester on the transition of spikeball from a student organization to a sport club.

"It's a good limbo sport right now," Rudesill said of the Spikeball Club. "They are a probationary sport club. We oversee what they're doing, we help them get practice space and practice time. They don't have a budget through us, whereas all the other clubs have a budget through us."

Following the 2019-2020 school year, Herder and the rest of the Spikeball Club expect to earn sport club status.

Spikeball is a simple game that doesn't require much equipment to play — just a ball and a trampoline. Herder described spikeball as a variation of the game of volleyball.

"Volleyball in the sense that you're with a partner and you and your partner have three hits to try to get it back on a round trampoline that's on the ground," Herder said. "You have three hits to get it back, and once you get it onto the trampoline then it switches possessions to the other team. So, it's a team of two playing a team of two."

As possession switches the goal of each team is to hit a shot off of the trampoline that the other team can't return, thus giving the hitting team a point.

While he's not in class or playing spikeball, Herder said, he dedicates time to growing the club's membership. During the 2018 season, the Spikeball Club had 15 members who regularly showed up to weekly practices and attended tournaments. Membership now is up to about 30 members. Herder has promoted the club by playing games in front of residence halls, marketing through social media, and the Involvement Fair held earlier this semester on campus.

Spikeball isn't only growing on the UWRF campus, but across the United States. According to the official Spikeball website, the Chicago-based company was started as a side job by Chris Ruder, the CEO who goes by the handle "Spike-



Participants play spikeball during the Sept. 20 tournament on the UW-River Falls campus.

Photo by Caitlin Connor, UWRF Campus Recreation

ballChris." The company's first warehouse was the basement of his house. Now, Spikeball has been featured on television shows such as "Shark Tank" and "The Today Show."

The passion for spikeball has grown enough for the game to be recognized as a participant in the annual fall sports tournament. According to Herder, 10 teams showed up to play the spikeball portion of the tournament on Sept. 20.

"I would say for the first one, that was pretty good attendance," Herder said. "It seemed like all of the teams were friendly and passionate about the sport and that was really cool."

New women's basketball coach aims to fill seats of arena

Hunter Breault
Falcon News Service

The women's basketball team at UW-River Falls starts its regular season on Nov. 8 against Marian University of Milwaukee. The Falcons' first game of the year will be at home in the Don Page Arena and that is how the brand new coach wants it.

Blake DuDonis, the new women's basketball coach, plans to bring an extremely high-energy style of basketball to River Falls this year. DuDonis said he wants the seats in arena full for all the games and for the entire community to be a part of the team.

DuDonis's goal for the first home game is to completely sell out the arena. To create interest, DuDonis said he plans to bring in free T-shirts, \$2 tickets for non-students, cheap concessions, and a way to win prizes throughout the game.

Returning senior and guard Lori Wardynski said she is

extremely excited for the first home game because she thinks the fans are going to be a part of a very special night.

"We are excited to create an atmosphere that is electric and we're looking forward to having the entire community come out and support us," Wardynski said.

His history as a basketball scout will help in game preparations, DuDonis said. Before joining the Falcons, DuDonis was a scout for Blue Star Basketball, a national evaluation organization in women's basketball, and an advanced regional scout for the WNBA's Washington Mystics. He also has worked as an assistant women's basketball coach at the University at Buffalo, Gardner-Webb University and Merrimack College.

Knowing what the opponent is going to do and forcing teams to go to Plan B or C is an effective strategy he intends to put in place on the court, DuDonis said.

DuDonis said that he wants the team to be consistently

competing in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC), year after year. Last year, the Falcons finished with a conference record of four wins and 10 losses, and an overall record of 10 wins and 15 losses.

But DuDonis said regularly competing in the WIAC is a great goal for the future. Winning isn't his first priority this year as he is more focused on the future of the team's direction.

"It will be different this year since I'm new," he said. "It's a new style of basketball for everyone. We will have to work out the growing pains. We have to be willing to mess up and be willing to learn. It's all about building roots."

Wardynski added: "We compete in a tough conference and everyone on our team knows they need to bring their best effort and best energy to compete and win. That same attitude has extended to preseason workouts and lifts and is what will contribute to our success this year."

Falcons to face UW-La Crosse in homecoming game

Reagan Hoverman
Falcon News Service

The UW-River Falls men's football team has its homecoming game scheduled for Oct. 19 at David Smith Stadium against UW-La Crosse.

At UWRF the homecoming game is often one of the most popular on-campus events of the year. The crowd is larger, the fans are louder, and the university assembles to support its football team on home turf for one of the biggest games of the season.

However, for UWRF Head Coach Matt Walker, homecoming is just another game in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) against one of the best teams in the league. According to UWRFsports.com, in their last seven games against UW-La Crosse, the Falcons have an overall record of 2-5 with the most recent win coming in fall 2015.

"It's like any other team in the league. They're talented. The margin of error is small. We've had a couple of days where we haven't played great and it's hurt us," Walker said. "For a while there we had a nice run going against them. In the last few years, we've struggled to finish them off."

Against WIAC opponents like the UW-La Crosse Eagles — who have had a winning season for the last two years — Walker said he will plan around his veteran players to lead the team. Walker said he will take advantage of the big-game experience that many players on his roster already have.

"For new guys to the program or guys that haven't played a lot of conference snaps, it's taxing on those guys early," Walker said. "So, they need guys like Max Praschak, Ben Beckman, Alex Herink and Charlie Sanders. These guys that have been through the dog fights of the league already. We need their leadership to help get guys through it."

In addition to leadership from the senior members of the roster, the Falcon defense will have to take advantage of what has been one of La Crosse's few below average areas: rushing the football. According to the WIAC Sports website, La Crosse is in last place in the WIAC for rushing offense. The Eagles are averaging only 73.3 yards per game through their three games this season.

If the Falcons want to have a winning season for the first time in nearly two decades, they will need to take advantage of their homecoming game and get their season back on course by defeating UW-La Crosse.

Homecoming events are scheduled to run throughout the day on Saturday with kickoff for the homecoming football game scheduled for 1 p.m. at Dave Smith Stadium.

Editorial: UWRF works to become Tree Campus

Student Voice

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Tree Campus USA is a program through the Arbor Day Foundation for two and four year universities and colleges. The program aims to help establish community forests. UW-River Falls is currently not a Tree Campus USA.

Many surrounding UW-System schools are certified Tree Campuses. Some of the schools include UW-Eau Claire, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Whitewater, UW-Fox Valley, Edgewood College, Chippewa Valley Technical College and Western Technical College.

UWRF has shown commitment to being a sustainable campus. The university has gold “STARS” rating, which is the sustainability tracking, assessment and rating system. There are clubs and resources in place for students to help maintain this standard.

The Sustainability and Custodial Supervisor Mark Klapatch has been pursuing becoming a Tree Campus USA for the last year. Klapatch said that UWRF still needs to meet certain criteria. The university needs to create a tree management plan and organize a committee to oversee the tree management plan, along with the Tree Campus USA certification.

“If all goes according to plan, we will be a certified Tree Campus USA by the end of 2020,” said Klapatch.

Jennifer Hundt, the grounds supervisor, is also working towards certification into becoming a Tree Campus USA. Hundt is working with GIS students to map all of the trees on campus. The university is also currently working on a management plan of all the trees that are put in and removed from campus grounds.

Becoming a Tree Campus would make sense and fit into the university’s values of being sustainable. This would further promote an atmosphere of environmentally conscious living at UWRF. We believe that the university should continue the process of becoming a Tree Campus. The management plans and oversight would be beneficial to the university and students.



A campus tree care plan is one of the five steps to receive Tree Campus USA recognition.
Photo by Melissa Thorud

Letter to the editor: The legitimacy of student government is dying

I was, like most students on this campus, unaware of the Wisconsin Statute, 36.09 (5) until last year, when I took position as the 81st Session Student Body President at UWRF. 36.09 (5) is the policy of shared governance, which grants students in an organized matter, such as student government, the ability to advise a campus administration on policy, particularly student fees. Wisconsin is one of the few states in America which grants students this power. In other words, this policy means that students must have a seat at the table when important decisions are made. It is a power that gives students a legitimate reason to participate in student government because it offers a possibility of real change with the input of student voices.

In the past, campus administrations in the University of Wisconsin System have recognized and properly utilized the policy of shared governance. However, recently, based on my own experiences as a Student Body President, shared governance is no longer a priority in the UW-System. According to the University of Wisconsin-Madison Faculty Document 2734, on March 5th, 2018, Ray Cross, President of the UW-System, publicly declared his support toward shared governance in March of 2015. However, in October of 2017, Ray Cross sent an email to a UW Regent which stated, “[I’m] getting hammered by ‘shared governance’ leaders because they weren’t involved in the process; however, had they been involved we wouldn’t be doing anything!” This statement occurred after Cross decided to move forward with the UW merger, which merged 2-year schools with some 4-year schools; UWRF was not apart of the merger. The merger, as it’s commonly referred as, happened under the radar of student’s knowledge, which disproportionally excluded student governments from having any input toward the merger. This violated 36.09 (5) in great measures. Since, student and faculty senates have called upon Cross to honor his original statement in 2015, about protecting and respecting shared

governance in “all relevant administrative decisions” because shared governance is “an essential mechanism to guarantee accountability, transparency, and high quality of education for UW students,” (UW-Madison Faculty Senate).

Since Cross’ disappointing statement toward shared governance in 2017, I’ve noticed a general decline in motivation among administrative members and students to fully utilize a proper use of student government. The purpose of student government, in my own words, is to advocate for student’s rights, in whichever way needed. The method to speak out and change policy to better student’s experiences on campus, for me, was to write legislation to the administration that clearly stated the issue, and how we (the student senate) would like to see the policy change, or by inviting key administrative members to a student senate meeting to speak about an issue and clear any misunderstandings, which are both methods of properly utilizing 36.09 (5). I also worked endlessly to build upon each senator’s leadership skills, which I hoped would benefit a future ahead. These measures were taken with the simple hope that working for students, as students, meant leadership, not politics, was at the forefront of change.

However, student’s knowledge of student government, and what their capabilities of power can be, has declined especially on our campus. For my election, I won a total of over 800 votes from students, which was a 58% lead above my opponent. In this year’s election, for the 82nd Session of Student Government, the candidates won with a total number of votes that was barely over 200. The steep decline in total votes is not because this year’s candidates were not qualified, it was, in my opinion, because they have been affected by the UW System’s lack of passion and motivation toward student leadership in the roll of student government. I find it ethically unjust for a session of student government to make decisions on campus wide, student-based, or academically based policies when not even 300 students are fully aware of the orga-

nization. This, too, I recognize, is in part that some students choose to not participate in student elections. It is, however, concerning that with even my 800 votes, and this year’s 200 votes, the entire population of our campus is not aware of the single, secular organization that forms policies that affect each student, student government. I reached out to student organizations and academic department heads to ask if they would advertise student government elections. I have found that many did not follow my request.

Including campus departments and student organizations in the push to get votes is not included under policy 36.09 (5). But, when the overall lack of total campus involvement for student government elections fails, we end up in a scenario of the past and present sessions, where not nearly one third of the total student population is aware of student government.

Therefore, I call upon our campus leaders, professors, department heads, administration, and student organizations to work collaboratively with the Student Government Association to ensure more profound, positive voting numbers. In return, I hope that this would create a future where policy 36.09 (5) is once again a value in the UW System and at each campus, so that student governments can thrive on the basis of advocacy, transparency, and leadership. Student Government is the organization that reviews current policies and refers to the administration about ways they can be better improved. That is the outstanding work that student leadership can be. My only hope, as I make my departure from this campus in the Spring, is that a legacy of upholding administrations and student government leaders to the highest standard possible, is achieved throughout each year.

Rosemary Pechous
Former SGA President

Hi, how are ya?: A review of the Shane Dawson Series featuring Jeffree Star

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Shane Dawson is 31 years old and has been creating content on the social media platform YouTube for 12 years. Dawson's channel started with comedic skits and characters. He then began primarily making videos that included testing products or food reviews. As Dawson grew older, he moved on to making videos that were more intriguing to him, such as conspiracy theory videos and docu-series.

One of his most popular docu-series was about the daily life of controversial celebrity, Jeffree Star. The five-part series accumulated around 150 million views altogether. Along with being a celebrity, Star is also a YouTuber, makeup artist, entrepreneur, singer-songwriter, and founder and owner of Jeffree Star Cosmetics (JSC). At 33 years old, Star has achieved a net worth of \$50 million. During the docu-series with Dawson, they dive deep into his past and talk about some of the biggest hardships Star has had to go through. They explore Star's huge pink Calabasas mansion with a makeup room, pinball machines, and a walk-in closet with designer clothing and expensive handbags.

In the previous series, Dawson asks Star about the creation of makeup products. Dawson jokes about how he could come out with his own makeup line and film the whole process. Star loved the idea of collaborating and helping Dawson make his own line of makeup, and so the series began.

The first video in the series is titled "The Beautiful World of Jeffree Star." The first episode, around an hour long, starts with an overview of the whole series and what is to come. It cuts to dramatic intro credits with a cover of the song "Time of the Season" by The Ben Taylor Band. Along with Star and Dawson, they also credit Ryland Adams, Dawson's fiancée; Morgan Adams, his sister; Madison Taylor, Star's assistant; and most importantly Andrew Siwicki, Dawson's cameraman and co-editor. At the end of the intro credits, it says, "All discussions and acts of business featured in the following video

are completely real and unstaged." This is one of my favorite parts of the series because it really feels like I'm watching a T.V. show. It shows how much time and effort they really put into this docu-series and how well they want it to do.

It then goes to Dawson back in February 2019 getting ready to go to a fan meet and greet with Star in Sacramento, California. Dawson and Siwicki are invited to fly on Star's private jet to this meetup, so they document this first experience for them. They get to Sacramento, get to their hotel, and then talk about what their day will look like the next day. The next day they go to the Morphe store in a mall in Sacramento. Morphe is a makeup store that carries Star's makeup line, and they love hosting him for meet and greets at their store openings. The meet and greet goes well, and nothing too crazy happens, except they meet over 1,000 fans. After the meet and greet, they head back to Los Angeles on a private jet. As the first episode concludes, a sneak peak of the upcoming episode is shown with their creative process beginning.

The second episode of Dawson's series is called "The Secrets of the Beauty World" and is around an hour long. The video was filmed at the end of February, and it starts with them talking about what Star's been up to since the last series blew up. After the first series, Star bought another warehouse because they ran out of room in other facilities, and they signed James Charles' apparel line to Star's company. In May, Charles and Star got into an online feud ending with Charles ending his contract with Star's merchandise company. This conflict was tea, which is drama within the social media community. Star and Dawson speak about the issue and Star states, "He's like my little brother." This part made me so sad, because I loved both of them so much.

The first official makeup meeting began in one of Star's conference rooms. Dawson meets Star's JSC team. He meets Dana, JSC business manager and Patrick, in charge of JSC product development. During the meeting, they talk about the cost of goods in makeup and how some makeup brands will scam collaborators into bad contracts, so the company can

make more money. Dawson and Star specifically talk about the scam that the famous YouTuber Nikkietutorials was involved in. She was given .005% of the money made from the collaboration she did with Too Faced. Throughout the meeting, Star and Dawson can be seen brainstorming creative shade names, reminiscing on common expressions said in the previous series.

They go on to talk about how much money Dawson can make from this palette. Dawson gets overwhelmed and needs to take a break with Siwicki in the bathroom. Dawson realizes he has been dealing with these bad payouts his whole career.

Star takes Dawson to his office to have a heart-to-heart about how Dawson has been so naïve with these huge companies using his name to make money. Star and Dawson keep talking, and Star decides to show Dawson a new lipstick color for the collaboration. It's a brown shimmery liquid lipstick, which I think looks amazing. They decide it's going to be apart of Dawson's line and it will be called Shane. They then decide to name and pick all the colors of Dawson's 5 other new lipsticks.

As they're about to leave for the day, they find a tea bag on the ground that has a quote on it. The bag says, "Trust is the union of intelligence and integrity." That's just crazy to me how it relates to the series to them in that moment; this is my favorite part of the video.

The episode ends with Dawson going home and opening a bunch of new makeup he ordered, which is mostly JSC products. It then cuts to scenes of what's still to come during this series and the next episode title, "Drama in the Beauty Community."

Overall, these first two episodes make me excited to see Dawson's final makeup line. I also love the drama in the beauty community, so I'm eagerly anticipating the coming episodes of the series.

Until the next episodes, I'll see you soon.



Title frame for 'The Beautiful World of Jeffree Star'



Falcons football has lost three games in a row, how do they get back on track before homecoming vs. UW-Lacrosse?

With all that being said, why has Herink only been targeted a handful of times in his last few games? For the Falcons to have the season results that they desire – which I can only assume is a winning record – they will have to find a way to get Herink the football and let him make the plays that he has proven he can make.

How can students who struggle with social anxiety break out of their shells?

Finding a friend group where you are comfortable and can have quality discussions is important. I would also recommend setting aside time for yourself each day – even if it’s just an hour – to relax and recover from daily social situations that college students often find themselves in.

Have any sports-related questions or just need life advice?

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UWRF campus continues bean soup tradition

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At the 2019 UW-River Falls Homecoming, Greek Life hosted an event for students, staff, and community members. Taking place on Oct. 14, the event was located in the Ballroom inside of the University Center. Bean Soup was served free of charge.

In the year 1917, bean soup first appeared at a party hosted by Professor JP Jacobson. It was deemed “Jake’s Bean Soup Party.” The meal was free as long as attendees brought their own bowl and utensils.

From 1917 to 1950, the bean soup party continued. Lindsey Pennel, a student intern at the university archives, explained some of the staple moments of the bean soup story. “Professor JP Jacobson retired in 1950 and after 1951, bean soup stopped. After 1951 the tradition wasn’t the same and has kept coming back and then dying out ever since,” said Pennel.

Changing from a small get-together to a university tradition. The recipe itself even changed hands from Jacobson to Thorvald Thoreson, a retired professor. Thoreson continued the tradition for several years.

While doing research into the history of bean soup, Morgan Paavola, the Interim Head of University Archives, uncovered another piece of the puzzle, “Dining services sent me stuff and then the paddle showed up because it was in dining services. Then working with the students we found out more about Professor Jake and Professor Thoreson. Names kept popping up and then we found more stuff,” said Paavola.

This wooden paddle was used by Thoreson and has the original recipe engraved into the wood. While the original recipe was used at this event, the paddle was displayed along with various timelines, depicting even more twists and turns in the adventures of bean soup.

The history of bean soup doesn’t stop here. “The idea is so simple but wonderful. Let’s have a meal and sit and talk as River Falls people,” said Kelli Fredrickson from student involvement.

To kick-off the newest version of this 100-year-old tradition, Greek Life served the community of River Falls with a bowl of bean soup. At the event students had the opportunity to participate in activities, such as a bean pole where they used beans to vote on different concepts.



Freddy Falcon helps out at the Home Cooked Homecoming event
Photo by Pat Deninger



Left: Students and community membes were offered free bean soup at the event.

Bottom: Greek Life helped with the organization of the event and volunteered their time serving soup

Photos by Pat Deninger

