

UWRF celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Brooke Shepherd

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Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to recognize the achievements and contributions of the Hispanic community. The month is from Sept. 15 until Oct. 15, according to the Library of Congress. UW-River Falls planned events during this time.

In September, the universities Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DIB) hosted a Taco Bout It Tuesday discussion on the topic of Hispanic Heritage Month. The gathering featured information about prominent Hispanic and Latinx individuals, according to Nathan Riel-Elness, the gender and sexuality outreach coordinator.

"We had a little activity that helped with understanding which countries are represented by that heritage. We just had people kind of test their geography skills to understand if they knew where everything was and why we were celebrating," said Riel-Elness.

Daniela Goldfine is an assistant professor of Spanish. Goldfine is from Argentina and doesn't celebrate Hispanic Heritage month because for her it is a year-round thing. She still encouraged her students to attend events related to Hispanic Heritage Month, including Tres Vidas, a musical theater event that was held virtually.

Tres Vidas was a musical theatre work that was based on the lives of three women, Frida Kahlo, Rufina Amaya, and Alfonsina Storni. It was hosted on Oct. 5 in Abbot Concert Hall.

Riel-Elness said this month is a great opportunity for students to step out of their comfort zones and learn about Hispanic culture.

"It really just enhances their understanding of the world and really helps us as an institution achieve our mission and vision of educating globally engaged citizens," said Riel-Elness.

In the future, Riel-Elness said he would love to see the institution do more to recognize students of different cultural backgrounds. He said: "We have at least one student or a faculty and staff member from, I want to say, six or seven different countries that would be celebrating Hispanic heritage this month. And so maybe doing some highlights of those individuals, or highlights of culture of those like our international students, who fit within each of the months. I think it'd be a really great opportunity for us to do something a little bit above and beyond," said Riel-Elness.

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Jenyvette Vega as Frida Kahlo. Photo courtesy of Nathan Riel-Elness.

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What was your favorite Homecoming event?

By Mackenzie Dean



Matt Weiman

“I worked at the University Center.”



Abby Katzenberger

“I think my favorite part of homecoming was the variety of activities, especially the puppies.”

Madison O'Donnell

“My favorite event for homecoming was the parade.”



Megan Wiesender & Paige Donnelly

“My favorite event was stuff-a-pup since I adore dogs and now I get one more.”

“My favorite homecoming event was stuff-a-pup because I’m a dog lover.”



Quinn Orcutt

“I was sick all of homecoming, so I wasn’t able to do anything.”



Jessica Wiggins

“I like seeing all the people on campus having fun.”

Lucas Knoblach

“My favorite part was winning the bean bags tournament.”



Emma Wawracz

“My favorite part of homecoming was Bean Soup.”



UWRF celebrates LGBTQ history month

Natalie Riddle

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The entire month of October is National LGBTQ history month. From Oct. 1 through Oct. 31, a variety of events is taking place on campus to educate and honor UW-River Falls students and faculty about social justice, the LGBTQ community, and to raise awareness of these issues among the public. The goal of this month is to enhance public awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning and/or queer (LGBTQ) individuals, their history, lives, experiences, as well as their contributions to society. But also, it is concerned with ensuring that educational and other institutions are safe spaces for members of all LGBTQ populations. UWRF will celebrate LGBTQ history month by highlighting student leaders, staff, activities, and special events throughout the month.

Nathan Riel-Elness, gender and sexuality outreach coordinator at the office for Diversity, Inclusivity, and Belonging (DIB) states, "I think it's really important in education to understand where we've been, to understand the movement, what has happened, and where we still need to go." Nathan Riel-Elness believes the month of October is focused on understanding the history of LGBTQ individuals, The Civil Rights Movement, and overall the people who started this movement and conversation originally.

"One person that we hear about a lot but don't talk about as often is Marsha P. Johnson. They were at the forefront of the conversation, leading the Stonewall riots. It goes with that same conversation that trans women of color have always been on the forefront of, since the beginning, and we don't give them as much credit as we do to many others" says Riel-Elness.

Natalie Rodgers, a student intern at the DIB office, said "Georgia O'Keefe grew up in my hometown, Sun Prairie, WI. A lot of people think she's from Arizona because that's where she did a lot of her work." It's important to talk about the LGBTQ historical figures from around the world but some of them are from places a few hours from River Falls.

Eli Nahkala, a student at UWRF, says another important historical figure to talk about this month is Oscar Wilde, a famous playwright from the Victorian era. He was known for flaunting his sexuality during a time known for conformity.

Given that LGBTQ history month begins with a conversation, it is also about understanding where the month itself comes from. Nathan Riel-Elness said "in the mid-90s it was started by a teacher from Missouri who really wanted to incorporate the history and celebration of LGBTQ individuals into the curriculum."

Throughout the month there are many opportunities for students to get involved and informed. One of many events going on this month was National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11. This day is internationally observed and devoted to LGBTQ individuals. Oct. 11 is a dedicated time to celebrate coming out and to provide visibility and awareness of issues that affect LGBTQ communities. At 11 a.m. in the Falcon's Nest, there was Coffee and Conversation with news anchor, Jana Shortal, where she spoke more about her personal story. Later in the day, there was cookie decorating with Drag Queen "Plenty O' Cookies." Overall, this day was a celebration of identity for students.

If students are looking to start a conversation for LGBTQ history month, there will be a buddy read in partnership with the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program where they will be reading "Sweeter Voices Still: An LGBTQ Anthology from Middle America." A buddy read is a more casual form of a book club, but it still gives students and faculty a chance to read and discuss a book in a set amount of time. The anthology showcases LGBTQ voices from the Midwest, Appalachia, the Rust Belt, the Great Plains, and the South. It's a great opportunity for students and staff to get together and discuss their experiences and the book.

There will also be a guest speaker on campus, Sergio Perez, director of Center for Inclusion and Advocacy of Loras College. Perez will be speaking about the intersection between LGBTQ identities with religion and spirituality. Riel-Elness states "that was a topic that had been brought up in the spring in some classes, wanting to explore that specific conversation more." These events will be a great opportunity for students and faculty on campus to come together and have conversations about LGBTQ individuals' spirituality, individuality, and history.

Rodgers says this month is about "celebrating LGBTQ history month, recognizing important figures, recognizing the progress we've made and how far we still have to go to make sure LGBTQ people are treated equally and fairly in the classroom and the campus. It is critical that we still talk about these things, and we're not quite there yet." Universities are at the heart of LGBTQ history month education and celebrations. It is increasingly more important for UWRF to serve and adjust to minority communities by engaging students and advocating for the community.



Natalie Rodgers reading in the Pride Center. Photo by Natalie Riddle.

UWRF plans study abroad opportunities

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UW-River Falls' upcoming study abroad and student exchange programs were on display on Sept. 22 at the Study Abroad Fair in the University Center. Nineteen programs were showcased in total, the closest of which are scheduled for spring break 2022.

This will mark the first time the programs have been held since March of 2020, when the COVID-19 outbreak put them on hold.

Megan Langie, Program Manager for the Office of International Education, said that with coronavirus still a concern, the programs are subject to be rescheduled or canceled should the pandemic worsen, and their dates are tentative.

Langie said UWRF is committed to the safety of its study abroad programs and is assessing their viability based on the latest information, which she said is constantly changing. Decisions about delays or cancellations will be made on a program-to-program level.

Four trips are scheduled for spring break 2022. These

are the Ghana Agriculture and Agribusiness Tour, the Belize Study Adventure, Natural Health & Resilience Planning in the Netherlands, and the Germany: Culture, History, and Politics trip. The Germany trip will also be held later in May.

The Experience Scotland program is scheduled for spring and fall 2022. It will be held at a new location, Newbattle Abbey in Dalkeith, Midlothian, Scotland, rather than Dalkeith Palace, where it was held in previous years.

The Semester Abroad: Europe program will begin in spring 2023 and involves independent internships and research projects across Europe. In past years, students have studied dolphin monitoring, the evolution of jazz, and many other subjects.

The International Traveling Classroom, which is scheduled for fall 2022, also offers the opportunity to explore Europe.

Several other programs are planned for J-Term 2023, which are Spanish 302 in Ecuador, Explore Italy, Explore India, and Costa Rica Sustainability. In May 2023, Discover the Netherlands: Water, Wheels and Windmills, is scheduled to occur, as well as Iceland & Norway: Unique

Agricultural Practices, Environments, and Cultures.

Summer 2023 is planned for Bahamas: Tropical Restoration, as well as other programs, such as the Experience China trip, which were not being showcased at the Study Abroad Fair.

Many student exchange programs were also showcased. These include the Dongguk University Exchange in South Korea, the Shih Hsin University Exchange in Taiwan, the UPAEP Exchange in Mexico, the AERES Exchange in the Netherlands, the Hessen Exchange in Germany, and the RheinMain Exchange in Germany.

Langie stated that UWRF "is not mandating the COVID vaccine" or any other requirements for study abroad. Many of the countries being visited have prerequisites for entry, however. As of October, many European countries are requiring travelers to be fully vaccinated, though requirements largely depend on the country in question.

Langie also said that students who want to study abroad should get a passport "ASAP," as the pandemic has stretched the process to as long as four months. Students who are interested in any of the programs are encouraged to visit studyabroad.uwrf.edu for more information.

UWRF student dies of cancer

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A UW-River Falls student, Cole Berra, age 22, died on Sept. 23 of a cancer called NUT 1 carcinoma, according to his obituary.

Berra was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin on Sept. 11, 1999. He graduated from Aquinas High School in 2018, where he was involved in music, sports, and participated in 4-H club and shooting sports.

Berra was in the UWRF Agricultural Engineering Technology Program, which he completed in three years. According to his obituary, Berra also was part of the fraternity Alpha Gamma Rho, and was elected President of the Quarter Scale Tractor Club. Berra even studied abroad in India back in January 2020.

Berra learned about tractor pulling, and after his junior year he was selected as a Technical Service Intern with CLAAS of America, a global manufacturer of agricultural machinery. He was stationed in Omaha, Nebraska, and traveled around to test and repair equipment. His internship was cut short by his illness in July.

According to his obituary, Berra loved his Chevy Duramax Diesel Truck and his Harley Davidson Softail motorcycle. Berra and his brother, Clay, would often ride together. Berra was an avid deer hunter and enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

Berra is survived by his parents; his brother, Clay; maternal grandparents Kenneth and Florence Sonsalla; his uncles John Berra, Steve Berra, Gerard and Wina Sonsalla; Greg and Joan Sonsalla in Virginia, Glenn and MaryAnn Sonsalla; his first cousins Matthew Berra, Michael Berra, Brandon Sonsalla, Jennifer Nordgaard and their children Nolan and Lauren, Jack Sonsalla and Sam Sonsalla.

Berra is also survived by his godparents, Joe and Ann Berra; his closest second cousins, Ed and Kristin Berra and their children Erika and Kevin Trussoni, Kirsten and Cole Uhl, Maggie, Emily, and Matthew Berra; his special friend, Tia Schott; and many additional relatives and friends. Berra was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents James and Lucille Berra.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Blessed Sacrament Church, 130 Losey Blvd. S., La Crosse, WI on Sunday, Oct. 3, at 4:30 p.m. The Rev. Peter Raj will officiate. Visitation will be from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 3, at the church as well.

A celebration of Berra's life will be held in the Parish Hall with food and refreshments following Mass until 8 p.m. A private burial will be in the St. Charles Catholic



Cole Berra (Submitted photo).

Cemetery in Genoa, WI, at a later date. The Blaschke & Schneider Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. The memorials are preferred to a Scholarship Fund that has been established for Agricultural Engineering Technology students at UWRF or to the Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation.

Online condolences may be made at blaschkeschneider.com.

Students may schedule an appointment with Counseling Services by stopping in 254 Rodli Hall or by calling (715) 425-3884. Student Health and Counseling Services provides online resources for coping with tragedy, trauma and death.

Campus plans for new science and technology building

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In the past, students have walked in and out of the bustling Hagestad Hall, home to an assortment of programs. Last year, Hagestad Hall was busier than ever as it housed the COVID-19 testing site as well as many makeshift classrooms that allowed for social distancing. That is all going to change in the summer of 2023 when all of the programs get moved and a new construction site is started.

Hagestad Hall, currently named after Herman T. "Bill" Hagestad is home to multiple student services and active classrooms. Programs like career services, student health, counseling services, and textbook services will be relocating in the upcoming years.

"Hagestad Hall will be demolished in Summer of 2023, and then construction of Sci-Tech will follow immediately

and Sci-Tech construction will be from 2023 to 2025," said Alan Symicek, the executive director of Facilities Management.

Moving to the new Science Technology and Innovation Center are four major departments: physics, chemistry, psychology, and biology. The physics, chemistry, and psychology departments will all be moving from the Centennial Science Hall. The biology department will be moving from the fourth floor of the Agriculture Science building.

Most of the student services have already been moved out of Hagestad Hall and relocated. There are only a few things left in the building like textbook services, the companion animal program, the surplus property program, and another large active classroom. The plan for textbook services is that students will be able to return their books to the library at the end of this semester when the new space is done being renovated. The plans for the companion an-

imal and surplus property programs are still up in the air.

The facilities management team is still looking at options and have around a year and a half left to figure it out. As for the large active learning classroom, they are working with the Registrar and the College of Arts and Sciences to move that out of the space which might have to be split into a couple of sections to make that happen.

The budget for the new building is around 116 million dollars. The state is contributing 111 million dollars and the University of Wisconsin River Falls needs to raise five million dollars in gift funds. University Advancement is already working on a fundraising campaign.

The grand opening is supposed to take place in January of 2026, but things could change. More information and updates to come.

Governor visits campus for vaccine discussion

Isabella Forliti

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"Among all adults, young adults have the lowest vaccination rate. Every new generation is a lot smarter than the previous. We have to change this for the county and this city," said Governor Tony Evers to the student body on the University Center lawn on Sept. 27.

Evers came to join the campus for a home-cooked homecoming meal and talk about the UW-System vaccination 70 for 70 campaign. The governor spread a message to all the young adults on campus with the hope of encouraging them to get vaccinated to help the campus reach a vaccination goal of 70%, which the campus has now reached as of Oct. 14.

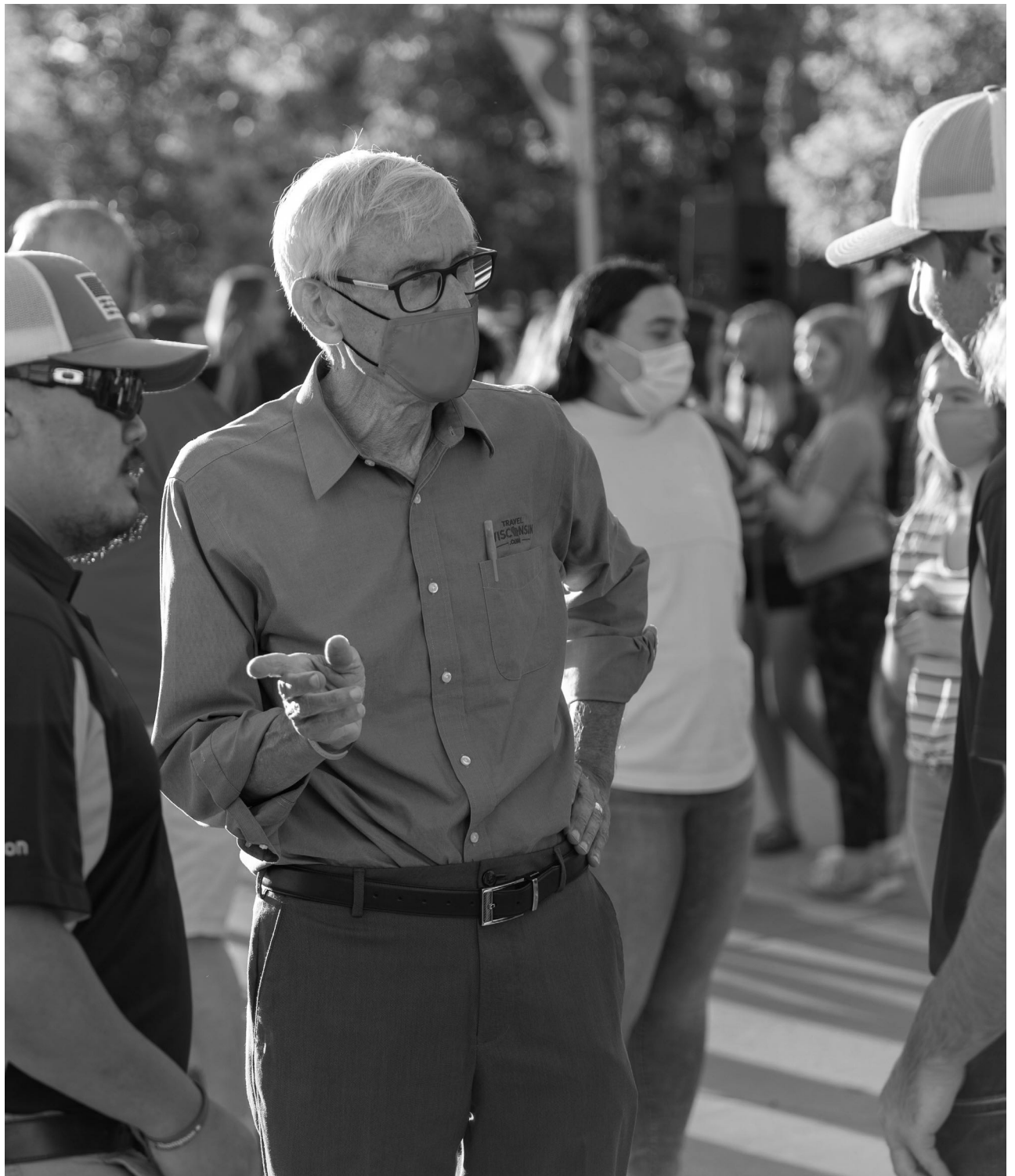
The governor made it increasingly important that students on the UW-River Falls campus and other UW-system schools getting vaccinated was the key to continue in-person instruction. "Frankly, it's in your hands now. We all have to get the shot and to all who are vaccinated, thank you for doing that..." said Evers, "At the end of the day you must know some friends on campus who have not been vaccinated, please reach out to them."

Evers made sure to bring up that if any Wisconsin resident had gotten their shot between Aug 20th and Labor day they are eligible for the \$100 incentive from the state. "This is really important. All the reasons money wise to do it, all reasons scientific wise to do it." Although the deadline for \$100 from the Governor is over, he also mentioned the 70 for 70 campaign, in which students can be eligible for a variety of scholarships from the UW-system.

"Well, they just have to look at the science. I could tell you all sorts of reasons why things are what they are," Evers said when asked what advice he would give to students who are hesitant on getting vaccinated, "It's just clear that you know that you might get a little sick, a little sore, I got a little sick, but the downsides are so small compared to the upsides."

Evers pointed out that young adults do not see the consequences of COVID, such as friends dying, that older generations. Due to this, he believes less are likely to feel motivated to get vaccinated, "I don't think there are a lot of young people who are anti-vaxxers and fierce about it. I just think that it's not part of their life."

The governor was joined by previous governor and UW-System President Tommy Thompson who shared a similar message with students at the Homecoming kickoff event. Thompson was also there to encourage students to get vaccinated to ensure that all UW-System schools can stay functioning in-person for the entirety of the school year ahead.



Gov. Evers talks to students at Bean Soup event. Photo by Pat Deninger.

LGBTQ history inspires look into movement's roots

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Many people believe that LGBTQ history began in June of 1969 with the Stonewall riots of New York. However, eight years prior to the Stonewall riots there was an uprising unlike anything seen before.

Post-World War II the old flourmill at 400 N. Plankinton in Milwaukee, WI, was bought by Harry Kaminsky, a local financier, where he opened his own tavern. However, there was a rocky start, and management was bothered by homosexual clientele that came in from other local taverns. Kaminsky's response to management was, "If we can't beat them, let's join them." After ridding the homophobic management, Kaminsky employed Wally Whetham and renamed the bar Black Nite.

The Black Nite Tavern was a small bar located in downtown Milwaukee that was welcoming and embracing of all sexual and gender expressions. This was something rare to

find in 1961 and hard to come by in a midwestern city. Over time, as the bar gained its regular crowd, patrons became protective over the bar itself and, most of all, what the bar stood for.

On a Saturday night, Aug. 5, 1961, four off-duty policemen went out bar hopping and decided to check out the Black Nite Tavern on a dare. The policemen refused to show their identification to the bouncer at Black Nite and proceeded to be forcibly removed from the property. One of the four men was injured in the altercation with the bouncer and was sent to the hospital. They didn't take the hint and later came back looking to tear the tavern apart.

When patrons of the bar noticed the four policemen return to the scene, around 75 patrons were ready to attack and defend their home. One of the most influential people at the riot was Josie Carter. Josie Carter was an early queer activist and drag queen from the Milwaukee area. She began going to gay bars in the '50s when she was 18 years old and later became a regular at Black Nite. On the night

of Aug. 5, 1961, when Josie Carter was confronted with conflict that threatened her community, she was ready to put up a fight. In an interview with the Wisconsin LGBTQ history project, she said, "I went out there with a beer bottle in each hand, ready to knock some heads." w

The night of the riot was bloody. One of the Patrons of the tavern suffered a concussion when he was hit with a flying barstool. Not only was the riot bloody, it was also damaging to the Black Nite. According to the police report, the damage included furniture, three broken windows, smashed liquor bottles, and missing keys from an electric organ.

The four policemen reported that they were "grabbed, punched and hit on the head for no reason" when they were removed from the bar. Nobody on the scene that night confirmed or denied this allegation. Whether this is true or not we can conclude that this August night in 1961 will leave a mark on all who are part of the LGBTQ community here in Wisconsin.

UWRF team competes in World Dairy Expo

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After almost two years since Marie Haase judged a contest she said, “It felt really good to be back!”

The UWRF Dairy Judging team took a year off due to the pandemic, but they kept the tradition alive this year with traditional contests at Viroqua, WI earlier in September and at World Dairy Expo in Madison on the purple shavings on Sept. 27.

The UWRF Dairy Judging team competed in the collegiate contest where they placed 10th as team in a competitive contest that invites colleges from across the United States. The contest took approximately 10 hours to complete which included six sets of oral reasons and placing 12 sets of dairy cows which is the most they have ever had to do. This was in part due to more people involved in judging, according to Haase.

“After a year off, we were a bit rusty, but we came back and made it through,” Haase said.

Their last competition was back in 2019. Dairy judging is identical to a sport with being committed to continuously developing a member’s skills in order to be successful. The team put in many hours before the contest with practices on Wednesdays and Saturdays since the semester began, but Haase wouldn’t trade the experience to judging again in-person. She has been competitively judging since she was a child. Haase began showing dairy since 5 years old and began dairy judging since she was 10 years old. Now, she is currently serving in many ways of giving back to the dairy industry including the 2021-22 UWRF Dairy Club President.

The UWRF Dairy Judging team is filled with successful students with a passion for the dairy industry. They are all currently Seniors at UWRF including Marie Haase, Lacey Nelson, Mikayla Erf, and Colin Wussow and are coached



(left to right) Mary Holle, Marie Haase, Lacey Nelson, Mikayla Erf and Colin Wussow at the World Dairy Expo. Picture courtesy of Agri-Graphics LTD.

by Mary Holle and Dr. Kelm.

Dairy judging consists of placing dairy cattle from highest quality to lowest quality. Team members also present oral reasons which is a two minute prepared speech defending their placing. On a cow, Haase said the largest points on the score card is the udder. Haase said, “That’s

where the money is at!” Other parts that are critical to consider when dairy judging is a functional set of legs, longness, and femininity are a few key parts.

The team is now looking forward to the North America International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) contest in Louisville, Kentucky during the month November.

UWRF updates COVID protocols

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Now that students have been back on campus for a little over a month, the campus has been working to adjust the policies to accommodate the safety of UW-River Falls students and staff. As the campus moves forward with making the best judgments to keep the community safe, students should expect frequent updates and policy changes regarding COVID-19 on campus.

In a recent update from Chancellor Maria Gallo, as of Sept. 24, there will be more frequent testing for some groups on campus. Beginning Monday, Sept. 27, unvaccinated students living on campus are required to be tested weekly. Unvaccinated students who commute to campus or spend weekly time here will be required to be tested once every two weeks. Vaccinated or unvaccinated, all students who show symptoms of COVID-19 are urged to get tested immediately. Symptoms indicating a test include cough, fever, aches, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath, congestion, or vomiting and diarrhea. These testing protocols will be mandatory through Nov. 26.

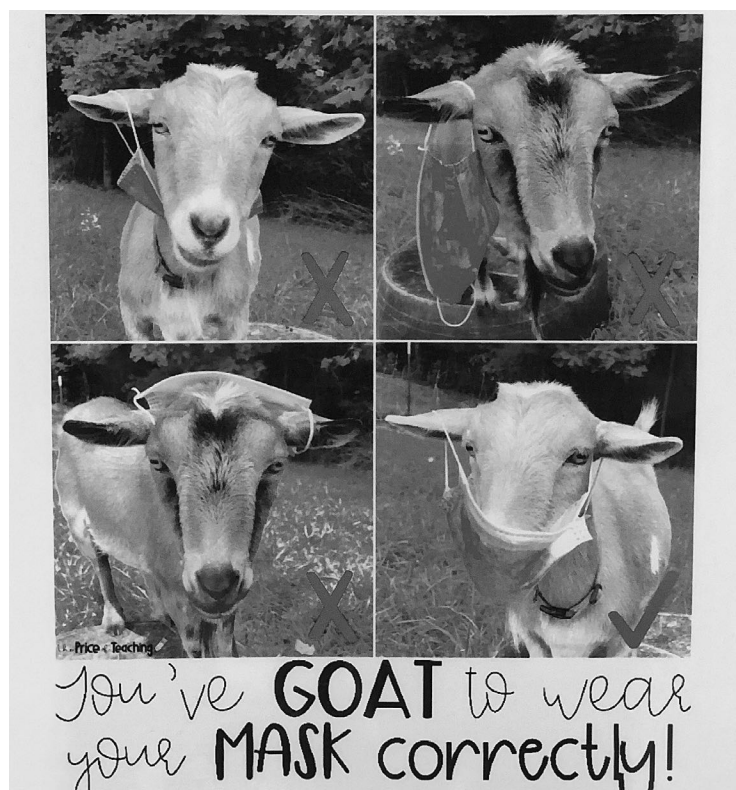
As of Oct. 4, UWRF is at a 65% vaccination rate. Once vaccinated, students can upload a picture of the vaccination card to be removed from the weekly testing obligation. Students can upload information to the COVID Portal linked

in the Protect the Nest page. After uploading proof of vaccination, students’ names will be entered in the drawing for big prizes picked by the University. The proof of vaccination entry for the drawing has been extended to Oct. 31.

As of Oct. 14, UWRF has now reached a 70% vaccination rate amongst students and an 85% vaccination rate amongst staff according to an email sent from Chancellor Maria Gallo.

Additionally, there is now a link on the Falcons Forward website to schedule a COVID testing appointment at Hagestad Hall. Under “Campus and Community Testing,” students will be directed towards a link to choose a date and time to get tested. After selecting the time, there is a short form to fill out that takes about 30 seconds. Appointments may be canceled up to one hour before the scheduled time. Since the testing procedure takes just a minute and the results come in under 15 minutes, there are 48 available slots per day. Scheduling is available from 8 a.m. to 3:50 p.m., Monday through Friday. Tests are now administered by the nurses working in Hagestad Hall. The test consists of a five-second swab in each nostril.

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Informational poster in Agricultural Science Building. Photo by Polly Covert.

Correction: Earlier versions of the Sept. 20 article “Student dies of Lyme Disease” stated that John Palumbo was studying in the College of Business and Education.

He was, in fact, a student in the College of Business and Economics.

Historical homecoming tradition brings community

Anna Gunderson

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This year's homecoming week kicked off on Sept. 27 at 5:30 p.m. with Professor Jake's famous bean soup, which was served in the campus mall to faculty, staff, students, and community members.

The event started around 5 o'clock with words from Governor of Wisconsin Tony Evers, the President of the UW-System Tommy Thompson, and UW-River Falls's new Chancellor Maria Gallo, who all spoke about the 70 for 70 vaccination initiative. They encouraged all students and staff to receive their vaccine, get their \$100 from the state, and help our campus's student population reach the 70% vaccination mark.

After speaking, all attendees were invited to retrieve some soup that marked the beginning of homecoming week. Greek life had booths set up and were assisting with hosting the event, which involved dishing the food out. Carly Trzebiatowski, the President of Phi Mu, said it's exciting to get Greek Life back together, "I know that Greek life on our campus is a fun thing for people to be a part of, and it's exciting to share it with everyone." Laney Hayward, Phi Mu's vice president, is excited that Greek Life is leaving an impact on this year's homecoming: "It's something that we're really looking to grow, even being a small school, so just bringing recognition that on a small campus we have really successful Greek Life."

The atmosphere of the event was happy and excited. Students that are back in person are looking forward to reconnecting with their peers and creating more memories. Joshua Anton, a UWRF junior and Hawthorn Hall Resident Assistant (RA), brought some of his residents to the event and was excited to have some bean soup. Emma Erb, also a UWRF junior and one of Anton's residents, said, "I think it's really awesome how many people showed up. Especially after COVID, just seeing everybody out and about is just a great time."

Bridgette Ledferd, a UWRF junior, said she is happy the tradition is back: "I really like seeing all the students get together and make those connections we had trouble creating last year. Students from all different social groups are talking and getting to know each other. It's just a really good show of how our students care about each other."

UWRF alumni Andrew Turner also attended the event; he said he heard about it through social media, like Face-



Students in line for Bean Soup.
Photo by Pat Deninger.

book and Snapchat, and from a few friends. He said he attended the event this year not only for the bean soup, stating, "I really appreciate the community and everything about it, and it really brings people together."



Professor Thorvald Thorson stirring the bean soup. Photo from University Archives.

Sophia Forliti, a UWRF senior, extensively researched the history of the tradition a month before homecoming in 2019. The history of bean soup can be traced back to the 1920s. Professor Jake P. Jacobson, a former physics professor who started teaching in 1915, who then became the advisor for the YMCA a few years later, started a "bean soup party." At the time, the event was for men only; they would get together for bean soup and do group activities. Forliti described one activity they did called kangaroo court: they would accuse different people of doing random things, then hold a mock court session.

The bean soup parties became an annual part of the YMCA for several years. When World War II began, and a lot of men had been drafted, the University was made up of mostly women. The lack of bodies at the University led to the gradual fade of the bean soup tradition. Then in the late 1940s, Professor Jacobson retired, and bean soup had stopped completely.

Fast forward to 1956, where during homecoming, the University was hosting a "winter carnival," and bean soup was provided by Professor Thorvald Thorson. Thorson and Jacobson were close friends, and Jacobson passed his recipe onto Thorson. Bean soup was only served at the winter carnival that year, and wasn't made again for another several years.

Then in 1976, during homecoming's Parent Day, Thorson still had Jacobson's recipe, and he decided to bring back bean soup. This went on for another decade or so, where he would make the soup in a large cauldron and serve it to students and their parents. When he died in 1995, no record of the bean soup tradition continuing can be found, until homecoming of 2019. There is a wooden paddle that Thorson wrote the bean soup recipe on the back of, and it did make an appearance at this year's bean soup event. It can be found in the campus Archives, and Forliti says "that's one of the things in the Archives you can take out and actually touch since it's still in such good condition."

The original bean soup recipe was not served at this year's event. Forliti says the recipe for the soup chang-

es depending on the chef. This year, Chartwells catering made the soup, prepared the buns, and made homemade butter.

Greek Life's role in the bean soup tradition is relatively new. Forliti said that in 2019, "Greek Life wanted an event during homecoming, so Student Involvement gave it to them. They ended up being in charge of providing people to serve the bean soup, and they were also allowed to set up recruitment stuff there."

This year's homecoming kickoff with bean soup has a long, winding history, and continues to bring people together over a century later.



Student holds original Bean Soup paddle.
Photo by Pat Deninger.

Team presents research on teaching about race relations

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A team from UW-River Falls conducted research on the Kerner Commission Report and how to teach about race relations. They will be presenting at the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) annual conference this November.

The Kerner Commission Report came about in 1968 in the aftermath of civil disorder. The report included recommendations for improving the social conditions, policing and administration of justice. It also gives a detailed history of the lives of Black people in the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Dylan Johnson is a senior student double majoring in broad field social studies and history. He said that this opportunity to conduct research was presented in his class, techniques in high school social studies, back in November. Johnson worked alongside Ali Metcalf, an alumna who graduated in May. Metcalf was a double major in broad field social studies and history.

Johnson and Metcalf worked collaboratively with their professor, Dean Vesperman. Vesperman said the three decided together on the topic, the angle to approach how to teach about the Kerner Commission, and codesigned the curriculum.

“For me, a key aspect of this process is that we are colleagues working collaboratively more than an advisor/ad-

viser relationship,” said Vesperman.

Once completed, the research was submitted for possible acceptance as a chapter for the book “Uncovering a Hidden Curriculum: Teaching and Learning Black History and Culture.” The book is being edited by David Childs and Mark Neikirk from Northern Kentucky University and Patrick Lewis from the Filson Historical Society, according to Vesperman.

“We initially submitted a proposal for the chapter on the Kerner Commission and race relations since 1968, which was accepted. We then wrote the chapter and submitted it for consideration for publication this summer,” said Vesperman.

They have not heard yet if the chapter will be published in the book, but if it is accepted the book is scheduled to be published in spring of 2022. Their findings will also be presented at the NCSS annual conference.

The NCSS conference was originally supposed to be in person last spring, but due to the pandemic it was rescheduled to November and is now virtual. The three researchers will be presenting their curriculum and conclusions at the event.

Initially, Johnson said he was inspired by a guest speaker in his class, Garrett King, who said teachers are not teaching students about Black history, but through Black history.

“There was a lot of content that exists in American history that I didn’t know about until taking a deeper dive.

There’s a lot of stuff that we don’t talk about, but it’s so blatantly still affecting us today,” said Johnson.

Metcalf said that one of their main conclusions from the research was that as the U.S. progresses, it will have to address race relations and work towards developing a stronger public voice. The U.S. so far has not implemented any of the suggestions from the Kerner Commission Report.

Johnson said this research will carry with him far beyond the presentation. It inspired him to get more involved in his community, and he is now a board member for the Wisconsin Council of Social Studies.

“I’m kind of intrigued to keep doing more research as I could not just be saying goodbye to my professors, but maybe, keeping in touch with them and working with them in the future to help not only build up connections, but try to improve our future curriculum,” said Johnson. “I’ve kind of considered some curriculum designs, maybe at the state level, about how we can integrate minorities



Ali Metcalf. Courtesy photo.

or different marginalized societies into our curriculums and not have to just be your typical white history.”

Metcalf is now a sixth-grade teacher at the Math and Science Academy in Woodbury. She is teaching Minnesota Studies, which is looking at history, geography, politics, and everything related to the state of Minnesota. She said sharing about her research is part of the reason she was hired.

“I think looking at something like the Kerner Commission, it’s making you look at how do I teach Minnesota in a broader, more inclusive way? How do I involve looking at how we have this huge Hmong population that came over and we’ve had this huge Somali population that came over? How do we include those populations?” Metcalf said. “I always tell my students that Minnesota has the good, the bad, and the ugly. How do we teach the good and the bad and the ugly to students? Because it’s important to know that yeah, Minnesota, hasn’t always done everything right. The United States hasn’t always done everything right. But by acknowledging and teaching about that, we can move that circle in a new direction.”

For Johnson and Metcalf, this was their first time doing research. Metcalf said students who are thinking about doing their own research should remember they are never alone. She said: “Make it your passion project, because there are other people who want to see your passion.”



Dylan Johnson. Courtesy photo.

UWRF updates COVID protocols

Continued from page 6

Since students came back to school, the common cold has also made a comeback. While continuing to wear masks indoors, students should also remember to wash hands frequently and keep a safe distance of six feet away from others when possible. Since some symptoms of the common

cold match up with some symptoms of COVID, it is best to get tested when there are any symptoms or concerns. With the autumn season here, it’s important to know the difference between symptoms of illness and seasonal allergies as well. Common allergy symptoms include sneezing, runny or congested nose, and itchy eyes, nose, and/or ears. If any of these are accompanied by other symptoms such as a

cough or fever, a COVID test should be taken immediately.

Each community must work together to stay safe and protect each other, so UWRF is working hard to provide COVID-19 resources.

For any COVID-19 related questions, students can email covid-19@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-4000.

Falcons loss provides insight on season ahead

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The UW-La Crosse beat the UW-River Falls on Homecoming Saturday by a score of 45-23. The loss is the first for the Falcons this season after winning their first three games.

With the homecoming festivities and the school spirit on full display, the UWRF football team took the field on Oct. 2 to a crowd of about 3,100. With the football team holding their best start to a season since 1996, fans packed into David Smith Stadium. Unfortunately, things did not go according to plan. UWL raced out to an early lead by scoring 14 quick points in the first quarter. The Eagles didn't stop finding the end-zone as they tacked on another touchdown early in the second quarter.

With the Falcons facing a three-touchdown deficit, junior wide receiver Andy Groebner got the Falcons on the board with a pass from senior quarterback Kole Hinrichsen. Groebner hauled in another touchdown grab right before halftime but not before the Eagles added another touchdown making the score 28-14.

UWL put the game out of reach early in the third quarter by scoring again to balloon the lead to 35-14. After a pair of field goals were traded by both teams, the Eagles added another touchdown to put the final nail in the coffin. The Falcons scored a late touchdown but the damage was done and the Eagles headed back to La Crosse with a victory in the highly anticipated matchup.

One takeaway for the Falcons will be figuring out how to improve their third down conversion rate going into the future. The Falcons were 7-20 on third down conversions. Another takeaway is figuring out how to consistently score points while keeping other teams from scoring. The Falcons lead the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) in scoring, averaging 47 points a game, but are second last in points allowed. With tougher opponents ahead, defending the endzone may be difficult.

The game marked the first of six WIAC games remaining in the season. The schedule doesn't get easier as the team hits the road for two games the next two Saturdays. After returning home the Falcons host UW-Whitewater, a powerhouse for Division III football on the Oct. 23. UW-Platteville comes to town the weekend after, before the team plays its final two games on the road, playing UW-Stout before ending the regular season in Oshkosh.



Falcons play the Eagles at UWRF Football game. Photo by Pat Deninger.



Photo by Pat Deninger.



Photo by Pat Deninger.

Tailgaters share homecoming game experience

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On Saturday, Oct. 2, the UW-River Falls Falcons played the Eagles of UW-La Crosse in a classic WIAC football game. While the teams prepared for the contest, some UWRF tailgaters discussed what they enjoy about Falcon football games and what makes River Falls special.

Nate Lee, a proud parent of a Falcon football player, was at the game to support his son. When asked what

makes UWRF special, he first praised the pre-game environment. He also likes the location of David Smith Stadium.

Kirk Langbehn, another parent who came to cheer on his son, likes the intimate feel River Falls gives off. He also appreciates that there are plenty of parking spots.

Matt Woller, an alumnus of UWRF, loved how the tailgating atmosphere has evolved since his college days. He also really enjoys meeting up with old friends. Woller said River Falls has a "family atmosphere."

Olivia, who is a current student at UWRF, comes to the football games to support her friends. What makes River Falls special to her is the hometown feel and the overall friendliness of UWRF.

Discussing the environment and feel of UWRF football games, fans speak of David Smith Stadium as a second home: a place where old friends can reconnect, a place to support loved ones, and a place to just have some fun.

Editorial: Further recognition from UWRF needed for Indigenous communities

President Joe Biden proclaimed Oct. 11 to be nationally recognized as Indigenous Peoples Day. UW-River Falls celebrated this day, though may not be doing enough to honor it.

Wisconsin, along with several states across the U.S., had already been making the switch from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day, since Christopher Columbus and many other European explorers brought violence to previously settled Indigenous communities.

UW-Madison celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day all month on campus, according to local news Channel 3000. At UW-Eau Claire, the celebration in honor of Indigenous Peoples Day took place on Oct. 14. UWEC also has relaunched the university seal and land-use recognition statement that will be paired with the following statement: “I/We acknowledge that the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire occupies the sacred and ancestral lands of Indigenous Peoples. I/We honor the land of the Ojibwe and Da-

kota Nations.”

UWRF Faculty Senate approved in March a motion to update the land acknowledgement statement. It now states: “The University of Wisconsin-River Falls seeks to form sustainable and fruitful partnerships with Indigenous nations of the area. We will purposefully and thoughtfully enrich our community with historical awareness of the local and national tribal nations. We seek opportunities for learning and relationships with all stakeholders, and through these partnerships, we commit to establishing a comprehensive land acknowledgement statement during the 2021-22 academic year.”

Though the campus has made progress in recent years towards bringing more awareness to the Indigenous population, the Student Voice feels more needs to be done. Putting a spotlight on Indigenous communities should be a focus of the university year-round.

The campus recently built a statue of a falcon, hoping to

start a tradition of rubbing its talon. We feel that it may be more useful to have a physical reminder of the Indigenous communities that once inhabited this stolen land.

We also feel that simply updating a land acknowledgement statement doesn’t do enough for Indigenous communities. The statement seems empty, since there is no evidence of the campus’s fruitful partnership with Indigenous nations of the area. The statement also fails to name whose land the campus is on.

The Student Voice thinks UWRF should have more information available around campus, perhaps a required course on the history of Indigenous people in this area. They also should work to develop a better land recognition statement, and possibly a statue to honor Indigenous people.

According to Native Land Digital, River Falls sits on the territories of the Wahpekute and the Očhéthi Šakówinj.

Mom’s Recipes: Spinach and Artichoke Dip

By Anna Gunderson

What you will need:

- 14 oz canned artichoke hearts - chopped
- 6 oz frozen spinach - thawed and drained
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese
- ¾ cup mayo
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- ¼ tsp Worcestershire sauce

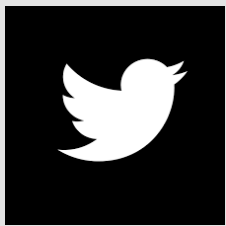


Combine all ingredients and stir well. Spoon the contents into a lightly greased 1-qt baking dish. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

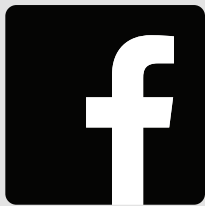
Serve with your choice of crackers or sliced bread.

The days are starting to become shorter and colder so I like to bring some coziness back into the home with some fresh dip to share with family and friends! This dip has become a favorite in my house. We always enjoy it with warmed tortilla chips.

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Global film festival hosted in Hudson

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The Manhattan Short Film Festival is a festival that takes place yearly all around the world. There are over 400 venues on six continents, including a venue in Hudson, Wisconsin. Ten short films are picked, and they show over the course of a week in the venues. After all of the films are shown, viewers have a chance to vote for their favorite film and their favorite actor. Manhattan Short compiles the votes and announces the winners after the festival is done airing. All the films that are shown also have the opportunity to qualify for an Oscar, but that does not necessarily mean that they will.

This year's films included "Death by Handshake," directed by Hudson Flynn, which was about what the pandemic was like for a teenage boy living in New York City. "Ganef," directed by Mark Rosenblatt, tells the story of a little girl who comes to believe that her house cleaner is a thief. In "Bad Omen," directed by Salar Pash-toonyar, an Afghani woman struggles to buy glasses so that she can continue to work as a seamstress.

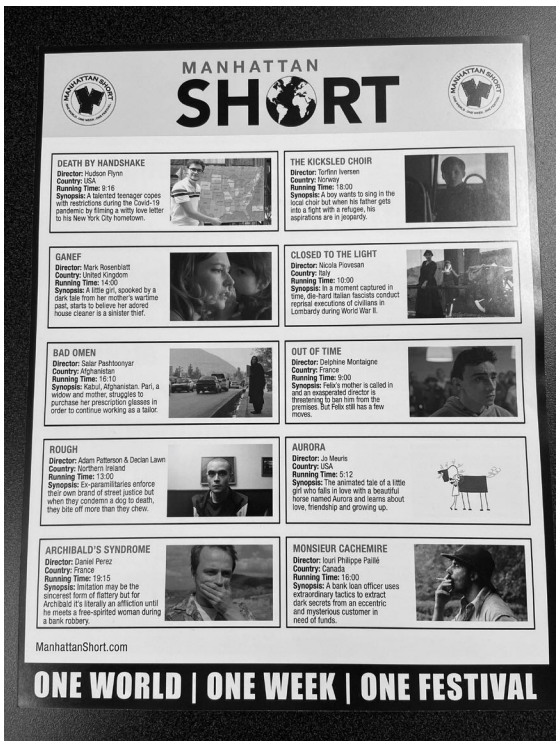
Ex-paramilitaries take it upon themselves to enforce their own justice on the streets in "Rough," directed by Adam

Patterson and Declan Lawn. In "Archibald's Syndrome," directed by Daniel Perez, Archibald has a unique condition that allows him to make other people copy what he does with his hands. A young boy's hopes to join a choir are almost dashed when his father gets in a fight with a refugee in "The Kicksled Choir" directed by Torfinn Iversen.

"Closed to the Light," directed by Nicola Piovesan, is a story about the executions of civilians during World War II in Lombardy, a region in Italy. In "Out of Time," directed by Delphine Montaigne, Felix's mother is told that Felix can no longer be on the premises, until he gives them a reason to let him stay. Finally, "Monsieur Cachemire," directed by Iouri Philippe Paillé, is about a man who is trying to get a loan for his adventure.

The only animated film, "Aurora," directed by Jo Meuris, shows that it is okay to let your heart heal after it is broken.

For more information about the Manhattan Short Film Festival go to manhattanshort.com.



Promotional poster. Photo by Rachel Karweick.

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The Student Voice is a great way to connect with other students and grow your skills in the areas of writing, designing a newspaper, photography, interviewing, and more! No experience needed to join.

Five films made in Wisconsin

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Wisconsin is not Hollywood, but lots of films have been shot in the state, ranging from action to comedy.

Public Enemies, a 2009 film that starred Johnny Depp and Christian Bale, was filmed in many locations in Wisconsin including Mirror Lake State Park and the State Capitol. What is now the Milwaukee County Historical Society plays a bank that gets robbed, and the "Art Deco Building" in Milwaukee is the outside of Depp's Chicago apartment.

While most of the film Bridesmaids was not filmed in Wisconsin the main character is from Milwaukee, and the beginning of the film does have some shots that were filmed in the city. The Art Museum and the lakefront are some of the sights featured in the beginning of the film.

Bridesmaids was not the only film to feature the Milwaukee Art Museum. Transformers: Dark of the Moon also

filmed a scene there, but this time it was Dylan Gould's automobile gallery. The film also shot at the former Tower Automotive Site.

Miller Park was also a site in Wisconsin featured in a film. Mr. 3000, a 2003 film, actually shot between innings of Brewers games meaning that fans were able to be extras in the film.

UW-Madison had screen time in Back to School, a comedy that starred Rodney Dangerfield. People who watch the film can see many places from the campus and downtown Madison.

Wisconsin has also been mentioned in movies. In Captain America: The First Avenger, there is a montage of Captain America traveling across America and Milwaukee is one of the cities he stops in. Wisconsin is also mentioned in Titanic, as Jack says he is from Lake Wissota. This cannot possibly be true though because Lake Wissota is a man-made lake that was not made until after the Titanic sank.

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 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 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.

Local farm plans fall activities

Jack Van Hoof
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White Pine Berry Farm, a family-owned produce farm in River Falls, is putting on a corn maze, pumpkin patch, and other attractions as part of their fall festivities. The small farm, which is less than nine miles from the UW-River Falls campus, has held a corn maze each fall for the last 10 years, and Andrew Zwald, the son of the farm’s owners, said it’s one of their most popular attractions. This year’s maze covers eighteen acres and features a number of intricate designs, including sunflowers, pumpkins, a coffee cup, and an outline of White Pine’s general store, where they sell jams, jellies, and homemade fudge.

The maze is much more elaborate than when it was first created, as White Pine now uses technology such as GPS navigation and agricultural data software to create the maze. Zwald described the entire process by which the maze is planted and the designs are created.

The process begins with the planting of the field, which is done in a unique way. Unlike a normal field, two layers of seed are sown, which creates a crisscross pattern. This prevents maze-goers from being able to look between the rows of corn and easily find their way out. After this, the corn is raised normally, using the proper fertilizers and nutrients.

Next, the designs are created and applied to the field; this is where the magic happens. Zwald’s wife Kim creates the designs on a computer program. In the past, various companies have sponsored the corn maze, and White Pine receives input from them that is incorporated into the final design, along with their own ideas. This design is sent to a partner in Kansas, who is experienced with the agricultural mapping program Trimble. She converts the design to the exact parameters of the field, allowing Zwald to use GPS to create the design. Using a tablet with the GPS system connected to it, Zwald then walks through the rows, guiding another worker who uses a mower to cut the design into the field.

Other methods for creating a corn maze include making a hand-drawn map and using flags or other markers to show where to use the mower. This is more tedious and time-consuming, and was what White Pine did in the past before they upgraded to the GPS system.

Another method includes using an automatic shut-off planter, which is programmed to avoid planting corn where the paths will be. With this method, no mowing is necessary, but it requires more advanced planters than White Pine currently has.



Photo by Jack Van Hoof.



Pumpkins for sale at White Pine Berry Farm. Photo by Jack Van Hoof.



Photo taken from White Pine Berry Farm website.