

The Pointer

January 27, 2011

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Volume 55 | Issue 14

Packers ready to bring title back to Tiletown

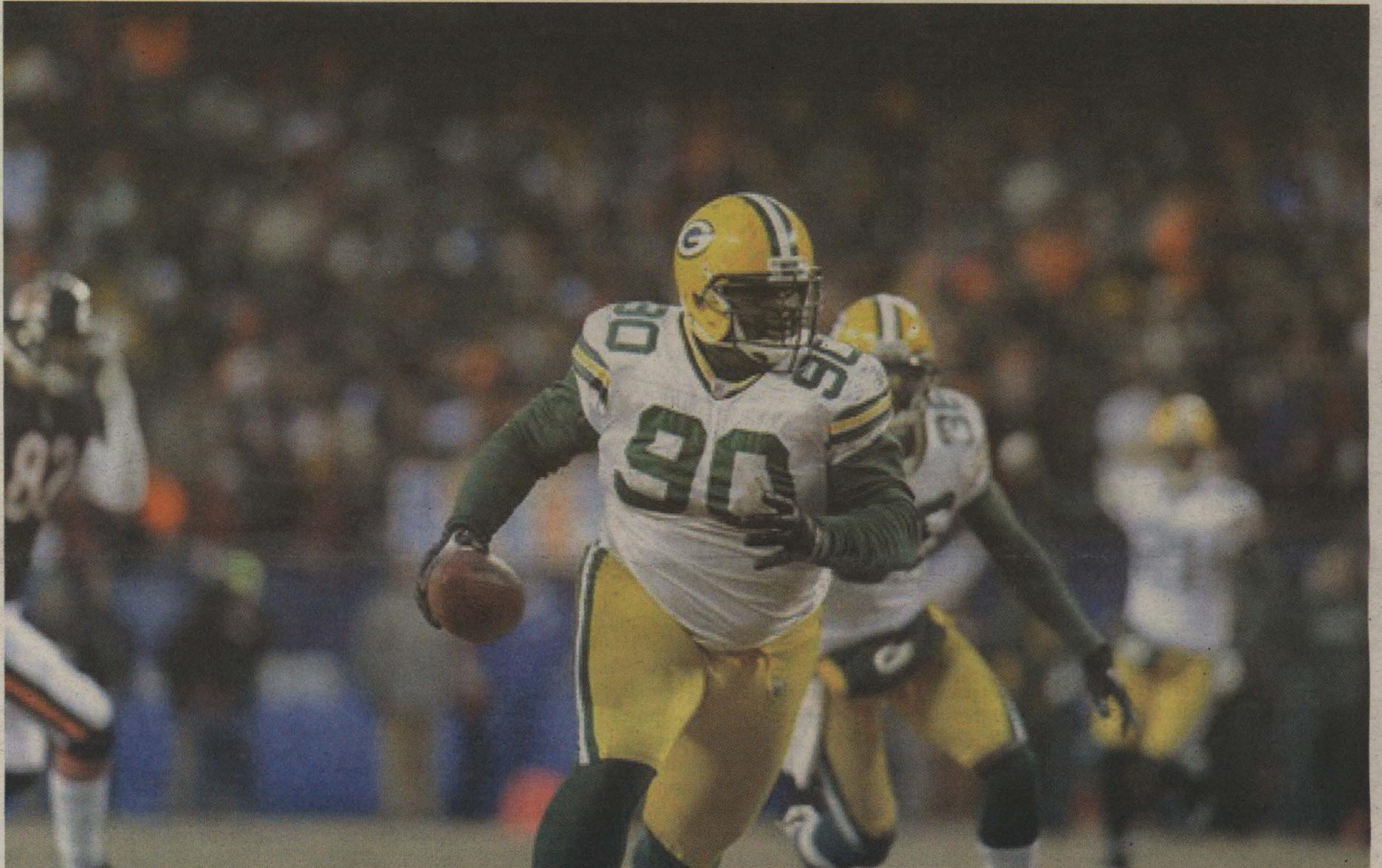


Photo courtesy of packers.com

Green Bay Packers defensive tackle B.J. Raji makes a run for it after intercepting the ball from the Chicago Bears during the second half of the NFC Championship NFL football game Jan. 23 in Chicago. He returned the ball 18 yards for a touchdown.

Historic rivalry hits high water mark

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 Commentary

For the first time since 1998, the Packers have the chance to bring the Vince Lombardi Trophy back home to Tiletown. The Green Bay Packers defeated the Chicago Bears 21-14 last Sunday at Soldier Field in the NFC Championship Game giving them a well earned trip to Dallas to face

the Pittsburg Steelers in Super Bowl XLV. Proving that the Packers have still got it, the team who few outside of Wisconsin believed had a chance, went from underdog to Super Bowl contender. They climbed their final obstacle: a big game being none other than with the Chicago Bears.

In the culmination of perhaps the most famous rivalry in all pro sports, the two teams faced off in what nobody could deny would be a good game. While it was their 182nd game facing each other spanning almost 90 years, it was only the

second time the two teams have met in the post season.

The first went to the Bears 33-14 and was played at Wrigley Field on Dec. 14, 1941, a week after the attack on Pearl Harbor. While World War II would be over in four years, this rivalry was only beginning. And this was seen Sunday. After a four game winning streak that earned the Packers a Wild Card entry into the playoffs ranked number 6, soon escalated to a team that took on the Atlanta Falcons. One Fox Sports commentator said that the Falcons, "never

made mistakes." Then the Packers won 48-21.

While the Packers success this season has been the result of a strong team playing together and not a team based around a few star players, the victory over the Falcons was propelled by the arm of Aaron Rodgers, the quarterback who filled the shoes of You-Know-Who and proved that we don't have to wait 25 years in between Packer dynasties.

After Rodgers' performance, this Cheesehead couldn't imagine how he could top that.

See **Packers**, page 5

SUPERBOWL XLV
 PITTSBURGH STEELERS VS. GREEN BAY PACKERS
 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2011 - 5:30PM ON FOX

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NEWS

Mid-State's move hinges on referendum

DUSTIN KLEIN
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Mid-State Technical College may soon be using the old JC Penny store as their new campus, if all goes according to the plan set forth by the Stevens Point City Council and Mayor Andrew Halverson.

Come Feb. 15, there will be a referendum to take place citywide on whether or not to allow the Centerpoint Mall to be used for different purposes.

While there isn't any recognizable opposition to the referendum in the form of an organization, a group called Yes for Stevens Point has started to campaign for the referendum.

"The referendum provides funding for the redevelopment of the CenterPoint Marketplace mall, and will increase business traffic, bring added workforce to the area, and provide additional opportunities for downtown attractions like the Children's Museum and the Fox Theatre," states the group's website.

This initiative, upon passage, will allocate \$5.9 million for the renova-

tion and relocation of the campus to the JC Penny wing of the mall.

However, criticism has arisen towards the idea, since the mall has had trouble attracting customers and the number of stores has slowly diminished over the years.

Mayor Halverson stated, "The need for us as a council is to embrace the idea that we want to encourage as much conversation as possible."

City leaders, and the mayoral election will most likely hinge on the results of the referendum. Mike Wiza, city alderman in District 4 and mayoral candidate, has doubts about the referendum, he said.

Nothing about that alludes to the fact that this is for the mall, or Mid-State, or any kind of design element," Wiza said. "The wording is such that it doesn't specifically allocate it to the project proposed."

The referendum will read, "Shall the following initial resolution be approved? An initial resolution authorizing the sale and issuance of not to exceed \$5,965,000 general obligation community development bonds; and certain related details."

Voters will still have the choice of whether or not the wording is too vague, a good idea, or just not worthwhile during their selection of who advances to the general mayoral election between three candidates: incumbent Mayor Halverson, Alderman Wiza and a generally unknown candidate, Bill Yudchitz.

Yudchitz hosted a forum at the Portage County Library offering ideas on the mall.

"It's our job to let them know what we want," Yudchitz said. "Then we can discuss the pros and cons."

His ideas primarily focused around keeping the center portion of the mall for an indoor park and then using the former Dunham Sports building for an indoor farmers market.

Critics and supporters will have their opportunity to voice their concerns or praise at the public forum being held on the measure on February 8 from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The location will be updated at YFSP's website www.yesforstevenspoint.com.

Wilson violates SGA rules by working more hours than approved

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Michael Wilson, Student Government Association president, was accused of working more hours than he was allocated this summer, violating SGA finance committee and budgeting allocations.

President of SGA is allocated 15 hours per week in the summer and the vice president is allocated 10 hours, said SGA Budget Director Ashley Riederer. Since Wilson had no vice president, Bob Tomlinson, then Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, approved that Wilson was able to work the full 25 hours per week to do both jobs. The combined hours for the summer pay periods should add up to 350 hours, which comes out to \$3,150.

Reports from UWSP's online payroll sheets show that during that same 14-week period, Wilson worked 420 hours. This was 70 more than SGA Finance committee allocated for student government; a difference of \$630. There was an internal audit commissioned to study this, and The Pointer has a pending request to see the audit report.

"I believe Mike should only have put in 350 hours for summer because that's how many were allocated for president and vice president combined for the summer," Riederer said.

Wilson said that SGA employees fiddling with their hours happens on a regularly basis.

"Ever year there are a ton of people who are overpaid and underpaid,

but it's a quick fix in the system," he said, although didn't know what the fix was. He also said that reports of him taking a large number of hours over the allocation is exaggerated. He said there were two pay periods in the summer when he billed 60 hours instead of fifty, giving him 20 extra hours.

"It was a mistake, but it was easily correctable," Wilson said. He went on to say that he's already worked the extra 20 hours without putting it on his timesheet.

Wilson also said that any overages that he may have happened were ok in the eyes of the university because Tomlinson, then SGA interim advisor, signed off on the hours.

Riederer says it doesn't matter, because as interim advisor, Tomlinson wasn't expected to know how many hours Wilson was supposed to be

working.

"I don't know if [Tomlinson] ever saw a budget. I don't know if he actually knew how much he was approved for," she said. She also said that Kirk Cychoz, an interim budget director who was hired when the summer budget director unexpectedly quit, didn't have enough training to see that Wilson's hours were incorrect.

In addition, Tomlinson resigned as interim SGA advisor in early July, Riederer said. Prof. Stephanie Aleman, the current SGA advisor didn't start until late August. That left a large part of the summer where no one was approving Wilson's timecards, but he was still getting paychecks, said Riederer.

"No supervisor was approving Mike's pay," Riederer said.

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The Pointer is printed Thursdays during the academic year with a circulation of 2,500 copies. The paper is free to all tuition-paying students. Non-student subscription price is \$10 per academic year.

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Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes the property of The Pointer.

NEWS

Moses Creek restored to original state

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The University of Wisconsin Stevens Point has always taken pride in its ability to restore and preserve nature. The same can be said about the new project to restore Moses Creek.

"For over 70 years, Moses Creek flowed in a drainage ditch through the eastern portion of Schmeckle Reserve. A major restoration project in summer and fall of 2010 re-created the natural meanders of the stream and restored the historic wetland floodplain," the Schmeckle reserve website states.

The plan was needed because the creek bed would often dry out in summer, and after snow and heavy rain, would overflow and flood the surrounding subdivisions with water in basements and roads.

The Department of Transportation worked with UWSP to fund the \$900,000 restoration as a mitigation project.

The project was completed on November 30, 2010. Although the new boardwalks have been constructed and the creek has been rerouted, there is still more work.

Members of the project such as Ron Zimmerman and Jim Buchholz will be working with WisDOT to control invasive species in the area to maintain the creek's original state.

One of the major goals or benefits to the project is that UWSP will be able to "offer unique educational



The Moses Creek restoration project, which began in the summer of 2010, recreated the natural meanders of the stream and restored the wetland floodplain.

Photo by Samantha Feld

opportunities for students and the community," according to the website.

Students may see a change in their courses to include the creek in the curriculum, both at the university

and in surrounding area high schools. Moses Creek can be visited during regular Schmeckle hours.

Proposed bill could make voting more difficult

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With the last election a resounding rebuke of President Obama's policies, Republicans find themselves at the helm of the legislative ship of the nation.

This especially holds true in Wisconsin, where Republicans overwhelmingly snatched up legislative seats across the state. Newly inaugurated Republican Governor Scott Walker comes into office with a perfect opportunity to enact the reforms he touted during his campaign.



Walker

One of the state legislature's key bills to be worked out this year is a voting reform measure that would require voters to present a photo ID at their polling center. The bill could possibly abolish the law in Wisconsin that allows voters to register on Election Day.

Republicans maintain that requir-

ing photo identification at the polls is crucial for reducing cases of voter fraud. Democrats and groups such as the League of Women Voters have claimed that such cases of fraud do not exist or are greatly exaggerated.



Parisi

Americans in Milwaukee would be presented with a significant hurdle to overcome on Election Day, as many do not have driver's licenses and it would cost \$28 to receive a state-issued ID card.

College students, especially those from out of state, would find it more difficult to vote as well, as their only means of doing so would be by obtaining a Wisconsin ID card. Even if a student is registered to vote in Wisconsin and has done so in the past, they would still be required to

purchase the ID card.

An article in the Huffington Post brought up the example of a student from Minnesota who attends a university in Wisconsin. "Despite having full reciprocity at Wisconsin schools," the article stated, "that student would not be eligible to vote in Wisconsin unless they obtain an ID issued by the Wisconsin government." With college students already a demographic known for their unreliable voting habits, this would only serve to deter many more from voting.

Unless a measure is imposed to allow those without a photo ID to freely obtain one, this bill could essentially serve as a poll tax on those typically without driver's licenses; namely, college students and minorities.

Job creation efforts

The Wisconsin State Legislature has also begun work on bills that would create an environment in the state conducive to the growth of business. One bill recently passed makes businesses eligible for a tax deduction for every new job they create, ranging

from \$92 to \$316 for each job.

Republicans have proposed an income tax deduction of \$4,000 for businesses with less than \$5 million in gross receipts and \$2,000 for those with more than \$5 million, although Democrats say such deductions won't be high enough for some businesses to find it advantageous. Another bill passed will grant companies that relocate to Wisconsin two years free of income taxes.

These proposals are part of a broad state Republican effort to create a more business-friendly Wisconsin, but Democrats say that such measures could make it more difficult for consumers to hold businesses accountable for their practices.

The Legislature plans to work quickly on their agenda this year, including another important item that would not allow the Assembly to increase the state sales, income, or franchise taxes without a two-thirds vote.

Republicans hope such tax relief will help the state by allowing individuals to pump more money into the state and assisting businesses in hiring more employees.

SPORTS

Pointer men's hockey 'Blacks Out' cancer

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In their game against UW-Eau Claire tomorrow, the UW-Stevens Point men's hockey team is going to be battling more than just the Blugolds. The Pointers will be holding a silent auction to "Put the Check to Cancer" during the game.

UWSP is partnering with Ministry Healthcare for the silent auction to benefit cancer treatment, according to a statement released by UWSP Athletics. The game is billed as a "Black Out" night where the team will be wearing special black jerseys. These jerseys are the prizes of the silent auction. The winners will be presented with their prize jerseys after the game by the player who wore the jersey. Fans are also encouraged to wear black.

"Cancer touches the hearts of many people and this is a great opportunity for us to help local cancer patients and partner with our community to make a difference," Head Coach Wil Nichol said in a statement.

Last year's event raised near-

ly \$4,000 with proceeds benefiting Saint Michael's Foundations' Cancer Services Fund to help patients being treated for cancer in our community. The Friday game is the chance for the Pointers to get their winning streak. On Jan. 22, Garrott Suter completed a hat trick and an assist leading the team to a 4-3 victory against UW-River Falls. Suter was the only Pointer who scored in the first period, making two goals in the first twenty minutes of the game.

Suter's first goal came off assists from Max Bobrow and Nick Kenny to give the Pointers a 1-0 lead. They then gained a power play opportunity with 3:30 left in the opening period and Suter took advantage with a goal with 1:53 left on the clock to push the Pointers lead to 2-0. Suter was assisted by Alex Handy and John Brockmann.

The Falcons got their first goal off a Pointer turnover when Josh Calleja stole the puck and beat the goalkeeper to make the score 2-1. Calleja's goal came with the Falcons being a man down.

The Falcons then tied up the game 10:28 into the second period when



Photo by Mark Kinslow

Alex Handy, sophomore, skates across the rink during a game against University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Jeff Burke scored off an assist from Justin Brossman.

Four minutes later, UWSP got the lead back when Brockmann shot past the UWRF goalie, making the game 3-2. River Falls answered back, tying up the score. After a penalty, Suter

outskated the Falcons and put the puck in the net to give him the hat trick and the game winning goal.

Before the "Black Out" game with Eau Claire, the Pointers are playing St. Norbert College at 7 p.m. in DePere tonight.

UWSP hockey coach, Wil Nichol is stepping down

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University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; Wil Nichol has announced that he will be stepping down as men's hockey team head coach, effective June 1, to pursue a different career path.

Nichol has accepted a front office job on the hockey operations side of an undisclosed National Hockey League team.

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity and one that I and my family are very excited to take," said Nichol.

Nichol started his time at UW-Stevens Point as a defenseman for the Pointers from 1994-98 and played in all 121 possible career games with the Pointers, tallying a total of five goals and 20 assists.

Before accepting his position of head coach for the Pointers team, he coached the SPASH hockey team to two WIAA state tournament appearances and a two-season 46-3 record.

During his time as head coach, Nichol has led the pointers to a 46-44-7 overall record and a 20-32-4 record in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA). The Pointers

have qualified for the league's post-season tournament each of his first three seasons, and last season defeated UW-Stout in the quarterfinal round to advance to the team's first NCHA tournament semifinal appearance since 2004, snapping a 12-game losing streak in the postseason.

"It has been an incredible privilege to lead this program for the past four years," said Nichol, "I'm proud of our 100% graduation rate during my tenure, how our players have conducted themselves on and off the ice, including their heavy involvement in community service and how they have represented the school."

Nichol also said that his stepping down in June will not effect the performance of his current duties for the 2010-11 team, saying that he will continue to give the team everything he's got in the 10 regular season games left.

"We are grateful for the four years Wil has been our head coach," said



Photo courtesy of UWSP

UWSP men's hockey coach, Wil Nichol

UW-Stevens Point Athletic Director Frank O'Brien. "He has been a part of our hockey family as a player, assistant and head coach and we are thankful for his efforts. We wish him the best in his new endeavor."

"I'd like to thank Frank O'Brien, Fred Hebert, Rory Suomi, Marty Loy, Mark Nook, Bernie Patterson, the Blue Line Club, my staff, the fans, the players and my family for all of their support the past four years," Nichol said.

A nationwide search will begin this spring for a replacement with the intent of having someone in place by July 1.



Photo by Mark Kinslow

UWSP men's hockey helmets lined up on the bench after a loss.

SPORTS

Packers/Out with the fridge, in with the freezer

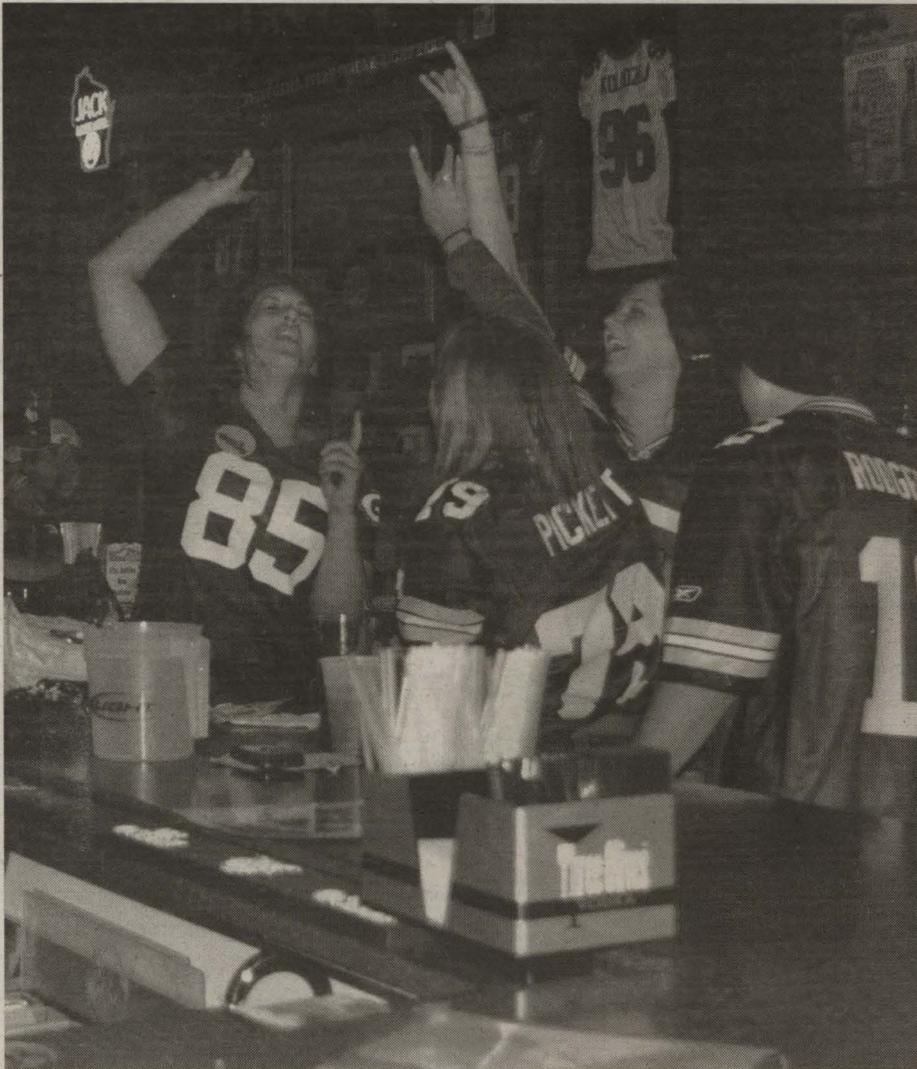


Photo by Samantha Feld

Packer fans celebrate a win downtown at Graffitis.

continued from page 1

Then Aaron Rodgers tackled Brian Urlacher after a turnover and saved a Bears breakaway touchdown. And yeah, the ball was intercepted, but Rodgers probably did that on purpose. B.J. Raji, the 337 pound defensive tackle showed up on offense as fullback on goal line plays, and ran back an interception 18 yards for the touchdown. Raji, never cocky but still confident, compared his versatility to someone else.

"The Bears had the Fridge. I'm the Freezer," Raji said after the game. True that Raji, Chicago is windy, but Green Bay is frozen.

While the Packers offense did well, Rodgers was the first to give credit where credit is due saying, "The offense gets a little too much credit. The defense carried us today."

Preventing the Bears from getting on the scoreboard until late in the game, it wasn't until Clay Matthews ate his way to the Bears' third string quarterback that the Bears' hopes for a comeback became a possibility. With Quarterback Jay Cutler on the sidelines and the second string Todd Collins out after two series, Caleb Hanie came out of nowhere and brought the game to within 7 points.

With 47 seconds left in the game,

Hanie and the Bears lined up on the Green Bay 29 with a 4th down to make something happen. With the Super Bowl on the line and the September 27th loss to the Bears (after they lead most of the game) still fresh, it was anybody's game. Almost.

Green Bay cornerback Sam Shields intercepted the ball, giving the Packers the NFC Championship, the trophy that is named after legendary Bears coach George Halas, and a trip to Dallas to face the Steelers to win what would be their fourth Super Bowl.

This brings the total number of Packers NFL Championship titles to 13, our first being in 1929 and our most recent victory in 1997. If successful, the Green Bay Packers will take the Vince Lombardi Trophy, named for the legendary Packers head coach, back to Tittletown, U.S.A., where in 1919 Curly Lambeau and George Calhoun had the idea to start a professional football team.

No victory is ever guaranteed, especially with the Packers. It'll be a good game, another comeback story to put in the history books. While Green Bay is not the first 6th-seeded team to make it to the Super Bowl, no 6th-seeded team has ever won it. But then again, no team ever won the Super Bowl before the Green Bay Packers.

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SPORTS

Pointer Sport briefs



Tyler Tillema, sophomore, runs the ball across the court.

Photo by Mark Kinslow

Indoor Track has strong showing at season opener

UWSP Women's indoor trackster Abby Ausloos won the women's 5000 meter run to help the UW-Stevens Point women's indoor track & field team to a strong showing Saturday in the season's opener at Williams Fieldhouse at UW-Platteville. No team scores were kept at the meet.

Ausloos won the 5000 meter run with a time of 19:23.82 and was the only first place finisher on the day for the women. Other highlights included Erin Kline finishing second in the 55 meter hurdles with a time of 8.76. Also posting a second place finish was Tina Nowak, with a time of 2:27.06 in the 800 meter run. Claire Roberts finished as the top college runner in the mile with a time of 5:06.97. The Pointer's 4x400 relay posted a second place finish with a time of 4:11.85.

The men's team collected five first-place finishes at the meet. Men's highlights included Keith Ingram and

Babatunde Awosika finishing first and second in the 55 meter dash with times of 6.43 and 6.45, respectively. Joshua Schwinn finished second in the 400 meter dash with a time of 51.70. David Litsheim had the top time in the 800 meter run, finishing nearly three seconds ahead of the second place finisher with a time of 1:55.40. Logan Seipel finished second in the mile run, leading a group of Pointers that finished second through fifth.

In the 5000 meter run, Terry Witkowski posted the event's top time in 15:22.73, leading a group of four UWSP runners to sweep the top four spots. Included in the group was Evan Cooper, Joel Heroux and Sean Hasenstein.

The Pointers return to action on Friday, January 28 at the Thad Metzger Invite hosted by Carthage College.

Women's Hockey team falls to Blugolds

UWSP women's hockey player Allie Tanzer tallied her fourteenth goal of the season in the third period of the Jan. 22 game against UW-Eau Claire, but that wasn't enough to hold off the Blugolds. UWSP fell by a score of 3-1 at the Hobbs Ice Center in Eau Claire.

The score was 2-0 Eau Claire, until Tanzer scored her third-period goal. In the last minute of play, Goalie Carly Gorecki gave up an empty net goal bringing the score to 3-1. Gorecki made 19 saves during the game.

The Pointers (9-6-1, 5-6-1 NCHA) return to action on Friday, Jan. 28, when they host Marian University in an NCHA contest scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at Ice Hawks Arena.

Swim teams finish first and second at Point Invite

The UWSP men's swimming and diving team finished in first place at the Point Invite on Jan. 21-22 with 1133.5 points. The women's team wasn't far behind, finishing second with a total of 845 points.

The men's team dominated the meet, scoring twice as many points as UW-LaCrosse, the men's team that came in at second place. Highlights of the feat include Sam Davy winning the 200 IM and 100 Free, and placing 2nd in the 100 breaststroke, Matthew Olp winning the 200 and 100 breaststroke, and placed 2nd in the 50 free, Joey Clapp winning the 50 free, and placed 2nd 100 free, and 3rd in the 100 fly, and Ben Drexler winning the 200 free.

The women battled rivals UW-LaCrosse and Eau Claire, but fell just short of the Eagles. Some highlights included: Beth Ann Abraham winning the 200 and 400 IM posting dominating times in each event, Andrea Wagner winning the 100 free, Lisa Clemens winning the 100 fly, winning both the 200 and 400 medley relays, and placing second in the 200 free relay.

The Pointers are back in the water on Jan. 29 for the UW-LaCrosse Duels. That is one of only two meets before the Pointers host the 2011 WIAC Swimming & Diving Championships at the Walter Schroeder Aquatic Center in Brown Deer, Wis., Feb. 17-19.



Louis Hurd, senior, eyes the court for an open team member.

Photo by Mark Kinslow



UWSP wrestler takes down another wrestler.

Photo by Mark Kinslow

Go UWSP 

Photo by Mark Kinslow

Sam Barber, sophomore, shoots the ball during a game against University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

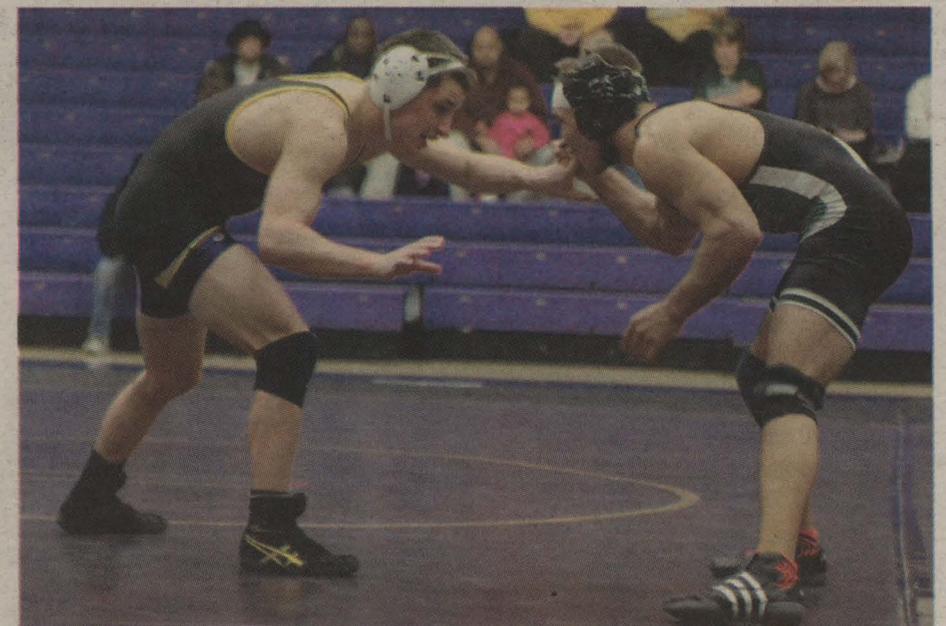
Wrestling coach becomes program's biggest winner after Parkside match

UWSP Wrestling Head Coach Johnny Johnson earned his 126th victory at the match against Parkside on Jan. 25. This victory gave Johnson the most wins as coach in UWSP Wrestling history.

The Pointers got an early 6-0 lead against the Parkside Rangers with a pin by Brad Kuehn, 125 pounds. The Rangers then evened the score, but dropped again after a forfeit victory by Kris Magruder, 149 pounds, changed the score to 12-6.

After the score was changed again to 15-15, Chad Gregory and Steve Wozniak pulled down victories to give the Pointers the win and Johnson the record.

UWSP now has a record of 2-1 WAIC and 9-7 overall. They will be back on the mat on Feb. 4 when they travel to UW-Whitewater for a 7 p.m. match.



Wrestlers pause to catch their breath during a match.

Photo by Mark Kinslow

POINTLIFE

You betta Belize it!

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I didn't know what to expect when we hopped onto the puddle-jumper plane to get to Ambergris Caye in Belize. I was sitting about a foot away from the pilot, the total capacity was four, and the trip was only 20 minutes long.

After we landed, I realized we were definitely not in Appleton anymore. It was clear that golf carts were the main mode of transportation, all of the roads were cobblestone, and was narrow and twisty like a labyrinth. A man pulled up to the airport in a golf cart and we soon realized he was our ride to the resort.

Within what seemed like 30 seconds we arrived at the hotel, Ramon's Village. The path to the hotel was surrounded by

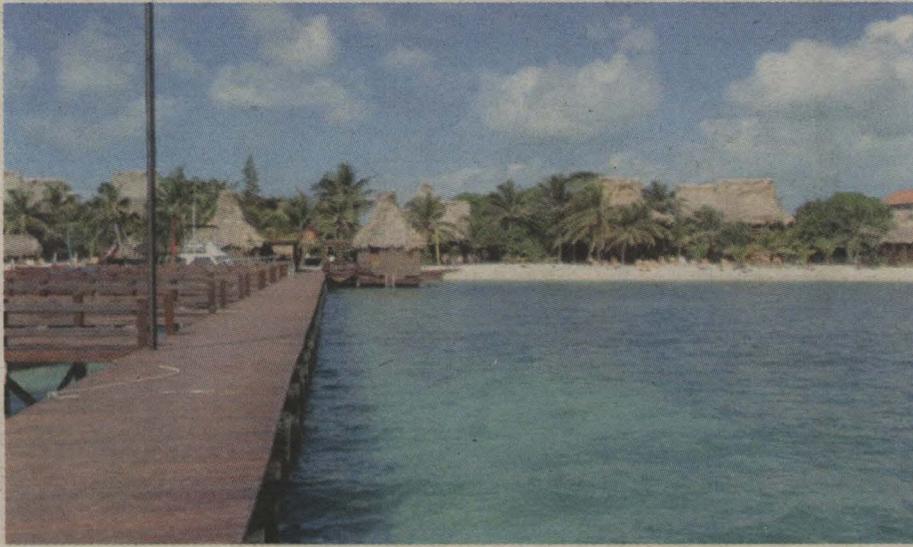


Photo courtesy of Madison Heid

water, I saw two sharks and three rays.

I had a small moment of panic, but then learned the sharks were nurse sharks. Nurse sharks have teeth, but not the kind we picture when we think of sharks. They are fan-like and are used for crushing shellfish, rather than eating snorkelers like me.

Belize it or not, this trip was one of the best trips I had ever been on. The people of Belize are so welcoming and kind, as well as extremely diverse. Most of the Belizeans are fluent in Spanish and English, and also learn Creole outside of school. They are so proud of their country, and they don't hide it at all.

My snorkeling tour guide, Adolfo, was a great example of this. We had gotten back first before my family was finished diving, so I had a chance to find

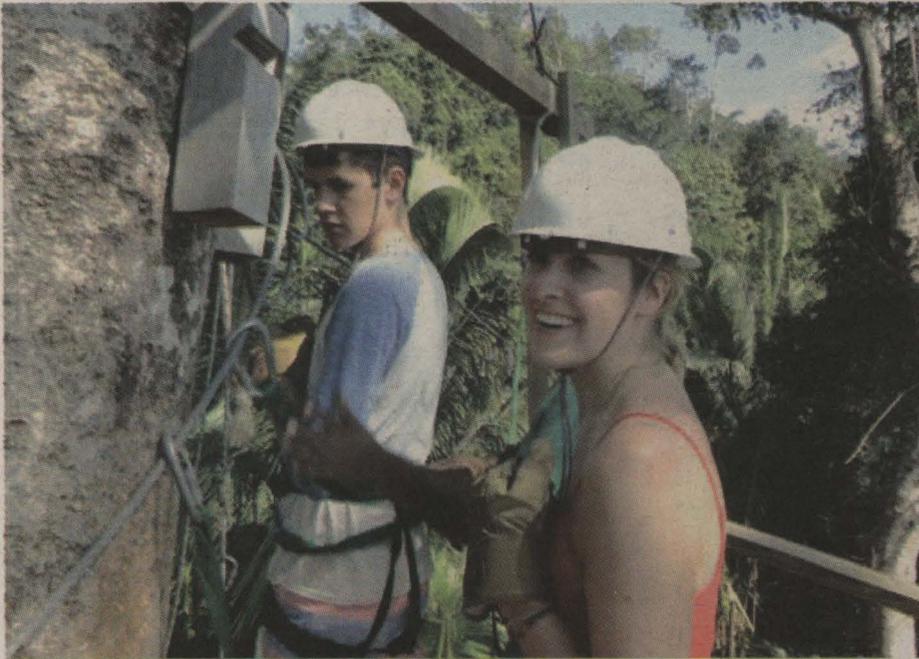


Photo courtesy of Madison Heid



Photo courtesy of Madison Heid

plant life, and it felt like we had entered a rainforest. After a while, the makeshift rainforest cleared and we arrived at the front desk.

From there, we headed to our rooms, which were actually separate little thatched huts, and they were really cozy and authentic.

A following day boasted my favorite part of the entire trip. We were going to go scuba diving and snorkeling at Hol Chan, which is a famous and abundant reef off of the Caribbean coast. When we reached the boat, we found out that my family and me were the only ones going on that trip, so it was like a private tour.

Right away, I found out the snorkelers would go with one guide, and the divers would go with another. Here's the thing, I was the only snorkeler out of my family, because they are all scuba certified and I'm not. I had to jump in first with the guide, so it was just he and I for the entire tour of the reef.

I was awestruck the entire tour of Hol Chan. I thought of Finding Nemo as soon as I saw it. There were so many fish and sea creatures that it seemed like they were purposely dumped there.

The first thing I noticed was the reef was crawling, or should I say floating, with stingrays. Whether they were out in the open, or buried under sand, I must have seen at least 20. Aside from those, I saw parrotfish, sergeant majors, tarpon, puffer fish, grouper, and a vast array of different fish species.



Photo courtesy of Madison Heid

Above all, I was most excited to see two specific sea creatures. While we floated over the reef, two spotted eagle rays glided past us about six feet away. I feel really lucky that I got a chance to see them. The other creature I was very lucky to see was a pair of sea turtles.

They are so relaxed-looking, and it made me jealous that I couldn't float

around and eat grass all day long.

After we finished exploring that section of the reef, we headed to an area of Hol Chan that was much more ominous. They called it 'shark ray alley'.

Obviously, I wasn't super excited to jump in right away. Thanks to one of the tour guides, I got a gentle shove into the water to confront the beasts that lay beneath. As soon as I put my face in the

out more about him.

I discovered that he was born and raised on the island, and was diving for as long as he can remember. He said that he loves being able to show foreigners like us how beautiful the sea life is here, and wishes more of the locals would discover what is just off of their coast.

After visiting Belize, it opened my eyes to how much love everyone should have for their country. By seeing how much the Belizeans loved their home country, it made me think about my affinity for mine. I should really value what I have here, because many places don't have what we have. The Belizeans treasure their reefs and sea life, and rightfully so. Their country is a center for avid divers looking for great sites.

I would highly recommend this destination as a great vacation for anyone looking for a relaxing getaway. Ramon's Village was an extremely hospitable hotel, and all of the workers there were great. Many of them knew our names by the end of the trip.

If you're looking for a great tropical destination for your next vacation, Belize should be high on your list. And, for just one more Belize pun: Don't stop Belizin'.

POINTLIFE

New coffee shop and bakery brings Zest to Point

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A new coffee shop and bakery, Zest, has opened up in Stevens Point. Its grand opening was this Wednesday.

Brandi Gaede is Zest's pastry chef and a former student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Her father owned the space and "we saw a gap [in Stevens Point]. What was missing was a coffee shop," said Gaede.

While at pastry school in Chicago, Gaede met her fiancée, Jake Marchant, Zest's chef.

"We're different. We like to try new things only found in a bigger city," said Marchant. They're excited to appeal to a college-aged crowd who are willing to try new things such as a chocolate chip bacon cookie. The two are proud supporters of anything bacon.

"I've always wanted to get bacon tattooed on my underlip," joked Marchant.

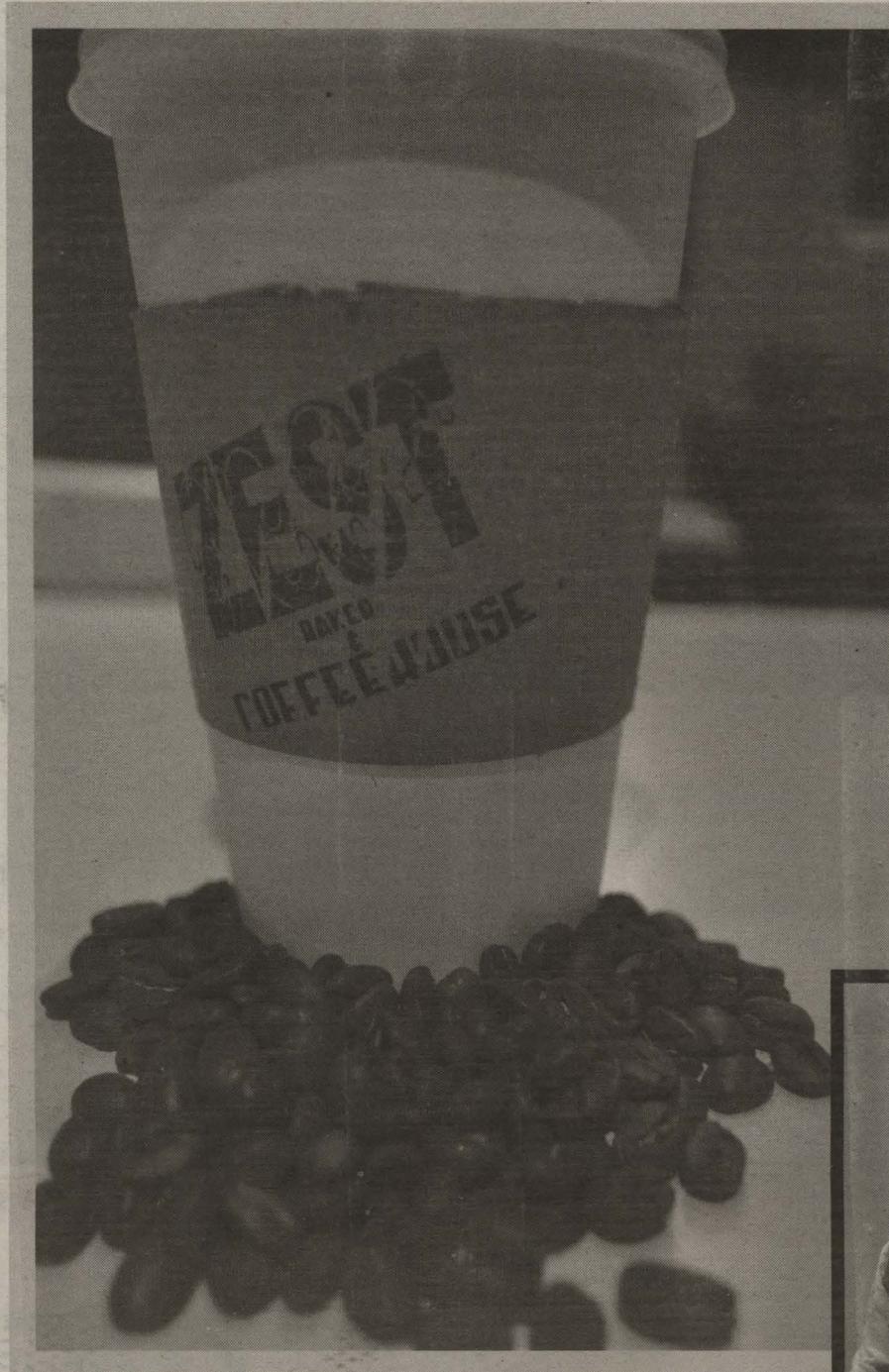
The plan for the bakery has been in motion for about a year. During that time, Gaede and Marchant have been experimenting with random ingredients and pastry ideas.

Zest has a variety of pastries including root beer float cupcakes, lavender passion fruit cookies, and Wisconsin flatbread, all of which are baked fresh every day, throughout the day, from scratch. Due to the fact that Zest supports local businesses, the pastry menu will always be changing.

Their drink menu will remain constant, however. Zest gets all their coffee and teas from Alterra Coffee based in Milwaukee. Gaede and Marchant went on a search for what coffee they wanted to use and fell in love with Alterra. "It's nice to have someone care about your coffee like we care about our foods," said Marchant. Alterra brews the coffee fresh with every order.

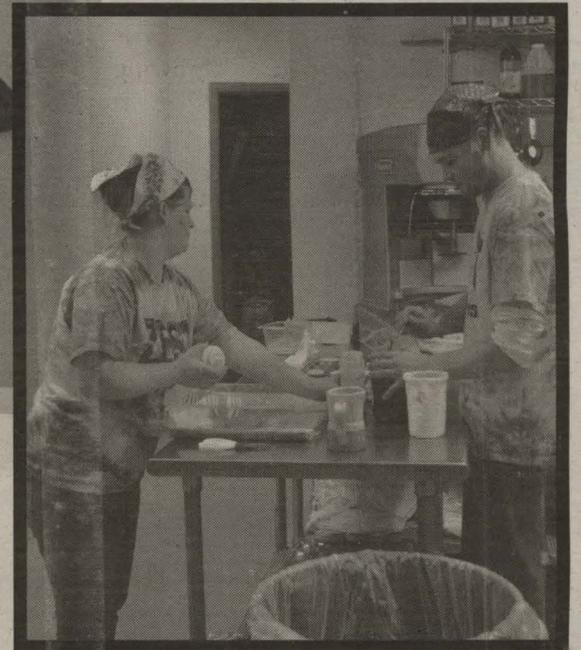
But if you want decaf coffee, Zest isn't the place for you. "There's no need to keep decaf here," said Gaede who is a strong supporter of caffeine.

In the near future, Marchant hopes to



Above: A delicious cup of coffee from Zest. Photos by Kaitlyn Luckow

Right: Brandi Gaede and Jake Merchant bake in Zest's kitchen.



make a soup and salad menu.

Along with supporting local businesses, Zest is a supporter of sustainability and "going green" by recycling and composting. They also want to support students by putting up their artwork and let the art students paint murals on the ceiling.

Zest is decorated with an assortment of coffee mugs and random wall decorations that Gaede and Marchant find in thrift stores. There's even an old mirror that the couple discovered in the basement when they first moved in.

Gaede and Marchant want the feel of Zest to be relaxed, and describe the coffee-house as "traditional and new age."

"I want people to just put up their feet and relax," said Gaede. There is even a place on the bookshelf where they provide slippers to promote the easy-going atmosphere. To cater to college students, there isn't quiet music like a typical coffee shop may have. "It isn't a place where parents hang out," said Gaede. Though to cater to students again, they will change the music during finals time.

Zest is located on the corner of Isadore Street and 4th Avenue.

All that jazz comes to UW-Stevens Point

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In the month of February, Jazz is coming to Stevens Point. Two jazz legends from two generations are coming to perform in Stevens Point, Trombone Shorty and Lee Konitz.

"We have an amazing opportunity to see two wonderful artists who draw from very different styles within the jazz tradition back-to-back," said Professor Mathew Buchman, the director of jazz studies at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Jazz originated in the 20th century with a fusion of African and European musical traditions. There are countless different styles of jazz ranging from cool jazz to jazz funk.

Trombone Shorty is a young saxophonist from New Orleans who was discovered while on tour with Lenny Kravitz.

In 2010, he released his debut

album Backatown which made its way to the top of Billboard Magazine's Contemporary Jazz Chart and stayed there for nine weeks. Trombone Shorty calls his unique sound of

It is a part of our national fabric, something we can call American, something we could share with the rest of the world, said DuPont.

rock, funk, jazz, hip-hop, and soul, Supafunkrock.

"Trombone Shorty to me demonstrates how contagious excitement and passion can be. You will also learn to think of the trombone in a completely different way after you hear him," said junior music and Spanish education major Elizabeth DuPont.

Lee Konitz is another jazz artist coming to UWSP to perform at the 20th annual UWSP Jazz festival. The Jazz Festival is open to high school and middle school jazz groups that

can participate in music sessions and master classes.

Lee Konitz is an 83-year-old jazz legend. He started his career in the 1940s and worked with other jazz leg-

ends such as Miles Davis and Benny Goodman. "So I think it's fair to place Konitz in the cool school," said Buchman.

Konitz separated himself from other famous jazz artists at the time by creating his own personal sound which strayed away from the model that most performers were using at the time.

"You don't have to understand everything he does to appreciate his ability to play and create melodies that speak something to you," said DuPont.

While jazz music originated many years ago, it is still relevant in this century.

"It is a part of our national fabric, something we can call American,

something we could share with the rest of the world," said DuPont.

Trombone Shorty is performing at Sentry Insurance at 7:30 pm on Thursday, February 3, 2011. To purchase tickets go to <http://tickets.uwsp.edu/>.

Lee Konitz will be performing at Michelson Hall in the Noel Fine Arts Center on Friday, February 4, 2011 at 7:30pm. There will be a question and answer session with Konitz at 2 pm.

POINTLIFE

Arts Bash to raise money for fine arts students

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point art students are working hard in preparation of this year's annual Art Bash event, set for February 5.

"It a really neat arts event, unparalleled in this area, we are very lucky to have the Arts Bash."

Bobbie Erwin, marketing specialist for the College of Fine Arts and Communication

The Arts Bash, a night of extravagant visual art, dance, and theatre performances, is a fundraising event in which all proceeds are given to the scholarship funds for the Theatre and Dance, and Arts and Design departments.

"It a really neat arts event, unparalleled in this area, we are very lucky to have the Arts Bash," said Bobbie Erwin, marketing specialist for the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

Additionally, some of the money from ticket and art sales is used to build a perpetually growing Endowment Fund to support future Noel Fine Art students.

Recently, students have seen some immediate benefits of the program's growing success in the form of a new ticket selling policy.

Traditionally, tickets at the door have been \$55 for everyone, which limited student attendance each year. This year is the first year students with a valid ID will be able to purchase tickets for \$20.

"I heard a lot about it last year but I wasn't able to go because they didn't have a student ticket, but now that they do I'm really excited and I think a lot of my friends are going to go too," said Arts Management student Allison Pesch.

Throughout the night hors d'oeuvres, desserts, beer and wine are served, all donated by local area restaurants and businesses and included in ticket costs to guests.

Guests will also have a jewelry raffle to look forward to. Tom Dialing, an internationally acclaimed jewelry designer and UW-Stevens Point Alumnus, has created a one of a kind piece to be awarded to one lucky guest valued at \$2,500.

Guests who plan on attending

the Arts Bash are encouraged to wear expressive clothing.



Arts Bash exhibits many performances by UWSP theater students.

"Everyone gets fairly dressed up, but it's not a black tie affair, people come in jeans," said Bobbie Erwin, marketing specialist, "We had a lady last year who glued multicolored

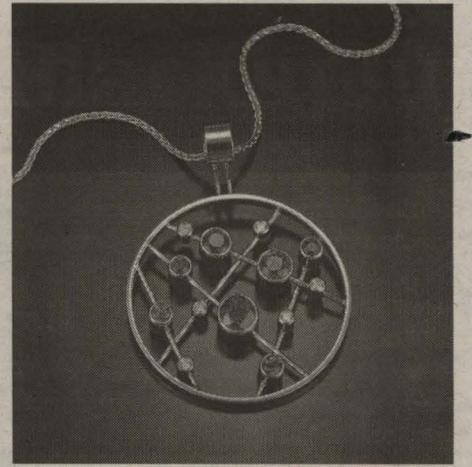
flowers and feathers to her dress... It's wild."

Also, 20 guests who wish to arrive in a limousine and have early access to the art gallery sale may partake in the 'Arts Super Star' dinner the night before the event. The exquisite gourmet meal, put on completely by Dean Jeff Morin, costs \$300.

Every penny of which is donated directly to Arts Bash student scholarship fund.

Since the Arts Bash was created 8 years ago by Anne Schierl, the event has been the primary fundraiser for the two arts departments, having raised over \$250,000.

The Bash begins at 7 p.m. with



Above: The Carlesten Art Gallery exhibits donated art for sale during the Arts Bash event.

Below: Arts students hold a wearable sculpture runway show.

Photos courtesy of UWSP COFAC



in attendance.

All students who sell their art donations at the event are immediately given 50% of the value in order to reimburse for art supplies and costs. For further information about Arts Bash activities, performances, and donation types visit www.artsbash.com.

Thomas advises on national commission

LOGAN CARLSON

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Christine Thomas, Dean of the College of Natural Resources, has been appointed to the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (WHCC). The Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Department of Agriculture Secretary Tim Vilsack appointed Thomas along with 17 other people from various wildlife and conservation groups to the commission.

The WHCC advises the federal government through the Department of the Interior and Agriculture about helping recreational hunting and wildlife resources.

Thomas has been appointed as the Vice Chair and will serve a two-year term on the council, which had

its first meeting in October.

The council plans on having their next meeting in February and will also meet in June and November in hopes of finishing their work by February 2012 when their initial charter is scheduled to expire.

Thomas will represent the only university selected to the commission. "This is important for our national reputation as a leader in natural resources education and says a lot about how well respected we are," said Thomas.

When asked what specific issues the council would be focusing on in relation to hunting and conversation, Thomas said, "We are working on 'bigger picture' issues largely relat-

ed to public lands management and recruitment and retention of hunters.

There are sub-committees working on Recruitment and Retention, and also on Alternative Funding for Wildlife Conservation. There is also a group focused on provisions in the upcoming re-authorization of the Farm Bill. We have sent a letter to the Secretaries advocating for full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

The council also looks to foster and raise women's participation in conservation and management of wildlife and habitat resources through outreach and education.

The charter also designates that the council will look at ways of

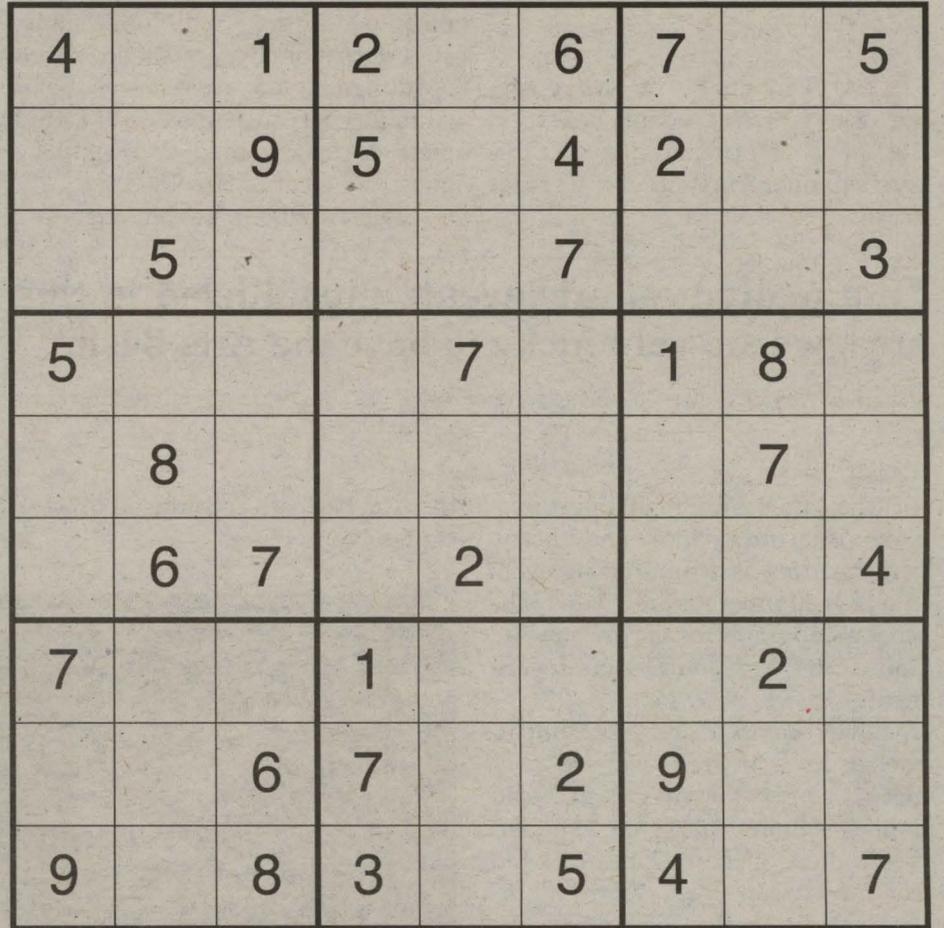
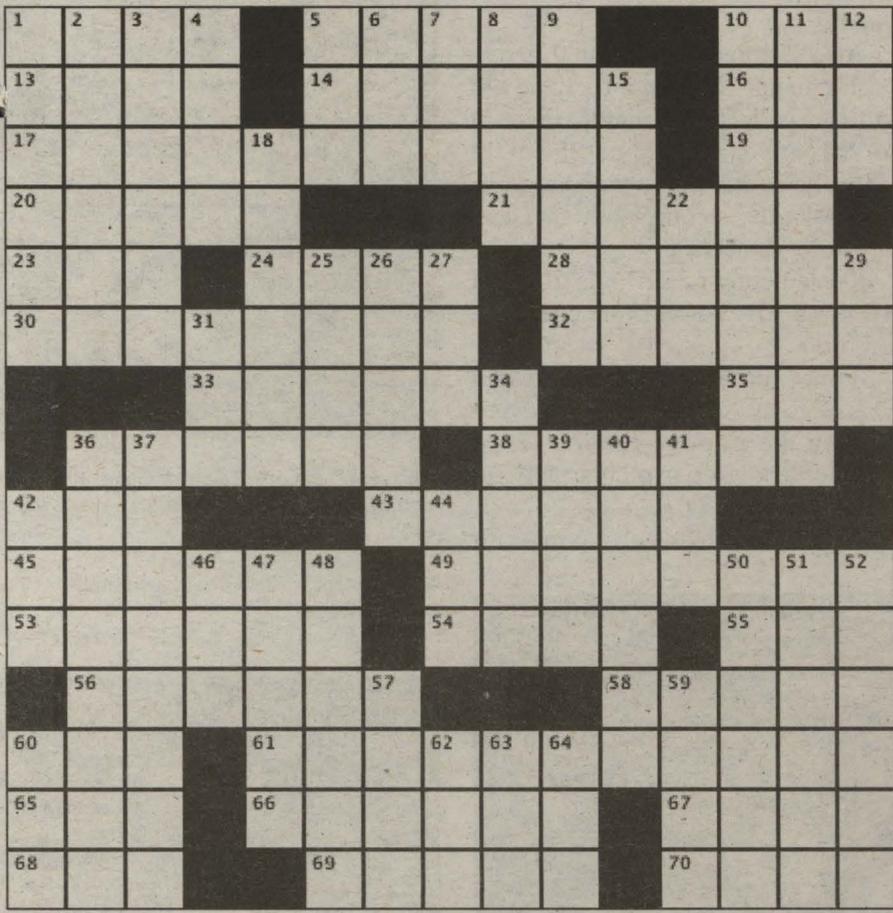
improving the association between "the public, the sporting conservation community, the shooting and hunting sports industry, wildlife conservation organizations, the states, Native American tribes, and the federal government."

The council was created in 2010 under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and has an annual operating budget of \$300,000. It replaces the Sporting Conservation Council by increasing the amount of organizations from major hunting organizations as well as including hunting and shooting sports industries that were previously excluded.

POINTLIFE

Puzzles

Sudoku 9x9 - Puzzle 3 of 5 - Easy



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ACROSS

- 1- FRENCH FRIENDS
- 5- PUT OFF, AS AN AGENDA ITEM
- 10- BRILLO RIVAL
- 13- SOCIAL STANDING
- 14- ABOUT
- 16- FALL MO.
- 17- EXAMINE IN DETAIL
- 19- HALF OF D
- 20- PRECIPITOUS
- 21- MUSE OF ASTRONOMY
- 23- BE HUMAN
- 24- LITERARY WORK
- 28- COMFORTABLE
- 30- SOAK
- 32- IRRATIONAL FEAR
- 33- SMEAR
- 35- DESTINY
- 36- ENTREATY
- 38- PUTRID
- 42- 100 SQUARE METERS
- 43- SPEAKER
- 45- LIPTON COMPETITOR
- 49- NOURISHING
- 53- PURPOSE
- 54- CEASE
- 55- BRUCE ___ WAS A FAMOUS KUNG-FU MOVIE STAR
- 56- APPORTIONS
- 58- MARTINI GARNISH
- 60- SALT LAKE CITY ATHLETE
- 61- GRINNING CAT
- 65- BARKER AND BELL
- 66- MADMAN AT THE TEA PARTY
- 67- IT MAY TURN
- 68- CAPP AND CAPONE
- 69- BARON
- 70- CELESTIAL BODY

DOWN

- 1- COMES UP
- 2- SLOGAN
- 3- TURN UPSIDE DOWN
- 4- ___-BALL
- 5- MAKE LACE
- 6- JACKIE'S SECOND
- 7- WET SPONGY GROUND
- 8- HAWAIIAN OUTDOOR FEAST
- 9- SNARE
- 10- COMPANIONABLE
- 11- PARTICULAR TIME
- 12- LETTERS ON A CARDINAL'S CAP
- 15- "TIL ___ DO US PART"
- 18- DASHING
- 22- "THE MATRIX" HERO
- 25- TRIM
- 26- IN ___ (UNBORN)
- 27- LARGE BODY OF WATER
- 29- ABSORB, AS A COST
- 31- COUNTRY BORDERED BY CANADA AND MEXICO
- 34- HOT-DOG TOPPING
- 36- PREVIOUS TO BIRTH
- 37- UNEASY
- 39- CONDUCTOR KLEMPERER
- 40- APATHY
- 41- PART OF TNT
- 42- BLACK BIRD
- 44- HOSP. WORKERS
- 46- ___ AVIV
- 47- METHUSELAH'S FATHER
- 48- BESIDES
- 50- BRING OUT
- 51- GAMBLING STATE
- 52- MOVE UNSTEADILY
- 57- CLOCKMAKER THOMAS
- 59- PERMITS
- 60- ACTRESS THURMAN
- 62- RR STOP
- 63- FEMALE FOWL
- 64- ANGER

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BRAINTEASERS!

1	2
WINEEEE	NINE CUMULUS
3	4
TAILR RIALT AIRTL TLRIA	L O V E
5	6
VA DERS	ABCDEFGHIJKLM NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

BRAINTEASER! ANSWERS: 1- Win with ease, 2 - On cloud nine, 3 - Trail Mix, 4 - Falling in Love, 5 - Space Invaders, 6 - Missing You (U)

OPINION

Olbermann not just a commentator; speaker of truth and dissent

DUSTIN KLEIN
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Last week Friday, I, along with the rest of the fans of Countdown, tuned into the weeknight show to find that this would be the last time I would watch my favorite anchor passionately discuss and pursue the truth in a world that, oftentimes, is elusive.

Countdown was the rock that you could come home to each night after going out and trying to do the same in your own life. In the world that I grew up in, there existed only a republican and conservative media; a media that didn't ever go into depth, uncover the secrets or the lies of the government that we trusted all too much.

When I discovered the show at the age of 14, I discovered it as an impressionable student that thought the man on screen attacked an administration too much. However, over the next year, as my political ideology began to move more in line with where I stand now, I could only begin to embrace his style of elegance and odd sense of Socratic method of questioning. Yet in the end, he would always reveal his opinion in an emotional way.

Yet today, the long run of the show that I came home to every weekday has ended. We weren't

given notice, we weren't given the replacement, and we weren't told where our anchor would go or what his plans were. We are only left with assumptions.

After the debate has cooled and the end result exists, I'm sure we will find our answer. Yet at the same time, I doubt we will be content with the answers we find.

Olbermann, a staunch opponent of the Comcast merger and vocal opposition to organizations like Fox News, was fired. The option was on the table to extend his contract and the newly founded company chose not to extend, but rather to shift around the schedule and add a web-caster in the 6 p.m. slot.

What does this say about America's need for an unbiased media? While we know that MSNBC often times swung to the left, the organization that has obtained MSNBC has destroyed that ability to do so.

In order to make its own interests heard and profits larger, MSNBC fired a person who fought for the right to know the truth and the right for citizens to live the American Dream. A dream we find is becoming less and less existent in the society we have built.

What becomes of this newfound lack of freedom that we have strived for? How can we not look at the termination of Keith Olbermann as

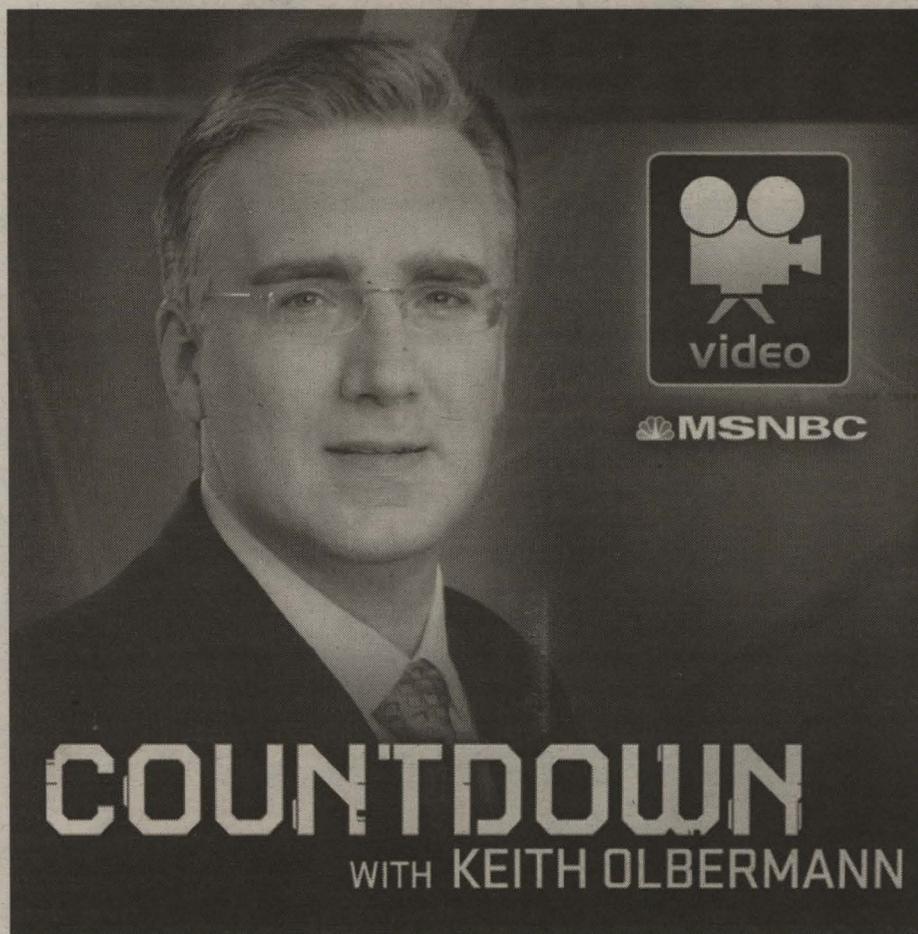


Photo courtesy of theknightlynews.com

a catalyst for other organizations to do the same? Soon the truth will be so drowned out that we will have no media to turn to and we all will be lost in the sea of misinformation that the conservatives hold dear to their

hearts. Americans lost. It continues to lose as we let the right-wing attack media control our airwaves.

Good night, and good luck.

Public-sector employees not the problem

LOGAN CARLSON
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When Governor Scott Walker gave his inaugural address earlier this month, he outlined his plan for how Wisconsin is going to cope with the ongoing economic climate that has plagued not only this state, but also the entire nation for the past two plus years. One of his plans is to significantly alter the way that public-sector unions bargain with the state.

Walker sees only public-sector unions as crippling the state and partly responsible for

foot the bills are the have-nots," said Walker at his inauguration earlier this month. This view that public-sector unions are bankrupting the state and making off with taxpayers' money is wrong and unfounded.

It is convenient to depict public-sector unions and employees as these faceless officials who are making off with the taxpayers' money, but these workers are teachers, police officers, fire fighters and sanitation workers; hardly the villains that Republicans portray them as.

It is not as if the public sector has suddenly expanded or received a substantial increase in pay or benefits

age public employee actually makes more than the average private-sector worker. However, 48 percent of public-sector employees have college degrees compared to only 23 percent of the private sector. It is, after all, why everyone reading this article is in college, to earn a degree which should provide for a better paying job than they would have expected without one. When matched for age and education level, the Center for Economic and Policy Research has found that state and local workers actually receive four percent less than their private sector counterparts.

The fact of the matter is that public-sector unions are not responsible for the ongoing budget deficit that the state is facing. Every state in the union is facing a budget deficit with the exception of North Dakota. If public-sector unions were crippling states' abilities to balance their budgets, you would expect those states that have weak to non-existent public-sector unions to be in better fiscal shape. This, however, is not true. Texas, a non-union state, faces one of the largest budget deficits in the nation.

What is causing the majority of our ongoing budget crisis is stemming from the fact that the economy is still hurting from the \$8 trillion housing crisis that crippled the nation in 2008. We are no longer taking in as much tax revenue as we did before we encountered the worst recession since The Great Depression.

Now I agree with Walker in the sense that when times get tough, everyone needs to tighten their belt and public-sector unions should be included in this belt tightening. However, he seems to think that the richest Americans should be exempt from this and insists on not raising taxes for anyone, much less the rich.

It was not the teachers, nor the police officers, or the firefighters who caused this economic climate. These people are offered up as sacrificial lambs while the real villains are busy making record profits and salaries. Walker and Republicans would rather put average workers against each other to distract them from the fact that administration would rather cut taxes on the rich even more.

Every state in the union is facing a budget deficit with the exception of North Dakota.

- Carlson

the budget deficit that the state currently faces. "We can no longer live in a society where the public employees are the haves and the taxpayers who

over the past decade. The deception that lawmakers use is to compare public-sector employees to private-sector employees.

When they do this, the aver-

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