U-Pass system offers students free ride

By John T. Larson
NEWS EDITOR

Starting this semester, the Stevens Point Transit System and UWSP will begin the first year of a two-year trial run of the U-Pass system, which will allow students to ride on city buses for free. The idea originated in part due to a study undertaken last year by the transportation department to maximize the effectiveness of the bus system.

The final recommendation of the plan was to find a way to include the UWSP campus and areas of high student concentration into the transportation network. The system has come into effect after a year of planning and coordination between the city and the Student Government Association.

Students are now able to ride on any bus in the city for free by providing their student ID to the drivers. The total cost of the U-Pass program comes to $86,357.34 which, spread out across the entire student body, comes to roughly $10 per student. The program is paid for by fees paid to the city out of the Segregated Fee fund that students contribute to as part of their tuition.

A committee was formed to decide upon the routes and to formalize how much the plan would cost. The routes travel through parts of Stevens Point that have a high density of student population as determined by the UWSP geography department.

The bus routes stretch out as far north as the Evergreen Apartments on North Point Drive, as far south as Main Street, and as far west as Wal-Mart on Highway 10. The campus portions of the route encircle the campus on Reserve Street, Maria Drive, Andrews on North Point Drive, State Senator Julie Lassa and U.S. Senator Russ Feingold, U.S. Representative Dave Obey took the stage to introduce Senator Edwards.

In his introduction, Obey spoke out against the recent attack ads against Sen. John Kerry and defend the presidential candidate, saying that he had known Kerry for a long time and that he "was one of the toughest people I've ever known in politics."

Obey then directed criticism toward the economic policies of the Bush administration, saying that Bush "is masquerading as an American populist and we need to strip away the fraud."

Edwards took the stage at around the same time that the Packers kicked off their last pre-season game. In his address, which was praised by the audience, John Edwards criticized George W. Bush’s presidential mistakes. “We know how much attention to pay to what George W. Bush says at the National Republican Convention,” said Edwards. “The truth is they’ve lead us from the edge of greatness to the edge of a cliff and we need to lead them out of the town.”

After criticizing Bush’s mistakes and empty promises as president, Edwards listed the ways he and Kerry would improve America’s loose ends.

The campaign promises stated in the Edwards presentation included the provision of health care to Americans currently uninsured, the importation of low-cost pharmaceuticals from Canada, and tax breaks for American companies that resist job outsourcing.

Edwards offered a plan to provide higher education to those who can not afford it or are having difficulty doing so. “You give us two years of public service to your community, your state or your country; we’ll give you four years of college tuition in return.”

Edwards spoke of the ongoing war in Iraq, simply stating, “We can do better, and with John Kerry as our president, we will do better.”

While the mostly Democratic spectators expressed their favor for what Edwards had to say, others were skeptical of what a Kerry Edwards administration is really capable of. “It was really just a lot of political rhetoric,” said some. See John Edwards, page 2
Our new stork-creature

Some of you may be wondering, “What in the devil is that stork-creature on the front page?”

Ever since I was a freshman, the front page of The Pointer has looked pretty much the same – purple lettering next to the dome of “forward.”

I'm depending but in the end you'll be left with third-rate.

Our new stork-creature looked pretty much the same from our Managing Editor, Liz, we uncovered some ancient relics in the cover of fifty cents. More of a literary review than a newspaper, UWSP liked M.F. Wadleigh, who graduated that spring. So to honor M.F. and his superb maroon glory.

1902-1903 under pomts to the possible is available for further publication without expressed circulation of 4.000 copies.

The Pointer is available for inspection prior to publication. No article is available for inspection prior to publication. No article by the staff is solely respon-

The Pointer ship to the editor can

Therefore I say, rouse yourself, rummage in that cob-webbed garret of your thoughts with an earnest effort and a firm determination to produce and contribute to your paper with your best shots in your best form; and you will speak the merits of your Pointer, in a tone that has the ring of honest coin."

He makes a good point that should not be swat-ted aside as some old-tyme action-speak.

This paper is in truth, your Pointer. Our staff is but a small fraction of the whole, and without your comments, your voice and your help, your Pointer shall remain such a figment.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN

“Come and follow me,” Jesus said.

Have you thought of becoming a follower of Jesus?

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic Christian?

Do you know someone who might be interested?

Are you a Catholic who has not celebrated confirmation?

If so, we invite you to come and see what that could mean.

Or, to invite someone else.

Bring your interest and questions to an Evening for Inquiry on Tuesday 21 Sept. at 7 PM at the Newman Center (next to Play Stns).

Or send an email to TomlNewman@aol.com

NEWMAN University Catholic Parish

Mass: 5 PM Saturday, 10:15 AM Sunday, 6 PM Sunday St. Joseph Convent Chapel, 1300 Maria Drive (just west of County Market)

www.NEWMANuwsp.org
I love this time of year. After three months of vacation everyone is fresh and rested. All the professors have forgotten how much they hate teaching. They smile and chat with each other in the hallways. They cluster around Xerox machines like lame, twengey gangs, pretending they’re cool despite the fact that they’re pushing encyclopedias door-to-door while all the other gangs sell lapdances, PS2s, and cherry-flavored crack.

Returning students are glad to be back, mostly because your summer jobs were tedious and degrading. Three months is long enough for you to forget that most of your classes are tedious and degrading too. You’re full of hope. You’re sure your new roommate won’t be like the last one who wore tinfoil socks and had a tendency to get confused and occasionally urinate in the refrigerator. You’re confident that this is the semester you’ll finally pass Math 106.

Right. And while you’re at it you’ll have plenty of time to plan your future career, find true love, attain nirvana, and develop a high-tech cybernetic arm that dispenses an infinite supply of orange PEZ. Sure. You’ll have time for all that. After all, you’ve done the college thing before. You’ve got it all figured out... Right?

But you freshman are my favorites. I remember what that first semester was like: you’ve got a new haircut and mom’s money in your pocket. You’re on your own for the first time ever. You have so much freedom that you can hardly keep from shitting yourself with sheer delight.

And you exercise this near-infinite freedom the same way every freshman has done for the last ten thousand years. You buy posters for your dorm. You order pizza at unreasonable hours of the day and night. You touch yourself down there in a decidedly impure manner, repeatedly.

Well folks, cherish that delightful innocence for as long as you can. Because soon the horrible truth with start to dawn. You’ll realize that freedom isn’t all nachos, whippets, and wicked touching of the bathing suit area. Freedom is also credit-card debt, STDs that would blister the paint off a car door, and scholastic performance so shoddy that your professors have to invent new grades to accurately represent how profoundly you areucking in their classes. Something like “triple F minus” or “negative B plus.”

Some of you, the smarter ones, are already starting to realize how dangerous all this lovely freedom is. Truth be told, your freshman orientation package should include a coil of industrial-strength nylon cord with a label that says: “Welcome to college. Here’s a coil of industrial-strength nylon cord with a label that says: “Welcome to college. Here’s a coil of industrial-strength nylon cord with a label that says: “Welcome to college. Here’s a coil of industrial-strength nylon cord with a label that says: “Welcome to college. Here’s a coil of industrial-strength nylon cord with a label that says: “Welcome to college. Here’s a coil of industrial-strength nylon cord with a label that says: “Welcome to college. Here’s a coil of industrial-strength nylon cord with a label that says: “Welcome to college. Here’s a coil of industrial-strength nylon cord with a label that says: “Welcome to college. Here’s a coil of industrial-strength nylon cord with a label that says: “Welcome to college. 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Hidden history of UFOs revealed to students

UFO expert speaks on the controversial phenomenon

By Adam Rodewald
Features Editor

UFO researcher Robert Hastings presented an eye-opening lecture and slide show on Tuesday evening concerning the U.S. government's secret responses to the controversial phenomenon of extraterrestrial sightings.

Hastings claimed to be communicating the facts to us and not merely forcing his opinions down our throats. "Take it or leave it," he said. "I am not a missionary." His presentation is based on previously classified government memorandums which have been obtained via the Freedom of Information Act, an act that allows citizens to petition for the release of classified information. Hastings said, "Let me assure you that this is absolutely authentic."

According to Hastings, the documents confirm, beyond a reasonable doubt, that UFOs do exist, and despite repeated public denials by official spokesmen, these objects "are of the greatest concern to the highest levels of the U.S. Air Force and the intelligence community." He stressed to the eager listeners that we have both a right and a need to know this information. "We have a democracy. Government is for the people," he said, protesting the secrecy surrounding these findings.

The lecture, titled UFOs: The Hidden History, began with a 30-minute slide show of UFO sightings and extraterrestrial abductions. It began in the year 1947, during which a massive wave of UFO sightings ironically struck the country on April 1 (April Fool's Day). Sightings were reported in every state except Georgia and West Virginia. The government publicly dismissed them as solar reflections on low-hanging clouds and flattened hailstones, but secretly deemed a full investigation to be necessary.

In 1948, a six-month investigation project titled Signs estimated that the sightings were probably interplanetary craft surveying the world. However, this conclusion was never admitted to the public. After the mass panic and hysteria following Orson Welles' War of the Worlds radio debut, during which people believed the program to be an actual invasion, the government felt they had no choice but to keep their concerns secret.

One of the most dramatic stories from the slide show was that of Betty and Barney Hill, a husband and wife who reported having actual contact with extraterrestrial life. They were driving down the highway when they spotted a UFO. Soon after they began to hear a constant buzzing sound and became extremely drowsy. They both awoke two hours later completely unaware of what had happened.

After undergoing time regression hypnosis, the couple vividly recalled being brought on board the UFO and undergoing medical examinations. Betty claimed to have communicated with one entity that could speak broken English. Robert Hastings said that most people who have studied these events considered the testimonial to be genuine.

In the 1960s and 70s sightings began to occur around major power plants and nuclear weapons facilities. One of the official memorandums that Hastings presented was considered top secret because it documented sightings near the U.S. premiere nuclear weapons facility in Los Alamos, New Mexico. A UFO appeared during a test launch and shot four consecutive beams of light at the missile which immediately fell into the ocean below it. Hastings commented, "They seem to be interested in monkeying around with our nuclear craft!"

Hastings concluded his lecture with a brief question and answer session and further information, including ufoskeptic.org. "What I have is not scientific data," Hastings said. "What he did present, however, was actual military and intelligence agency information."

Hastings' interest in UFOs began in 1967 when he was present at an air traffic control tower on the Malmstrom Air Force Base. "Five UFOs were tracked on radar for several minutes and jets were launched to intercept them. I later learned from Air Force sources that as the jets closed in, the UFOs performed a vertical ascent and left the area at enormous speed far beyond the capability of any aircraft," he said.

Since then, Hastings has spent years researching UFOs and the government's responses to them. He has spoken at more than 500 colleges and universities in an attempt to bring the truth out into the open.
Hypnotist Bruce McDonald captivates many
By Alli Himle
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

A filled Laird Room set the stage for the unbelievable talents of master hypnotist Bruce McDonald, Friday evening. Students were lined well beyond the doors of the U.C. for a chance to not only see but participate in the spectacular feat of hypnosis.

McDonald has a long standing tradition of performing on the UWSP stage. A regular entertainer at UWSP since 1991, McDonald has enthralled audiences annually with his humor, antics, and hypnosis.

Hypnosis, as McDonald said, “is an altered state of mind.” It is a natural, powerful thing that involves extreme relaxation. The volunteers are completely aware of what is going on around them, but their heightened sense of calmness takes over, thus allowing them to completely let go of themselves.

Students’ hands were quick to rise as McDonald asked for volunteers to begin the night’s performance. Upon the random selection of the volunteers, consisting of both sixteen men and women, McDonald’s hypnotic gift quickly had the volunteers slumped in their chairs on stage in complete relaxation. The only voice that became apparent to them was that of McDonald’s.

With the volunteers having completely let go, it was not long before the audience was left in utter laughter. McDonald began by having the volunteers feel as though they were smelling the most rancid smell by having the volunteers feel as though they were smelling the most rancid smell that they had ever smelled. A mix of dirty diapers and old gym socks, compounded with the fact that it was coming from the person sitting beside them, found some contestants unable to contain their gag reflex. From there, the smell transformed into the sweet aroma of lilacs, a smell that the majority of the participants could not get enough of as they became completely entwined in each other.

McDonald next hypnotized a select few to believe they were ballerinas performing at Carnegie Hall. Complete with deciding the color of their own tutu, the contestants were more than delighted to believe that it was their performance tonight that would decide the fate of their future in dance. Kicks, turns, and leaps abounded as the performers set to catch the attention of all who were watching.

By far the highlight of the evening came at the end when the volunteers had returned to their seats in the audience. It was then that McDonald made all of the male contestants believe that they were exotic dancers whose mission it was to entice the female members of the audience. Clothes were quickly transformed into a Chimpenne stage performance.

It was more than evident in the faces and laughter of the audience that McDonald had delivered another star performance on the UWSP stage. However, in thanking McDonald for the laughter that he shared with us, we must not forget the special thanks to all of the evening’s student volunteers. You may not remember your performance, or how it was that you stole the show, but I think every audience member can attest that your performance was more than memorable. As McDonald said, “Without the student volunteers, the show would not have been possible.” The volunteers are truly the ones that deserve all the credit.

As considering how enjoyable the evening was, we can only hope that Centertainment Productions will once again bring the talents of Bruce McDonald to the UWSP stage next year for another unforgettable performance.

Another year for growth
With a new year comes a time for new experiences
By Alli Himle
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

A new school year is upon us and with that comes the new feelings of my family being so sure to arise from me, but the thought of knowing that this is my final year at Point. There will no longer be a first Bell’s run for the fall semester, or the sight of new students moving into the residence halls, a sure sign that the new school year is now upon us.

As I am writing this article, I am thinking back to the first year I began my journey at UWSP. That first year was a mix of emotions, especially those first few weeks completely and utterly on my own. My family, the people I had seen every day of my life, was now four hours from me.

And now, four years later, I still, in some regard, feel those same feelings. Maybe it is not the same fact of feeling the time is far enough away from me, but the thought of knowing that this is my final year at Point. There will no longer be a first Bell’s run for the fall semester, or the sight of new students moving into the residence halls, a sure sign that the new school year is now upon us.

Make the most of your years here at Point, regardless of how long you intend to be here. For the truth is, it will not be long before you will be the same situation that so many of us seniors are in now.

Four years go by too fast, before you know it, grad schools will be on your mind and you think back to how stress free (yes, stress free) freshman year was. Be confident in your decision to come to Point and know that even though you may be feeling overwhelmed and a bit scared right now, it will only be a matter of time before you will be scattered to leave this place.

This is the time to let yourself go and become your true self. This is the time for new experiences and new friendships. But most importantly, this is the time to cherish and to make memorable. Many memories come and go, but the times you experience in college will stay with you forever.

And finally, to all the seniors that find themselves in awe of the fact of how fast the previous years have gone, remember this: only in looking at the past can we truly move forward. For it takes the remembering of freshman year and all the years combined to truly make sense of what college has provided you with. College is much more than an education; it is a time to begin anew. With that in mind, it is time that we all, freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, begin a new journey and vow to make this year a year of new memories and, most importantly, new experiences.

You left me to die alone. Yet your local music takes on a more light-hearted tone. Bowden joked during their performance, saying, “This next song is about cans of water!” after he discovered that drinking water was now available in cans.

Way to Fall headlined the show. Their music is typical to modern alternative rock bands. They are heavily influenced by bands such as Incubus and the Delfonies and have often been described as dark and brooding.

Way to Fall recently won the Southeastern Budweiser True Music Midwest Battle of the Bands 2004, and is now working to record a full length album to be released by the end of the year. A few songs are available for download on their website waytofall.com.

The Hard Rock show was a satisfying start for The Encore this semester. Supporters of Wisconsin’s local music scene should expect a strong lineup of bands to follow.

Students under hypnosis believe they are fourth graders harassing their teacher, Bruce McDonald.

PHOTO BY LIZ BOLTON

FEATURES EDITOR

Music lovers gathered in the Encore Saturday, Sept. 10 for an energetic concert featuring local bands Aluminium Rust, Silik, and Way to Fall. The concert, titled Hard Rock, was the first rock show in The Encore, UWSP’s performance venue, this year.

Aluminium Rust kicked off the night as the opening act. The former cover band has made a transition from playing classic Megadeth and Metallica songs to writing their own original music. While their new music is on the verge of Nu-Metal, the classic rock influence is still readily apparent.

As Silik took the stage, a rush of fans stormed to the front of the venue. Approximately 100 shouting people cheered, danced, and applauded the high-powered performance from this dynamic band.

Silik formed here in Stevens Point with the determination to stray from stereotypical rock music. They set out to “create music that was versatile and melodio, yet heavy and strange,” the band said in their press release.

The band’s members are serious musicians, and their lyrics are often dark. Jake Bowden, Silik’s vocalist, sings in their song “The Fallen”, “Along the fallen. Alone like you.”
Pointers mash TSU in Spud Bowl

By Steve Roeland

In the 18th annual Spud Bowl, a contest that honors Central Wisconsin's potato farming industry, the UWSP Pointers pummeled the Tri-State (Ind.) University Thunder 57-3. The sweltering heat last Saturday told the tale of the Pointers' own hot streak, continuing the program's six-game winning streak, the fifth-longest in Division III football. This year's Spud Bowl victory improves UWSP's record in the annual event to 17-1. The only defeat the Pointers ever experienced in the game was a 28-21 overtime loss at the hands of Northern State (N.D.) in 2000.

Transfer quarterback Brett Borchard, a sophomore from Huntley, Ill., only played one game and attempted one pass at Saginaw Valley State University (Mich.) last year. This season, he has the task of filling in All-American Scott Krause's shoes at UWSP. Borchard had an impressive debut for the Pointers, going 14 for 34 with 254 passing yards and five touchdowns.

The passing game was only a portion of UWSP's offensive explosion last Saturday. The Pointers totaled 560 yards of offense, with 306 of them coming from the rushing game. Cody Childs rushed for a gain in the 57-3 victory Saturday. Childs gained 89 yards on 15 carries and caught two TD passes for UWSP with 146 yards on four grabs and two trips to the end zone. Tight end Ross Romano lead the receiving charge for UWSP with 146 yards on four catches and two trips to the end zone.

The Pointer defense held the Thunder to 302 yards of total offense. Only 66 of those yards came on the ground. TSU averaged a miniscule 1.8 yards per carry in the 54 point massacre. Thunder quarterback Jim Oliver Jr. was 14 for 34 and 229 yards. The 57 points that UWSP amassed against TSU gives them a total of 221 in the past four games. The Pointers continue their dominance over TSU following last year's contest, a 63-0 victory in Indiana. On the D3football.com Top 25 poll, the Pointers dropped a spot despite the win, falling from sixth to seventh on the list. Two other WIAC schools appear in the top 25. UW-La Crosse is the highest ranking Wisconsin school at number three and UW-Eau Claire is ranked sixteenth.

UWSP will face second ranked Linfield ( Ore.) this Saturday at Goerke Field. The Wildcats have won 25 straight regular season games and have been champions of the Northwest Conference for four straight seasons. Linfield has an incredible streak of 47 consecutive years with a winning record.
SPORTS

 Pointer golf finishes weekend in Illinois

By Matthew Inda
Sports Reporter

The UWSP women’s golf team kicked off their second week of play in Illinois on Aug. 10-11.

The team headed down to compete in the Knoxville and Monmouth College Invites. Led by first year head coach Joe Battaglia, the girls went on to finish in ninth place of 18 at Knoxville and 11th place of 19 at Monmouth.

Sophomore Susie Lewis finished 29th overall at Monmouth with an 82, +7. Susie Lewis finished followed by Alesia Timblin finished the 18 at Knoxville and the final day at Monmouth.

Eighth at Monmouth with an 82, +7.

"Overall, we as a team felt we could have played better said. "There is a lot of potential on this team. We are upbeat and excited making strides in the fall season is shaping up to be a good season," Battaglia said.

The goal the team brings to the fall season is shaving strokes off every hole. Coach Battaglia believes motivation is key to improvement as well as player confidence. "The short game practice, including chipping and putting, is key," he said. "Course management, playing to your strengths and working on your weaknesses (are also important)."

The Pointers figure that Eau Claire and Oshkosh will be the teams to beat. "It’s good to go out and compete with the best on these teams. Playing against good competition, such as Division 2 teams, is a good way to experience and learn."

Coach Battaglia has a lot of golf experience from which to teach his team. He is the head golf professional at Tri-City Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids. He has also spent time working as an assistant at various courses in Arizona.

Now that the 1996 grad is returning to UWSP, he takes over a team that finished fourth in the 2003 season and hopes to keep improving upon that. "You need a coaching philosophy," he states. "You need to fine tune and relate to each player. Figuring them out is fun and challenging."

"I’m happy with the progression of the team and happy to be a part of it. Coaching kids is awesome," Battaglia finishes.

The Pointers head to Bloomington, Illinois for the Wesleyan Invitational this weekend.

Cliff Ruland - Football

2003 Highlights

- First Team All-WIAC
- UWSP Lineman of the Year
- Second team All-West Region

Ruland
Major - Wildlife Management
Hometown - Winnebago WI
Nickname - C-Dog

What are your plans after graduation - Hopefully find a job, if not return to school and get a teaching degree for biology.

What is your favorite aspect of football? - Getting the chance to hit someone and not have to go to jail for it, and also the team comradery.

Most embarrassing moment - Celebrating the victory after our last game last year and then getting beat up in Clint’s Explorer, by a girl.

If you could be anyone for a day, who would you be? - Clint Bakken, then I would be able to make offensive lineman look like rag dolls.

What CD is in your stereo right now - Ozzfest 2003

What will you remember most about football at UWSP? - My teammates, Steeler Miles, and the Fair.

What are the biggest influences in your life? - My parents because they taught me to work hard at everything I do and also my fiancé, Heather, because she has supported me the last four years of my life.
This NFL season sure to be one for the books

By Adam Wise
SPORTS EDITOR

If the first week of NFL action was just a hint of the season up ahead, we are surely in for another great year of professional football.

I'm sure, with the popularity of fantasy football, that many of you football geeks were paying attention to the box scores outside of just Ahman Green, but week one was a HUGE week for running backs.

While there were a couple rookie and first year starting RBs that had a tough go at some defenses, nearly all the veterans lived up to expectation and proved to be worth every penny.

Curtis Martin, Priest Holmes, and Edgerrin James all exploded for 196, 151 and 142 yards, respectively. Among the top five were Quentin Griffin and Clinton Portis.

It turns out the swap of Clinton Portis and Champ Bailey truly was heavily in favor of Denver. Not only did Denver already have a RB on the team to fill the hole made by Portis, but they also got one of the top cover corners in the league who will show on turf.

Champ Bailey truly was heavily in favor of Denver.

Maybe I'm overexaggerating after just one week of play, but with the new rules enforcing the passing game and number of quality RB's starting in the NFL, this season is definitely looking to be one for the books.

By Steve Roeland
SPORTS EDITOR

Now that the first week of NFL action was just a hint of the season up ahead, we are surely in for another great year of professional football. Even come close to approaching the century mark.

Don't get me wrong here. The NFL will still have a great air show as well.

With new rules enforcing the touch rule between DBs and WRs, Terrell Owens is going to be catching plenty of TDs in Philly. Marvin Harrison will continue to catch over 100 balls, and maybe if Marc Bulger can keep it together in St. Louis, the Rams will continue to be the best running backs.

This NFL season sure to be one for the books.

The NFL will still have a great air show as well.

As they say, money is the root of all evil. And it's the main reason people do their jobs day in and day out. Mike McKenzie has been holding out on the Packers for quite some time and, now that the first paychecks have been issued, the financial strain will hit the cornerbacks quite hard. Each game he misses is a $162,000 loss. While he will probably still want out of Green Bay, McKenzie will be back on the field for the Packers this season.

3. Ahman Green: MVP?
Believe it, Packer fans. The workhorse running back has amassed 1000 yards rushing in each of the past four years and has 41 touchdowns as a member of the green and gold. Green turned in a nice performance on Monday night and will continue to do so all year long. He will build on his career-best season last year (1883 yards, 15 TDs) and will get closer to, if not surpass, the 2000 yard mark. Add 20 or so TDs to the mix and Green is a genuine MVP candidate.

2. Green Bay will NOT win the NFC North Division, but will get into the playoffs.
Vastly improved competition in the NFC North (except for the Chicago Bears) will challenge the Packers all year long. A tough season schedule that includes contests versus the Colts, Rams and Eagles, as well as facing the Minnesota Vikings twice, will wear on the Packers. Always a tough team to beat, the Pack will split the season series with the Vikings this year with the home team winning each contest, and will win some close games against playoff-quality opponents. The Vikings have a schedule that may yield 11-plus wins, so they will come out on top of the NFC North. End of the year status for the Packers: a 10-6 record with a wild card berth into the playoffs.

The Pack is Super Bowl Bound.

Pack your bags for Jacksonville, folks, because the NFC will be represented in Super Bowl XXXIX by the Green Bay Packers. As Brett Favre said before the season, it's Super Bowl or bust this year for the Packers. While Green Bay's defense is questionable in several areas, Favre's arm and Ahman Green's legs will lead the team through the playoffs and into the big game on Feb. 6. Green Bay will match up against the Philadelphia Eagles in the conference title game and will get sweet revenge in Philly.

The AFC champion Indianapolis Colts will defeat their own nemesis, the Patriots, in the AFC title game making it a Favre vs. Manning shootout. Winner of the game? Sorry to disappoint, but the Colts have too many weapons for Green Bay's young defense. Indy takes the title, 38-30.

There you have it, football fans. Now find a water cooler and some of your best buddies and talk amongst yourselves.
For bow-hunters, the wait is over

Wisconsin archery season set to open this weekend

By Joel Borski
OUTDOORS EDITOR

Saturday, September 18th, marks the opening day of the Wisconsin bow deer hunting season, and for hunters in both Portage County and the entire state of Wisconsin, the long-awaited, “unofficial,” first day of autumn is almost here. Not surprisingly, the Wisconsin weather doesn’t seem to know this yet. After a long summer full of below-average temperatures and above-average precipitation across much of the state, heat and humidity have blanketed central Wisconsin in recent weeks. According to all DNR outlooks, however, the deer hunting forecast appears to be good.

Current estimates place the state’s deer herd at or near 1.7 million animals—well above desired herd numbers, even though 2003 saw record bow and muzzleloader kills and the third highest total deer kill in Wisconsin history.

In Portage County, two DMUs (626 and 62A) designated as Earn-a-Buck units, while 3 other (62A and 65A) have been designated for Zone T. DMU number 57A is the only Portage County unit that is under neither the Zone T nor the Earn-a-Buck regulations. Be sure to double-check your Wisconsin Hunting Regulations booklet for the DMU in which you hunt and the rules that apply to your given unit.

For questions about hunting in Portage County, contact the Wisconsin Rapids DNR office at 715-421-9676 or check out the Wisconsin DNR website at www.dnr.state.wi.us.

Most importantly, best of luck to everyone in the woods this season!

Summer’s not over, Get out and play

By Hilary Bulger
ASSISTANT OUTDOORS EDITOR

Not ready to give up summer? Or feel like you didn’t even have one? Don’t catch a case of the back-to-school blues. We have had amazing weather this school area, so it’s a sign that summer is fighting back, as should we. We are in a prime location to make the most of late summer and early fall as the Stevens Point area offers numerous activities to settle any outdoors appetite.

There are 4,600 state park and forest campgrounds in Wisconsin offering camping, hiking, fishing, swimming and more. The DNR’s website, www.dnr.state.wi.us, offers a list of ongoing activities: camping locations, dates, and fees; fishing seasons and regulations; and current events within the DNR. Campsites can be reserved in advance through the DNR website or by phone at 1-888-WI-Parks. Hartman Creek, located near Waupaca, has year round camping and excellent hiking. Rib Mountain State Park in Wausau is open for camping through October and features a 60-foot observation tower which provides a view 700 feet above the surrounding plains.

While you’re out, go fishing! Trout streams are open game until September 30 and then it’s time for late season muskies and northern. Make sure you have a fishing license and check the regulations, as the open seasons, particularly for trout, do vary by location.

Outdoor Adventures is an awesome on-campus resource, offering trips, classes, retail, and rental.

Make sure you check them out, their web page is on the university site under “Centers.”

Disc golf is a wonderful outdoor sport that is gaining popularity. Stevens Point boasts three courses and there are several other courses nearby. The Professional Disc Golf Association’s website has information on and directions to courses nationwide. Check them out at www.pdga.com.

The Green Circle is always a great option for both biking and walking. A 30 mile loop around Point, it winds past the river and through forests. Accessible from any side of town, it is a quick way to get out and relax.

No matter what it may be, just do something! Get out of the dorm room, off the couch, and for the love of Pete turn off your computer. Get your friends together and take advantage of one of the best times of the year.

Election 2004 - Environmental issues

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)

By Hilary Bulger
ASSISTANT OUTDOORS EDITOR

In 1960 President Eisenhower designated 5.8 million acres in northeastern Alaska as the Arctic National Wildlife Range. In 1980 the Range was renamed the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and was almost doubled in size, totaling 19 million acres. Two million of these added acres were labeled Area 1002, a site for potential oil development. Area 1002, also called the Coastal Plain, is north of the Brooks Range and south of the Beaufort Sea.

America currently consumes 25 percent of the global oil supply, yet holds only three percent of known oil reserves. The United States imports nineteen percent of its oil from Canada and Mexico and another fifteen percent from the Middle East. In light of rising gas prices, continued war in the Middle East, and the decrease in oil production on the North Slope, only 60 miles east of ANWR, there have been continued pressures to drill in Area 1002. Estimates for how much recoverable oil actually exists in Area 1002 vary from as little as 600 million barrels to as much as 9.2 billion barrels.

Arguments for drilling are largely economical. America would certainly benefit from producing more domestic oil, but at what cost? ANWR is home to over 250 animal species, including musk-oxen, polar bears, grizzly bears, wolves, caribou, and millions of migrating birds. It is also home to several nations of Athabaskan natives, most notably the Gwich’in people who, in 1999, submitted a plea to the United Nations asking the United States and Canada to reverse the threat of cultural genocide.

For exploratory drilling to be approved in Area 1002, both the President and Congress must agree. President Reagan tried to get legislation, but was unsuccessful. President Clinton unsuccessfully attempted to ignite ANWR as a National Monument which would have prevented drilling ever occurring. Clinton also vetoed an act which would have opened ANWR to drilling. Currently, President Bush favors of drilling. The Senate has once in 2001 and again in 2003, down legislation that would allow companies to begin. The 2003 vote was much lower than the 2002 vote and there is no third vote would have a smaller result. Both houses of Congress currently have bills that would protect ANWR. If it is not passed by the floor as well.

With the upcoming election the candidates’ official websites, as those of both government and environmental groups, are good places to find out what the candidates are and where the candidates, candidates’ offices on everything that candidates do or not to drill in ANWR is getting more attention than ever. It is important to note that there are other locations in national parks, refuges, and monuments that are also being considered as drilling locations - ANWR is simply the poster child that represents all of these places. There are many sites on the internet where voters can educate themselves about what they are and where the candidates have bills that would protect ANWR. If it is not passed by the floor as well.

Besides making an educated vote, the best thing that the average American can do is be smart about their oil consumption. Currently, 25 percent of cars, 33 percent of SUVs, vans, and pickup are operating with severely under-inflated tires. (continued, see ANWR, page 15).
Expect fall colors to be on time

spite stress on many trees,

despite majority of color change to follow usual schedule

Joel Borski
Assistant Editor

The Wisconsin DNR says that residents can expect quality fall color season even though many have been seeing color changes in trees since mid-August. Though typically the main cause for color change in trees is day length, Wisconsin’s unusually cool and damp summer weather pattern this year is believed to be the main reason for these premature color displays. Cool and wet conditions allow for such things as fungal growths that cause leaf loss and can also cause stress due to overwatering, especially in low-lying areas. A majority of Wisconsin’s forest stands have remained healthy this year, however, and are expected to change color right on time.

Wisconsin’s unusually cool and moist summer pattern is believed to be the main reason for these premature color displays. Cool and wet conditions allow for fungal growths that cause leaf loss and can also cause stress due to overwatering, especially in low-lying areas. A majority of Wisconsin’s forest stands have remained healthy this year, however, and are expected to change color right on time.

Interested fall color fans can expect an early to mid-October peak here in Portage County with current color change estimates at only 0-10 percent in the majority of trees. In the northern Wisconsin regions, one can expect peak color in early October with trees near the town of Cable and the surrounding area peaking in as soon as two to three weeks. Southern Wisconsin regions are still estimated to be up to seven weeks away from peak colors.

For more information and an up-to-date color report throughout Wisconsin, visit www.travelwisconsin.com or contact Kristen Held of the DNR’s Division of Forestry at (608) 264-6036.

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Weekend

Weather Outlook:
Friday - Partly to mostly sunny.
High: 74
Low: 51

Saturday - Partly to mostly sunny.
High: 77
Low: 50

Sunday - Partly cloudy.
High: 73
Low: 58

ANWR, continued from page 10

If every vehicle on the road had its tires inflated to the correct PSI, America would save 60 million barrels (one barrel holds 55 gallons) of oil per year. An additional 24 million barrels could be saved if every car was fueled with the correct fuel grade. Currently, only six percent of vehicles require premium grade gas, yet 20 percent of gasoline sales in the U.S. are for premium grade.

Amazingly, another 60 million barrels would be saved if each American commuted only one day a week with only one other person. Imagine the oil and environment American citizens could save if we all commuted every day with multiple people. So let's do ourselves and the rest of the world a favor by getting educated on the issues, voting, and doing our part to save our natural resources.
As many of you know, there is a presidential election campaign going on, and coming this November, many of you citizens of America will get a chance to vote for our next president. As a way of giving you the public and giving them one of the greatest nights they may possibly remember, various musical artists have banded together for 34 shows in 36 cities over 11 days. Starting in the heart of October, artists such as Bruce Springsteen, REM, James Taylor, Death Cab for Cutie, The Dixie Chicks, Jurassic 5, John Mellencamp, Bonnie Raitt, Jack Johnson, The Dave Matthews Band and more will come together to perform in the Vote for Change concerts that encourage the people to get out and vote.

Although the Vote for change concerts are mostly promoting the election for John Kerry, it is also true that not all of the performers are as much for Kerry as they are against George Bush. More than anything though, these concerts intend to reach those voters who would otherwise ignore the political information provided by news channels and political speeches and reach them through musical entertainment. As part of some performances, artists have chosen to voice their own opinions about where they stand politically in the hope that they can encourage those who attend the concerts to take action and vote.

The nearest location for the tour is Madison, Wis. on October fifth. This concert includes The Dave Matthews Band, Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals, Jurassic 5 and My Morning Jacket. If you thought things couldn’t get any better, you might be interested in knowing that there will be a grand finale show on October 11th in Washington, D.C. where all of the performers will play together.

Proceeds for these concerts will go towards America Coming Together (ACT), a group which has teamed up with MoveOn PAC, a grassroots political action committee working to take back our government and encourage others to take a political stand. Other proceeds will go toward election swing states such as Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. For more information, visit www.moveonpac.org and order your tickets today. For those of you who can’t make the shows, check out the future article on how awesome the show was. (We are going, you know!) For those of you who can, look for us and who knows, we may even become great friends!

Artist’s Declaration: Vote for Change is a loose coalition of musicians brought together by a single idea—the need to make a change in the direction of our country. We share a belief that this is the most important election of our lifetime. We are fighting for a government that is open, rational, just and progressive. And we intend to be heard.

We plan to do something never done before—to concentrate our energies in the states where the election is expected to be closest. We hope this commitment of time and effort by so many artists and our willingness to take our energy to so many parts of the country will help inspire our fellow citizens to get involved in pursuing our country in a truly compassionate and humane direction. We have chosen to do these concerts with two organizations that we think are doing excellent work in motivating our fellow citizens to get involved in progressive politics. MoveOn PAC and its sister organization MoveOn.org have been on the cutting edge of raising issues of peace, social justice, media integrity, and honesty in government. MoveOn PAC will be the official presenter of this tour. American Coming Together (ACT) has been doing tremendous work in motivating our fellow citizens to get involved in progressive politics. MoveOn PAC and its sister organization MoveOn.org have been on the cutting edge of raising issues of war and peace, social justice, media integrity, and honesty in government. MoveOn PAC will be the official presenter of this tour. American Coming Together (ACT) has been doing tremendous work in motivating our fellow citizens to get involved in progressive politics. MoveOn PAC and its sister organization MoveOn.org have been on the cutting edge of raising issues of war and peace, social justice, media integrity, and honesty in government. MoveOn PAC will be the official presenter of this tour. American Coming Together (ACT) has been doing tremendous work in motivating our fellow citizens to get involved in progressive politics.

Most importantly, we wish to communicate our concerns to our fellow citizens and join with them in the effort to change the direction of our government towards one that will make our country as great as it can be.
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