The coming weeks will include choosing a pool of 10 to 12 semifinalists for interviews that will be conducted off campus. Reilly will name five finalists in March for on-campus interviews. Until that time, the search committee and search firm will maintain the confidentiality of all candidates in order to ensure the integrity of the search process, said the official release.

The current pool of applicants consists of about 45 people, which will need to be narrowed down to the 10 or 12 semifinalists. The UW-System wants to have a new Chancellor in place by July 1, 2010. The final decision will be made by April or May of this year.

Mark Nook has been the interim chancellor for UWSP since June 1, 2009. Nook says he’s enjoyed his time working in the capacity of interim chancellor. He began his career at UWSP as the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in July of 2007.

“The position of Chancellor is quite different from that of the Provost. Much of the Chancellor’s position is about maintaining relationships on campus with faculty, with staff [and] with students, but also maintaining relationships with other stakeholders that the University has,” said Nook.

The position is somewhat internal and somewhat external. It’s really about managing those relationships so that we know what’s coming at us from outside the University that will have an impact on how we operate, what our students need, what our faculty and staff need and also managing those relationships inside,” said Nook.

“The position is also, as the Chief Executive Officer for the University, about making sure that our mission is really central, and critical, to the University and that everything that we do fits that mission. That we don’t start to take on projects that move us away from what we are here to do, [like] making sure our business practices are followed, making sure our academic practices are followed. Those sorts of things ultimately reside under the responsibilities of the chancellor.”

When asked if he was one of the candidates for the open position of Chancellor, Nook remained non-committal.

“I’m not answering that one way or the other, for a couple of reasons. I’ve been involved in searches [before] as a search committee member or as an appointing authority and whenever an internal or an interim candidate makes it known that either they are applying or not applying, it puts a great deal of pressure on that search committee.”

“I want to give the search committee the ability to do their job and keep as much pressure off them as possible. So if I said I wasn’t in the search, that puts a level of pressure on them; if I say I’m in the search that puts another level of pressure. It’s a very complex process. So I need to make sure that the process is somewhat the best possible, and that this University finds the very best possible chancellor, and if I make a comment one way or the other it affects that outcome,” said Nook.

• A Board of Regents governs the University of Wisconsin System.
• The President of the UW System, the 14 Chancellors, and the Deans of the two-year Colleges are appointed by the Board of Regents.
• At each of the universities the chief executive officer and the person responsible for programs and operations is the Chancellor.

Sharon Cloud steps down as NAC Director

For Sharon Cloud, last December marked not only the beginning of a new decade, but the end of a 13-year association with the Native American Center of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Through her efforts in shaping the NAC into what it has become today, Cloud leaves behind a lasting legacy in the UW-Stevens Point community.

Cloud’s successor, Andrew Gokee feels that the loss will be a blow to the community. “When someone with such longevity leaves a program or institution, there is bound to be some detrimental impact. In my view, both the Native American Center and UWSP as a whole is losing a valuable resource,” Gokee said.

When asked about the cause of her early retirement, Cloud said, "My health has been an issue for the last several years and I want to focus on getting better. Rest and relaxation may not be a reality, but at least I can try."

However, Cloud’s days as an educator are far from over. "I'm still getting calls from some local schools to do classroom presentations," Cloud said, "I may try to do some consulting with a few schools too, on the..."
For a college student, the next best thing to the holiday break is spring break, and although that seems a long way away right now, spring is right around the corner. This is usually the time of year for students to plan trips, typically to warmer weather and beaches. But before you buy flip flops and head for a beach, it’s important to first evaluate your financial situation.

To help you decide if you can afford a spring break trip, evaluate the following:

**Current bills and upcoming expenses:**

The first step is to take a close look on expenses. If you have just enough stashed away for a trip or if the trip is going to cause you to charge a lot of money on your credit card, you might want to forego the getaway. Don’t forget to include possible unexpected expenses in your planning. Are you going to have moving costs soon? Is a larger bill like your car insurance due again soon? Maybe graduation is right around the corner and you aren’t sure if you will have a job. Remember to keep all of the things in mind when planning a trip.

**Costs associated with the trip:**

Anyone who has traveled before knows that a trip costs more than the price of a plane ticket. In addition to transportation costs, plan for lodging and food expenses. Remember, even if you pack a hotel room full and go all-inclusive, unexpected expenses can still pop up. Make sure you have an extra “cushion” of cash.

**Overall financial goals:**

Taking a spring break trip is something almost all college students want to do at some point. If it is going to break your budget or put a damper on your overall financial goals, you may want to re-think the trip. Maybe you just finished paying off your credit cards or you’re trying to build up your savings account to prepare for graduation day. If a trip is going to prevent you from meeting your overall goals, those few days of sun may not be worth it in the long run.

If this isn’t the year financially to take a big trip with your friends, consider a less expensive getaway. If taking a bigger trip is something you’d really like to do at some point in the future, start saving now. Put a little money away each pay check or once a month.

You can set up an account at a local bank to have automated deposits so the money comes directly from your pay check or another account without you having to remember to put that money aside each month. No matter what your spring break trip is going to do, make sure to meet with a trusted banker. They can help evaluate your situation, how much you can afford to spend as well as help plan a strategy for you to meet your goal in time for your big trip.

Missing out on a trip might not be ideal, but when you do get to go, you’ll be much happier and your finances will be better off because you took the time to do your homework and save for the trip.

**About Citizens Bank:**

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From "Steps Down" pg. 1 development of their curriculum.

"Developing ways to improve the educational experience has always been a gift for Cloud. Shortly after joining the NAC in 1996, Cloud recalls helping to build that new addition to UW-Stevens Point from scratch, without any precedents to draw inspiration from. Barely six months after she had joined the NAC as half-time staff, Cloud gained both a full-time position as acting director, and her fourth child.

Still, the best was yet to come: "I was involved with the development of the College of the Menominee financial aid department during the time that UWSP was their 'grandparent...[and] projects on campus, like the experiential learning program, weekend college and the Wisconsin American Indian Economic Development Office," said Cloud. "I didn’t realize how much time was spent writing proposals until I was commended for being one of the top grant getters at UWSP about 15 years ago."

Yet, even while Cloud fought for UW-Stevens Point and its Native American student population, the worst struggles came from within. "Having faculty and staff make insensitive comments or tell racial jokes in my presence, not realizing that they are offensive have been the most difficult," Cloud said.

"With three daughters in the public school system, we’ve had our fair share of racism and discrimination too. I’ve always taught my girls to avoid confrontation or swallow hard and walk away, but it gets tough sometimes to do that."

“Another challenge, and at times confusing, was listening to a student say they choose to not be involved with the American Indian student groups because it was easier to be white.”

While race-relations has always been an important issue addressed within the NAC, the effects of another unrelated circumference has been just as important in the development of the NAC's budgetary cuts.

"As budgets were being cut... it became more difficult to focus on what the NAC could or should be doing in the future," Cloud said. "It became more obvious that... we might have to pick up a few other projects [that would] better serve the campus and the varied student populations.

For Cloud, having been on campus during the developing years of the NAC made this shift in NAC’s focus admittedly difficult to accept, which is why she cites the cuts as one of the reasons for her retirement. Taking up the NAC reigns is Andrew Gokee, who will be leading the NAC in a new direction into the new decade. "I envy his enthusiasm to implement [his ideas about a new mission and new directions for the NAC]," Cloud said. "I truly believe if he’s going to be a learning process for him, not only about UWSP, but about the entire UW-system.

Gokee remains optimistic on Cloud’s continued involvement with UW-Stevens Point. "I'm confident that Sharon will enjoy her newfound time to spend with family and doing the things she most enjoys. I also expect that she will remain a vibrant part of our community," said Gokee.

However, that may have to wait, as Cloud’s retirement is already quickly filling up. Of how she intends to spend her free time, Cloud said: "[My daughter and I] plan to get to more craft shows, indigenous markets and competitive shows... Oneida [Nation] offers classes on conversational language and I will try to add them to my schedule if possible. The beadwork classes are also going to be a challenge to attend but I’m going to try to work that out too."

In keeping with the Native American tradition of giving a gift to someone you appreciate, Cloud offers this parting gift of advice to her appreciated UW-Stevens Point community, whom she has called family for over 30 years: "There are lots of opportunities to practice being a professional before you graduate if you keep up with the activities of student organizations... Being involved and volunteerism are what employers look for, and as activities developed, I’d always say, ‘This is good resume stuff!”"
UWSP students respond to devastating earthquake in Haiti

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On Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010, the Republic of Haiti was struck by a powerful earthquake near its capital city, Port-au-Prince, devastating the city and its surroundings and killing hundreds of thousands. This week the Haitian government announced that the earthquake, measuring 7.0 on the Richter magnitude scale, has caused a confirmed 150,000 deaths with estimates rising above 200,000. Port-au-Prince has been left in ruins as many of its historical and government structures have been leveled, including its seaport and airport, which limited the amount of aid they were able to receive immediately after the disaster.

"Small things count too, and if everyone is doing something small, something big can come out of it."

—Farrell

80% of all pictures on the internet are of naked women.  
Kissing is healthier than shaking hands.  
Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room.  
A snail can sleep for three years.  
Ants never sleep.

On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament Building is an American flag.  
'Jedi' is an official religion in Australia with over 70,000 followers.  
Marilyn Monroe had six toes on one foot.

January is International Be On-purpose month.  
Polar bears have black skin.

6 Things To Do This Semester

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6. Attend Pointer sporting events

Get out and support Pointer student athletes in basketball, baseball, hockey, softball, swimming and diving, track and field, or wrestling this semester. UWSP has long had a strong athletic program and each team is competitive in the conference and nation. Events are always free and exciting. View the Pointer athletics website for team schedules and other information. Check out sports you may not have watched before. You might be surprised how entertaining they can be.

5. Get outdoors

No matter your favorite outdoor activity, the Stevens Point area has places to do it. Go fishing, canoeing or kayaking on the Wisconsin river, explore Schmeeke on snowshoes or on foot, go cross-country skiing at Standing Rocks county park or on the Green Circle trail, walk, run or bike it when the snow melts. Outdoor Edventures can hook you up with any equipment or information you need.

4. Form closer relationships with professors

Get to know your favorite professors a little better and make a weekly visit or talk to them after class more often. You never know how interesting a professor may be or how helpful they can be as a reference or mentor. They might be able to help you find exciting internships, opportunities or career paths. Make use of their knowledge inside and outside of class.

3. Attend UWSP arts events

Explore the art, music and theatre events presented by the UWSP Fine Arts programs. Whether you identify as "arty" or not, the exhibitions and performances by the fine arts programs can be intriguing, comical and inspirational to anyone.

2. Get in shape

Get fit this semester by signing up for a group fitness class through the Allen Center. There are 35 classes each week to choose from and are no charge to students. Classes include step, cycling, boxing, hip hop and many more. Chances are you will find a class focusing on the area you want to better fitness whether it is your abdominals, cardio or whole body. Memberships at the Allen Center or Health Enhancement Center weight room can also help you reach your fitness goal and so can a visit to the Student Health Promotion Office.

1. Join a group or organization

Join one of the 190 organizations on campus. Meet new people, learn, share your knowledge and passion, raise awareness and reach out to others. Most likely there is an organization for you, and if you can’t find quite what you’re looking for, start your own. Consult the Student Involvement and Employment Office to find what you are looking for.

http://pointer.uwsp.edu

Pointlife  
January 28, 2010 · 3

UWSP Health Enhancement Center yesterday, raising $130 in two hours. WISPIRG’s campus organizer, Jarod Gregory said that they have begun teaming up with the Student Government Association to arrange an official two-day campus-wide campaign on Feb. 10 and 11. Gregory said the organization’s goal is to raise $2,500 for the official campaign.

WISPIRG State Board Vice Chair Seth Hoffmeister said that they took the initiative to begin the campaign when interest was expressed by a number of other student organizations. "We feel that it is very important for all students and faculty members to get involved in this coalition between student organizations, to reach out and combine all of our resources for this disaster," said Hoffmeister.

Ryan Farrell, a UWSP junior said he would like to help as much as possible, even doing as much as going to Haiti to get directly involved in the relief efforts. When he heard that the Haitian government announced that they do not want additional people entering the country yet, his ambition was interrupted. "You can’t miss it on TV, and to see something so terrible that had such a huge effect on so many people really hurts," said Farrell. Farrell, who is a community advisor for Knutzen Hall said that they have begun a small penny war fundraiser in the building to help contribute to the efforts. "Small things count too, and if everyone is doing something small, something big can come out of it," said Farrell.

Students wishing to get involved can email Seth Hoffmeister of WISPIRG at shoff583@uwsp.edu to offer ideas or find ways to help the organization.

"That’s what she said of the Week:"

You’re going to stretch it out. That’s okay. It’s too tight anyway.  
—Alesha Bales
Reel champions make UWSP proud

Logan Bliss and Cody Salzmann weren’t fishing for a compliment but certainly deserve one after their success at the kickoff tournament of the 2010 Boat U.S. Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship series.

The two University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students and members of UWSP’s Big Dawgs Fishing Club were declared national champions at the event held in east Texas on Dec. 18 and 19.

Bliss, of Cottage Grove, Wis., and Salzmann, of Dickeyville, Wis., share the same fisheries and water resources majors and rich fishing background.

Bliss, who has been fishing since he could walk, began his angler career with a novelty fishing pole.

“My dad bought me a small Snoopy pole when I was really young,” said Bliss.

After tying a rubber casting weight to the end of the pole, his dad acted as the champion’s first trophy.

“I would have to ‘reel him in,’” said Bliss.

It could be said that Salzmann’s fishing career began even earlier as he was potty-trained in his parents’ boat and would offer what assistance he could, from his baby carrier.

“I have been fishing as long as I can remember,” said Salzmann.

Out of 98 collegiate anglers representing 24 schools and seven states, Bliss and Salzmann won the Stephen F. Austin State University Buckemouth Bass Tournament over their close competition from Lamar University.

The two-day event was hosted by the SFASU Bass Team and sanctioned by the Association of Collegiate Anglers.

Not only were both Bliss and Salzmann both awarded a $500 scholarship, but also all four contingency awards from Abu Garcia, Big Bass, Berkley Big Bag, Costa Big Bass and Cabela’s Angler Cash.

The national recognition alone was enough, although “it was also awesome to catch a nine-pound giant as well,” said Bliss.

Winners were determined by the total weight of five fish from each team at the end of the day. Bliss and Salzmann ended and won the tournament with a total weight of 24.16 pounds.

A “catch and release” procedure was enforced for this tournament, as is standard for all Boat U.S. fishing tournaments.

Bliss is an original founder and the current president of Big Dawgs. The organization has presented students with recreational and competitive fishing opportunities since 2007.

“If a student wants to fish competitively and still go to school with minimal costs, this is the best thing out there,” said Bliss.

Salzmann rallies for the chance to participate in a tournament. If successful, the awards and recognition possible at the end of the day are an added bonus.

Those who are interested in tournament fishing get the chance to better themselves and possibly get a shot at making it into a professional tournament, said Salzmann.

While Bliss and Salzmann thrive on daily catches and their love for fishing, they stand as UWSP’s “catches of the day,” ones we won’t release.

Schmeeckle Reserve’s New Year’s resolution for Moses Creek

The Moses Creek restoration project by Schmeeckle Reserve will be starting this February. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will be signing a contract with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to cover this $1.3 million dollar project.

The WDT has included in the contract, a five-year period to help maintain the wetlands, buffer areas and to ensure the restoration of Moses Creek is a success.

Schmeeckle staff will then come in and take over the care of Moses Creek, to continue to monitor how invasive species are introduced to the area.

In the 1930s, during the Great Depression, Moses Creek was channelized and put into a big ditch in order to create a drainage system for farm fields. However, this was unsuccessful and farm lands suffered.

In 1972, Schmeeckle Reserve started with 127 acres and has been slowly buying up land along Moses Creek over the past few years. They now have 280 acres.

This year again, Schmeeckle Reserve was able to acquire the last six acres needed to start the restoration project.

“Now we can go in and look at how we can recreate a natural flood plain again with wetlands around,” said Ron Zimmerman, director of Schmeeckle Reserve.

The flood plains will allow an area in the spring and fall to flood in order to prevent flooding in the subdivisions and campus.

“This was always our intent with Schmeeckle,” said Zimmerman.

“This was always our intent with Schmeeckle.”

—Zimmerman

The second part of the project, also the main part, will be at the end of summer. This part includes digging out Moses Creek. The project should be finished by October.

“Certain tails will be closed and rerouted so you can still get onto the Green Circle Trail,” said Buchholz.

The Restoration of Moses Creek will allow a greater and more diverse habitat, wildlife and plant species. It will also provide new recreational opportunities for Stevens Point residents and UWSP.

This will serve as a great opportunity for classes such as biology, geography and natural resources to be able to see wetland project beginning phases all the way through to after it’s completed to see what the changes are.

For more details on the Moses Creek restoration visit their Web site at www.uwsp.edu/cnr/schmeeckle/moses_creek.

Stargaze with a former TV star

Star Trek fans at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will appreciate the opportunity to explore the final frontier with a familiar tour guide at the Allen F. Blocher Planetarium through the month of February.

Nichelle Nichols, who played Lieutenant Uhura on the original Star Trek television series, will be narrating the featured program, “The Stargazer” along with University of Illinois astronomer Jim Kahler.

Arguably, there’s no better tour guide than Nichols, who was hired by NASA to work with astronaut recruits and who spent years as a star among stars on the television series.

The program is presented free of charge and will be shown every Sunday at 2 p.m. beginning Jan. 24 and ending Feb. 21.

“The Stargazer” is produced by the Great Lakes Planetarium Association and in part with the Minneapolis Planetarium.

The program is sparked by a child’s curiosity and reveals a deeper understanding of astronomy in everyday life. Featuring information

see “Star” pg 5
Beat the cold and warm up by snowshoeing

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As the spring semester begins, it's ironic to think that the semester is called "spring." With all of the frigid weather the Stevens Point area and beyond has been experiencing, it seems that spring is far out of reach. Instead of cursing the wintry weather outside - embrace it! There are plenty of activities on campus to benefit from the snowfall.

Snowshoeing was invented some 4,000 to 6,000 years ago, yet the winter weather outside - embrace it! There are plenty of activities on campus to benefit from the snowfall.

Many students on campus may want to try snowshoeing but sadly do not have the equipment to experience it. Luckily, Outdoor EdVentures in the Allen Center provides students with a chance to snowshoe with equipment at the ready.

Outdoor EdVentures lets students experience outdoor sports to their fullest. Schmeeckle Reserve is the place where you want to spend your time with your snowshoes and other equipment. All of the trails in Schmeeckle Reserve are open to snowshoeing. The best time to go is after a fresh snowfall where you can escape from campus and enter into the world of pure white snow and peace. There are many trails where you can start your journey. Schmeeckle trails can be accessed in multiple places. The Granite Parkway is the closest access point to the dorms, just across from the baseball field on Maria Drive.

An open-air shelter building with heated restrooms is located near the start of the trail. There are several access points around Lake Joanis, one off of Maria Drive across from the Village Apartments and two along Michigan Avenue.

Reserve is the place where you want to spend your time with your snowshoes and other equipment. All of the trails in Schmeeckle Reserve are open to snowshoeing. The best time to go is after a fresh snowfall where you can escape from campus and enter into the world of pure white snow and peace. There are many trails where you can start your journey. Schmeeckle trails can be accessed in multiple places. The Granite Parkway is the closest access point to the dorms, just across from the baseball field on Maria Drive.

An open-air shelter building with heated restrooms is located near the start of the trail. There are several access points around Lake Joanis, one off of Maria Drive across from the Village Apartments and two along Michigan Avenue.

The visitor center off of North Point Drive is an excellent place to begin hiking the trails. The center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and offers free parking, restrooms, water fountains, an information desk, a museum and a gift shop," said Jim Buchholz, assistant to the director of Schmeeckle Reserve.

Don't let the title of "spring semester" fool you – there is plenty of winter weather, snowshoeing and other winter activities left to experience. Rent out some equipment and experience some peace and exercise.

"This is the time of year when we all get cabin fever, eagerly anticipating the spring weather. But it doesn't have to be that way. This is an ideal time of year to beat cabin fever by getting outside and experiencing winter in the Reserve. Students will be rewarded with less crowded trails, more intimate wildlife sightings, beautiful scenery, fresh air, healthy exercise and an opportunity to escape the stress of classes and college life," said Buchholz.

From "Star" pg 4

from the life cycle of a star to the importance of its light, the program will enlighten star gazers of all ages who may not have access to the Starship Enterprise.

The planetarium will open 30 minutes prior to the scheduled programs. With limited seating available, it's advised that those interested arrive early.

Special accommodations can be made for groups of 15 or more. By calling 715-346-2208, groups can reserve the planetarium for a private showing at a total cost of $15.

Other programs for various groups can be arranged during both the academic year and summer sessions.

The planetarium is located on the second floor of the science building. Parking is available in Lot X near the building entrance. After 7 p.m., free parking is available in university lots.

The planetarium houses a Spitz 1024 projector, installed in 1998, and a 7.3 meter dome.

In addition to the planetarium, the UWSP Observatory can be found in the Science Building on the fourth floor. Open on clear evenings, the observatory houses a Meade 40 meter telescope.

The UWSP Planetarium and Observatory frequently hosts free events open to the public. Some of the more recent programs have dealt with conspiracy theories and constellations.

All are welcome to attend this event and join the exploration of space, where "there seems to be no sign of intelligent life anywhere."

For more information about programs offered by the UWSP Planetarium and Observatory, visit their Web site at http://www.uwsp.edu/physastr/plan_obs/.

Nichelle Nichols, who played Uhura on the original Star Trek television series, will be your tour guide for the afternoon.
BETTER BOWLING NAME:

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Sports

Despite setback, men's basketball striving to achieve something special

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"They have that kind of championship attitude and championship effort."
-Semling

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's basketball team has gotten off to a great start this season. With a 9-0 non-conference record, the Pointers have shown their talent as a team.

Coming into Wednesday, they were the number one ranked team in the nation, according to the Web site www.D3hoops.com. However, the Pointers fell to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, 61-58, on Wednesday night.

Last Wednesday, the Pointers played the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, winning 74-68, which brought their winning streak over Eau-Claire to 19 in a row.

UW-Eau Claire had previously defeated UW-Whitewater, who was ranked number four in the nation, tying them for first place with UWSP. With the win over UW-Whitewater, UW-Eau Claire had great momentum going into the game against the Pointers.

UWSP head coach Bob Semling said UW-Eau Claire's defense made it a challenge for the Pointers to play around the basket.

"We've had a number of defining games this year but that was certainly one of them," Semling said.

Starting off the second round of the season, the Pointers played last Saturday, Jan. 23, against the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, winning 73-54. UW-Oshkosh, with one of the premier players in Division III in forward D.J. Marsh, forced the Pointers to step their team defense up a notch in order to obtain this victory.

"It has led them to success. "They have become very cohesive and they are really trying to be the best team they can be," Semling said.

"They have that kind of championship attitude and championship effort every day in practice and that's all you can really ask for as a coach."

The players have not been the only impressive part of basketball games. UWSP students and community fan attendance has been ranked number one for over 14 years in a row and nationally ranked in the top five or six over the past eight years.

"The students add so much to the atmosphere to make game-days really special and exciting for everybody," Semling said. "And our community fans who support us and really do an outstanding job on keeping attendance. I just want to add and thank them for enjoying the success with us and helping us down the long stretch here."

With winning the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship in mind, the UWSP men's basketball team keeps striving to be the best in practices and games.

"We have a chance to really create something special down the stretch here because we are the number one ranked team; we have a chance to win a league, to win a league championship and to do something special in the post season," Semling said. "We would really like the students to be a part of that with us and enjoy that and take a lot of pride with their men's basketball team."

Women's basketball continues winter break winning streak

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"Finding a way to win is all that matters with a young team."
-Egner

Freshman Dan Tillema shoots against UW-Platteville

The Pointer's women's basketball team won their 11th straight game as they defeated the 22nd ranked University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, 68-51 on the road.

The win puts them in first place in their very successful 16-3 season.

"The students add a lot around the basketball. With winning the Wisconsin Men's Basketball Land of Magic Classic in Daytona, Fla. UWSP defeated both the University of Concordia-Wisconsin Falcons and the University of Maryland-Washington Eagles by three points or less to win the tournament and kick off their season.

"We would really like the students to be a part of that with us and enjoy that and take a lot of pride with their men's basketball team."

The Pointers were able to win all nine of their games over the winter break, which began with winning the 2009 Land of Magic Classic in Daytona, Fla. UWSP defeated both the University of Concordia-Wisconsin Falcons and the University of Maryland-Washington Eagles by three points or less to win the tournament and kick

persevere through more victories in the remainder of their schedule.

"It taught our kids that they can fight through different circumstances and situations knowing they can be successful and come out with a win which will help us in the last stretch of playing in the WIAC," Egner said. The team has had to fight to the finish in close games all year with six of their wins coming by nine points or less, including their recent 60-54 victory over the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, led by junior Brita Petersen's 25 points.

"Finding a way to win is all that matters with a young team."
-Egner

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The ol' gunslinger fires another shot into own foot

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I really did my best to avoid it all year. And for the most part, why wouldn't I? Brett Favre was playing on the Minnesota Vikings; playing well, actually. He beat the Packers twice; the second I witnessed in person. The first caused me a memorable emotional breakdown, at least from what my roommates tell me. The rest of the season he spent playing basically about as well as he could, which I was constantly reminded about from Chris Berman and every other ESPN analyst, sitting snugly in their Wrangler jeans. The only way I found to cope with this increasingly unbearable situation was to tell myself that everything is going too well. Eventually, something had to balance this out, right? Maybe? Yeah, probably not.

So I grasped at any straw imaginable. "Tony Romo on the road in the playoffs? Yeah, I think that could work!" "Oh, Favre is on the cover of Sports Illustrated, the jinx will show up again!" These were not beliefs, they were merely wafer-thin hopes.

And then the fourth quarter of the NFC Championship game came together and started answering the knockdowns and missed fumble opportunities and incomplete Drew Brees passes with Brett Favre had again survived. (How? Because he's like a kid out there!) Possession, two minutes left. He zip-lines a pass to Sidney Rice and it occurs to me that this is going to happen. There will be no Saints last stand and no time left for a comeback. Damn. Following a season of Favre punches to the face of the collective Packer fan-base, I guess it only made sense that it went down like this.

Obviously I didn't know it at the time, but I once again got caught up in Brett Favre, the version ESPN adores. And when this happens, you forget about Brett Favre. You forget that the way this works is not when things look the worst for him. Like when he limps off the field with the most intense ankle sprain in the world, or when the Saints finally take the lead and you think there's no way they're going to lose now, not at home.

Hope, the way Favre-Fail works is under seemingly wonderful conditions, when everything is going right. This, if I remember correctly, is how you let the agony reach its boiling point. When Viking fans can taste the Super Bowl, the last possible moment. Not first down or second down, third down. They were one play away from Ryan Longwell walking onto the field and drilling a game-winning kick. This is the time when Favre decides to roll out and throw the kind of pass that, when I do it in Madden, I think "Oh shit!" immediately after pressing the button. An absolutely ridiculous pass, both stunning and logical at the same time.

The shock-value is there because when this guy fails, he usually does it spectacularly; if regular failures are birthday parties, his are the "My Super Sweet Sixteen" version. But in hindsight, it makes sense every time; he is a gunslinger, remember? He can do these things because he's made bad decisions throughout his career. As a Packer fan, it was a joy to watch him destroy the hopes and dreams of another fan-base. And the Vikings no less!

Favre did have some help in the failure department. Head coach Brad Childress, who continues to prove the contract extension Minnesota gave him was a superb decision and Adrian Peterson, who is under the category of best running back in the league with a crippling fumbling problem that does not look like it's going to go away. It's the Vikings, so any loss, whoever gets the brunt of the blame, would make me smile. But it is only fitting that in the end, Brett Favre put the finishing touches on his own team, again. For now, balance is restored.

Wrestling team hopes to pin down late-season wins

Griffin Gotta
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After a strong start, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point wrestling team is working to put their best matches together entering the final stretch of the season and build momentum for the upcoming Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament.

Head coach Johnny Johnson attributed the early success to the foundations any strong team possesses.

"We have a group of guys who work very hard, we were healthy and the leadership was good," Johnson said.

The Pointers began winter break with a tournament, the Desert Duals, held at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev. The Pointers left Las Vegas with a 2-2 record and a barometer for where the team stood.

"It really began to give us an idea of where we are," Johnson said. "The competition was good. We were able to see some of the best teams in the country.

Following the Desert Duals, the Pointers endured a five-match losing streak in January before snapping the skid with a 2-1 victory in the Border Brawl tournament at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

While Johnson didn't feel the winter break affected the team's performance, he mentioned the need for overall improvement.

"We need to get our strongest lineup together and start wrestling with confidence," Johnson said.

Individually, the season has been highlighted by junior Ben Engelland, who, with a record of 24-0, is the second ranked wrestler in Division III.

"Ben is doing a great job. He is working harder than he has in the past and his leadership is strong," Johnson said. "I know he is focused on winning a national title."

With the WIAC Championships less than a month away, Johnson knows the time is now for the Pointers' best wrestling of the season.

"We need to get everyone healthy enough to compete. We need to get tougher both mentally and physically," Johnson said. "And, we have to believe that we are good enough to win the conference tournament."

UWSP will compete in the North Country Open at St. John's University this Saturday, Jan. 30 and return home to face UW-Whitewater on Friday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Wrestling hopes to get a hold of a few more wins.
"Nickel and Dimed" is set to kick off the spring production season for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point theater department on Feb. 12.

The book on which the play is based, "Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America" by Barbara Ehrenreich, has sold over one million copies since its 2001 release. The book provides a unique perspective on the working poor make ends meet, and how the working poor may end up in poverty.

Working as an undercover journalist research for incoming students that would be prudent and interesting. The book was adapted into a stage production by Joan Holden in 2002. The UWSP Theatre Department has decided to take on the challenge this season by performing the show and book lovers alike. The department felt that the book provided multiple areas of research for incoming students that would be prudent and interesting. Finally, seeing the play based on the book would be a wonderful opportunity for students to see another perspective on what they've read and how a text can be interpreted in different ways, so that was an element in our selection process as well, said Stephens.

The book was adapted into a stage production by Joan Holden in 2002. The UWSP Theatre Department has decided to take on the challenge this season by performing the stage version for students and book lovers alike. The theatre department has an intense and complicated time selecting the season's productions and taking into account affects that the productions will have on students and others.

Director and professor of voice and movement Matthew Crider, who suggested the play, stumbled on "Nickel and Dimed" in an interesting way.

"I'm very lucky to have a cast that seems born for this style of show, but that doesn't change the fact that this is an hour and a half long sprint for the actors. I liken it to running a relay race in which you are every leg," said Crider.

Over 1,200 Pointers have received notification that they are eligible for a large grant to study abroad. Are you one of them? If so, why not become a Foreign Student? This money is GUARANTEED for all accepted students!

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It's been a wake up call for me in terms of what it's going to be like when I'm out in the real world and really working these jobs without help from anyone else. I still hold the view that there is something that needs to change about the minimum wage laws. I think it has definitely made me more aware of the situation and I hope that people who see the show will be more aware and try and do something to better the situation," states McCarthy.

Though the production has been an ongoing challenge, Crider has fallen back on his utter love of the play and its overall meaning to society to push through.

"I lean towards plays that present huge problems but don't preach solutions. I think the most responsible thing that the theatre can do is raise awareness of issues. This play certainly does that but doesn't hit you on the head with a political hammer. I don't think I'm in a position to be able to say 'This is how to fix the poverty situation in America.' I do think that I can present sides of the problem that people may not have paid attention to before and hopefully raise the level of debate on the issue. Within the context of a small and fun show, "Nickel and Dimed" tells the real story of low-wage workers. I think this play can be very entertaining and at the same time, make people think about a problem that doesn't get the attention it should. That's all you can hope for out of a show," said Crider.

"Nickel and Dimed" will be showing Feb. 12-14 and Feb. 17-20 in the Noel Fine Arts Center Studio Theatre.
Hello, and welcome to yet another semester at the wonderful University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Winter is going to kick us in the groin for another few months whether we like it or not, and it will probably have a flashbang and stomp on our faces for a few days in April. When it comes to winter, many days are going to make you wish you hadn’t gone to college and could stay in bed in your pjs, or lack thereof, it’s up to you. I’m not one to judge. Well I am, but that all depends on whether or not your slippers are fuzzy. Anyways, I digress. The point I’m trying to make is that you’ll have to go to class whether or not it is comfortable to do so. What will make this difficult journey a little more comfortable is a full stomach. Winter is no time to diet and a substantial meal will go a long way in keeping you happy on those cold walks to class. Depending on your mother, the weight and density of this next dish will vary but will ultimately be delicious and comforting. Yes, I’m talking about... wait for it... meat loaf. Meatloaf is cheap, easy, can be prepared the day before and if you cut it into squares you can stack it like Legos.

You will need:
- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 egg
- 2 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. pepper
- 2 tsp. sage
- ½ cup bread or cracker crumbs

Combine above ingredients and put into an ungreased loaf pan. If you don’t own a loaf pan, shape into a loaf and cook on a baking sheet or cake pan. Top the meat mix with barbeque sauce and bake at 375° for one hour. When finished baking, allow to set for 10-15 minutes or loaf will crumble upon cutting. Serve with mashed potatoes and brown gravy. It reheats well and can be saved for many meals. And remember, live to eat.

**A compliment to the students**

Johanna R. Kirk

On December 4 and 5, 2009 I attended the hockey games between the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and UW-Superior. I am a Superior fan. During Friday night’s game, a UWSP student stood up and yelled the “f” word at the UWS goalie. He was sitting near many Superior fans and I reminded him that there were young children, including my four-year-old, nearby. Almost immediately, two other students came to me, apologized, and promised that their friend would not repeat the word. They kept their promise. For the remainder of the game, all of the cheers, yells, and comments from that group of students were family-friendly. At the end of the game, a student came up to me, and my son, again apologized, and we exchanged a handshake and a smile.

Your school should be proud... not of the rowdy fan who gets caught up in the action and behaves inappropriately. Instead, you should be proud of the students who apologized and made us feel welcome. Your students showed maturity beyond their age when they apologized for their friend to a complete stranger. They showed class when they refrained from joining other UWSP chants that may have been hard on little ears. They exemplified sportsmanship by shaking hands at the end of an exciting and hard-played game.

To those students, thank you, and please know that your maturity, class, and sportsmanship is noticed and appreciated.

**Letters & Opinion**

**Food Swings**

**This week’s feature:**

**Meatloaf**

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Review:
"Extraordinary Measures," not worth crying over

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Despite boasting two stars known for their respective action franchises, the adventure within "Extraordinary Measures" is not one of drama, but of whimperings. With its emotional manipulations, the film's shortcomings lies in its choice to play things safe, resulting in what some may believe to be, a television movie of the week.

In many ways, it is. As the debut theatrical release of CBS Films, the newly created motion picture division of CBS, "Extraordinary Measures" could serve as the successor to such classic CBS melodramas as "Guiding Light" or "The Young and the Restless".

"Extraordinary Measures" is based on the true-life story of John Crowley's search to find a cure for his children stricken with Pompe Disease as detailed in Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Geeta Anand's book, "The Cure." Despite the film's shortcomings, "Extraordinary Measures" excels in what few (if any) tent-pole productions have even attempted: revealing the lesser-known inner workings of medical research.

The film begins with an introduction to the Crowley family, where patriarch John Crowley (Brendan Fraser) does everything in his power to give his precocious and cute kids normal lives, but desperately racing against the odds to find help.

Crowley finds this in the form of the eternally cranky University of Nebraska Professor, Robert Stonehill (Harrison Ford). The two proceed together in their noble cause only to enter all sorts of bureaucratic hell. An exercise in tedium, the audience is then treated to scene after scene of Crowley and Stonehill yelling at bureaucrats in order to get the proper funding that the undertaking requires, being yelled at by said bureaucrats, and then proceeding to yell at each other. Lather, rinse and repeat.

Thankfully, the casestudy makes this process a bearable one. Fraser assumes the role of Crowley admirably, with enough dramatic intensity to make one forget about his more recent roles as the good-humored action hero, while Ford does little to step outside his artistic boundaries.

As the cranky old professor, perhaps the only thing missing for Ford's Stonehill would be a kidnapped/murdered wife to complete the picture.

Yet even as the film marches on toward its predictable conclusion, one cannot help but feel that even in spite of the perfectly timed, emotional music, the de rigueur children in distress scenario and overall cheap soap opera feel of it all, one still walks away with a clearer understanding of how medical research operates; albeit with longer songs gliding to its name, "Transference," sounds like a step in the opposite direction for Spoon. The album is full of abrupt endings and strange twists, making the whole experience feel a bit messy and disorienting upon initial listen. After a while however, the mess reveals itself to be a purposeful one. The first half of the record shakes the listener with jaunty tracks like "Is Love Forever?" and "Written in Reverse," while the second half eases the listener out of the album with longer grooves like "Out Go the Lights" and "Nobody Gets Me But You.

Despite the disorienting pacing and the weakness of a couple tracks, Spoon's, "Transference" is a rewardingly listen. The album demonstrates a band in top form that is able to confidently push its sound in new directions. The melancholy and assurance of "Transference" is an inviting blanket to wrap yourself in during cold winter nights.
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MISCELLANEOUS

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