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University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point



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# Students Weigh in on Granite Peak Expansion Discussion

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As the debate surrounding a proposed \$54 million expansion of Granite Peak on Rib Mountain continues, students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point say they understand both sides of the discussion.

Granite Peak officials unveiled plans to expand the ski hill last year, which would add an additional 150 acres to the resort. The company currently leases 385 acres from the Department of Natural Resources to run 74 ski runs and eight chairlifts.

"It's obviously a bit of a controversy. I know there are concerns for groundwater usage for the people in the immediate vicinity," said Kyle Scarbro, senior hydrology major and co-president of the Ski and Snowboard Club on campus.

Scarbro also thinks that the expanded area would allow for more fun during the winter season.

"It's more area for us to ski. I think that would be cool," Scarbro said.

Residents near Granite Peak have expressed concerns regarding the amount of water runoff from the ski area, as well as impacts to hiking and noise pollution from the snow-making machines.

While there are local concerns, Scarbro, an Illinois native, said he has considered Granite Peak a destination resort since high school.

"It's really the largest ski resort near the Chicago area, and that draws quite the crowd," Scarbro said.

Scott Moline, senior business marketing major and co-president of the Ski and Snowboard Club, said other ski areas in the Midwest have been investing millions of dollars into improving their infrastructure.

Moline highlighted the decline in the annual snowboard park rankings released by Transworld Snowboarding as an example of Granite Peak's competitors' improvements.

In 2011, Granite Peak was ranked as having the best terrain park in the Midwest, according to the magazine. Today they no longer appear on that list, having dropped out of the top five positions.

"Now Granite Peak needs to put their foot in the door and think of something they can do to keep people coming to their hill," Moline said. "I think that the expansion is a great idea."

Officials for Granite Peak held a public meeting on Wednesday in Rib Mountain, where they detailed changes to the initial plan. Changes included reducing the number of runs to be added and engineering changes to limit the amount of water that runs off from the park.

## Students Help Granite Peak Go Green

Students with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Ski and Snowboard Club plan to do their part in keeping the parking lots at Granite Peak clean and free of trash.

The group plans to volunteer every night they go to the skill hill by collecting trash left by others at the end of the night.

Scott Moline, co-president of the Ski and Snowboard Club, said all members of the club are also members at Granite Peak.

"The theme for the park this year is going green, and we wanted to go along with the theme and help clean the parking lot," said Moline.

Kyle Scarbro, co-president of the Ski and Snowboard Club, said he's most excited about the impact on other skiers and snowboarders that the group may have.

"When they see us taking care of the parking lot, maybe our actions will rub off on them," said Scarbro. "There are a lot of high school students that go up there, and we can be role models for them and representing Stevens Point in a positive manner."

## PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

Sunday, December 4

A report came in of a car on Maria Drive that was egged.

A radio reported individuals passed out in a black Buick in a campus parking lot.

Monday, December 5

A staff member called to be let in his office because he had locked himself out.

A student was assisted after he broke off his bike lock key.

Tuesday, December 6

A red Dodge van was spotted with multiple occupants smoking inside it.

A call to Schmeeckle was placed with no one on the other end.

Wednesday, December 7

A minor car accident off of Reserve Street was placed.

A motorist was assisted off campus.

Thursday, December 8

A staff member informed an officer to check on a seemingly sleeping student.

An ambulance was called for said student who would not wake up.

Friday, December 9

A female in Steiner Hall complained that a smell of marijuana was always coming from a room.

A suspicious truck was spotted, and then the passenger got out of the car and ran away.

Saturday, December 10

A staff member called to inform that a man who was not a dorm resident was trying to trespass into dorm rooms.

A staff member of the DUC informed security of maple syrup all over the men's bathroom in the basement.

## THE POINTER

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



Photo courtesy of wisconsincentral.net/gen.



# Shop Locally for Holiday Gifts that Keep Giving

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The best place for students to holiday shop this season is right down the street.

The downtown area of Stevens Point is home to many local businesses that are better for both the environment and the community than larger rival companies.

Shopping for gifts locally generates 70 percent more economic activity than shopping at a big box store. Downtown Stevens Point has many stores that cater to almost every gift giving need.

Alyssa Abel, manager of World Books, said, "We have a great downtown here."

World Books offers books, cards, and gifts for a wide variety of people. If you can't find a book you want, they will happily place an order for you.

According to Huffington Post, if every American family spent \$10 locally, over \$9.3 billion would be returned to our economy.

A great shop to spend \$10 at is Sugar Doll, located downtown on Strongs Ave.

Owned by Mary McComb, the store sells unique gifts and chocolate. It is the only store in town that has a candy case to assemble a personalized box of candy.

"If you're looking for something you can't find in Stevens Point, you should come to Sugar Doll," McComb said.

From quirky socks to cards to stationary, McComb aims to order products from local artists or cooperatives.

By buying from local stores who in turn buy from local suppliers, not only are local artists supported, but processing, shipping and transportation waste is reduced. Industrial related pollution creates half the pollution

in America today. Additionally, purchasing from local businesses supports shop owners directly and keeps their business running.

Sunset Winery in downtown Stevens Point offers a wide selection of quality wine that would make great gifts. While quality is usually greater when shopping locally, the owners of local businesses are more knowledgeable when it comes to what they sell.

"That's the sort of thing you're going to get locally that you won't get from Walmart or bigger stores, people who know what they sell and care about what they sell," McComb said.

Since the recent recession, small businesses are slowly on the rise, according to the United States Small Business Association. Supporting downtown businesses helps to support shop owners in staying financially safe.

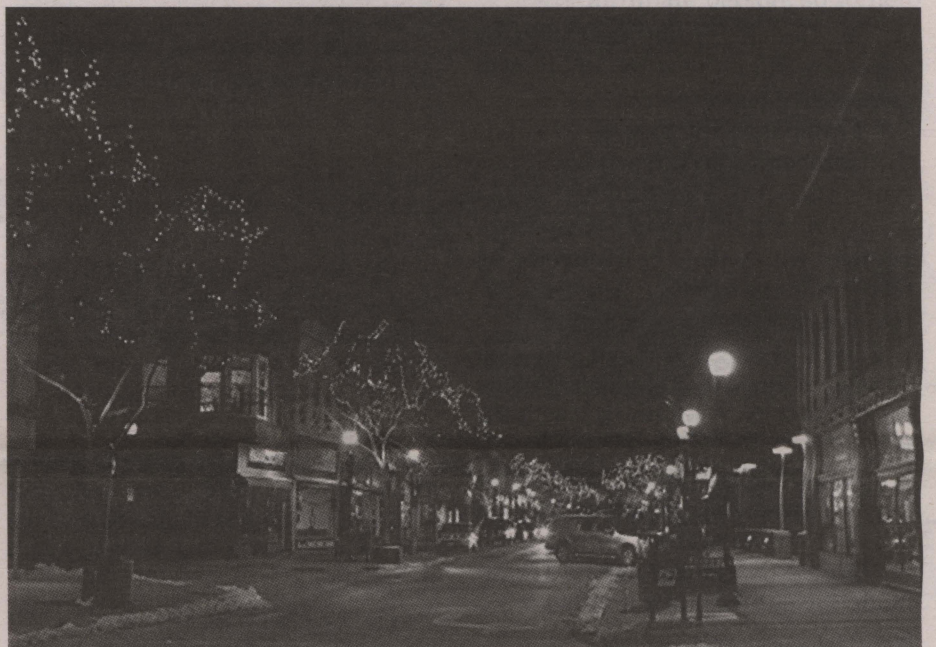
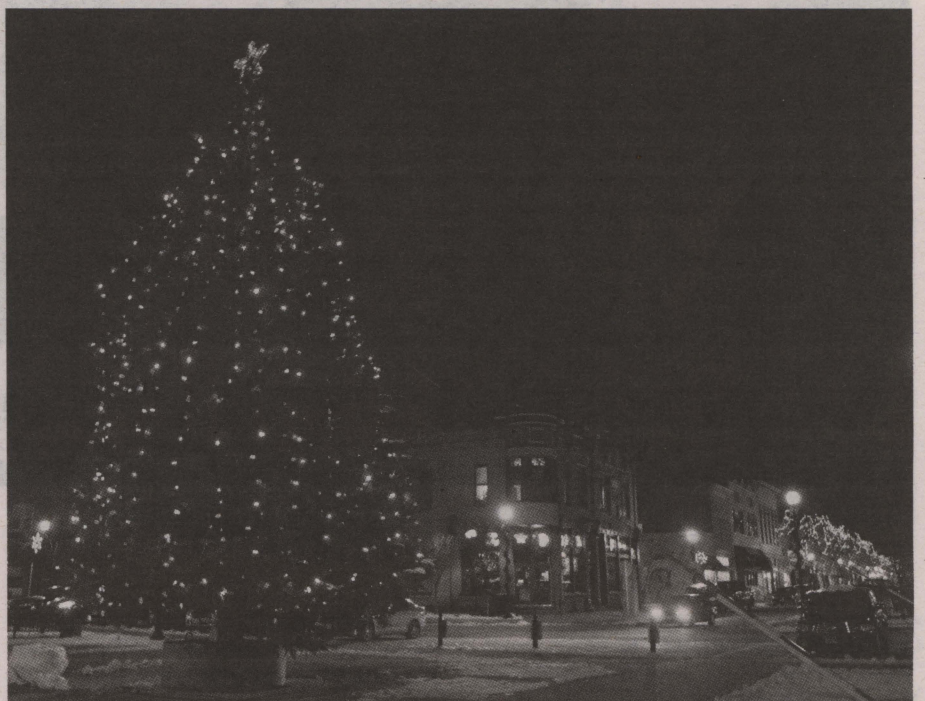
Robin's Nest Gifts offer trinkets for anyone who wants to feel the holiday spirit.

Kindred Spirits also has particular gifts for a mindful friend or family member. Incense, inspirational books and journals are just a few of the things offered there.

Spending \$100 locally keeps \$68 in the area in comparison to \$48 from large business. Instead of driving to a Gander Mountain or REI, a gift for an adventurer can be found at Divepoint Scuba Paddle and Adventure Center. Backpacking equipment, scuba gear or any outdoor necessity can be found within the shop.

Local food and toys for a pet lover can be found at The Companion Shop. The pet store also sponsors cats from the Humane Society animal shelter, and a kitten in need of a loving home would make the purrfect holiday present.

Money spent on small scale businesses creates 3.5 times more



Downtown Stevens Point has a variety of shops and boutiques where holiday shoppers can find gifts of all kinds. Photos by Mary Knight.

wealth for the local economy than big chain stores.

Supporting small businesses not only gives communities an area full of unique and diverse shopping options, but it lets lo-

cal families support their dreams and aspirations.

Abel, from World Books, said, "I think that really is a great part about Stevens Point - the local stuff."

## Campus Cab: A Student Savior

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Students dread the dreary weather and fear being trapped on campus late into the night, but the campus cab has solved the problem of working around the winter weather.

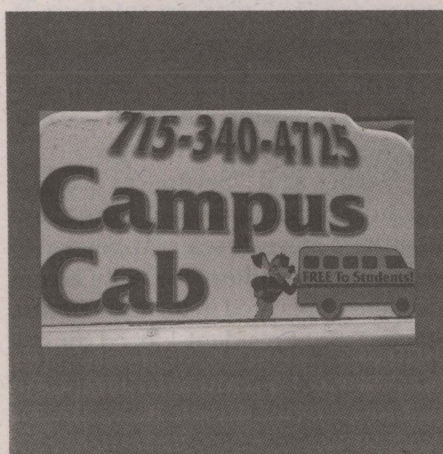


Photo courtesy of UW - Stevens Point Campus Cab Facebook page.

Kate Kistner, junior Spanish and international studies major, is the campus cab manager, a new position created in September. Kistner's job will hopefully continue the growth and knowledge of the campus cab system.

The primary purpose of the campus cab is to provide a safe ride for students during all seasons. Kistner mentioned an expected influx of users come the colder months in comparison to seasons with warmer weather.

The vans seat four to five people with two employees in the vehicle.

"We always have two people in the cab - one for driving, the other for navigation," Kistner said.

Student safety is a main concern for the university, and providing a navigator improves the driver's ability to focus on the road.

Cab drivers vary from cab specific employees to protective service's employees. Protective service's employees who drive the campus cab are off-duty from their protective services work, so students will not be questioned or penalized for using the service.

Freshman wildlife ecology major Joshua Kinslow started working for the campus cab this September.

"We have a lot of regulars. They usually get picked up from the Noel Fine Arts Center or the library and brought to homes off of campus," Kinslow said.

Cab hours are set at 7 p.m. until 1 a.m. and will pick students up anywhere on campus. A five-mile boundary is set for the campus cab, meaning that students can be brought to homes off-campus as well.

"I never knew about the

campus cab until my sophomore year. Once I learned about it I regretted not using it more often," said Ashton Kusch, junior elementary education major.

The campus cab is a free amenity offered by the university and is paid for by segregated fees from student tuition.

To contact campus cab students can call (715) 340-4725.

A facebook page with the simple search of "UWSP campus cab" will lead students to a direct phone call option, along with a "like" button to follow updates.

"With Kate as campus manager, it is getting a lot busier," Kinslow said.

Students can remain informed about the campus cab through campus announcements, tabling at the DUC and flyers.



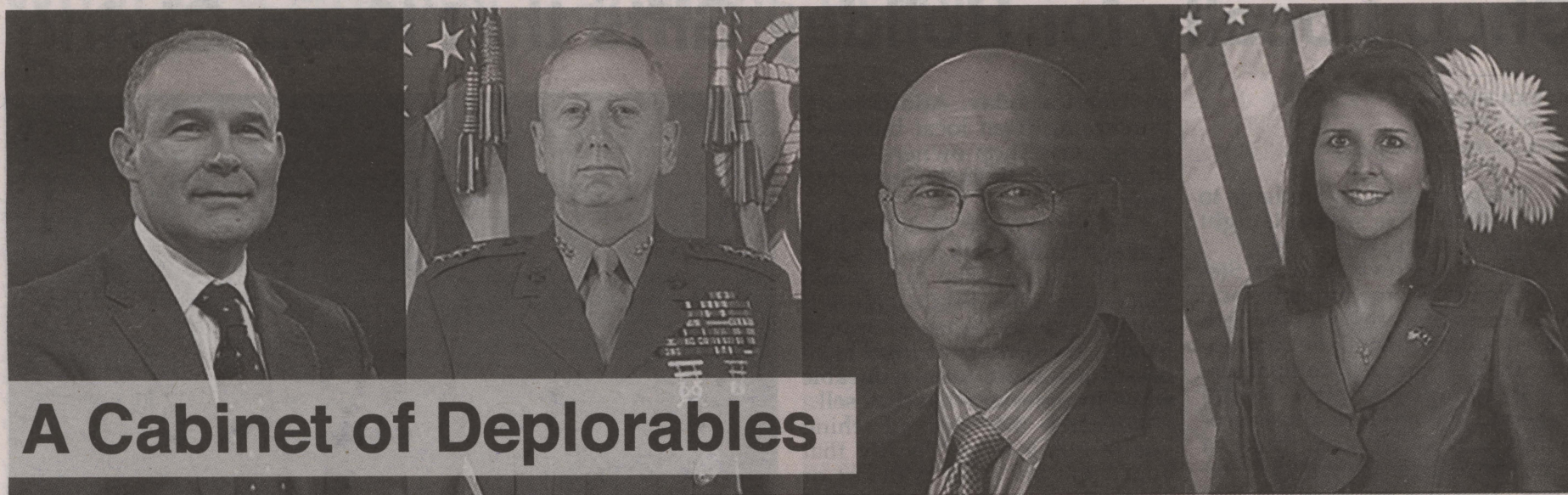


Photo by Wesley Hortenbach.

## A Cabinet of Deplorables

**Chief of EPA:**  
Scott Pruitt

**WESLEY HORTENBACH**  
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As Donald Trump ascends into the White House next month, he will get to relive his Apprentice days.

Trump is in the process of selecting members of his future administration's cabinet.

All fifteen of Trump's cabinet appointees will have to be confirmed by the Senate, the same process for a Supreme Court justice nomination.

The Senate will have an even stronger control by Republicans come next year, so compromise will be needed.

Additionally, there are three White House staff positions that do not need confirmation.

During the campaign trail, Trump made several friends but also several enemies.

Trump recently appointed retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Last year Trump tweeted, "With Ben Carson wanting to hit his mother on head with a hammer, stab a friend and Pyramids built for grain storage--don't people get it?"

Rob Harper, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point associate professor of history, mentions that while this year may be an extreme outlier, it is not completely out of the norm for presidents to put former rivals on their staff.

Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton ran against Barack Obama in 2008 and lost in the primaries.

"Most recently, President Obama recruited former rivals Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton as Vice President and Secretary of State, and the three of them seem to have worked together pretty well. But that may have been easier because they are all more or less centrist Democrats, with similar policy goals," Harper said.

Trump has picked out eight of 15 cabinet members thus far. Some are concerned because the representatives he picked seem to be in opposition to the message he campaigned on.

Steve Mnuchin, Trump's choice for Treasury Secretary, was a former employee of Goldman Sachs, a big bank notorious for its government

**Secretary of Defense:**  
Jeff Mattis

lobbying. Mnuchin, unlike many past Treasury Secretaries, has no background in governing or making economic policy.

Trump has also mentioned picking Mike Pompeo for the director of the C.I.A.

There is a lot more interest in this position because of issues regarding Julian Assange and Edward Snowden.

On Nov. 18 for a CSPAN interview about Snowden, Pompeo said, "He should be brought back from Russia given due process and I think the proper outcome would be the death sentence."

Trump has been one to praise whistleblowers like Snowden and Assange, which has made some of his supporters frustrated with these cabinet decisions.

Peter Zillmer, sophomore English major and president of UWSP Young Democratic Socialists, is displeased with how Trump is constructing his cabinet.

"The American people should not accept Trump's choices," Zillmer said.

Now more than ever, people need to be involved and informed in the political process. He doesn't want people to just accept what is happening and be content.

"People should make their voices heard now. There's no need to give anybody a chance," Zillmer said.

**Labor Secretary:**  
Andrew Puzder

Trump nominated Betsy DeVos for Education Secretary, but DeVos has no experience in education. She is a conservative activist for private schools.

DeVos has also been a political lobbyist and, throughout the 2016 cycle, gave \$2.7 million to Republican candidates and political action committees.

Her largest plan is to make significant cuts to public education funding and put the money into vouchers for students to attend private schools.

Given recent controversy surrounding police officers, Jeff Sessions is another important character in this debacle as he is nominated Attorney General.

Sessions is a former senator from Alabama who was denied a federal judge position, stating that the KKK were "okay, until he learned that they smoked marijuana."

Sessions is also infamous for showing skepticism toward the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Michael Flynn is officially the National Security Advisor or NSA, and unlike other cabinet positions, does not need congressional approval.

Flynn lines up the most with Donald Trump and has been a vocal supporter of his presidency from the beginning.

He has been a large advocate against Muslim immigration and earlier this year tweeted "Fear of Mus-

**U.N. Ambassador:**  
Nikki Hayley

lims is RATIONAL!"

Last May on Al Jazeera, Michael Flynn said he would kill children and family members of suspected terrorists depending on the situation.

While this has outraged several democratic leaders in America, there is a deafening silence from the same crowd when President Obama is already doing it.

For Secretary of Defense, Trump chose James N. Mattis. Nicknamed mad dog, Mattis is a retired United States Marine Corps general who last served as the 11th Commander of United States Central Command.

According to the Arms Forces Journal, while leading a group of approximately 200 marries in Al Assad, Mattis said, "There are some assholes in the world that just need to be shot."

Attorney General of Oklahoma, Scott Pruitt has been selected to head the EPA.

Pruitt has received criticism because of his close ties with the fossil fuel industry and his denial of climate change.

In an op-ed Pruitt wrote for the National Review about Obama's efforts to reduce carbon emissions from U.S. power plants he wrote, "That debate is far from settled. Scientists continue to disagree about the degree and extent of global warming."

Nikki Hayley, governor of South Carolina, earlier this year said Trump is, "Everything a Governor Doesn't Want in a President," has been tapped as the U.N. Ambassador.

Harper noted that the characteristics of an administration's cabinet are not something to downplay or pay little attention to.

"Nearly all of the major political scandals in U.S. history involved wrongdoing by either cabinet members or other top presidential aides," Harper said.

There is a lot of worry about the lack of compromising Trump can have when picking members because congress is already on his side.

Harper said "Several of Nixon's top aides went to prison during and after the Watergate scandal. Several of Reagan's top national security advisers were implicated in the Iran-Contra scandal. So, President-Elect Trump's choices could have a big impact on the country and on his administration, for years to come."



Photo by Wesley Hortenbach.



# Leadership Change Leaves Students in Dismay

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Ron Strege has been the director of the Diversity & College Access for nearly twenty years but will no longer be part of the university after this year.

According to the university's website, "The objective of the Diversity and College Access Office is to conduct activities and provide services which enhance cultural diversity at UW-Stevens Point."

In his former position, Strege's duties ranged from presenting lectures on diversity to being a father figure to students on campus.

Strege has played an important role in many student's lives both professionally and emotionally. As a result, the changing role of DCA coming this year shows Strege will be missed.

Programs like DCA have been

criticized as being designed to help minority groups because this help may seem unequal.

Today in the news there is controversy surrounding concepts such as safe spaces or trigger warnings.

"I find the people who disparage safe spaces on campus tend to be people who have never needed safe spaces to go to because the world is their safe space," Strege said.

Everyone has lived completely different lives and it's hard to empathize with each other but he suggests trying to understand the difficulties others might face.

Even though Strege has had to deal with negative issues and situations on campus, he said that he has met some of the best and most passionate people in his life with this job, staff and students alike.

Working in a position like DCA you end up learning more

from your job than you ever did in school.

"When I took this job I was really smart and I knew everything there was to know about diversity and then I did it for two months and I realized how dumb I was, which was really difficult for me because I'm egotistical. Now, I just love sitting down with students and saying 'tell me your story,'" Strege said.

The best part of this job, according to Strege, is how it has opened his mind to looking at issues in ways he never has before.

Strege thinks he connects to students well, not because he is hip or young, but because he admits he doesn't know things and is willing to listen.

He challenges students who are not part of a marginalized group to imagine themselves being the "other" and not the default in a community or university.

"Try to navigate around this campus on a wheelchair in the middle of winter. Give it a day, see how it is and you'll see why people get super salty when the city plows push the snow into the sidewalks."

Lisa Nguyen, senior interior architecture major, said, "Not a lot of people realize how Ron has made an impact on the students, staff, and our university."

Nguyen is worried that with the departure of Strege, and all the changes with DCA, that there will not be someone directly focused

on personally helping students.

"If Ron leaves, that means every student who usually looks for him will go to Laurie Graboski-Bauer, who works in the Multicultural Resource Center, as well as Marc Young and Scott West who work in Admissions-- which they already have students that go to them for help," Nguyen said.

There is a lot of confusion among students who have gone to Strege in the past concerning the future of this campus and they have voiced their anger to administration.

Nguyen said, "The staff in Old Main don't realize what those people whom I've mentioned have done for this university. I am upset with the actions they plan to take in removing Ron from this school."

Regardless of the future of DCA and the rest of student affairs at the university, Strege's time here will be missed.

Strege said, "I have no earthly business being good at this job I am a white male heterosexual Christian-upbringing. But, what I've been able to do is connect because I know what it feels like to fail, I know what it feels like to let people down, and what it feels like to feel let down."

As of now, Vice Chancellor Al Thompson is the interim director of DCA. By the end of the year, there will be a definite plan on different staff positions and the format of the diversity resources on campus.



Photo courtesy of UWSP.

## German Club's Trip to Christkindlmarket a Success

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On Saturday, Dec. 3, 55 students and community members attended German Club's annual trip to Chicago's German Christmas market, Christkindlmarket.

The trip began at 6 a.m. when the bus left Stevens Point and traveled straight to Chicago. Once there, students spent the day shopping around the open-air market and experiencing various aspects of German culture.

On their way back to Stevens Point, the group stopped for dinner at Essen Haus, a traditional German restaurant in Madison.

Mary Gertner, junior biology major and German Club secretary, has planned the Chicago trip for two years now.

For Gertner, one of the best parts of the trip is watching all the friendships that form.

"You get to make some good friends," Gertner said.

German Professor Tobias Barske attended the market with the club for the first time this year.

Barske said one of the most iconic features of the market is the souvenir cups filled with Glühwein.

Glühwein is a traditional hot, spiced wine and the souvenir mug comes decorated with the market's unique logo and the year.

German Christmas features Christkind - which translates into the Christ Child in English - instead of Santa Clause. At most markets, including the one in Chicago, a woman dresses as Christkind and walks around to greet visitors.

Barske said many of the vendors at the market fly to Chicago from Germany, partly to share their culture and partly to see what kinds of products can be sold in an American market.

One change Barske noticed this year at the market was the large presence of Krampus-related merchandise. Krampus is the legendary counterpart to Saint Nicholas who comes to kidnap naughty children.

According to their website, Chicago's Christkindlmarket began in 1996 and was inspired by Christkindlesmarkt in Nurem-

berg, Germany. The market aims to bring German and European traditions, international flair and local charm to Chicago.

The market runs from Nov. 18 until Dec. 24 and is open daily.

Barske said one of his favorite parts of the market is that "I don't have to go to Germany to experience what I personally associate with Christmas."



Photo courtesy of Alyssa Giaimo.



# I'll Be Home for Cookies

Snow blankets the ground, holiday lights trim rooftops and winter coats make their seasonal appearance.

It's that time of year again. As the cold sets in, warm up next to the oven with these tasty cookie recipes to spice up the holidays.

Photo courtesy of browneydbaker.com.



Peanut Butter Cup Cookies

## Ingredients:

- 1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ cup butter, softened
- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ cup peanut butter
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 40 mini peanut butter cups

Prep time: 25 minutes  
Baking time: 35 minutes

## Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
2. Stir together flour and baking soda.
3. In a separate bowl: mix butter, sugar, peanut butter and brown sugar.
4. Beat in egg, vanilla and milk.
5. Gradually add dry ingredients until well mixed.
6. Shape into 40 spheres and place each into a mini muffin pan.
7. Bake for 8 minutes.
8. Remove from oven and immediately press a mini peanut butter cup into each.
9. Let cool before removing from pan.

## Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup butter, softened
- ¾ cup powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon almond extract
- 1 tablespoon grated orange zest
- 2 cups dried cranberries, chopped

Prep time: 25 minutes  
(this recipe requires 4 hours of cooling time between prep and baking)  
Baking time: 20 minutes

## Directions:

1. Stir together flour and baking powder.
2. In a separate bowl, beat butter and powdered sugar with an electric mixer until smooth.
3. Stir in vanilla extract, almond extract and orange zest.
4. Gradually add dry ingredients until well mixed.
5. Fold in cranberries.
6. Divide dough into 2 equal portions.
7. Roll each portion into logs, each about 7 inches long.
8. Wrap each log in wax paper or plastic wrap and chill in the refrigerator for at least 4 hours.
9. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
10. Remove wax paper from logs and cut dough into ½-inch slices.
11. Place slices on cookie sheet 1 inch apart.
12. Bake for 10 minutes, until the cookies are firm but not browned.
13. Let cook 5 minutes before removing from cookie sheet.



Citrus Shortbread Cookies

Photo courtesy of foodnetwork.sndimg.com.

## Album Review: A Pentatonix Christmas

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Pentatonix has done it again with their brand-new album "A Pentatonix Christmas," their second Christmas album since the group formed in 2011.

Completely a cappella, they have taken classic Christmas tunes and put a whole new spin on them, as well as keeping the songs' recognizable tone.

As a group, they have sold over 2.8 million albums in the United States alone and have 10.1 million YouTube subscribers.

Starting off this album, the group opens with "O Come, all Ye Faithful." Yet, instead of using the slow tempo that it is traditionally sung, they have sped it up and gave it a driving beat.

Right away, it awakens the listener and gives a steady groove, using only voices. As the song progresses, the tone shapes into a tribal, African anthem.

The song builds, using a choir in the background adding more volume to proclaim the birth of Jesus.

The fourth track on the album, "I'll be home for Christmas," gets you swaying to the ballad style. Originally sang by Bing Crosby, Pentatonix embodies his slower pace that is like a lullaby.

The beatboxer of the group, Kevin Olusola, gives this song a slow jazz groove, differentiating from the original.

The seventh song on the album, "Coventry Carol," starts with eerie "oohs" and "ahs" to welcome you into the song.

When the lead vocalist starts the first verse, the rest of the group sings simple backups to fill in space and starts a clapping pattern that retains throughout the song.

In between the verse, they go back to their oohs and ahs that make it sound like the wind.

The final song, "Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays," closes out the album with positive energy and will put a smile on anyone's face.

It will get you out of your seat and get you spreading the joy of the holiday and Christmas cheer.

This song, and the rest of the album will put listeners in good spirit and prepare you for the holiday season. Fans won't be saying "Ba Humbug!" this year.



Photo courtesy of rcarecords.com.



# Trimming Back on Holiday Waste

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It is that time of year for outdoor light displays, shopping for presents and decorating trees. Between Thanksgiving and New Years, Americans' waste production increases by 25 percent. For those that celebrate the holidays, how can we keep holiday cheer while still keeping the planet clean?

Wrapping paper stays on pres-

ents for an average of five days. The presents are opened and tons of paper, ribbons and boxes are thrown away.

There are alternatives to using conventional wrapping paper. Save money by turning brown grocery bags inside out, using newspaper, and reusing gift bags.

The presents can also be low-impact. Shopping at local stores or making homemade gifts offers consumers with the chance to keep the holidays green.

Bianca Settimi, senior environ-

mental education major, said, "This year I made organic lip balm stocking stuffers."

Recipes for such gifts can be found with a simple search online, making it a cheap option for students to still give gifts for friends and family.

Christmas trees are also a source of waste during the holidays.

While live trees can be used as compost, many still end up in dumps. Some families re-use a potted tree each year, planting the tree outside when it becomes too

large. When it comes to the debate of pine versus plastic there are many factors to consider.

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, 85 percent of artificial trees are imported from China, which means a lot of carbon is being emitted in transportation. Live trees are usually local and when they are living, they actually take carbon out of the atmosphere.

Some people with allergies cannot use live trees. Using a plastic tree is not a death-sentence for the planet, the longer plastic trees are used, the better.

There are options to recycle the plastics in fake trees to prevent more waste from going into a landfill.

Andrea Sortillon, senior business and sociology major, has a family tradition of driving around to look at beautiful outdoor light displays on homes. Sortillon said she loves the lights as an expression of art.

When asked about using LED lights for displays, Sortillon said, "I would love to see LED lights, it would make me want to see the displays even more."

Light displays can still be beautiful while being sustainable.

LED lights save up to 90 percent on the cost of power and will last longer than other lights. Hardware stores also sell lighting timers saving energy by having the lights on only when it is dark out.

From the tree to the gifts that go underneath, there is a wide variety of ways to make the holiday season as low-impact as possible. The holidays can bring more cheer and less waste to landfills when keeping the planet in mind.



Photo courtesy of <http://www.walesonline.co.uk>

### Directions:

1. Mix almonds, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt in a small bowl.
2. In a separate bowl: cream butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy.
3. Beat in egg and vanilla.
4. Stir in cooled chocolate.
5. Fold in almond mixture until thoroughly combined.
6. Cover and refrigerate until dough is firm (10-20 minutes)
7. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
8. Place powdered sugar in a bowl.
9. Scoop tablespoons of dough and roll them into balls.
10. Coat in powdered sugar and place on cookie sheet.
11. Bake 12 to 14 minutes.
12. Let cool 5 minutes before removing from cookie sheet.

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup ground almonds
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup butter, room temperature
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

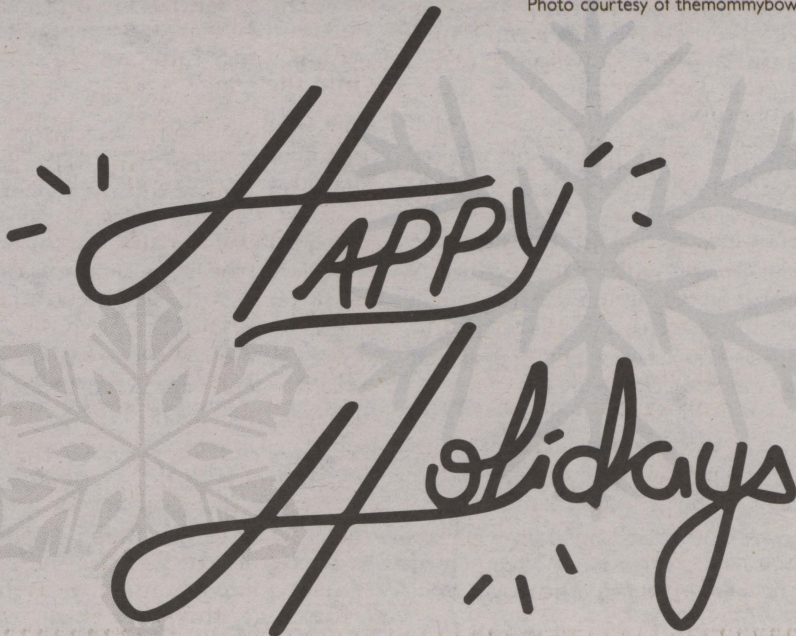
Prep time: 25 minutes  
Baking time: 35 minutes



Gluten-Free Chocolate Snowball Cookies

Photo courtesy of [themommybowl.com](http://themommybowl.com).

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## Look Into Sports

AUSTIN KRUEGER

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### Strong Showings Over Weekend for Men's Hockey



The No. 4 Pointer men's hockey team celebrates after senior forward Kyle Sharkey's goal against No. 2 Adrian College on Saturday, Dec. 10 at K.B. Willett Arena. Photo by Kylie Bridenhagen.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's hockey faced off with No. 2 Adrian twice this past weekend starting on Friday where the teams tied 4-4 to open play.

In the first period, UWSP came out hot as senior Lawrence Cornellier scored first putting the Pointers up 1-0. At 10:23 into the period, junior Willem Nong-Lambert tallied Point's second goal to go up 2-0.

Shortly after, Adrian scored on a power play opportunity cutting the Pointer lead in half going into the second period.

In the early going of the second, Adrian tied the score up before Cornellier netted a shorthanded goal putting the Pointers back up by one.

Minutes later, senior Eliot Grauer scored on a power play to extend the Pointer's lead back to two before heading into the final period.

At the midway point in the third, Adrian cut back into the lead with a goal of their own. With under six minutes to play, Adrian scored again to force an overtime that saw neither team get back out in front.

Junior goaltender Max Milosek re-

corded 21 saves in a game where the Pointers out-shot the Bulldogs 31-25.

In Saturday's game, a late third period goal from Nong-Lambert sealed a 4-3 victory in the rematch with Adrian.

In an action-packed first period, it was Adrian jumping out in front in the early going before back-to-back goals from senior Kyle Sharkey and sophomore Stephan Beauvais put the Pointers up 2-1. Adrian scored again to tie the game before heading into the second period.

Sophomore Ethan Strong gave UWSP a 3-2 advantage in the second frame with a score coming on a power play opportunity.

Adrian, not going away, followed up the Pointer goal with one of their own to again tie the game before heading into the final period.

Assists from sophomores Tanner Karty and Ryan Bittner led to Nong-Lambert's deciding goal to put the Pointers back up by a point for the victory.

UWSP again out-shot Adrian, this time 33-31. Milosek picked up the victory with 28 saves for the Pointers.

The Pointers resume play on Jan. 6 when they travel to play St. Olaf.

### Buzzer Beater Propels Men's Basketball to Victory

On Saturday, the UWSP men's basketball team pulled out a 74-72 victory over No. 12 Hope College after sophomore Mark Nelson hit a game-winning shot with seconds remaining on the clock.

With just under four seconds remaining in regulation and the score tied at 72, the Pointers drove down the court where Nelson captured the team's fourth straight win with a clutch go ahead basket.

Nelson finished with 17 points and a team-high seven rebounds in the winning effort. Sophomore Ethan Bublitiz recorded a new career-high in points with a 24-point outing, while junior MJ Delmore piled on another 19 points in the win.

After a slow start for the Pointers, Nelson and Delmore hit three threes during an 11-point run putting UWSP

ahead 20-10 in the first half.

Hope went on an 8-0 run bringing the score within two, but late contributions from Bublitiz and Delmore gave Point a 36-34 advantage going into halftime.

After trading baskets to start the second half, UWSP found itself up seven points before the Flying Dutchmen closed the gap to one point following six-straight points.

The Pointers trailed for only one possession down the stretch and 10 points in 10 minutes from Bublitiz kept the Pointers in the game before the buzzer beater from Nelson to seal the win.

Next up, UWSP will travel to play defending national champion St. Thomas on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

### Win Streak Halts at Three for Women's Hockey

In the first of two weekend games, the UWSP women's hockey team came out on top 1-0 over No. 10 Augsburg in Friday's low scoring affair.

Sophomore goalie Sydney Conley recorded her first shutout on the season after saving all 20 shots from the Auggies.

Late in the first, fellow sophomore Cara Lemirande powered home the lone goal of the game and her sixth goal on the season to give the Pointers the 1-0 advantage.

Pointer defense took over the rest of the game as Augsburg was unable to generate any offense.

On Saturday, UWSP squared up with Saint Mary's University where despite having 39 shots on

goal, the Pointers saw its three-game win streak come to an end after a 3-1 loss.

After a Cardinal goal in the first period, both teams were held in check until third period.

Lemirande tied the game at one mid-way through the third period but fresh out of a power play the Cardinals were able to score to go up 2-1.

The Pointers later fell victim to an empty net goal putting them down 3-1 and stellar goalie play from Saint Mary's closed the book on any comeback effort for UWSP.

The Pointers will look to get back in the win column when the team begin a two-game series with St. Thomas starting on Dec. 17.

### Swimming and Diving Sweeps Oshkosh Before Splitting with St. Olaf



Junior Jackie Braun picked up a pair of wins in the one and three-meter diving events against UW-Oshkosh on Friday, Dec. 9 at UWSP Aquatics Center. Photo by Kylie Bridenhagen.

On Friday, the Pointers swimming and diving teams swept UW-Oshkosh out of the UWSP Aquatic center after the men picked up a 135-65 win and the women a 134-107 win.

Highlights on the men's end included the relay team of freshmen Riley Patton and Zach Jorgenson, sophomore Jackson Aton and senior Frank Peters finishing with a 3:43.59 time to win the 400-yard medley relay.

Jorgenson also claimed victories in the 200-yard butterfly and 500-yard freestyle while Peters picked up a win in the 100-yard freestyle. Aton picked up nine points for UWSP after his 2:18.12 time earned him first place in the 200-yard backstroke.

For the women, freshman Murrin Roff finished with a 11:51.87 time to take first in the 1000-yard freestyle to contribute nine points. Roff along with junior Erica Perkins and freshmen Kaila DuPont and Melissa Angove finished first in the 400-yard freestyle relay with posting a 3:51.60 time.

Senior Bree Parent picked up victories in the 200-yard IM and 200-yard breaststroke with times of 2:21.08 and 2:32.68, respectively.

Junior Jackie Braun claimed wins in the one and three-meter diving events with receiving scores of 239.05 and 325.05, respectively.

When the Pointers matched up

with St. Olaf on Saturday, it was the men earning 227-71 win, while the women fell 194-103.

The 200-yard medley and 200-yard freestyle relay team of sophomore Reilly Donnellan and juniors Jack Englehardt, Sam Jekel and Brandon Richardson won both events after posting times of 1:33.78 and 1:24.54, respectively. Englehardt's 59.25 time earned him a win in the 100-yard breaststroke, while Jekel took the 100-yard freestyle with a 48.14 time.

Sophomore Nate Somer's times of 10:02.68 in the 1000-yard freestyle and 4:53.66 in the 500-yard freestyle earned him victories in both as last year's WIAC swimmer of the year helped pile on points for the men.

Junior Garrett Richetto won the 200-yard freestyle with a 1:46.90 time while freshman Jacob Aegerter claimed victories in the 200-yard butterfly and 200-yard IM with times of 2:00.47 and 2:02.12, respectively.

The only win for the women came from Parent as she earned a victory in the 200-yard breaststroke after posting a 2:33.42 time.

The Pointers will be back at it when they host the Point invite on Jan. 20-21.



## 'Tis the Season to Volunteer

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As the holiday season approaches, student-athletes continue to volunteer their time to good causes.

Kelly Magliano, junior volleyball player, is a member of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Love Your Melon crew. Love Your Melon is a popular organization and many crews exist at universities across the nation.

The organization sells apparel, mainly hats, with the goal of helping children with cancer. The same hats that get sold to consumers are donated to children with cancer. The more apparel that is sold the more donations that the organization is able to make.

Last week Magliano and other members of the crew stood outside of Trig's grocery store and rang bells in hopes of raising money for the salvation army. The Love Your Melon crew also volunteered at the Stevens Point Area YMCA's annual Frostbite winter race and road walk.

"Getting out there and helping the community shows that we have respect for the community, so we can get that mutual respect back," Magliano said.

Sarah Gamillo, senior basketball player, also dedicated her time to help others.

On Nov. 30 Gamillo and her teammates played basketball while helping other students on campus. The women's basketball team accepted nonperishable food from fans, in exchange for a free ticket to their game.

The nonperishable food was donated to UWSP's cupboard, a food pantry that is accessible to all students. The pantry can be found on campus in the Dreyfus University Center. The pantry aims to help students with financial struggles access food at no cost.

"We are students too, we are not just athletes and it feels good to help out other students as well. It's very rewarding to give back to the community," Gamillo said.

Joel Harris, senior swimmer, is the vice-president of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee.



Photo courtesy of UWSP Love Your Melon Twitter page.

In late October, Harris along with other student-athletes went door-to-door in a Plover neighborhood collecting nonperishable food for the pantry on campus. The homes they stopped at had been previously notified that Harris and his peers would be collecting non-perishables.

According to Harris, the athletes were able to collect just under 600 pounds of food.

Harris said, "I consider myself a pretty fortunate person, so to help others that are not as fortunate really helps me grow as a person."

## UWSP Cheer and Stunt Team Gives Helping Hand

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Many times, student-athletes are given an opportunity to go above and beyond the call of duty and make an impact on something greater than their respective team.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point cheer and stunt team has been doing just that by helping a group called the Dream team accomplish their goal of auditioning for America's Got Talent.

With assistance on stunts and choreography from UWSP cheer, the Dream team is a special needs cheerleading team that competes in cheer

competitions around Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Jacob Szaniawski, junior public relations major and cheer team member, has been helping the Dream team get ready for their big audition.

"We worked on this since September and it was very stressful, but the end result was all worth it," Szaniawski said.

A video of a routine performed last year was sent to America's Got Talent from a member of the team in hopes they would receive a chance to audition for an upcoming show.

After patiently waiting, the team finally received a reply saying the Dream team had been selected to audition in Chicago on Nov. 12.

"We all kind of screamed," said

Dream mentor Meghan Cook. "It's amazing being able to show America what people with disabilities can do."

When it came time to audition, the Dream team performed a cheer and stunt routine that featured every member throughout the performance.

After displaying their talents in front of judges, mentors for the team felt the audition went better than they could have asked for and their months of hard training had successfully paid off.

"It went perfectly. All the stunts hit at the same time," Cook said.

Outside of the audition of a lifetime, the team had the opportunity to visit Cloud Gate, or "the famous

bean," in Millennium Park. Afterwards, they ventured into the Rainforest Cafe for a celebratory team dinner to conclude the trip.

Whether it be for an America's Got Talent audition or just a regular showcase, UWSP cheer and stunt has acted as a big support group for Dream members who will find out in January if they make the April show.

Next up for the team is a performance at the Lumberjack Showcase held at Wausau East High School on Dec. 17.

Visit Wisconsin Extreme Dream Team on Facebook for more information and other upcoming performances for the Dream team.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## It's an Armchair Boogie Kind of Day

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Armchair Boogie is taking Wisconsin by storm. Over the past year, they have played 13 different events all over the state, from Appleton to Madison to La Crosse to here in their hometown of Stevens Point.

The band was established in the winter of 2014 and has grown from a duo to a four-man-team, consisting of Augie Dougherty, Ben Majeska, Eli Frieders and Dan Waterman.

A self-proclaimed bluegrass-jamgrass-funkgrass band, Armchair Boogie's music is a mixture of banjo, harmonica, bass, drums and vocals that bring their music to life and provides their classic sound.

According to their Facebook page, "Armchair Boogie takes the essence of traditional bluegrass-folk music and molds it to their own youthful, energetic and

improvisational style."

The band plays mostly original songs, though they have also been known to incorporate covers into their set lists. The band takes the freedom to cover not only traditional bluegrass songs but music from all genres and interpreting them into their own bluegrass style.

It all started for Armchair Boogie when Ben Majeska and Augie Dougherty would get together and play bluegrass on Dougherty's front porch. From there, the duo made the move to begin playing shows at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus and around town.

Over the past two years, the band has grown, both in number and in fan base.

At first glance, one of the most unusual aspects of Armchair Boogie is its name.

Ben Majeska is the guitarist and vocalist for Armchair Boogie and arts management and public relations major at UWSP.

"The idea for the band name

came from our friend Jake Ponkrat, a genius of sorts in the ideas department," Majeska said. "Story goes that he woke up in a great mood one beautiful morning, looked across his bedroom and saw an American flag draped over his armchair. He thought to himself, 'This is an Armchair Boogie kind of day.' It's grown on us quite a bit. Now it's not just a band name, it's the band."

2016 has been a groundbreaking year for Armchair Boogie, having played shows consistently throughout the year, including some unexpected venues and festivals.

In the upcoming year, the band hopes to expand its scope out of Wisconsin.

"2017 is going to be the year of Midwestern expansion for the boogie boys," Majeska said. "We're stoked to get out of the state for the first time. I guess my hopes are really just continuing growing the band and the amount of people we get to connect with."

Armchair Boogie is also look-

ing forward to releasing a full-length album in 2017.

"We've seen a lot of growth in a very short amount of time and we owe our gratitude to our friends, family, fans and all those in the scene who continue to help us," Majeska said.

Catch Armchair Boogie on Friday, Dec. 9 at Fire on Water in Milwaukee from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m.

The band will also be playing at the Minocqua Brewing Company on Friday, Dec. 23 and at Cranky Pat's in Neenah on Friday, Dec. 30.

"We really love what we do and give every show our all, and having receptive audiences that give us just as much energy back can be breathtaking," Majeska said. "Music really has the power to bring out the positivity in the room. Plus, I love just jamming with the band-mates whether it's on or off stage. I'm always itching to play."



# What Are Holiday Traditions to You?

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Every Christmas Eve, we go to church and then to whichever cousin's house. We hang out, eat a lot before dinner and then eat dinner.

A cool tradition my mom came up with is that she creates place cards for everyone, but it's not your name, it's a picture she finds on the internet that is meant to be something that represents you. So you have to guess what you are, but it's pretty obvious usually.

Mine last year was Cindy Lou Who because I look like her with a Nicholas Cage face on her body because they all know I hate Nicholas Cage, so it was like, 'Okay, I know where I'm sitting!'

Before opening presents we read

the passage from the Bible about Jesus' birth, then sing a few Christmas songs, usually religious because my grandpa is a retired pastor.

For the past 8 years we've been reading from my grandpa's dad's memoir, which is actually really cool because he came over to Ellis Island, so it's his journey. But they always read the passage where he's leaving his family and waving to them on the ship.

It's the last time he sees them and every time the adults bawl so hard and all us kids are like, 'Can we get on with this? We listen to this every year, let's go!'

My mom buys our family a present, which is usually some weird

game we all play that together.

We also play Pit, which is a really old game where you trade between each other. It just gets really scary intense in my family. My grandpa is this sweet, old retired pastor, but he'll almost end up flipping the table.

On Christmas we hang out at home just me, my mom, dad and sister and we have stockings. Then we go and see whatever movie is out.

It's cool just being able to spend time with family and doing whatever we do, whether it's screaming at each other over a card game or making fun of each other.



Grace Dapper is a senior psychology major from Saint Paul, MN.



Nilo Saulic is a super senior elementary education major from Prescott, WI.

For the holidays we go out and pick our own tree from the woods around the house and cut it down. Each year dad randomly picks one of us to cut it down, but he usually picks my siblings Emrys or Greta.

When we get inside my mom looks at the tree and decides on the theme. We have so many ornaments that each year there's a different

theme for the tree. We have an animal theme, a traditional Christmas theme and then all the weirdest ornaments we have.

We don't have special Christmas traditions outside of watching Die Hard together.

We have a drinking game in our house that the whole family has learned. We've got it down to a Science: every time he gets a bad guy,

or every time he talks on the radio or grumbles about air ducts everyone has to take a drink.

It's a good time. We've been doing that every year. We picked it because it was the only Christmas movie we could all agree upon and we've all seen the Muppets too many times. It's got the real spirit of the holiday, so that's the main thing.

My family hates each other, and the only time they come around is Christmas. During that time we pretend we like each other, listen to music and play games.

Every year my father likes to dance, even though he's fifty and he hurts himself every time. He calls it the Hokey-Pokey, but it's not the Hokey-Pokey. I don't know what it is, but it involves him shaking his body a lot. It's fun.

And my grandma likes to put on her elf costume and make food for the holidays. My grandma wears it because her

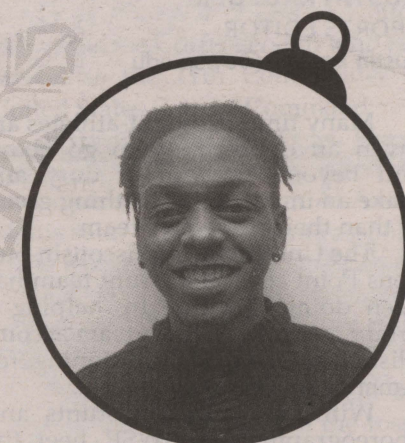
mom wore it and her mom before her wore it.

They just keep wearing it and it's the same elf costume! The costume is green, red, comes with ears, they usually wear make up with it, it has a bell at the end of the hat and it has curly shoes. They just wear it all day on Christmas and then they do the unveiling of the gifts. That's a cool tradition she does.

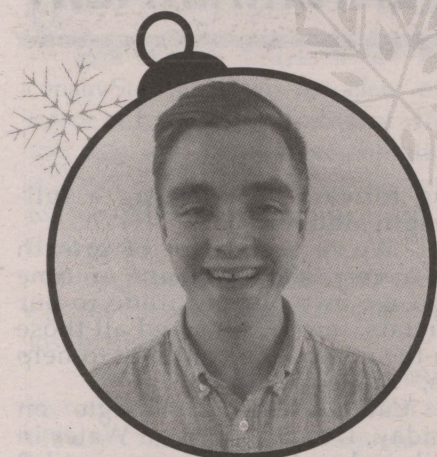
We also usually go around and give gift cards, which is kind of weird because, 'Why are we giving random people gift cards?'

They're not completely random, but we just knock on doors and say, 'Here's a gift card!' My uncle started it because he always gave me and my relatives gifts cards on Christmas and my grandma liked the idea. People on the street, our family, our friends or really anyone.

I also like to go down to the harbor because they have a Christmas festival with Santa and big time characters like the Grinch in costume. The kids get to play while they ice skate because there is a huge ice rink. But yeah, those are our traditions!



Antonio Wright is a sophomore political science and computer information systems major who is from Baltimore, MD.



Corey Landon is a senior instrumental music education major from Port Washington, WI.

My favorite thing about Christmas is on Christmas Eve my mom's side of the family gets together.

My mom has three sisters and two brothers and all except one have kids and some of their kids have kids, so our family on that side has grown pretty large. But we get together for a Christmas Eve party and people bring all sorts of food.

We do a little gift exchange in my family. The younger cousins and siblings draw a name out of a hat in the fall and then we get gifts for each other that way.

Sometimes we'll also do a white elephant gift exchange. That's not re-

quired, but if you bring a gift you can participate, otherwise you can just sit and watch.

I think one of my favorite things is that my uncle owns a smoked fish shop, and he always brings smoked salmon. It's really yummy!

I really enjoy that our family is pretty close and we all live kind of in the same area, but I don't get to see them too often because I'm up at school. It's something I always look forward to. Just being with family, sitting around for the night, relaxing, having food and enjoying time together.

We'll play games during the

night. My grandpa always likes to play card games like Sheep's Head or any type of coin gambling game where you can throw your pennies on the table.

Christmas day is usually spent with my immediate family.

We used to always, but not as much because we're all a little older now, have this little pickle ornament that the night before my mom would hide on the tree somewhere. In the morning whoever found it first got to open the first present and we would start everything off from there. So that's usually the traditions we do!

Growing up we went to Illinois where my family lives and had a big pot-luck. Then all of the cousins opened presents with each other and we went ice skating in Chicago.

On Christmas morning we came home to open presents with just our family.

I have a really big family and we always made a bunch of food. When we are done eating we pack up our leftovers on paper plates and take

them to all of the places that are still open on Christmas.

My family is also really big on making cookies, so we spend weeks making cookies. On Christmas Eve we deliver them to the old folk's home. We like to give back to the people that don't have a lot of family members to come visit them. So that's what we do leading up to Christmas.

Sabrina Hathaway is a senior social work and sociology major from Ripon, WI.





# Merry Tuba Christmas and a Euphonic New Year

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For many people, the day after Thanksgiving marks the seasonally acceptable date to start listening to holiday music.

As the days of December fly by amid a flurry of the final weeks of the semester and snow, the holiday spirit grows and music from holiday radio stations to caroling to rumbles of tubas fills the air.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point held its sixth annual Tuba Christmas concert on Friday, Dec. 9 in Michelsen Hall of the Noel Fine Arts Center.

Tuba Christmas is a national event that has been getting music lovers in the holiday spirit for 43 years. The tradition began in 1974 in honor of William J. Bell, a tuba player and teacher, born Dec. 25, 1902.

Patrick Lawrence, associate professor of low brass and music education, conducts Tuba Christmas.

"Bell was sort of the grandfather of tuba. He didn't invent the instrument - that happened back in the 1830s - but he was considered the first virtuosic player and

teacher of the instrument," Lawrence said. "He must have been a really wonderful guy because for that first concert in 1974, there were over 200 players who came out to support the commemoration of Bell."

The first Tuba Christmas was held in New York City's Rockefeller Plaza, where it is still held, but the celebration quickly spread. Now, Tuba Christmas concerts take place in over 250 cities throughout the world, from Canada to Costa Rica to Switzerland. There are six Tuba Christmas performances throughout Wisconsin this season.

UWSP's Tuba Christmas invites euphonium, baritone and tuba players of all ages to participate in the concert to bring a festive show of Christmas carols and innovative instrument decoration.

Sam Puffer, senior music education major, has been participating in UWSP's Tuba Christmas since 2012.

"It's just a big organ formed of different individuals," Puffer said. "That was my first experience. I knew that I really loved tuba because of that sound. When you get all these people together who have such an appreciation

for the instrument, as well as an appreciation for music itself, you really get this sense of community right away."

Musicians, audience members and instruments are encouraged to sport their best holiday apparel for the show. Tubas, baritones and euphoniums turn out donned in wrapping paper and bows, Christmas lights and holiday garlands.

Kayla Vanderheyden is a community member who attended her first Tuba Christmas event on Friday.

"I was not sure what to expect, but it was fun to see people in the crowd decked out in Christmas gear and apparel. And then the tuba players themselves, not only with their hats and scarves and Christmas clothing, but their tubas were decorated as well."

Participants registered back in November, but rehearsal is not held until the day of the concert. Though Tuba Christmas began at 7:30 p.m., musicians had an hour and a half rehearsal before the performance to get ready for show time.

The performance brings classic Christmas carols to Michelsen Hall, including "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Deck the Halls" and

"Silent Night." Throughout the program, audience members are invited to sing along, and lyrics are presented on screen for them to follow.

"I think there's a lot of credit due to Dr. Patrick Lawrence who heads up this event, who is an extremely enthusiastic professor, and an enthusiastic performer," Puffer said. "What he brings to Tuba Christmas is the community involvement aspect. He always likes to include something like that in any event he puts on. With this, there's the overhead projector over the ensemble so people can sing along. I really think that's what gives this program its real edge."

Tuba Christmas is held every year. It is free and open to the public.

"I had a lot of fun," Vanderheyden said. "I was expecting Christmas music to be played but not the whole crowd and the band itself to be that festive. That was a fun surprise and experience."

"This is one of my favorite concerts of the year," Lawrence said. "It's just so great to get this many tubas and euphs together to play Christmas carols. I mean, what could be better?"

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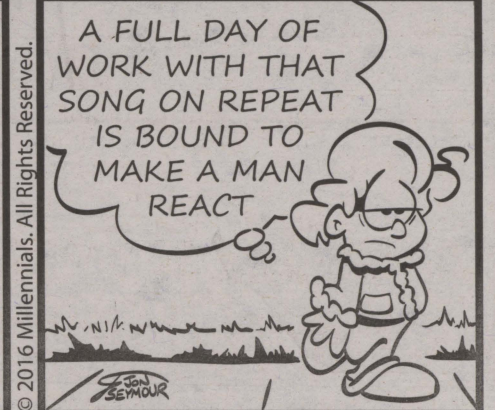
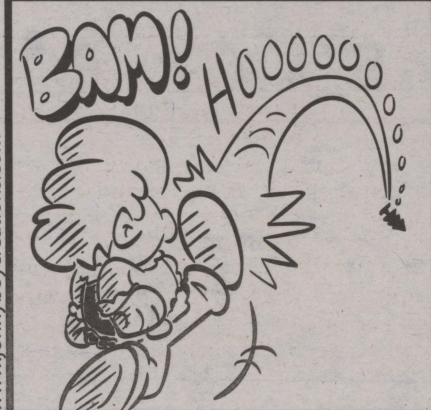
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## School's Out for Winter

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REPORTER

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Come Dec. 22, students will be closing their books, turning in their final papers and high-tailing it away from campus to enjoy a well-deserved winter break. For four glorious weeks, students will be itching to get outside and enjoy what winter in Wisconsin has to offer.

If you're still unsure of how to make the best out of the break, take a look at some of the activities and events going on in Wisconsin, from local to statewide, traditional to adventurous.

### Skiing and Snowshoeing at Standing Rocks Park

Standing Rocks County Park and Winter Recreation Area in Stevens Point offers 10 miles of trails for skiers and snowshoes throughout the 524-acre park.

Standing Rocks County Park, located in the Stevens Point area, has great trails for cross country skiing.

Adult daily trail passes for skiers are available for \$8, season passes are available for \$50 and equipment rental is \$12. Daily passes for the snowshoe trails are \$4 if you have your own equipment or \$10 to also rent equipment. Season passes for snowshoers are \$30.

The park's ski lodge is open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on weekends from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding at Granite Peak Ski Area

For a faster-paced time in the snow, the Granite Peak Ski Area in Wausau offers downhill skiing and snowboarding.

Rib Mountain features 74 runs for you to hit the slopes. Equipment rentals are available. Ticket prices vary; visit [skigranitepeak.com](http://skigranitepeak.com) for tickets, specials and events.



Standing Rocks County Park, located in the Stevens Point area, has great trails for cross country skiing. Photo courtesy of [witravelbestbets.com](http://witravelbestbets.com).

### Ice Skating in Stevens Point

Ice skating is a time-honored winter sport, the earliest skates dating back to the ninth century in Sweden. There are several free locations to strap on your skates right here in Stevens Point.

The city of Stevens Point outdoor skating rinks are open the second week of December and are lit until 9 p.m. Find rinks at Georke Park and Iversen Park.

### Winter Fest in Wausau

Downtown Wausau will be putting on its fourth annual Winter Fest on Friday, Jan. 27.

The festival offers a variety of free events including horse-drawn carriage rides, a snow slide, ice sculptures, cookie decorating and ice skating. All events will take place from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

### Winter Snowshoe Walk at Monk Botanical Gardens in Wausau

The Monk Botanical Gardens is hosting a candlelit walk on Friday, Dec. 30 from 6-8 p.m.

The event is free, but a \$2 donation is recommended for the rental of snowshoes. A limited number of snowshoes will be available, so bringing your own is also recommended.

ited number of snowshoes will be available, so bringing your own is also recommended.

### Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Ice Caves in Bayfield

The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is home to a series of sea caves that freeze into spectacular ice caves in the winter.

The accessibility to the ice caves varies with weather conditions. Visit the Lakeshore's Facebook @apostleislandsnationalallakeshore for the most up-to-date information.

Passes are \$5 per day per person and are available at the Park Headquarters at 415 Washington Ave. in Bayfield.

### WPS Garden of Lights at the Green Bay Botanical Garden

This holiday season will be the twentieth annual Garden of Lights in the Green Bay Botanical Garden.

Choose from walking or horse-drawn wagon tours through the display of over 250,000 twinkling lights. Warm up with refreshments at Winterberry Café or by the campfire.

Tickets are available online or at the door. For adults, walking tours are \$9 each and horse-drawn wagon tours are \$14 each.

The Garden of Lights will be open from 5-9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16 through Sunday, Dec. 18 and Monday, Dec. 27 through Friday, Dec. 30.

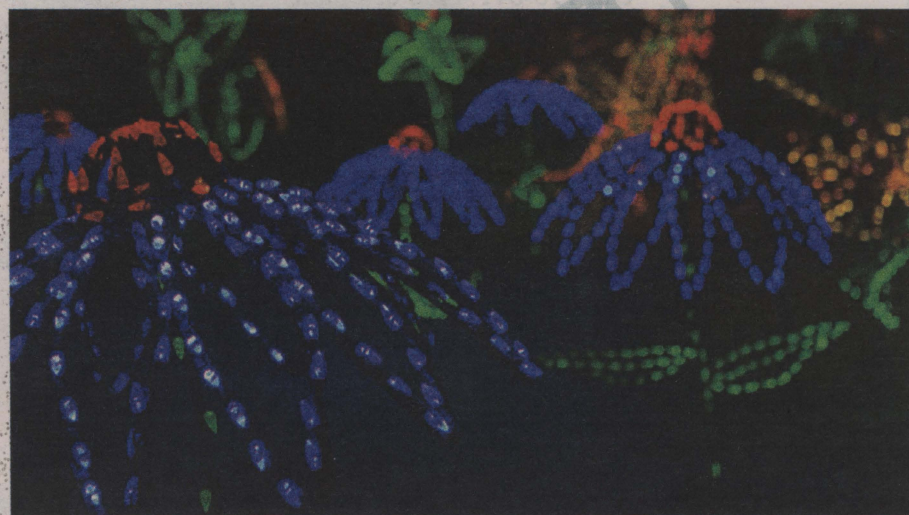
### Polar Bear Plunge in Waupaca

There will be a polar bear plunge into the Chain o' Lakes' Lime Kiln Lake in Waupaca at 1 p.m. on Jan 1.

Registration is \$5 and opens at 10 a.m. on the day of the event. Commemorative long-sleeve t-shirts will also be available for purchase.

All proceeds benefit the Waupaca Fire Department to fund equipment updates.

With so many activities available during the holidays, it is difficult to choose just what to do with our much-needed free time.



Garden of Lights at the Green Bay Botanical Garden is a fun holiday attraction for families with young children. Photo courtesy of [letsgomommy.com](http://letsgomommy.com).

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

D E C E M B E R

*Have a Great Break!*

and Good Luck on Finals!