Local Farmer in Legal Battle Over Stream Reclamation Efforts

Don places old Christmas trees in the stream to change the current. Photo courtesy of Dalen Dahl.

The phrase "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me" might need some updating after recent outrage on college campuses.

Earlier this month protests turned to riots when Breitbart troll, Milo Yiannopoulos, was invited to speak on campus by the University of California-Berkeley’s College Republicans.

Approbation from the student body was partly due to Yiannopoulos’ actions at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee last December.

During his speech at UW-Milwaukee, Yiannopoulos showed a picture of a transgender student and made fun of the way they looked. He didn’t think the student looked female enough to be transgender.

"The way that you know he’s failing is I’d almost still bang him," Yiannopoulos said.

Similarly, Ben Shapiro, the editor-in-chief of The Daily Wire, was invited to speak on UW-Madison's campus last fall by a student organization and received a large amount of disruption from protestors.

Shapiro has been banned from campus.

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DePaul University in Chicago, and this month a group of students at Marquette University in Milwaukee are pushing to have his appearance canceled in light of Black History Month.

The American Civil Liberties Union, a group liberals praised earlier this month when they worked to halt Trump’s travel ban, has now faced criticism for protecting controversial speakers.

When speaking about Yianopoulos and the 1st Amendment, ACLU lawyer Lee Rowland said, “It’s easy to protest speech we agree with, but more important to protect speech we abhor.”

Mark Tolstedt, professor of media studies, teaches courses in media law and says that the 1st Amendment is more complicated than it appears to be.

There are rules against speech that causes incitement of illegal activities such as hate crimes. Like the rest of the legal system, the intentional vagueness can make for a complex issue.

“If I wrote a book telling people they shouldn’t pay their taxes, the courts would have to decide if that was actually having an impact on people,” said Tolstedt.

Proving that a conservative speaker’s speech was the catalyst for hate crimes on campus can be difficult.

Lyn Ciurro, senior communications sciences and disorders major, is a DCA LGBTQ+ student assistant and shares concerns over the impact on campus of having someone known for being anti-LGBT come to speak.

Ciurro said, “While the first amendment protects people like Milo from being silenced by the government, students have the right to protest what is happening on their campus especially when it’s funded with the tuition we pay.”

Finding a way to protest effectively but without becoming violent can be a tough balance to strike.

“I think that one method to do this and show opposition to a hateful speaker without limiting their opportunity to speak is to attend their event and sit as close to the front as you possibly can,” said Ciurro.

“From there, we can either be silent but wear shirts that show our defiance, we can have a bean dinner right before and give people a musical show, we can do so many things that show we are against this speaker’s presence without providing ammunition to our opponents to throw back at us.”

Tolstedt echoed Ciurro’s sentiments to handling that scenario if it were to arise on campus here in Stevens Point.

Tolstedt said, “If you want to make a statement, do so in an informed, polite manner. As soon as it’s violent, you ruin your cause.”

For the upcoming state budget, Gov. Walker added a companion bill that would legally require universities to act in defense of free speech.

“It is not the proper role of the board or any institution or college campus to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive,” the bill reads.

Despite potential updates to the legal ramifications of speech on campus, Tolstedt warns that people and college administrators should still do things in their best interest and be aware of possible consequences.

Tolstedt said, “There’s a difference between what you can do under the law and what you should do.”

Tuesday, February 21

Sad: Trump broke his silence on the rise in anti-Semitic incidents by saying the threats toward Jewish communities are “horrible and are painful, and a very sad reminder of the work that still must be done to root out hate and prejudice and evil.”

Orders: The Dept. of Homeland Security issued two memos that could increase the number of immigrants detained or deported.

Wednesday, February 22

A fire alarm went off in the DUC due to burnt popcorn.

A marijuana smell was reported in May Roach Hall.

Thursday, February 23

A student reported an incident with the elusive male from prior incidents.

A female called about a male she thought was banned from campus harassing two other females.

Friday, February 24

The same man was reported asking a female student for a date, her number and where she lives and she saw The Story on Division Street. The man is 5’6”, with dark skin, a thick accent, has a Colorado ID and is 33 years old.

Saturday, February 25

Sad: Trump announced he will not be attending this year’s White House Correspondents Association Dinner.

Monday, February 27

MAGA: Trump has been to golf courses six times in his first 30 days as President. The White House is unwilling to confirm that he actually played golf on each occasion.
2-1 Vote May Save Future Wisconsin Elections

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A Wisconsin state court case has climbed its way to the top of the judicial totem pole, facing the United States Supreme Court for a verdict on a questionable vote. In Wisconsin voting district lines, a panel of three federal judges in Wisconsin voted 2-1 in favor of a new district map to be drawn by November 2018.

Due to the federal court’s ruling, the state of Wisconsin filed an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

"Obviously the districts currently drawn benefited the Republican party, not only for congressional representatives, but state wide elections as well," said Matt Lueck, field director for the 2016 Tom Nelson congressional campaign.

"Gerrymandering" is a phrase used by political scientists to explain this type of comprehensive map drawing in favor of one party over another.

"Wisconsin State legislators are given the job of redrawing district lines during every census year," said John Blakeman, professor of political science. "In the United States, we have to conduct a 10 year census and typically every 10 years legislators look at the updated population and draw accordingly."

Many courts across the country have weighed in on unconstitutional districts and many have even made it to the supreme level, but Wisconsin is the first of its kind.

"The Supreme Court has never addressed a case on partisan gerrymandering. There have been cases based on racial gerrymandering, but not partisan," Blakeman said. "This is a very new case for a Supreme Court to look at."

Tackling this issue is important for free and fair elections. "Safe" districts for both Republicans and Democrats hurt the integrity of the state's elections.

"Every vote matters," said Katrina Shankland, state representative of Wisconsin’s 71st district. "Our democracy is not as strong when legislators make safe districts. It dilutes everyone's voice."

After the 2010 census, the Republican-controlled legislature drew lines to create safe districts for Republicans. The districts are so safe that a competitive election is nearly impossible.

The public wants 50/50 districts. When there is a 70/30 district, who is listening to the 30 percent? Gerrymandering riggs the map and it doesn't benefit anyone if their representative does not have to listen to the constituency," Shankland said.

Many other states face the same political issue and are working with their government toward viable solutions.

"The models that cut down on political conflict are nonpartisan redistricting commissions. California and Iowa are the models to follow right now. A nonpartisan commission that operates beyond the fray of political conflict is the best approach to diminish partisan district drawing," Blakeman said.

Looking at the current districts in Wisconsin, Stevens Point is a perfect example of partisan gerrymandering. The university remains a notorious liberal hotspot and is placed in the same district as La Crosse, another liberal area, which is 115 miles away.

The Supreme Court has not yet weighed in on the ultimate ruling for this case, but Shankland had a few optimistic words.

"The chance to win at the Supreme Court level is better than it has been in the past, the plaintiffs now have a formula called the 'efficiency gap' which measures the amount of wasted votes in any given district," Shankland said.

For now, the integrity of elections in Wisconsin is solely respected by the support of federal judges.

Coming Together for the Sake of Resistance

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National Strike Day, held on Feb. 17, had many people staying home from work and school to send a message to Trump and his administration.

Taking place on the last working day before President’s Day, the strike was organized by a group called Strike4Democracy.

The associated website, #17strike.com, described the goal of the strike as one of showing dissent for unconstitutional governance through peaceful protest and service to neighbors in need.

Organizers said their demands include having no wall between the US and Mexico, healthcare for all, no oil pipelines, an end to the Global Gag Rule and for Trump to make his taxes public.

Displays of the resistance against Trump and his policies were seen nationwide, in Chicago, Charleston, St. Louis, Denver, New York City and more.

Other protests happened the day before, on Feb. 16, in alignment with A Day Without Immigrants. The movement was born on social media and had very similar goals as National Strike Day.

Immigrants were urged to stay home from work and school to display their presence in society. This protest was also in opposition to Trump and his policies.

Along with these two separate yet conducive strikes, on Feb. 14 the organizers of the Women’s March on Washington announced the date for their next planned event.

The strike, titled A Day Without a Woman, will take place on Mar. 8, otherwise known as International Women’s Day.

Loren Tooson, freshman political science major, said, "No one is asking for a utopian society, we just want basic human rights."

Tooson’s grandparents were heavily involved in the Civil Rights Movement, yet she still has doubts about the effectiveness of the protests against Trump.

Katie Eyers, sophomore international studies major and director of this semester’s Vagina Monologues, said she thinks anything that promotes a peaceful discussion of the topic and engages the topic and engages people in speech, rather than keeping it in the closet, is great.

There have been protests against Trump and his policies almost every day of his first month in office, and resistant groups are not likely to take a step back soon.

The city of Richmond, California has unanimously passed a resolution supporting the impeachment of Donald Trump as their own grassroots form of protest.

Not expecting small decisions like that to do much themselves, people are doing whatever they can think of to show their disapproval of the president and his policies.

Jasmine Brown, freshman arts management major, said she thinks Trump being in office is a good thing because it is showing the majority what has been happening to the minorities forever.

Brown said the protests are becoming more effective because "both the majority and the minorities are speaking together now," but there is more to be done.
The Pointer

4 ENVIROMENT

Tesla Co-founder Set to Speak at MREA's Energy Fair

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The latest innovations in clean energy will be brought to thousands of people this summer in Custer, Wisconsin and at the center of it all will be JB Straube and the Tesla company.

Straubel, Chief Technical Officer and co-founder of Tesla, will deliver a keynote address on the mainstage in celebration of the 28th annual Energy Fair. Tesla is a company most well-known for their work with electrical vehicle and battery storage.

In 2015 Straubel was listed as number two on Fortune's 40 under 40 most influential business and innovation leaders. Straubel is also an inventor on over 30 patents on inventions like Tesla's core battery, motor and control systems.

The fair, hosted by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, has been held in Custer since 2002.

The Energy Fair is a community event that features keynote speakers, entertainment, food and local beer.

Thousands of people attend The Energy Fair every year to learn about clean energy and sustainability.

Peter Schumann, senior biochemistry major, who has attended the fair in past years said the fair is a lot of fun because of its unique combination of entertainment and education.

Rose Hayes-Dineen, who graduated from The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point with her associates degree in Liberal Arts, has attended the energy fair and said she enjoys the social aspect of the event and the opportunity to learn from like-minded people.

The heavy presence of such an influential company at the fair will help to draw in people who may have skipped the fair in years past.

"Having JB Straubel speak at The Energy Fair is so exciting because Tesla has seen an unprecedented amount of interest from people across the country," said Allison Lindquist, MREA Events Coordinator. "People uniting to support clean energy solution - that is what The Energy Fair is all about."

The heavy presence of such a company at an Energy fair invites a certain attitude towards environmental responsibility.

"I do think that puts a tone on sustainability that is sort of directed at capitalist consumer culture which is buying better technologies in order to better the situation" Schumann said.

While it is important to stay informed about the numerous companies making strides towards environmental responsibility, there are many things that individuals can do to help the environment that do not involve spending money such as: biking to work, composting fruit and vegetable scraps, and reducing water usage.

The fair also features exhibitions on sustainability and clean energy products, workshops where participants learn about sustainable living and renewable energy projects and even a clean transportation show which features exhibitors, vehicles and demos.

The 28th Annual Midwest Renewable Energy Association's Energy Fair is taking place from June 16 - 18 in Custer, Wisconsin and then again in St. Paul, Minnesota from Sept. 9 - 10.

Wisconsin Energy Company Plans to Build Solar Farm

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Wisconsin is taking a step towards using renewable energy sources as the biggest solar energy center in the state is now in the works to be built.

Regional utility provider, Wisconsin Public Power Inc. or WPPI, announced Jan. 30 that it will partner with NextEra Energy Resources to build a solar energy center in Two Rivers.

WPPI will buy solar energy produced by NextEra Energy Resources, a Florida-based renewable energy company and the largest provider of renewable energy in the country. The contract between WPPI and NextEra will last for twenty years.

Mike Peters, CEO of WPPI, said in a public statement, "This solar energy center adds diversity to WPPI Energy's power supply portfolio in a way that's more cost-effective than other opportunities currently available to us."

This will almost triple the amount of solar energy produced in the state, according to RENEW Wisconsin.

NextEra says this project will provide 23,000 people with solar produced energy once operating at full capacity. The project will also provide 150 to 200 people with jobs during construction.

The solar facility is not scheduled to be built for another four years, and will not be operational until 2021.

While solar energy is generally considered to be one of the most environmentally friendly ways to harvest energy, there are some concerns due to the amount of land a solar farm can take up. Large amounts of industrial land consumption can sometimes have disruptive effects on the environment.

Such concerns in this instance are minimal since most of the land is already used for industrial agriculture.

The solar energy center will be built near Point Beach nuclear plant, which was purchased by NextEra in 2007. It will take up the better part of the 1,200 acres that surround the nuclear plant.
Stream Protection Rule Overturned

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On Feb. 16, President Trump signed the Stream Protection Rule out of existence. A repeal which was voted for by the Senate and House of Representatives earlier in the month. The rule had only just been passed in December during the final weeks of Obama’s presidency.

The Obama administration had high hopes for the legislation. In December, the Department of Interior said that the rule would protect 52,000 acres of forest and 6,000 miles of streams over the next twenty years, through surface coal mining regulation. Its purpose was to clarify and update existing legislation which was three decades old.

The rule emphasized that mining companies must monitor streams to their previous condition.

Paul McGinley, professor of water resources and University of Wisconsin-Extension water quality specialist, felt that the Stream Protection Rule’s main impact would be an increased focus on monitoring stream conditions.

McGinley said, “with this rule, they would have to monitor the stream before, during and after to allow them to make changes if there were changes in water quality,” and added that this “would have been an important advance.”

Senator voted to undo the rule 54-45, with many Democrats voting against the rule’s overturn.

Representative John Yarmuth was one voice in opposition to the repeal, who was particularly concerned about families living in mining regions such as Appalachia.

Yarmuth said that The Stream Protection Rule “would serve as one of the only safety measures that would protect these families from poisoned drinking water, higher rates of cancer, lung disease, respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease, birth defects and the count­less negative health effects that plague this region.”

However, the rule was met with backlash by politicians such as Bill Johnson, an Ohio representative who said, “make no mistake about it, this Obama administration rule is not designed to protect streams. Instead, it was an effort to regulate the coal mining industry right out of business.”

Similarly, many view the Stream Protection Rule as redundant legislation intended to burden the coal industry and cite over-regulation as the cause for loss of coal mining jobs.

The coal industry is undeniably in decline, but over-regula­tion may not be the only culprit. Jerome Segura III, assistant professor of economics and chief economist for the Central Wisconsin Economic Research Bureau, says that worldwide overproduction, cheap natural gas, and low demand from China make it “unlikely that coal will ever take that place where it once was.”

For better or for worse, the repeal of the Stream Protection Rule keeps coal mining regulations largely unchanged from regulations established decades ago. Since the Stream Protection Rule was repealed just two months after its institution, it is difficult to know what its consequences would have been.

NASA Discovery Makes Earth Seem Less Unique

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Last Wednesday, NASA announced the discovery of a nearby star that has more planets orbiting it than any solar system previously discovered. What’s more is each of the seven planets is considered to be Earth-like.

Sebastian Zamfir, associate professor of astronomy said, “There are many planetary systems where there are more than one planet, but seven, this is a first, this is the record.”

Some of the planets orbiting this star were first discovered in 2015 by astronomers in Chile. The telescope used, the Transiting Planets and Planetesimals Small Telescope, is where the name TRAPPIST-1 comes from.

However, at the original time of discovery, only three planets were found.

The announcement on Wednesday revealed the discovery of seven planets, all of which are similar to the Earth both in mass and in diameter. This means that the planets are likely comprised of rocky substances and are probably not gaseous, like Jupiter and Saturn are.

“Three of these seven planets are in the so-called ‘habitable zone’ otherwise known as the ‘Goldilocks zone’ which means the temperature in the region is in the appropriate range to have liquid water with high probability,” said Zamfir.

The combination of Earth-like composition and being in the habitable zone means that these planets are good candidates for hosting extra-terrestrial life—something that is of high priority for researchers at NASA.

One very striking fact involved in this discovery, is how incredibly close this star system is to Earth.

TRAPPIST-1 is about 40 light-years from the Earth. That is to say it would take light, the fastest traveling substance known, 40 years to travel to Earth from TRAPPIST-1. To put that in perspective, the closest star to Earth is around five light-years away and the edge of the observable universe is about 46 billion light-years wide.

It would also seem that the more we learn about the cosmos, the more likely it is that there is life just around the corner.

“Scientists have discovered that even the nearest star, Proxima, which is 4.2 light-years away, has a planet. And then they realized that all of the planets that they had discovered so far orbiting other stars, that’s the best one in terms of similarity to Earth,” Zamfir said.

Even though these newly discovered planets are quite similar, there are some notable differences from our solar system.

One is that the host star is much smaller and much cooler than our Sun.

Another is how close the planets on TRAPPIST-1 are to one another. If standing on the surface of one planet, you could see the other planets better than one can see Earth’s moon from Earth.

“You’d see mountains and valleys with your naked eyes,” said Zamfir.

Earth may never know if its newly discovered neighbors host life or not, but after last Wednesday, it seems this planet is just a little less unique than previously assumed.
The Pointer track teams claimed second place at the WIAC Championships over the weekend.

The men’s team, who took home second by a half-point over UW-Oshkosh, was headlined by Sylvain Monont’s win in the pentathlon. Monont finished with a score of 3394, just 70 points short of the school record.

Kathy Derks also came close to setting a new school record when she competed in the 60-meter dash. Derks finished second in the event, posting a time of 7.78.

Also, the Stevens Point quartet of Derks, Sarah Vils, Hannah Mertens and Leah Trempe finished third in the 4x400 relay with a time of 3:55.42, while Jacklyn Butler finished fourth in the 60-meter hurdles.

The women’s team, who took home second by a half-point over UW-Oshkosh, was headlined by Sylviann Momont’s win in the pentathlon. Momont finished with a score of 3394, just 70 points short of the school record.

Kathy Derks also came close to setting a new school record during her 800-meter run victory. Derks finished one second shy of a school record time in the event, as she posted a time of 2:13.94.

Abby Clement broke a school record when she competed in the 60-meter dash. Clement finished second in the event, posting a record time of 7.78.

The heptathlon featured two Pointers registering top-three finishes, as Jeremy Lee and Abraham Schroedl finished second and third, respectively. Lee posted a score of 4795, while Schroedl scored 4579 in the event.

Logan Hell finished second in the weight throw event, recording a distance of 18.05 meters. Daniel Diertch also posted a second-place finish, posting an 8.19-second performance in the 60-meter hurdles. Cadyn Wojt finished third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.24 seconds.

The Pointers return to action March 4 for the Pointer Final Qualifier, which will be held in the Multi-Activity Center. The meet is slated for a 10:30 a.m. start.

The women’s hockey team fell to UW-Eau Claire in the first round of the conference tournament, losing both road games over the weekend.

Friday’s game saw Stevens Point get on the board first, as Meredith Immel scored on a Lauren Smith assist with 3:57 to go in the first period. Unfortunately, Point wouldn’t score again, as the Blugolds scored four unanswered goals to finish the game, including two power-play goals in the second.

The Pointers looked to rebound from the 4-1 defeat the following afternoon. After falling behind Eau Claire in the opening period, Stevens Point got on the board with a Cara Lemirande goal to even the score at one apiece.

The women’s hockey season ends with the team going 13-12-2 on the year.

The women’s basketball team took an unexpected tumble out of the WIAC Tournament, losing at home in the first round of the event to UW-River Falls, 47-43.

Neither team was sharp offensively, with the Pointers shooting 37.5 percent from the field and Falcons shooting 34 percent.

Still, the Pointers led 21-13 at halftime despite going 0-8 from three-point range.

Point led by as many as 11 points on the evening, as they held a 26-15 advantage with 6:06 to go in the third quarter.

A Carly Cerrato layup with just one second to go in the third helped stop the bleeding during an 11-4 River Falls run, giving the Pointers a 30-26 lead heading into the final quarter.

However, the Pointers had generated too much momentum by then to be defeated. The Falcons used a 12-6 fourth-quarter run to take a 28-26 lead with 4:44 to go in the game.

The Pointers fought back and tied, tying the game at 43 apiece on a Lauren Askland three with just nine seconds to go.

The Falcons, however, scored on a 1-point free throw layup with four seconds to play to take the lead for good. A Payton Mix turnover in the waning seconds of the last game for Stevens Point, who fell to 17-9 on the season.

The Pointers now await word on whether they will be a part of this year’s NCAA Tournament.

The wrestling team will have three representatives in the NCAA Championships in two weeks.

Senior Logan Hermann, junior Dylan Diebitz and sophomore Don­ny Rafton all earned spots in the event with strong outings over the weekend.

Herrmann, 165 lbs., and Rafton, 285 lbs., won their respective weight classes in a relatively dominant fashion. Diebitz finished with a strong third-place outing in the 197-pound division.

The trio helped the Pointers finish seventh as a team over the weekend, with a total of 56 points.

The NCAA Championships will be held in La Crosse on March 10-11.
The senior Pointers concluded their careers with a riveting 88-78 win at home over UW-La Crosse. Williams said the win at Hope “at their place, in front of a sold out arena” is his favorite memory as a UWSP player, as well as conversations with his teammates in the locker room.

Freeborn, Gjertson, Untiedt and Retzlaff each cited the 2015 national title win as their favorite memory. However, the national title may not be the seniors’ biggest impact on UWSP basketball.

Their selflessness and leadership under adversity will undoubtedly carry on into the future of the program, even if they have already played their last game at Bennett Court.

Dernbach said that this group of players has been special for the UWSP men’s basketball program.

“After the adversity that they had to fight through, it’s as special as the national title run in 2015,” Dernbach said.

Chris Untiedt and Aaron Retzlaff embrace after the post game speeches. Photo courtesy of Dalen Dahl.

The senior Pointers will miss most about being pointer athletes, Williams said, “Everything about being a Pointer. The process, the games, the incredible fans. The coaches pushed me to another level that expanded my level of play. And the team-bonding.”

“Being with my teammates every day,” Untiedt said.

Freeborn said, “My teammates. The friendships gained and memories made with each of my teammates the last four years will be cherished forever.”

“The friendships with my teammates and the time spent together off the court,” Gjertson added.

The camaraderie displayed by this year’s team led the Pointers to a 14-10 finish, including an 8-6 record in conference play, good for a tie for fourth in the conference.

The team amassed wins over multiple ranked teams over the course of the season, including a season sweep of Eau Claire, 20th-ranked North Central, and a road victory over 12th-ranked Hope College in December.

The senior Pointers dominated UW-Superior in a pair of blowout wins over then 15th-ranked Hope College in December.

Men’s Hockey ADVANCES TO CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, the teams played again. This time the Pointers destroyed the Yellow Jackets 8-1.

UWSP blitzed UW-Superior goalie Kyle Miller early on, as Jacob Barber got the offense rolling with a power play goal 6:31 into the opening frame. Tanner Karty scored for Stevens Point with 8:07 to go in the first to increase the lead to 2-0. Superior scored late in the period narrowing the gap to 2-1.

Then, the game turned into the Lawrence Cornellier show.

Cornellier put together one of the greatest individual periods in Pointer history, recording a hat trick in a 12-minute span.

Cornellier lit the lamp first with a power play goal just under four minutes into the second quarter, before Tanner Karty scored his second goal of the evening just 34 seconds later. Then, Cornellier scored a short-handed goal with 4:08 left in the period increasing the UWSP lead to 5-1.

Less than 90 seconds later, Cornellier secured his hat trick, converting on another Stevens Point power play.

The onslaught continued in the final period of play, as Cornellier scored his fourth goal of the evening with 17:42 to play. Austin Kelly scored the eighth, and final, Pointer goal midway into the third period to cap the 8-1 declaration.

Stevens Point will be back at KB Willett Ice Arena to host the WIAC Championship game on Saturday when they take on UW-Eau Claire.

MEN’S HOCKEY ADVANCES TO CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

This season featured a conference preseason prediction of sixth place, a self-imposed postseason ban and interim head coach Kent Dernbach stepping up in the wake of head coach Bob Semling’s suspension.

When asked about what
Pointer Wins Big at Best of the Midwest Journalism Convention

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Last weekend, The Pointer attended the Associated Collegiate Press Best of the Midwest College Journalism Convention in Minneapolis, MN. The Pointer staff attended professional development workshops, panels, presentations and networking events with other student journalists from around the Midwest as well as with professionals.

The weekend convention ended with a Best of Show awards that each university in attendance could enter to win. Categories included Newspaper Special Edition, Individual Articles, Photography, Publication Design, Publication Website, Multimedia Package and others.

The Pointer was recognized with three awards out of the twelve total categories against over 15 other competing universities.

The first award received was ninth place in Newspaper Special Edition. The issue submitted was from election week, Nov. 2016. This political edition was specifically designed both in content and appearance to incorporate more color, pictures, charts, and numeric information that differed from the usual weekly publication.

Next, The Pointer took second place in Publication Website. This is a special honor because UWSP’s smaller weekly newspaper beat out larger universities that have daily news print and online with large teams to run their digital newsrooms and websites.

Here at The Pointer, there are only a few students working on digital and online news. The final recognition The Pointer received was first place in Best Multimedia Package. The news package submitted was created by former multimedia reporter, Shay Spatz. The video covered the campus event Arts Bash 2016.

Spatz’s work was combined with Arts and Entertainment Reporter, Kaitlyn Want’s article also detailing the event fundraiser for the Theatre, Dance, Music, and Art programs here at UWSP.

The Pointer is honored to receive recognition from ACP for the work that students are doing to report news every week. The next convention this season is fast approaching. The Pointer is sending delegates to the Associated Collegiate Press Midwinter National College Journalism Convention this upcoming weekend, Mar. 2-5.

The national convention is in San Francisco, CA and will include more professional development workshops, panels, and further networking opportunities for the students who attend. This convention will also conclude with awards but this time universities are competing at a national level with even more competition than at the Best of the Midwest.

Historically, The Pointer has done very well at both conventions in past years. The students attending this year’s 2017 convention are very excited for the unique workshops but also hopeful to be awarded and recognized nationally amidst other prestigious universities.
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Over the weekend, the UWSP Student Players Alliance put on their annual Fringe Festival. The show is a collection of eight ten-minute plays produced. We really strive to hone our production skills that's little vignettes of the students, all those involved are on a level playing field.

Kiel was proud of the diverse achievement everyone involved in the production sustained. McDowell hopes that audiences appreciate the strong themes and take what they have encountered out of the theatre with them.

Fringe Festival is open to all students on campus to get involved in theatre in any way that inspires them, whether it be acting or writing their own ten-minute plays.

Fringe Festival provides an opportunity for students to showcase their work that they do outside of mainstage productions, McDowell said. "This is what a real-world production is like, and we're getting to experience that," McDowell said. "I think that's a very necessary skill for both sides of the production team. We learn how to work one-on-one with each other to conquer problems, make art and be able to confidently put our artistic stamp of approval on something."

The hard work put in by all the students involved showed when the production was brought to life. Each ten-minute play served as a different course in the same meal, all working towards the same theme regardless of distinct flavors. Some plays dealt with roommates, lost bets, sexual assault and politics. However, the themes reached much further than these plots into ideas of guilt, loss and blame.

"A lot of these pieces will make you see things in a different way." McDowell hopes that audiences appreciate the strong themes and takes what they have encountered out of the theatre with them. McDowell said he wants to "start a dialogue about something they've seen today because there's a lot of different viewpoints from all eight of our directors and writers that are being showcased on stage, which I think is a very unique aspect about this year and with the theme that's offered all of these different views of the world."

Though pushing boundaries through art is one of the powerful aspects of Fringe Festival, it does carry a lighter side as well. Kiel was proud of the diverse achievement everyone involved in the production sustained.

Over the weekend, the UWSP Student Players Alliance put on their annual Fringe Festival. The show is a collection of eight ten-minute plays produced. We really strive to hone our production skills that's little vignettes of the students, all those involved are on a level playing field.

Kiel was proud of the diverse achievement everyone involved in the production sustained. McDowell hopes that audiences appreciate the strong themes and take what they have encountered out of the theatre with them. McDowell said he wants to "start a dialogue about something they've seen today because there's a lot of different viewpoints from all eight of our directors and writers that are being showcased on stage, which I think is a very unique aspect about this year and with the theme that's offered all of these different views of the world."

Though pushing boundaries through art is one of the powerful aspects of Fringe Festival, it does carry a lighter side as well. Kiel was proud of the diverse achievement everyone involved in the production sustained.
Album Review: Norah Jones - The Fall

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Norah Jones recorded her fourth studio album, "The Fall," in 2009. At this point in her career, Jones has already established herself as a successful contemporary jazz artist.

On her previous three albums, Jones has featured both covers of famous jazz standards and her own work, which is often a fusion of jazz, country and blues styles. The same work, which is often a fusion of jazz, country and blues styles. Jones incorporates some up-tempo rock into the mix with additions of some electronic instruments. This differs from her previous acoustic style and lends itself to fast-paced songs like "Even Though," "It's Gonna Be" and guitar line.

The last two songs on the album take a darker turn. Track twelve, titled "Man Of The Hour," ends the album on a happy note with the dog barking in the background as the last thing the listener hears. Norah Jones does a beautiful job of capturing a wide array of emotion and is truly in line throughout this easily relatable album. "The Fall" is four out of Jones' six total solo studio recorded albums but may arguably be her best work of art.
Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra goes to the Movies

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When most people go to the symphony, they expect to hear works from Mozart or Beethoven. But this weekend, the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra is proving that symphonies are much more than these classical composers.

The Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra is changing their tune as they plan to play tracks from famous movies, rather than classical music, at their concert of Music in Film.

Rhonda Sprague, interim dean at the College of Fine Arts and Communication and member of the board of directors for the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra, said, "This time around, the feature of the concerts is movie music, which is orchestral music but isn't classical. It's a different kind of music, and the kind of music that we hope would appeal to a wider variety of folks."

"The CWSO will be playing tracks from movies such as How to Train your Dragon, Star Wars, and The Dark Knight Rises."

Alex Perkey, senior at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and double bass player in the orchestra, said audience members will hear tracks from all different movies, past and present.

"It's kind of like a smorgasbord of everything from the last 100 years or so," Perkey said.

The Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra has been serving Stevens Point since 1947. Music educators, UWSP professors, full-time professionals, and UWSP students in central Wisconsin make up the orchestra.

Michelle Zelinski, UWSP graduate student, who plays violin in the first violin section of the orchestra, said playing with the group feels like a community. It is non-competitive, and the musicians are supportive of each other.

"We can enjoy our talents together," Zelinski said.

The benefit to having a local professional orchestra is that UWSP students get the opportunity to play alongside their professors in a professional setting.

"They get to be peers, they get to be colleagues," Sprague said. "They are on par with one another, and I think that's neat. It's a definite way to enrich the university experience."

The orchestra also gives UWSP students the opportunity to play as paid professionals, in which they gain valuable career-related experiences.

"It gives you a chance to play repertoire that might be a little more difficult," Perkey said. "Just being in an ensemble that plays at a higher level, you think about things differently, you hear things differently, and it really helps you to push yourself."

The greatest benefit is that UWSP students get the opportunity to play music and do what they love.

"I've always just loved being able to share music," Zelinski said. "It's such a unique thing. It can evoke so many emotions."

"Whenever you perform anything in a large ensemble setting and everything just clicks, you feel like part of a larger organism," Perkey said.

The orchestra's upcoming Music in Film concerts are on Sat. Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. and Sun. Feb. 26 at 4 p.m. at Theater@1800 at Sentry Insurance.

Tickets range from $12 to $27. Discounted tickets are available to students for $7 ten minutes prior to the Sunday performance.

Humans of Point

KIM MUELLER
is a sophomore broad-field social science major

Do you think internships are beneficial to college students, why or why not?

I think they are beneficial just so people get the experience hopefully that they will have and use in their field someday. So instead of working at a bunch of random jobs that don't actually apply to your major, they're actually getting the experience they need.

Have you applied to any internships yourself, and if not do you plan to in the future?

I have not applied to any internships myself. It's a little hard with being an education major because school is out during the summer when I would primarily need an internship. I am going to apply to some summer camps this summer, but they're not necessarily internships. I'm just taking any opportunity I can get to work with kids.

What does an ideal internship look like to you?

An ideal internship is paid first because it would honestly be too hard not to get paid while working full time and working with kids in the age group I want to work with in the future, so primarily high schoolers.
The melodious talent of the jazz musicians studying at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point rose through Michelson Hall Wednesday night when the Department of Music presented the Jazz Repertory Concert.

As the lights lowered and the room fell into a hushed silence, Mathew Buchman, professor and director of Jazz Studies, took to the stage to explain how incredibly hard the jazz students performing had worked to make this performance come together.

Buchman said that the students were there to present live recordings of jazz pieces that they had sat down with to transcribe in order to perform them live for the audience.

Seven pieces were performed in total, leaving room for the audience to have different emotional responses throughout the night.

One of the quartettes consisting of Ethan Englund, Peter Zillner, Austin Bolden and Brett Oemig performed a snappy, classic jazz tune called "Stompin' at the Savoy." Audience members tapped their feet and swayed to the light-hearted music.

Another amazing performance that had a smooth vibe intertwined with its own set of challenges was the "pulling at the heart strings" lyrics mixed with the soothing music.

After the concert, Malakai Flynn, senior jazz studies major and Jake Opperman, senior instrumental music and jazz performance major discussed the difference between their performances tonight vs. other jazz concerts.

"For me, the difference is all of this music has been transcribed," Opperman said. "People have improvised this music before, but then we figure it out by ear, write it down and play it as a group. At one point this music was spontaneously composed, but since we've transcribed these recordings we're not improvising on stage."

Flynn said that there are difficulties when it comes to transcribing different pieces of improvised recordings, including how hard it can be to pick up every little sound on the tracks.

"I guess what is difficult about transcribing is that it's just hard to hear certain things and your ears sometimes trick you, so it's a really tricky process," Flynn said. "You want to copy everything down that somebody does just by listening. Some things are very technically difficult, and you just have to practice it and make sure you can execute it perfectly."

Opperman added to this sentiment when he said that trying to transcribe record improvised duets comes with its own set of challenges.

"Both of the players on the record were out of tune, so I would have to detune myself to figure out what they were doing," Opperman said. "Also distinguishing the two saxophone players that were so closely intertwined when their voices would cross over I would be like, 'okay so is that my part or is that his part?' It was a challenge for me for sure."

When it came to how long preparations for the Jazz Repertory Concert took, Flynn said it varied depending on what group you were in.

"In some groups, one person would transcribe their individual part and in other groups, people would transcribe everybody's part and write everything out," Flynn said. "So I don't know exactly how long it takes, but it definitely takes a really, really long time to transcribe a whole solo."

The performers put in a significant amount of hard work in order to provide a good time for the audience and demonstrate their skill as musicians who have the ability to transcribe music and incorporate that into a total performance.

"I think there's a stigma around musicians like, 'Oh they're just talented. They're just good and are born with this talent,' when really it's a lot of hard work," Opperman said. "This concert really shows what kind of work we do and acts as a showcase of sorts. It's a reminder that people are still studying this music and that no matter if it's prerecorded or live, no matter what it's always going to be fantastic."

Audience member Victoria Philippon, senior psychology major, said there was a joyful vibe and a display of emotions which radiated throughout the show.

"There were definitely happy songs and then more serious or sad songs, so it took you on a nice little roller coaster of emotions," Philippon said. "While you were sitting there you could tell your mood was changing and you knew why it was changing, so it was kind of a fun observation to make while they played."

Philippon, who is not an avid listener of jazz music said she really enjoyed herself and whenever she goes to events like these she has a new appreciation for what the musicians are trying to achieve.

"I really liked how professor Buchman mentioned how much hard work had gone into this, but then they get up there and make it seem like it's nothing and that it's effortless, so I always enjoy watching that," Philippon said. "I don't know if it's the music itself or the energy that the musicians bring to the music but it's always entertaining."