The repeal of net neutrality by the Federal Communications Commission in early December 2017 has a number of people questioning the future of their access to the internet.

Since 1970, rules restricted corporate power over businesses and people using the internet. Since 2005, bans on blocking and throttling or slowing down content to users have existed.

The repeal eliminates oversight from the FCC, allowing big providers to rule the market. Companies, such as Verizon and Comcast, will now have the ability to throttle, block or charge users for accessing specific sites and content. For example, because Verizon owns Yahoo!, it could charge users for using Google.

Supporters of the repeal believe net neutrality prevented innovation and that this new system will promote competition and lower prices.

"Always, when you switch from one program to another, there’s some learning that needs to take place, and that’s just simply what happens, it depends on how much better, if it’s better, that this is than D2L," Miller said.

In selecting Canvas, the UW-System established a team of 10 evaluators and 15 core subject matter experts from across the system. Based on their investigations into eight outlined teaching and learning scenarios, Canvas by Instructure scored the highest.

Additional information on the training and support plan for the implementation of Canvas will be available in March of 2018.

More information on the switch to Canvas can be found on the UWSP website at www.uwsp.edu/canvas and the UW System website at www.wisconsin.edu/die/.
continued from page 1

Due to their dependency on broadband services, rural communities around the nation will suffer the greatest with this new system.

According to the FCC, high-speed internet is inaccessible to 710,000 residents in rural Wisconsin.

In 2016-2017, the Broadband Task Forge for Portage County initiated a needs assessment for high-speed internet in the county. The report found respondents strongly believe every household in the county should have high-speed internet. Respondents view accessibility to high-speed internet beneficial to the local economy as well. The report also found a larger percentage of rural residents paid a monthly internet bill of $160 than urban residents who paid a monthly bill of $60 to $80.

In comparison, the national average internet bill ranges from $40 to $50 per month. About 7% percent of respondents didn’t have an internet connection. Over half of respondents who don’t have internet said it was because of the high cost.

In spite of the recent repeal of net neutrality, a number of communities around the country are putting their residents before profit. The Institute of Local Self-Reliance lists 95 communities with municipality-run, publicly owned fiber-to-the-home networks. Municipality-run broadband lowers prices, boosts local economy and provides equal access to all residents. Researchers at Harvard found city-run internet services cost 2.9 to 50 percent less than corporate providers, such as Comcast and AT&T.

Chattanooga is one of the several Tennessee communities with a successful city-run network. Run by the city’s electric utility, the service provides 100 Mbps connection for $57.99 per month. Compared to AT&T, which offers 50 Mbps connection for $40 per month, the city-run service is the better option for Chattanooga residents.

Stevens Point attempted to establish a city-run internet provider several years ago, in hopes to provide equal internet access to all residents at a reasonable price.

We began to anticipate that the time was coming where the major internet providers might start discriminating or charging different users of the internet,” said Gary Wescott, former mayor of Stevens Point.

During his long tenure in office, Wescott and his colleagues conducted an intricate analysis of the city’s need for its own internet provider. Even though a number of community members and government officials backed the plan, costs became the largest prohibiting factor.

“We recognized that having that infrastructure in place was going to be an important tool for the future,” said Wescott.

The future of a possible city-run internet service is uncertain for the city of Stevens Point as the repeal of net neutrality hasn’t taken full effect.
Justice Week Brings Awareness About Human Trafficking at UWSP

SAMANTHA BROWN
REPORTER
sbrow154@uwsp.edu

The International Justice Mission chapter at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will be hosting its annual Justice Week event this year on April 9-13 to shed light on modern day slavery to students on campus.

The UWSP chapter was founded by individuals from the Campus Crusade for Christ. Since their creation, the chapter has hosted their own Justice Week at the university.

The week will be full of a variety of events. On Monday, a series of Ghana videos will be shown, documenting abusive conditions endured by children in Lake Volta.

An attorney from Lotus Legal in Milwaukee will be here for an open panel discussion on Tuesday, along with an intern from International Justice Mission and the founder of Fresh Start Learning in Milwaukee.

On Wednesday, there will be a prayer and worship night with live music and educational materials. Then, on Thursday, there will be a restaurant fundraiser. Friday is still up in the air with an event still in the works, so stay tuned to the Justice Week’s Facebook event page for more information.

Each event is different during the week, but each highlights IJM and the work they do. All proceeds from the week’s events will be used to fund rescue operations around the world, freeing people from forced labor and sex trafficking.

Zoe Burckle, vice president of advocacy, looks forward to this year’s event.

“Our hope for the week is to bring not only a greater awareness of human trafficking to our campus, but to also spur students toward seeking justice for the poor and oppressed,” Burckle said.

The most successful event that IJM has put on had about 70 people attend. This year, they are hoping to raise that number so students have the opportunity to become more aware of human trafficking and slavery.

International Justice Mission’s vision is to “Rescue thousands. Protect millions. Prove that justice for the poor is possible.” IJM is a global organization that believes that change is possible.

The UWSP campus chapter meets on Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. in DUC 211. Burckle and other members of IJM welcome anyone that would like to be a part of this movement.

When asked why join IJM, Sophia Bergner, dietetics major, said, “It just gives people something beautiful to stand up for. Freedom for innocent people, and the justice that they deserve to see.”
The Pointer

Aside from the abundance of The food fair is family friendly, the drinks provided by _com­
Bustamante explained that Admission is free to the public.
panies including Central Wiscon­
bar. The work of Offbeat Press designs
med by the Stevens Point Area co-op.
ins Craft Collective, Stevens Point
The event kicks off at
Every first Monday of the
"We need to see how we
One of the things Busta­
the space is tight, the GSA is
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One of the things Busta­
mante wants to do is open a
dialogue on queer transgen­
der people of color and the re­
sources they need.
We need to see how we
can utilize our resources to
help them out as well," Busta­
mante said.
It is important for us to get on
onto a Campus Pride Index.
will look it up to see where our
community and the food that's grown within it." Photo courtesy of Farmshed
agonized originally when he
first arrived on campus be­
cause there were two differ­
et offices, each with its own
purpose and each serving stu­
dents a little bit differently.
The GSA was a safe space to
hang out and meet other LGBTQ+ students as well as a
social organization to be a
part of. The GSRC is a center
for resources like information,
counseling and support for
those students.
Alan Bustamante, alumnus
and advisor for GSA as well
as the GSRC coordinator, said
that both groups are happy to
be under one roof because its
not only centralizing the re­
sources but also they can con­
nect easier to students because
the groups are in one place.
Bustamante said the two
organizations are still sepa­
rate entities.
I can help students get
from point A to point B with
graduating if they are having
problem," Bustamante said. "I
can also open dialogues about
how we can make this campus
more inclusive and welcome.
Kade Johanning, GSA exec­
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the space is tight, the GSA is
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visors and both of the staff for the GSA and the GSRC are ex­
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Two things Bustamante says
will change the way the local com­
munity relates to their food. The
Farmshed board meets bi-month­
ly on the last Wednesday of the
month at 6:30 p.m. and is open to
the public.
"We believe the public should
know local farmers and local farm­
ers should know who eats their
food," the Farmshed website states.
This is the principle around which
Farmshed has built its vision of a
sustainable community.
Many Pointers may have heard
of, worked for, or volunteered at
Farmshed throughout their college
years. However, for those unfa­
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weekend is a perfect opportunity to
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on the delicious goods that they of­
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Food fair has been going on for 10
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Local Food Fair to be Held at SentryWorld

LGBTQ+ Student Org. Moves in with Sibling Office for More Convience

KATIE SHONIA REPORTER Ketevan.Shonia@uwsp.edu

This Saturday, Feb. 17, Farmshed is holding a local food
fair at SentryWorld. The event will aim to bring producers,
businesses and educational organizations that will be selling goods and sharing information about their
programs.
The organization is made up of
staff, community members, a board of
directors, and farmer advisors
who share their concerns about the
current food system and take action
to change the way the local com­
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panies including Central Wiscon­
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nies will be offered as free samples
and available for purchase at the
bar.
Aside from the abundance of
food and drink, the Farmshed fair
will also include an art gallery for
the first time, which will feature
the work of Offbeat Press designs
and musical performances by Snow
of the Mountain and Chazz'nGer­
ry.
The food fair is family friendly,
offering food-focused demonstra­
tions and a kid's activity center.
Admission is free to the public.
Students Think About Consumerism This Valentine’s Day

NAOMI ALBERT
ENVIRONMENT EDITOR
nalbezo3@uwsp.edu

For weeks now, store-fronts have been teeming with cards, candy and teddy bears in all shades of pink and red as a constant reminder that it is time to buy that special gift.

It seems that this is exactly what Americans plan to do. The National Retail Federation has reported that collectively Americans are projected to spend $19.6 billion on Valentine’s Day this year. This number averages out to just over $143 of spending per person. With numbers like these, it is hard to deny that Valentine’s Day is a lucrative business. Greeting cards alone are expected to account for $894 million in spending.

But what happens to all these cards, candy wrappers and balloons the day after Valentine’s Day?

Chances are they will be heading to the nearest landfill. To avoid adding to this waste, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point’s Waste Management Society held an event early this February to make Valentine’s Day cards out of materials pulled from the waste stream.

Lindsey Carlson, senior soil and waste resources major and president of Waste Management Society, said she thought of the event after seeing a meme which said, “I love you more than all of the waste in the ocean.” Carlson said that she likes to put a positive spin on holidays associated with consumerism by creating homemade gifts.

When Carlson saw a gift bag at a retail store which said, “Don’t worry I promise it’s not homemade,” she said her reaction was, “Wouldn’t you want to make something homemade and upcycle something special versus sending it to a landfill and letting it rot for 500 plus years?”

Chelsea Huckbody, geoscience and waste management majors, and vice president of Waste Management Society said that her waste background has made her think about Valentine’s Day differently. Huckbody said she is more aware of how products are “excessively packaged and it’s just like kind of mind blowing.”

The Office of Sustainability showed a series of films the first three weeks of February which focused on consumerism.

Claire Gorman, junior health promotion and wellness major, is the student special events coordinator for the Office of Sustainability. Gorman said that she hopes the films will help people learn more about the effects of their consumption on the environment and society. “Consuming a lot in our society is really normalized and a lot of people don’t really realize the effects that has,” Gorman said.
Use of electric vehicles in Wisconsin is facing changes and challenges due to state legislation and public opinion.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, transportation is the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases, contributing to 27 percent of the nation’s annual greenhouse gas emissions. With the environment in mind, many people have switched to driving electric cars.

In 2017, 90,302 electric vehicles were estimated to be on the road nationwide. The largest concentration of electric vehicle drivers are in California, Washington and Hawaii. Wisconsin, on the other hand, has fewer registered electric vehicles than Illinois, Michigan and Illinois, with only one electric vehicle per 1,000 registered conventional vehicles.

In September 2017, Governor Scott Walker approved a two-year state budget of $76 billion that issued a $100 fee on electric and a $75 fee on hybrid vehicles. These fees would bring in $8 million to the state’s Department of Transportation. Walker backs the fees, saying it is only fair that electric and hybrid drivers pay for the roads they use.

An additional fee may make potential electric vehicle buyers wary of purchasing a vehicle.

2016 marked the highest record of miles driven in Wisconsin, at about 64 billion. Since 1970, the annual mileage for the state has increased by over 100 percent. A lot of miles calls for a lot of gas, gas that isn’t found in the state. Wisconsin lacks any fossil fuel resources. All petroleum is imported from other states and countries, causing a large amount of money to leave the state. In 2012, 76 percent of out-of-state expenditures were from transportation.

A 2013 report by the Wisconsin Energy Statistics Book found gasoline and diesel prices underwent greater price variation and experienced higher price increases than electricity prices between 1970 to 2012. Investing the state’s transportation into the electric market would allow for more predictable prices and less money leaving the state. The transition to more electric-heavy transportation may not be the right answer for the environment however, unless the state’s primary electricity source is reconsidered.

From 2012 to 2016, 52 percent of Wisconsin’s electricity came from coal. Not only is this amount one of the highest in the Midwest, but it is higher than the nation’s use of coal for electricity, which is around 38.6 percent. Minnesota, in this four year timeframe, decreased its dependency on coal from 45.3 percent to 39 percent. Illinois also experienced a decrease in coal dependency. Illinois and Minnesota are migrating to relying more on renewable resources and less on coal, both states aim to reach 25 percent renewable resource use by 2025. In comparison, Wisconsin had a 2015 goal of 10 percent use of renewable resources for electricity.

Lynn Markham, land use specialist for the Center of Land Use Education, said, “Overall, I view encouraging electric vehicles and updating our sources of electricity as two prongs in a multi-pronged approach to decrease the money Wisconsin sends out of state for energy, increase Wisconsin’s energy independence, increase jobs in renewable energy installation and reduce the air pollution and greenhouse gases from gas and diesel-powered vehicles that harm people’s health.”
After wrapping up the regular season with an 18-4-3 record, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men’s hockey team sets its sights on the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament.

The team’s strong season was briefly diverted by a mini-slump during the third week of November when it struggled through a three-game stretch with two consecutive losses and a tie, but the Pointers quickly righted the ship.

Head coach Tyler Krueger attributed some of the team’s early-season struggles to inexperience, but felt that his group rebounded nicely as the younger players got comfortable and earned more playing time over the course of the season.

“I think just everybody getting in on the same page,” Krueger said. “Some of the nine freshman getting their feet wet underneath them and getting some games in and some other guys holding the fort down the first half until those guys get used to the pace of play.”

Junior forward Tanner Karty agreed that inexperience was an issue for the team earlier in the season.

“We think just everybody getting in on the same page,” Krueger said. “Some of the nine freshman getting their feet wet underneath them and getting some games in and some other guys holding the fort down the first half until those guys get used to the pace of play.”

With the freshman it was little bit of a slow start, hit some bumps in the road, but guys have been coming along well, growing as a team throughout the season,” Karty said.

Senior goalie Max Milosek felt that UWSP’s back-to-back wins against Adrian College in the middle of December were part of a pivotal point in the season and helped the team get back on track.

“You’re always going to have ups and downs throughout the season, but I think we handled adversity well and especially after Adrian came and we got those big wins and then we’ve kind of been rolling since then,” Milosek said.

After picking up a much-needed win against Concordia University on Dec. 8, and after a pair of wins against Adrian College in subsequent contests, the team managed to win 11 of its last 13 games.

With the regular season wrapped up and the conference tournament now squarely in its sights, Karty insists that the team will go about its business as usual despite the change in format.

“I don’t think our game really changes much. We just played at what? Four or five games of conference? And now we’re going to play two more this weekend and then we go into conference tournament, so I think we’re kind of just sticking with what we’re doing and we’ll be all right,” Karty said.

Milosek agreed and expanded on the team’s mindset as it prepares for the postseason.

“Yes, I think it’s just maintaining what we’re doing and paying attention to the little things,” Milosek said. “We need pretty much every game here—we need a win—so, just kind of focusing on one game at a time more so instead of focusing on or thinking its conference or playoffs or anything like that.”

With the way the season has unfolded this year, the team’s ultimate goal of winning the national championship is still within reach.

“We’re set up right now, we kind of control our own destiny right now so we take care of that and should be the end outcome,” Karty said.

The WIAC Tournament semifinals run from Feb. 23 to Feb. 24.

The championship final is scheduled for Mar. 3.

**Sports Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wrestling</th>
<th>Feb. 16, at Augsburg University 7 p.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Women’s Basketball | Feb. 14, at UW-Oshkosh 7 p.m.  
Feb. 17, vs. UW-Eau Claire 3 p.m. |
| Track & Field | Feb. 17, Big Dawg Invitational 10:30 a.m. |
| Swimming & Diving | Feb. 15-17, WIAC Championships TBD |
| Men’s Basketball | Feb. 14, vs. UW-Stout 7 p.m.  
Feb. 17, at UW-Eau Claire 5 p.m. |
**Look Into Sports**

KEVIN BARGENDER  
SPORTS EDITOR  
Kbargo79@uwsp.edu

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**FIVE SCORE FOR POINTERS IN VICTORY OVER SUPERIOR**

It had been 18 days since its last victory, but the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women’s hockey team secured a 5-2 win on the road against UW-Superior on Feb. 10, its first win since Jan. 23.

Junior forward Tanner Karty gave Stevens Point the early lead with a score during the second minute of the game with an assist from senior forward Willem Nong-Lambert and freshman forward Colin Raver.

After falling behind 2-1 to close the first period, the Pointers answered with two goals in the second period by sophomore forward Brennan Miller. Miller was assisted by junior defenseman Stephan Beauvais on the first goal and freshman forward Carter Rao and sophomore forward Kelly O’Brien on the second.

Eau-Claire tied the game at three early in the third period, but Nong-Lambert provided the answer for the Pointers with a goal just over eight minutes into the period. Junior defenseman Ryan Bitner assisted Nong-Lambert with the goal.

Stevens Point’s defense failed to secure the win as the Blugolds scored during the 11th minute of the final period and the two teams went scoreless in overtime. Senior goalie Max Milosek recorded 33 saves in the draw.

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**MEN’S HOCKEY FINISHES REGULAR SEASON WITH TIE**

The UWSP men’s hockey team stalemated Eau Claire to a 4-4 tie on Feb. 10, as the team finished the regular season undefeated in conference play with a 6-0-2 record.

Junior forward Ali Biagni responded with a goal on a power play early in the second quarter and junior forward Cara Lemiszke scored just over six minutes later to regain the lead for Point. The Pointers helped put the game away in the third period with goals by senior forward Maddie Schlossmacher and senior defenseman Elle Purnett.

Senior goaltender Sydney Conley picked up the win for UWSP with 22 saves.

Stevens Point will now prepare for the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship semifinal games at UW-River Falls on Feb. 23 and 24. Times for each game are yet to be announced.

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**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL EXTENDS WINNING STREAK TO THREE**

UWSP women’s basketball eclipsed its season-high win streak of two with a road win against UW-Stout 77-55 on Feb. 10, to claim three straight victories and even the Pointer’s conference record at 6-6.

Senior forward Canon O’Herlon used a 19 point and six rebound effort to propel the men’s basketball team to an 80-63 victory over UW-Stout on Feb. 10, at Bennett Court.

The win keeps Stevens Point tied with UW-Platteville for first in the conference with a 10-2 record.

O’Heron added an assist and steal to his game leading statistics. Junior guard Nate Dodge finished the game with 18 points and contributed three rebounds and two steals.

Senior guard M.J. Delmore recorded 15 points and two rebounds as three Pointers finished in double figures scoring.

Bennett Court will be in use again this week as it hosts the Pointers final regular season home game when UW-Oshkosh comes to town on Wednesday, Feb. 14. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

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**Current Standings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record 1</th>
<th>Record 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UW-Whitewater</td>
<td>5-0</td>
<td>10-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW-La Crosse</td>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>10-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UW-Platteville</td>
<td>3-2</td>
<td>4-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UW-Eau Claire</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>11-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW-Stevens Point</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>6-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW-Oshkosh</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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**UWSP WRESTLING FARES WELL AT WIAC CHAMPIONSHIP**

Pointer’s wrestling fell to win any of its weight class titles, but still took third in the WIAC championship with a score of 116.5 on Feb. 9.

Junior Ben Vosters (125 lbs.) and freshman Luke Smiley (149 lbs.) finished second in their respective weight classes.

Senior David Granatelli (157 lbs.), senior Dylan Diebitz (197 lbs.) and junior Dan Squires (184 lbs.) each took third in their respective weight classes.

The Pointers will finish off the regular season when it travels to Minneapolis, Minn., to take on Augsburg University on Friday, Feb. 16. Matches are set to begin at 7 p.m.

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DASHANAY SCOTT
REPORTER
dscot310@uwsp.edu

My name is Dashanay Scott, and I’m a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point majoring in communication with an emphasis in media studies. I am the late-night event coordinator for Centertainment Productions, which is part of Campus Activities and Student Engagement. This past weekend I had a great time coordinating Poet-Tea, a poetry event with Ebony Stewart and Jay the Poet, also known as Joshua Hanyard, in the Encore of the Dreyfus University Center.

Centertainment Productions coordinates all sorts of on-campus events, including concerts, movies, comedy shows and poetry events. Every year, the Centertainment Productions staff attends National Association for Campus Activities, an activity conference, in St. Paul, Minnesota to book talent that the students will love for the upcoming year. It was at this conference that I booked Ebony Stewart.

After booking talent, the event coordinators decide what the event will look like, plans for advertisement and what other services the event will need. Along with every event there are countless roles and responsibilities that often go unnoticed, such as ushers, campus reservations and program services. Confirming and requesting these services are very important because without them, there would be no show. During the show, Ebony made sure to commend our program technician Amy on her great work with the stage lights and sound.

Coordinating a range of events will bring about a variety of emotions. With every event there comes multiple details and a time commitment. At times, the amount of details can become overwhelming, but having a supportive team, staying organized and having a thorough plan helps coordinate a successful event.

One of the things I like most about coordinating events for UWSP is that it’s able to indulge in the events that I put on. I think Poet-Tea went very well and so did other attendees. My main goal for this event was to give attendees a relaxed atmosphere to develop intimacy with the poet. I hoped attendees would be able to feel the words being spoken rather than just listening. In the end, my goal was accomplished. The crowd was small, yet both poets kept the audience’s attention.

I think what makes this job stand out from others is that I can still be a student while working. It makes it more enjoyable.

Something that stood out to me with this event was the artists themselves. Their poems, while short, were touching. I felt as though some of the poems summed up emotions that I’ve felt my entire life. Jay the Poet and Ebony Stewart’s poems were diverse and each poet displayed characteristics of their attitude. I enjoyed when both poets channeled “the love of a mother,” while also speaking on the absence of a father.

Follow UWSP Centertainment Productions on Facebook if you’d like to stay up to date with our events. You can also download the Corq app to be notified of all events taking place near you.

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"Around the Corner with John McGivern" Puts Stevens Point in the Spotlight

CALVIN LEMIEUX
REPORTER
calvin.g.lemieux@uwsp.edu

Fans and viewers of Wisconsin PBS stations may already be familiar with "Around the Corner with John McGivern," hosted by the titular Emmy-winning actor of Disney fame, as he explores and highlights Wisconsin communities and shares their stories.

McGivern and his crew have been all over Wisconsin throughout the past six years, from Milwaukee to the nearby town of Wausau to Appleton. The program has come to Stevens Point, and the episode about our community will air on Feb. 22 statewide on PBS. For those interested in catching a glimpse of the episode early, the Stevens Point Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is hosting a preview showing at the Sentry Theater at 1800 Northpoint Drive on Feb. 20.

Doors will open for the preview showing at 6 p.m., and the show will start at 6:30 p.m. McGivern will be in attendance. The preview is open to the public, and there is no cost of admission.

Highlights of the upcoming Stevens Point episode include McGivern's visits to Point Brewery, which has been running for over 160 years, and his visit to WWSP 90FM to talk about their yearly trivia contest, which is the largest in the world.

"I just want you to know how grateful we are to all of you, and we don't want you to miss out on the fun. John McGivern and I can't wait to see you all again and watch you enjoy this episode - it's one of our personal favorites of Season 7. We hope to see you on February 20th," Lois Maurer, producer and director of "Around the Corner," said in an email to featured guests on the show and members of the community.

Those who can't make it to the preview showing can watch the episode on PBS on Feb. 22 at 7 p.m., or find it on the Milwaukee PBS YouTube channel after it airs.

Humans of Point

AMY WASLESKE
is a senior majoring in English education with a minor in creative writing.

How do you feel about Valentine's Day?
I feel like Valentine's day is a great time to show someone that you care about them. Some years I am happier about it than others. This year I am excited to have a day with my girls!

Do you have any traditions or favorite memories of the holiday?
Every year on Valentine's Day I watch "A Walk To Remember." It is wonderfully sappy, sad, and cheesy... everything you want in a Valentine's Day movie. Also I always make chocolate-covered strawberries.

What's your favorite Valentine's Day candy?
My favorite Valentine's Day candy are Reese's Peanut Butter Hearts. I don't know what it is but they just taste better than the regular cups.
Galentine's Day: No Boys Allowed

ELIZABETH OLSON
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
eolson48@uwsp.edu

When I think back to grade school, Valentine's Day was one of the best days of the year. I looked forward to it the second the post-Christmas buzz wore off.

Now that I'm in college (and single), my feelings have completely changed. For a while, I was confused why my opinion toward this holiday of love had shifted. If the purpose is to celebrate your significant other, why do children enjoy it so much?

Then it clicked.

In elementary school, Valentine's Day wasn't about boyfriends or girlfriends, it was about celebrating with all your friends. I spent hours personally filling out Hannah Montana Valentine's, sealing them with a heart sticker and individually taping them to Fun Dip packets. Valentine's Day wasn't bogged down with romance (or the lack thereof), it was just fun!

In an effort to revive this childlike excitement, Galentine's Day has become my favorite February tradition. Just as the name suggests, Galentine's Day is all about gals celebrating the gals. This isn't a pity party just for single girls; it's an excuse for all the ladies in their life and enjoy each other's love, support and company.

The holiday gets its origin from the popular TV series "Parks and Recreation." Amy Poehler's character, Leslie Knope, gathers all her girlfriends at a cafe every year to celebrate Galentine's Day with brunch and thoughtful gifts.

A few of the gifts Knope gives to her friends include mosaic portraits of each gal made from the crushed bottles of their favorite diet soda, needlepoint pillows featuring their face and the newspaper headline from the day they were born and 5,000-word essays about why each friend is so special.

I don't exactly have the time and creativity to whip up gifts for all the ladies in my life like Leslie does, but I aspire to her level of enthusiasm for Galentine's Day.

The official date for Galentine's Day, according to "Parks and Recreation," is February 13th, but don't let that hold you and your girlfriends back from celebrating whenever you can fit it in your busy schedules. Savvy gals might even hold off on celebrating until after Valentine's Day to reap the benefits of clearance priced candy and decorations.

This holiday has expanded way beyond just the fans of "Parks and Recreation." Women all across the country are jumping on the bandwagon and adopting this tradition as a welcomed excuse to spend some quality time with friends.

We are living in an age where the tides are shifting in female culture. Women are stepping out of traditional roles and using their voices with platforms such as Women's Marches and the #MeToo movement.

Galentine's Day may seem silly, but it means a lot. Its rise in popularity shows that even amongst controversy and scrutiny in the public eye, women support women.

I'll be spending this Galentine's Day with my roommates and all the gals we can possibly fit inside our tiny college house. There will be cute snacks, heart-shaped decorations, girl power music, plenty of laughter and absolutely no boys allowed.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

Wednesday
February 14

American Creed showing
DUC Alumni Room
5:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday
February 15

Nick Toombs (Hypnotist)
DUC Encore
8 - 9:30 p.m.

Sunday
February 18

Planetarium Show: Clouds of Fire
Blocher Planetarium, SC Building
2 - 3 p.m.

Tuesday
February 20

Summer Camp and Recreation Fair
DUC Laird Room
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

POINTERs!

JUST SAVED TONS OF MONEY ON VALENTINES DAY
BY SWITCHING TO SINGLE