Racine Requested to Withdraw 7 Million Gallons of Water Per Day for Foxconn

KATIE SHONIA
REPORTER
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The city of Racine requested to withdraw an average of 7 million gallons of water per day from Lake Michigan for the Foxconn plant.

Thirty-nine percent of the water would be consumed daily and not be returned to the Great Lakes due to evaporation or incorporation into the product.

According to the Department of Natural Resources website, the DNR received the Racine diversion application on January 26, 2018. This application will include a public hearing which will be held on March 7, followed by a public comment period which will last until March 21.

Within 90 days of receiving the application, the DNR will make the decision on whether the application meets the Great Lakes Compact requirements for a straddling community exception to the ban on diversions.

continued on page 5
Summer Conferences is able to employ over 270 students. But that number is declining from last year.

However, the task of employing more students has become increasingly difficult because as enrollment declines, so does the number of students employed by Dining and Summer Conferences.

In spite of this, to many student employees, the people are the best part of working for Dining and Summer Conferences, Malia Xiong, senior dietetics major and senior operations manager in the DUC food court, said, "the people here are really awesome, they’re the reason I’m working here every day."

Ben Gotz, senior physical education major and senior operations manager at Upper Debot, said when he started he didn’t even imagine himself becoming a manager, but encouragement from his co-workers at Debot lead him to apply. "I like the people," Gotz said. "We’re just a different kind of group of people, we all have our own niches and personalities, but we all work together really well."

Gregory Lang, student payroll coordinator and administrative assistant, said, "I’ve done the math. Every single semester, over 70 percent of the campus hired is around 3.8 percent and when the enrollment goes down, our numbers go down, but we’re always at that 3.8 percent."

Suzette Conley, director of Dining and Summer Conferences, said, "We can’t fully operate our locations without student employees."

Conley said there are common skills students gain from Dining Services that will benefit them, regardless of their major or career choice. Some of these skills include, time management, delegation, accountability and customer service.

Timothy Blazeck, senior for-}

A staff member from Baldwin reported the odor of marijuana coming from a room. Tuesday, February 13

An officer called in that they would be great if we could finally, after so many years, solve the DACA puzzle. This will gain experience speaking English.

Justice Lorance, junior political science and philosophy major and student human resources manager, said her experience with dining is helping her prepare for her career as a policy analyst after college.

What she does in Human Resources mimics her future career because, "when you’re implementing policy, it’s really important to look at how it will affect people," Lorance said.

Whatever their reason for applying, Conley loves the fresh perspectives that each group of students brings to the operation. Conley said, "Every year the group of managers that Dining has in place wants to leave their mark and leave their trade mark to improve the dining program for future years."

Editorial Policies

The Pointer is a student-run newspaper published weekly for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The Pointer staff is solely responsible for content and editorial policy.

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The Pointer is printed Wednesday during the academic year with a circulation of 3,000 copies. The paper is free to all full-time-paying students. Non-student subscription price is $5 per academic year.

Letters to the editor are not held for publication without express written permission of the Pointer staff. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit letters for inappropriate length or content. Names will be withheld from publication only if an appropriate reason is given.

Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes the property of The Pointer.
Books For Hearts Spreads the Love of Reading to Local Children

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This February, the Aspiring Educators Club collected money for a drive to equip local children with free books. Books for Hearts is a book drive that is run locally in Stevens Point. The Aspiring Educators Club of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point collected money to be given to the drive. The club then took the money to use to purchase books to be given to student in the Stevens Point public and parochial schools on Valentine’s Day.

Though the book drive ended, anyone wishing to help children get books can donate to the Reading Fundamental Literacy Network. Karina Welch, president of Aspiring Educators and elementary education major, said that the cost of one book is about five dollars. However, the club also accepted cash donations.

In an article published on The Children’s Book Review, author Lori Calabrese said, “Picture books help develop story sense. Children learn the beginning, middle and end of a story and can often relate to the age-appropriate issues and conflicts presented in a picture book,” which then helps them conflict solve later in life.

The article also explained that, when a child reads a book, it helps develop imagination. Children read the story and see the image in their minds, which helps to boost creativity and ingenuity later in life.

Welch explained the AEC is an education organization on campus that doubles as a resume builder. They have over 120 paid members who are highly engaged in all the professional development opportunities the organization has to offer.

The organization is geared toward providing the students with ways to grow professionally in the field of education. The Club has meetings on campus once a month and also provides students with other ways to network with professionals in the state such as attending the Wisconsin State Reading Association Convention or the Professional Issues Conference.

Anyone interested in joining AEC can find them on the Stevens Point Involvement Network. The next meeting will be March 14 and the topic is “How to get families on your side.” Welch said, “It’s never too late to join in on all the professional development we have to offer.”
City Pushes for New Housing Arrangements for UWSP Students

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Are Pointer students really good neighbors? That was the million dollar question this week, and the answer received was not the answer we as Pointers should be proud of.

Tori Jennings, First District Alder, has some thoughts on how Pointer students are currently living and the need to integrate into the community at large.

Residents of Stevens Point often perceive students as disruptive and destructive. Students understand that there are residents living around them, but they aren’t necessarily aware of how their actions affect the home.

What needs to be stated is how students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are making home owners move away from their homes because of the noise. There are entire streets that have been taken over by students, like College Avenue.

Kortnee Hass, transient resident, said, “We have had our neighbors call us in at least once a year.”

What’s interesting about these occurrences would be that the music was at minimal volume and there were about 15 students on the property.

Some may think that this is to be expected because they live in a college town, but students should also want to integrate into the community. That is the biggest problem; students don’t want to integrate and in return, destroy the city.

Alderman Tori Jennings, lecturer of sociology and social work, said, “Fifty-one percent of the properties in Stevens Point are rentals and the primary rental market is UWSP students.”

Transient students are forcing long-term families out of their homes and farther out from the city’s core.

Whether students mean to or not, they are not creating positive relationships with their residential neighbors and it’s raising some concerns around town. Jennings ran for City Council to diffuse the tension between university students and long-term residents.

Brenna Filipenko, UWSP alumnus said, “College kids were definitely not a one size fits all when it comes to being respectful. I’m sure there were groups that were rowdy and disrespectful.

The reputation college students have is something long-term residents believe to be irreversible. If there was an open method of communication for students and residents, there might be possible changes that could occur for the living situations.

Jennings said, “Converting student rentals back to single family homes is an important part of the city’s future.”

Students’ behaviors should change so that they do have the opportunity to understand the responsibilities that come with living off campus.

If the city is looking to move students out and families back in, students need to get a reality check and realize that they do have residents living right next to them. Residents also need to consider the fact that they are living in a college town.

The best way to create a better living environment for everyone would involve creating a way for residents and students to communicate openly on their living arrangements.

Students may not want to introduce themselves to their neighbors, but if that gives students a better reputation, it would also allow students to keep their homes around town.

“As First District Alder, I am helping build a more integrated and effective approach for dealing with off campus student behavior, as well as improving housing for students,” Jennings said.

The city is creating other housing options for the students, but this should also be a realization to university students. The residents would prefer students living closer to campus or away from their homes than having students integrate into the town.

If anything, students should be finding ways to connect with their neighbors and create a more beneficial relationship for the two households. It may not be favorable for either party, but if it means college students can get the opportunity to live off campus, it’s a situation to consider.

An apartment complex for student housing. Photo by Ross Vetterkind

StUDENT
OFF-CAMPUS
HOUSING SESSION
DREYFUS CENTER
ROOM 374
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

TOO AFRAID TO ASK?
GET ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED ABOUT LIVING OFF-CAMPUS!

What responsibilities come with living off-campus?
Do I have to move off-campus and is that right for me?
What is a lease and what obligations come with signing one?
What are some logistical and geographic considerations before renting?
Am I now responsible for my roommates?
What happens if I do get in trouble or need assistance, who is there to help?
How to be a good neighbor and enjoy being part of a larger community?

Presented by: Dean of Students, SGA, and the City of Stevens Point
Contact Bobby Uttech with SGA at Bobby.Uttech@uwsp.edu or (715) 581-6477 if you have any questions. All attendees who swipe through at the housing fair will be emailed an event reminder.

Courtesy of Tori Jennings
Foxconn is the self-proclaimed world's largest electronics manufacturer, which employs thousands of people and makes billions of dollars in sales. The plant's most well-known manufactured product is the Apple iPhone.

The purpose of the Foxconn plant in Wisconsin would be the manufacturing of liquid crystal display screens used by computers, television systems and other products. Proponents of the plan say that it would be the largest economic development project in the Apple world.

Foxconn promises to create 3,000 jobs, which is projected to quadruple within the first six years of its operation. In return, Wisconsin will offer sales tax exemptions for construction materials, as well as tax credits for capital investment. According to Governor Scott Walker, the Foxconn plant will begin its construction work this year and is predicted to open two years from now.

Many are skeptical of the Foxconn's ability to follow through with its promises based on failed arrangements the company made in places such as Pennsylvania and Brazil. The naysayers are also worried about the high manufacturing and environmental costs.

Eric Olson, director and lake specialist at the University of Wisconsin-Extension Lakes, said that the Milwaukee and Michigan areas have long been planning to become centers for global water consumption.

Olson said that Foxconn coming to Wisconsin "is not out of the blue.

For a few years, there have been attempts to create economic development strategy focused on Lake Michigan as a resource due to the abundance and good quality of the water. While the Foxconn plant will be built in Mount Pleasant, the headquarters of the company will be situated in the Milwaukee area.

The amount of water requested by Racine is not unusual for a project such as Foxconn. While 7 million gallons per day might seem like a large number, Olson said that it is not a lot when compared with the overall size of Lake Michigan.

Nevertheless, the public's interest in the issue is important. Water diversion for Foxconn might not be a big environmental threat, but considering the increasing globalization of the Michigan and Milwaukee areas, future projects might have a greater impact. Olson calls for vigilance in cases like these. "The strategy for the city of Milwaukee is just getting started and fresh water is only going to become more scarce," Olson said.

Isherwood Wins Against Drainage Board

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On January 31, Donald (Justin) Isherwood, a Plover potato farmer, won a multi-year battle with the Portage County Drainage Board. In 2013, Isherwood restored a drainage ditch into a successful brook trout habitat, that the Drainage Board believed obstructed drainage of surrounding fields. During the summer of 2016, the board removed the project three weeks before Isherwood could make his case in court.

Jon Counsell, Clark County judge, ruled in favor of Isherwood, stating that the board's removal of the project was a "pigheaded move" and violated the judicial process.

Counsell ruled that the Drainage Board must pay up to $8,000 to restore the habitat and must also pay legal fees estimated at $50,000. The board has already spent 100,000 taxpayer dollars on the case. Paul Cieslewicz, drainage board chair, said the board will appeal, claiming that Judge Counsell was biased and unprofessional.

The board has 45 days to appeal.

Isherwood had a restoration project planned since purchasing his land in 2008. However, the Drainage Board denied him the ability to make alterations on that part of his property. The board did allow him to build on the opposite side of the road, which is what he did. With approval by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, a concrete design plan and a $50,000 grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Isherwood began his restoration project. Several years later, the Drainage Board ordered Isherwood to remove his habitat, believing it was an obstruction to the stream and would cause flooding.

"In my point of view, they created a sense of hysteria and fear in the district that this kind of project was a threat to our very way of life," said Isherwood.

Isherwood said that his habitat increased the trout population, made the water cleaner and flow at a steadier rate.

George Kraft, water resources professor, said, "Isherwood is maintaining drainage of the land and providing habitat for aquatic life."

Even though Isherwood is eager to rebuild, he is giving the Drainage Board a chance to appeal. Isherwood is also planning to reach out to his local farming community and educate them on how his habitat will benefit them, by providing cleaner water and better irrigation from an improved water flow.
Consumer concern over animal welfare and sustainability has generated a plethora of food options aimed at meeting this growing market. With so much variety, even simple choices like what to buy at the grocery store can be difficult for shoppers trying to make the "right" decision.

There are very few federal regulations which deal with animal welfare. One of these is the Humane Methods of Slaughtering Act, which establishes standards for US Department of Agriculture slaughter plants. The act, however, does not apply to poultry.

The US Department of Agriculture website says that instead of regulating the industry to meet animal welfare and humane treatment guidelines through legislation, producers have the option to be voluntarily certified by third-party auditors. This leaves consumers puzzling over subtle word-shifts in products labeled as "grass-fed," "free-range," "organic," "humane" and "cruelty-free," among many other terms.

Without verification from third-party certifiers, much of the wording on packaging remains vague or misleading. For eggs, terms like free-range and cage-free allow some room for interpretation.

The USDA defines free-range as continuous outdoor access but does not specify how much space or what type of environment is required.

A 2017 rule by the Obama administration was intended to set higher, more uniform animal welfare standards for organic products. It did this, primarily by clearing ambiguity over acceptable standards for outdoor access for organic poultry by requiring that birds have access to soil and vegetation. Without the rule, an enclosed porch with a cement floor would qualify outdoor access. However, the Trump administration wishes to discard the rule, which they see as an overreach of authority.

Consumers still have the option to research independent certifiers, who often require compliance to stricter standards. Certifiers like Animal Welfare Approved, American Humane Certified and others often offer more specific details about the certification standards they require on their websites.

Concerned consumers also have the option of checking out local farms.

Farmshed is a Stevens Point based organization which supports the local food system.

Krista Engelhardt, director of communications and outreach at Farmshed, said, "When you are purchasing local meats, you have the opportunity to find out more about how that animal was treated and raised."

Engelhardt said that, by connecting with local farmers, you are often able to see their farms first hand since many local farmers open their farms to visitors. Engelhardt added that the Farm Fresh Atlas is a useful resource for finding local options.

Farmers like Craig Carlson, said that he has 70 acres of pasture on which he grazes beef, sheep, turkeys and chickens. Carlson said the ultimate goal is to improve the soil. Ninepatch sells to area farmers' markets and businesses including the College of Professional Studies Café at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Tony Whitefeather, of Whitefeather Organics in Custer, is another local farmer. Although his farm is primarily a vegetable CSA, he also raises chickens and pigs which he said add to the soil's fertility. Both his laying hens, which provide eggs, and meat chickens are raised on pasture. Whitefeather said that the small scale they operate at allows them to give the animals personal attention.

"We can have really unique relationships with our pigs," Whitefeather said, adding that with the meat he sells, "you know you are getting something that meets a farmer every day."
Woodland Sports Team Looks Forward to 66th Annual Midwestern Foresters’ Conclave

DAN WUSSOW
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Each year, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point woodland sports team participates in a series of training events beginning in the fall to prepare for their large regional competition in the spring.

The Midwestern Foresters’ Conclave, a two-day spring event which pits 14 Midwestern universities against each other in athletic and academic forestry contests, is the team’s biggest competition of the year.

This year’s event will be held at Lion’s Camp in Rosholt, where over 200 competitors will gather to represent their schools in a series of lumberjack competitions from April 20 to April 21. Participating students will compete in athletic events such as underhand chopping, cross-cut sawing and axe throw as well as academic competitions like DBH estimation, dendrology, wood ID and traverse.

Kelley Harkins, senior forestry ecosystem restoration and management major, explained the objectives and setup of the academic competitions.

“Students in the forestry program... they’ll go to classes like dendrology and they learn about tree ID and then they also have classes that teach them about wood ID where they’ll be looking at a block of wood and have to ID it down to species,” Harkins said.

“So those competitions... they’re awarded points just like the physical competitions, but you’ll be going out into the woods and identifying trees or identifying wood or estimating how wide a tree is and things like that... and then traverse is using a compass and a direction to, as accurately as you can, find a point,” Harkins said.

Harkins said she enjoys forestry sports because they allow her to apply practices she learned in the classroom to physical activities.

“Personally, being a student of the forestry program I think it’s neat to connect back to... because all of these physical events are based off of old forestry practices and ways that they used to fell and cut up trees to certain lengths, so I think it’s cool to learn about forestry practices in the classroom and then connect it to old forestry practices here through these activities,” Harkins said.

Micah Ertel, junior paper science and chemical engineering major, enjoys the opportunity to compete in sports he loves alongside other students who share the same passion.

“I really like the team aspect of it. We’re actually athletes competing for an event, whether it’s in academic or physical events... and we have a great team atmosphere. We have about 20 people on the team right now and it’s just nice to get everybody together and do something that you really enjoy doing... chopping, sawing, academic, whatever it is,” Ertel said.

Any student who is interested in joining the woodland sports team can do so regardless of major.

The only prerequisite is membership with the Society of American Foresters, which can be easily obtained by attending one of its Thursday meetings at 5 p.m. in CNR 120.
## Sports Standings

### MEN'S BASKETBALL CURRENT STANDINGS

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*WIAC Champion

### WRESTLING CURRENT STANDINGS

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### CONGRATS SWIMMING & DIVING!

Congratulations to Jack Englehardt, Sam Eckel, Brandon Richardson, Reilly Donnellan who took First Place in Event 2 Men 200 Yard Freestyle Relay!

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### STUDENT HELP WANTED

**Interested in Working for THE POINTER?**

#### 4 REPORTER POSITIONS OPEN

The position involves pitching story ideas, keeping up-to-date on campus and world news and events, attending weekly meetings and writing articles for publication in weekly editions of The Pointer. Previous writing experience and knowledge of AP style is preferred but will train the right candidate.

Interested applicants should email Co-Editor-in-Chief, Anyon Rettinger at arett489@uwsp.edu with questions or to apply.
“Black Panther” Exceeds Expectations in Opening Weekend

ELIZABETH OLSON
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“Black Panther” is the movie Marvel fans have been waiting excitedly for, and it certainly does not disappoint. The movie just hit theaters on Feb. 16 and already brought in an estimated $201.8 million, breaking multiple box office records.

The plot fits nicely into the Marvel series, picking up right where viewers last saw the lead character, T’Challa, in “Captain America: Civil War.” Following the death of his father, the prince returns to his home country of Wakanda to step up to the role of king.

When the history of Wakanda is explained at the beginning of the movie, viewers learn that the African country was struck by a meteorite made of vibranium hundreds of years ago. (Avid fans of the Marvel Cinematic Universe might remember that this is the same metal that Captain America’s shield is made out of.)

Vibranium is the most precious metal on the planet, and the Wakandan people possessed more than they knew what to do with. With its power, they made great strides in scientific discovery and used it to benefit the five tribes that comprise the Wakanda nation.

When colonizers descended on Africa, the Wakandan people hid themselves to avoid anyone disrupting their way of life. Fast forward to modern day, and Wakanda is the most advanced country in the world, but they maintain the illusion that they are nothing but a destitute third-world country.

Their vibranium fueled hover-trains, weapons and advanced healing practices, all hidden under a cloaking force field, make Tony Stark’s inventions look like they belong at a middle school science fair.

What makes this movie so striking is the juxtaposition of this sci-fi technology with traditional African styles. The people of Wakanda wear clothes with saturated colors and intricate, geometric patterns, wear their hair in a variety of natural styles and some even use an ancient form of body art called scarification. The amount of detail that went into the costuming for each character is Oscar-worthy.

While the movie centers on a power struggle between T’Challa, played by Chadwick Boseman, and a challenger who wishes to strip him of his royal title and superhuman powers as the Black Panther, it’s the women who truly steal the show.

The elite group of warriors that is tasked with protecting the royal family is entirely comprised of women. Between their spear-wielding combat skills and signature looks complete with shaved heads, the only word to describe them is “fierce.”

This powerful crew is led by Okoye, played by Danai Gurira, and she’s the fiercest of them all. She doesn’t shy away from any challenge and would gladly die to defend Wakanda.

Lupita Nyong’o’s character, Nakia, is another strong female lead who isn’t afraid to get her hands dirty fighting for what she believes in. Nyong’o brings energy, sass and sexiness to her role.

T’Challa’s younger sister, Shuri, is played by Letitia Wright. Her character is the main source of comic relief for the movie and charms the audience with her youthful wit. The way Shuri and T’Challa banter and tease one another shows that the classic sibling relationship is universal.

Shuri also takes advantage of the technology at her disposal and is constantly in her lab working on new weapons, medical techniques and any other inventions that could benefit their community. While it’s a bit hard to believe that the nation’s best scientist is a teenage girl, it’s also refreshing to see a young, female of color leading her people through STEM.

“Black Panther” is one of the best movies to hit the big screen in quite some time. It celebrates African heritage with stunning visuals, features powerful performances from a mostly black cast led by a black director, praises strong women and still provides the action packed storyline that Marvel fans have come to love and expect.

What’s not to love?
Theatre and dance students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point showcased their talents on Friday, Feb. 16 and Saturday, Feb. 17 at the annual Fringe Festival.

The two-hour performance, which included six student written, directed and performed plays and two student choreographed and performed dances was put on by the UWSP Players Student Artistic Alliance.

Every year, the festival has a different theme. This year, the theme was “Upside Down.” The performances in the show all revolved around this theme.

The opening act, “Pure One Imports,” centered around a couple accusing an interior designer of hanging their bathroom mirror upside down. Right after the flustered designer stormed out, the girlfriend realized the mirror was hung correctly, after discovering it was from Pure One Imports.

This humorous scene was followed by “Sound of Horns,” a heartwarming exchange between a father and daughter. Reluctant at first to allow his daughter to go off to war, the father soon realized his daughter’s undeniable devotion to fighting for her country’s freedom. The play was heartwarming and empowering, as the daughter defied the gender roles of the time.

The final play of the act, “Something,” was an emotional scene between two brothers as they tried to figure out what to do with their drug-abusing mother after her ex-boyfriend had left prison and beat her. The first act ended with a dance piece entitled “A Dash of Pink.”

The second act opened with “The Breakup Game,” a hilarious game show where three male contestants attempted to woo a beautiful blonde with their breakup tactics. This was followed by “Symptoms,” a hair-raising play about a woman’s boyfriend denying their apartment was haunted and blaming his girlfriend’s anxiety for what she was seeing and hearing. The boyfriend was in for quite a fright. This was followed by a dance performance entitled “Convalescence,” which was followed by the final play of the night, “Ability.” In this play, a husband was faced with a difficult decision of whether to get risky treatment in Russia for his MS, or to let it deteriorate his body. The audience was left questioning if he took the treatment.

Overall, the Fringe Festival had something for everyone. Each play and dance performance was unique and beautifully produced and performed. The Fringe Festival is a wonderful event to showcase the talents of UWSP students. Congratulations for your achievements, fellow Pointers!

**Humans of Point**

**HAYDEN POCQUETTE**

is a freshman forest management major.

What’s your favorite meal of the day?

My favorite meal of the day is lunch because the opportunities on what you can eat are endless.

Which is the best place to eat: Upper, Lower or the DUC Food Court?

Lower Debot is the best place to eat on campus because it’s good food, quick and simple. Most importantly it’s closest to my dorm.

What’s the most adventurous thing you’ve ever eaten?

The most adventurous food I have ever eaten is fried calamari. It was ten-tacle out of 10.
Phantom Gallery Brings Art to Unexpected Places

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CREATE Portage County hosted the fifth installment of its Phantom Gallery series on Saturday, Feb. 17, turning an unexpected Portage County venue into an art gallery for one night to showcase local artists and performers. This rendition, "Interplay," showcased the language of movement and how it impacted each artist's work.

CREATE Portage County keeps the location of each Phantom Gallery event a secret until the day before the event. It was announced on Friday that the Interplay party would take place in Eron's Event Barn, six and a half miles west of town by County Highway C.

The barn's charming and serene exterior could have deceived attendees into believing they had arrived at the wrong time or place had the tones of saxophone not beckoned them inside.

A brief walk into the building and up a well-lit staircase revealed a lively gallery with sculptures and photographs on display, accompanied by live music, a bar for drinks and hors d'oeuvres and a station for guests to have their portrait sketched.

A towering ebony hand displayed next to a banner bearing the word "Awareness" greeted guests at the front door, alongside an informative sign detailing Dr. Ann Hutchinson Guest's development of the Movement Alphabet, creating symbolic representation for movement and direction.

This hand, and the other sculptures present at the gallery, were created by Baraboo native Riley Fichter.

In one corner of the gallery, local artists Jade Arnold and Zach Strenger of Thousand Lumens Productions screened their short film "PreFrontal," a vignette about mindfulness and presence in an age of media.

Arnold gave credit to CREATE Portage County's IDEA Center for fostering a space for creators in the area to come together and produce art. Calling it a "collaborative workspace," Arnold encouraged students and content creators in the community to check out the center.

An hour into the event, a troupe from the Transcribing Dance Company performed for the crowd of enthused attendants. They were applauded and well-received by their audience, and performed again an hour later.

CREATE Portage County's Phantom Gallery series is one of the organization's many efforts to encourage local arts, creativity, and culture. Those interested in learning more about CREATE Portage County and their events, or the IDEA center, can visit their website at createportagecounty.org.
In what turned out to be a weekend filled with falafels and journalism, Naomi, Kathryn and I attended the Associate Colle­giate Press's Best of the Midwest Conference in Minneapolis.

We had never been to a journalism conference before and nervously drove into busy Minneapolis traffic unsure of what to expect—we weren't disappointed.

From our very first key-note address to the closing awards ceremony, we were immersed in a culture of students and professionals passionate about the profession of journalism.

We attended sessions on profiles, features, typography, and even how to thrive as a small publication editors of the Pointer. Photo by Kathryn Wisniewski

We saw areas where other student publications were doing well and other areas where they were doing differently (i.e. an article titled, "Best Places to Bang on Campus"). We had constructive conversations about what we do well at The Pointer and found plenty of room for development.

To be honest, as we drove into Minneapolis, I was a lot more excited about exploring the city than I was about explor­ing the intricacies of journalism. But as the weekend progressed, I came to realize that good journalism is knowing your city up and down.

Good journalism gets you out on the street, making obser­vations and talking to the people living at the pulse of the cities I love to explore.

We brought home four awards this weekend: eighth place four-year weekly newspaper, ninth place publica­tion website, fourth place special edition and first place editorial/commentary. But we also brought home the passion to change our newspaper for the benefit of our readers, the people at the pulse of Stevens Point.

But back to the beets. These vitamin rich jewels were to be our next star. Nomin, my cooking companion, has a similar craving for a colorful plate. That desire and our passion to create in the kitchen usually brings us on fla­vor journeys that we won't stop talking about.

It all started with a produce score at the winter farmers market. One word: beets. These vitamin rich jewels were to be our next star. Nomin, my cooking companion, has a similar craving for a colorful plate. That desire and our passion to create in the kitchen usually brings us on flavor journeys that we won't stop talking about.

Photo by Olivia Devalk

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With our wraps ready, we waited. Spread with hummus and topped with cucumber, onion, and a boat load of greens, our beet falafel was about to venture to the world of beet falafel. Falafel is a chickpea-based pattie or ball that can be jazzed up with all the herbs and seasonings of your choice. We usually bake ours instead of frying and use some quinoa we have cooked up for an additional texture and protein punch.

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