

the pointer

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

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One Stop Shop: Green Circle Trail- head Edition

ALEXIS OTT
REPORTER
aott897@uwsp.edu

Schmeckle Reserve will be constructing a Green Circle Trailhead. This large-scale project is completely donor and grant funded and will begin May 2020.

The addition of the Green Circle Trailhead will benefit the Green Circle Trail since it currently has no true starting point.

Stevens Point visitors and residents may not know where to start or end when taking on the enduring task of completing the 27 mile loop.

The Green Circle Trailhead will act as that starting point and will be built next to the Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center, allowing access to both the Green Circle Trail and the Schmeckle Reserve trail system.

Jim Buchholz, Director of Schmeckle, stated that, "We estimate 150,000 people use the green circle trail on an annual basis."



Jim Buchholz, Director of Schmeckle

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DeBot Reopens After a Year-long Closure

DeBot Dining Hall open for breakfast on Feb 5.
Photos by Allison Piette

ALLISON PIETTE
REPORTER
apiet274@uwsp.edu

DeBot Dining Hall reopened on Jan. 16 after being closed for a year and a half for necessary renovations. However, not all students have been happy with the results.

Students' disapproval comes from many different aspects, most notably being the lines for Upper DeBot at dinner and the lack of products able to be purchased with Dawg Dollars.

Many feel as though they should be able to purchase a larger variety of items with their Dawg Dollars since they are paying for a meal plan.

Prices for Upper DeBot have been established to spend \$20 per day on meals. Breakfast costs \$5.50, lunch/brunch costs \$6.75, and dinner costs \$7.75.

There are seven food stations in Upper DeBot. Around the World is food from different countries; Comfort Cuisine is designed to remind students of a home-cooked meal; Lite Bites is soup, sandwiches, salad, and yogurt; Pizza and Penne is the Italian favorites line; Plain and Simple is for people with allergens to get something safe to eat; Sweets and Treats is dessert including soft-serve and scoopable ice cream; and Seared and Served provides sliders and different sides, including different flavor French fries and other

fried favorites.

Brianna Quincy, a freshman with a meal plan, said, "We are already paying for our meal plan, so they have our money already, but they are controlling what we can and cannot buy with our Dawg Dollars. I don't know how much money they are expecting [to make] with the retail items considering most of us are broke college kids."



Suzette Conley, Director of Dining and Summer Conferences.

Suzette Conley, Director of Dining and Summer Conferences, said they are looking in to expanding the Dawg Dollar items in Lower Marketplace.

Additionally, Madeline Van De Hey, a sophomore with a meal plan, said about the lines, "So far, the quickest amount of time that it's taken me to get from the outside doors to the dining space is about 20-25 minutes. DeBot has only one entrance with two cashiers for over 3,000 people, so it takes a very long time."

However, Conley said when asked about what Dining is doing to combat the lines, "The line waits have declined dramatically. [Feb. 4] we had a line by five o'clock, but the line was gone by ten after five."

The reason for the long waits and closed stations is a result of understaffing. As of Feb. 5, Dining and Summer Conferences had approximately 200 student employees, with the number expected to in-



Sierra Kelley, Dining and Summer Conferences Marketing Specialist.

crease.

Sierra Kelley, Dining and Summer Conferences Marketing Specialist, said, "People were getting frustrated that the hours posted weren't the same as what we were having. The biggest reason for that is staffing issues."

"We did send an email out to all our

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SPTV News - 4 p.m. on Thursdays
The Sports Hub - 1 p.m. on Mondays

Or watch their content on YouTube at "SPTV at UWSP"



One Stop Shop... continued from page 1

Artistic rendering of Sentry Gathering Plaza and Kiosk.
Photo Courtesy of Schmeckle Reserve

There are four components of the Green Circle Trailhead project.

The Green Circle Trailhead will include a gathering plaza complete with an informational kiosk stocked with information about the Green Circle Trail and Schmeckle Reserve. Additionally, seating and a bike repair station will be available for public use at the plaza.

Seating for larger groups will be available at the open air shelter in the form of multiple picnic tables designed to fit 50-60 people comfortably. This shelter will be known as the Roy and Margaret Menzel Pavilion and will notably have a two-story stone fireplace accessible from the patio and central area.

The shelter will be constructed similar to the new amphitheater from its stone and wood to the way it nicely blends in with the surrounding landscape.

An all season restroom is expected to be built to the west of the Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center. This project's expected completion date is set for October.

It will be open 24/7 and winterized for people who enjoy snowshoeing and skiing in the winter.

This amenity will be very beneficial during large events such as the Candlelight Hike which brought 5,000 people to Schmeckle this past October.

With the expected increase in traffic on the north end of Schmeckle after the completion of the Green Circle Trailhead there will be a demand for parking. The plans are to expand the current parking lot located next to the Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center. The current parking lot will be left as is.

Buchholz said, "There has been some concerns from the community about the parking lot expansion and that's also why they've tried to design it to be as minimally invasive as possible."

The expansion will consist of a one way loop and gravel that allows for natural filtration. In the middle of the loop, there will be a wetland retention pond filled entirely with native wetland plants.

Schmeckle Reserve is trying to make the parking lot expansion a part of the landscape instead of continuing with the current asphalt style of the current parking lot.

Buchholz said, "At Schmeckle we have tried to think about where our development footprint takes place and make sure that we're staying within that recreation zone."

He continued by stating that, "The area around the visitor center is more of the recreation zone where we allow developments to take place because that area is already a developed area."

The entirety of the project is expected to be completed by October 2020. Just in time for the fall annual Schmeckle Candlelight Hike!

More information on the Green Circle Trailhead is located at: https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/schmeckle/Pages/projects/GCT_trailhead.aspx

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DeBot Reopens

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current student employees asking them to pick up more hours if they could. We have an ad going out on the campus radio sometime soon. I did an interview with UWSPTV last week," said Conley.

There have also been multiple people citing the allergen friendly station, Plain and Simple, being closed when they want to get food.

"The allergen friendly station has been closed one day since we opened. I have two staff people that are specially trained to work in that station. That station is open lunch and dinner, Monday through Friday," said Conley.

Kelley said, "Moving forward with that as well, vegan meals that are going to be

from Plain and Simple, those can be purchased now at the Lower Marketplace. They will be in recyclable, reheatable containers from \$3."

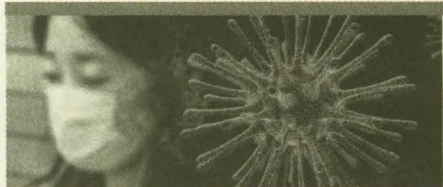
Dining and Summer Conferences is looking for student input on how to cater to the people's demands. There are monthly Dining Advisor Board meetings, where students can go to join the board or make their voices heard.

Dining is also holding a town hall forum on Feb. 24 from 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. in the DUC Laird Room.

A panel will be there to answer any questions, consisting Conley, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Al Thompson, Student Body Vice President Rayvn Kniple, and Chair of the Student Government Association Dining Ad-Hoc committee Collin McNamara.

The event is open to all students to come make their voices heard.





Artistic rendering of corona virus.
Photo courtesy of Gerd Altmann,
under Pixabay handle "geralt".

Corona Virus Reaches Wisconsin

GABRIELLE ARNOLD
NEWS EDITOR
garno140@uwsp.edu

The corona virus is an illness that has been spreading worldwide since Dec. 2019. According to ABC News, it is the twelfth nationwide outbreak of a kind of corona virus, and it has infected over 28,200 people.

The first cases of this specific virus were in china and it progressively moved to different areas of the world. A handful of cases have spread across the US, and the first confirmed case reached Wisconsin through a Dane County resident who is currently being quarantined.

However, this isn't the first type of corona virus. The previous outbreaks were the MARS and SARS which both came from bats. This current virus has been temporarily named as 2019-nCov.

The CDC reported that this illness is related to a family of viruses that are common in animals such as camels, cats, cattle, and bats that spread to humans through contact or consumption. The expected for the spread of this virus is bats, but it has not yet been determined. It is then spread from person to person through contact.

The symptoms are seen through this virus, which two to 14 days after exposure, are fever, cough, and shortness of breath; in previous corona viruses, other symptoms can include runny nose, headache, cough, sore throat, and fever.

To prevent further outbreaks and spread of the illness, precautions are being taken by governmental officials; a 14-day quarantine is being placed on anyone traveling to the US from China to unveil any possible symptoms that may be linked to the virus. Additionally, scientists are researching the true origin of this virus in order to link it back to a cause and find a cure.

It is not likely that the virus will spread to Stevens point or very much in America at all, but the one piece of advice that the CDC states on their website to prevent falling ill from the virus is cleanliness. Washing your hands, avoid touching your face with unwashed hands, avoid contact with people who are sick, stay home when you are sick, and clean frequently touched objects with disinfectant.

Some people are highly concerned about the virus considering its proximity to the area.

"I think it's scary hearing how fast it's spreading and that a case has already been found in Wisconsin. That just makes it a lot more real knowing that it's close to Stevens Point," said student Rachael Peterson.

However, others don't feel as threatened by it and think the media is playing it up.

"If I'm being honest, I don't really see it as a threat," said student Caroline Kauth, "The likelihood of a major outbreak in the US seems unlikely because of the coverage that this had received. People are being more cautious, and the government is watching the spread carefully."



Organic Grows in Wisconsin

Organic farming has strong and continued growth in Wisconsin, including at local farm Whitefeather Organics in Custer, Wisconsin.

Photo by Nathan Dorn

NATHAN DORN
REPORTER
ndorn376@uwsp.edu

Wisconsin is well-known as America's Dairyland, but the state is also a major player in the realm of organic farming.

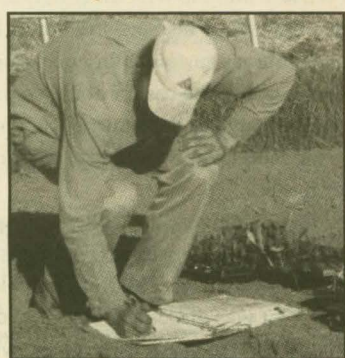
Nationwide, Wisconsin ranks second behind California for the number of organic farms. This number has nearly doubled over the last decade for a total of 1276 organic farms, according to the latest U.S. Census of Agriculture.

According to an Organic Agriculture in Wisconsin 2017 Status Report, the state ranks third for the number of non-organic farms that are transitioning to organic; a sign of even greater growth potential in the organic sector.

Wisconsin is the top state for certified organic dairy farms with 429 farms, and egg farms, with 106, respectively.

In Portage County, the organic stature is strong as well.

Rising Sand Organics Cooperative Farm, which started as a cooperative a little over two years ago, is based in Custer, Wisconsin. The farm grows and raises a variety of crops and animals, including hemp, fruit trees, and herbs.



Oren Jakobson, farmer and a member-owner of Rising Sand Organics Cooperative Farm.

Photo from
the Rising Sand Organics website.

Oren Jakobson is one of ten member-owners of the organic cooperative.

According to Jakobson, "We're a diversified farm, so what we specialize in is diversified agriculture."

Agricultural diversification, Jakobson says, can protect "you [a farm] from natural forces, but also from forces in the market."

To become USDA organic-certified, a farm must go through a process. During the transition to organic, the farmland has to have three years without exposure to prohibited substances. After that, it must continue to meet specific, and numerous qualifications to retain the certification.

Some of these qualifications include: food grown without the use of conventional pesticides, herbicides or petroleum-based fertilizers, as well as antibiotics or growth hormones. Organic farms must also adhere to specific animal health and welfare standards.

Additionally, says Jakobson, organic farms must be re-certified every single year.

Another organic farm in the area, Whitefeather Organics, can also be found in Custer, Wisconsin.

Tony Whitefeather, an owner of the farm, says that the organic operation started on bare land. It is now in its



Tony Whitefeather, owner and farmer of Whitefeather Organics. Here he poses in the farm's greenhouse.

Photo by Nathan Dorn.

twelfth year of operation, and produces a diverse selection of vegetables as well as mushrooms, pork, chicken, eggs and more.

According to Whitefeather, "Organic definitely follows requirements that are better for the environment, your health and for the farmer's health."

These features of organic food are likely driving the growth of organic food sales in the state and nation.

According to the Organic Agriculture in Wisconsin 2017 Status Report, between 2008 and 2014, the sale of organic commodity foods increased about 72 percent nationwide and 51 percent in Wisconsin, totaling just over \$200 million dollars in the state.

While many aspects of the organic industry are doing well in Wisconsin, not every level has kept pace.

For example, Wisconsin is the top state in the U.S. for number of farms raising organic livestock and poultry. However, the availability of certified organic processing facilities is lacking.

Fewer than ten certified-organic slaughter and processing facilities for meat exist in the state. Addressing this issue, however, will help this organic sector in the state.

But even though some areas are lacking, organic farming in the state continues to advance and develop; and Portage County is no exception.

At Whitefeather Organics, Whitefeather calls the farm an "elaborate ecosystem." Since its conception, he has seen positive changes in the health of the soil and in the biodiversity of animal species on the farm and close by.

These changes are likely due to a variety of sustainable techniques implemented at the farm. On top of using cover crops and rotational grazing practices, the farm is also pollinator-friendly.

"The use of our land is very diverse. We have sanctuary areas cut out for pollinators," says Whitefeather.

He adds that the farm is currently working on a piece of land designated as a monarch sanctuary.

But, as the organic industry grows and many large-scale agricultural companies join-in, one must wonder whether the identity and values of organic has changed from its original roots.

For Jakobson, many of the elements that the organic farming movement was born out of - including small-scale, diversified, and cooperatively owned farms - are alive and well in Wisconsin.

"By-and-large, a lot of the organic farms are diversified farms here in this state, and a lot of them are smaller," says Jakobson.

For these smaller growers, two major outlets for sales are farmer's markets and Community Supported Agriculture programs, or CSAs. These outlets provide community members a more personal relationship with their food, allowing them to learn more about how the food is grown, where it's grown, and, importantly, the people that grow it.

To explore local and organic food in the area, Rising Sand Organics and Whitefeather Organics can be found through various outlets, including their CSA programs and the Stevens Point Farmers Market.

From April through October, the farmers market is held in the public square in downtown Stevens Point. Currently, the winter farmers market, from 8am until 12pm, can be found at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Stevens Point.

Additionally, both farms have social media pages with upcoming events and information about the farm.

As the organic market grows, with consumer preferences and land management practices changing as well, time will tell how the organic community in Wisconsin and here in Stevens Point responds and grows with it.

At the present, organic farming in Stevens Point is looking up.

As Whitefeather says about the local area, "We have a strong farm community."

SGA

Student Government Association Newsletter

RILEY GARSKI

SGA COMMUNICATIONS
& PR DIRECTOR
sga.comm.and.public.rel.director@uwsp.edu

SGA is launching a recruitment effort! We need more students to join as Senators, Executives and Student Interest Representatives. If we achieve a goal of recruiting enough senators for our seated Senate to be 26 members then Vice President Knipple and Speaker of the Senate Griepentrog will get a tattoo of the seated senator's choice! Needless to say, we really want to achieve this goal and want you, the students, to help us out!

SGA is a great resume builder. There are so many committees and so many opportunities to work with like-minded and even non-likeminded people. These are good experiences to put on a resume and will help you learn the skill of compromising and working with a variety of different types of people.

Further, SGA also has several budget committees, and serving on them gives you fantastic experiences working with money as SGA has full or partial control over millions of dollars. If you're a business student, or a student going into a career that involves any type of business

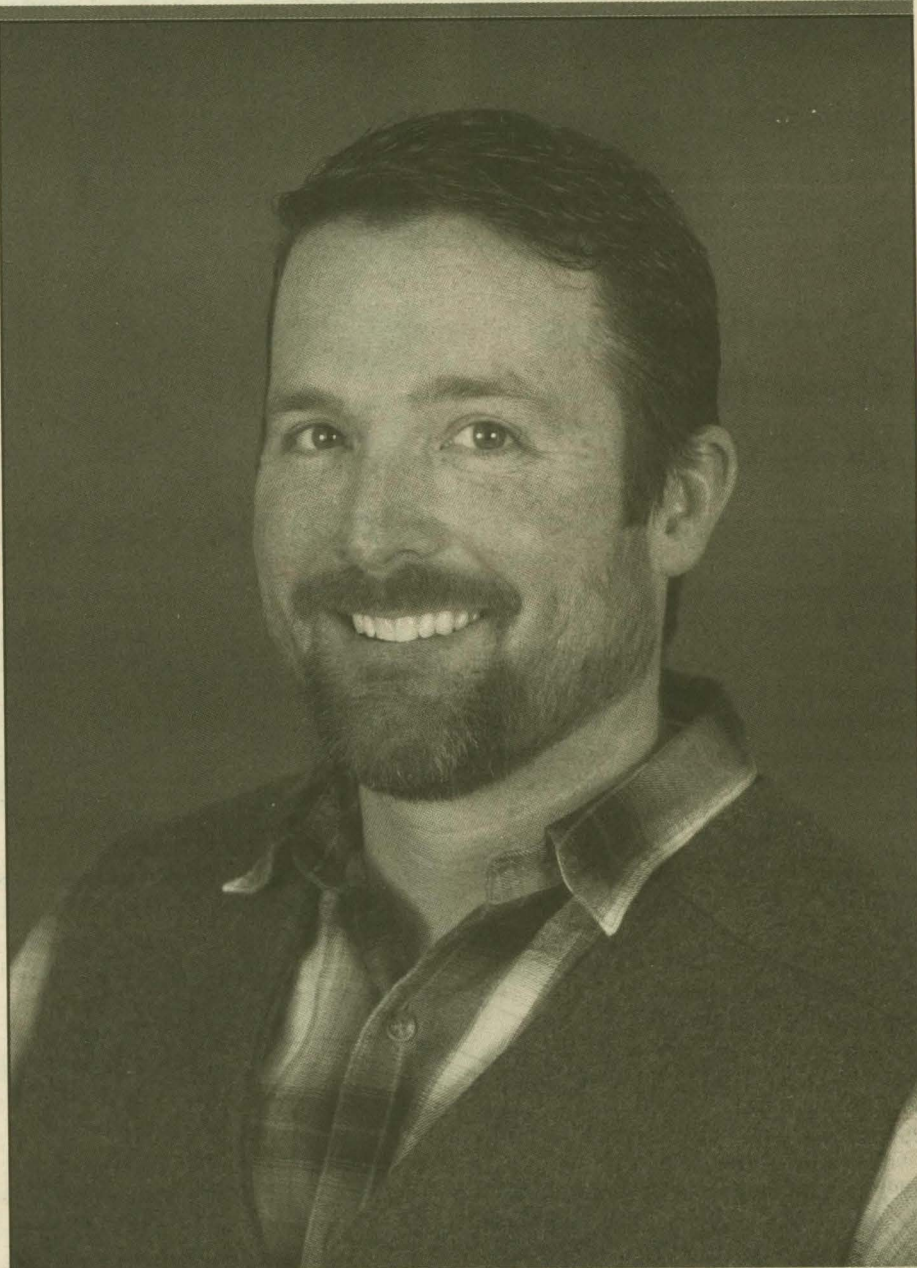
management, this is definitely a good committee to sit on.

If that doesn't interest you at all, we also have environmental committees, inclusivity committee's, student life committees, and more! We have all kinds of committees that will look great on a resume.

Worried about the time commitment? Don't worry too much, because becoming a Senator only requires you to sit on two committees and come to weekly Senate meetings. All in all, it's not too much time. But if you're still worried, Student Interest Representatives only sit on one committee and it is a much lighter time commitment.

Further, in a few weeks' time, the executive branch will start hiring positions for next year's administration! These are paid positions and you still can focus in on all the things that matter to you!

If this sounds like something that interests you, as always, message us on social media or stop by the SGA office. We want more students to get involved! We make very important decisions in SGA, so the more students that are involved the bigger the student voice becomes here on campus. Please join!



2020 Agriculture Outlook Forum

Portage County Executive
Chris Holman
holmanc@co.portage.wi.us

Let's talk briefly about food and agriculture. The prolonged downturn in the agricultural economy has, not surprisingly, had an effect on the research and conversations that are happening in the classroom and in the field. It has also had an effect on the ability to adopt more sustainable practices. This is a key thing to remember because we are in a time when farmers and others most need to embrace sustainability on a number of fronts, but the cost of doing so puts a lot of sustainable options farmers and others in the food chain would love to pursue out-of-reach.

At the end of January, the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences at UW-Madison put on the annual Agricultural Outlook Forum. A lot was discussed, but what do you really need to know as someone who is interested in sustainability, agriculture, and food?

First, at the farm level we are losing farms and farmers at alarming rates here in Wisconsin. There are many reasons for this, but bankruptcy, retirement age, and the sheer difficulty of navigating a global agricultural economy as a local farmer are chief among them. It's hard to keep up when the costs of farming continue to climb, and the prices you receive for your product are so low. Compounding the difficulty is that consumers and processors generally want more inexpensive food and raw materials and federal and state policies—and the economy in general—continue to embrace and pursue that model.

Look no further than the USDA Secretary noting at the World Dairy Expo earlier this year that, "In America, the big get bigger and the small go out." He went on to explain that, "It's very difficult on an economy of scale with the capital needs and all

the environmental regulations and everything else today to survive..." He's right, but what I find frustrating with his comments and many attitudes in agriculture today is the fatalism that implies we don't have a choice today and we never had one along the path that brought us to where we are. These voices seem to ask, "What else could we have possibly done?"

We need some answers to that question and we need them fast. The typical family farm survives not on the net profits brought in by their farm. Rather, 80% of their income is derived from working off the farm. Farmers joke about this when they say they work their day job to support their farming habit.

Nationally this holds true as well. USDA statistics reveal that 75% of farmers gross \$50,000 or less per year. If a farm's net profit margin was 10% after accounting for expenses (etc), that's a net profit of \$5,000 for the year. Most margins are far thinner than 10%, though. It's also hard for many farms to transition to a different model because they are in debt. They are essentially on a treadmill and can't get off. These realities not only have an impact on the farm but in the rural communities that make up rural counties like ours.

There's a lot more to say, and if you have questions please let me know. Whether you are a consumer, a producer, or anyone in our food system(s), there is a clear passion surrounding sustainability. What we need more than ever in our approaches to sustainability is to translate that passion into compassion so that we can start the conversation in a better place that acknowledges the difficulties we're all facing. Then, we can focus together on what we can get done.

Sports Schedule

Feb 13 – Feb 27



MEN'S BASKETBALL

At UW-La Crosse, Feb. 15 @ 3 p.m.
At UW-Stout, Feb 19 @ 7 p.m.
At UW-Platteville, Feb 22 @ 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

At UW-La Crosse, Feb. 15 @ 3 p.m.
At UW-Stout, Feb 19 @ 7 p.m.
At UW-Platteville, Feb 22 @ 3 p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY

At UWSP vs. Northland College,
Feb. 14 & Feb. 15 @ 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

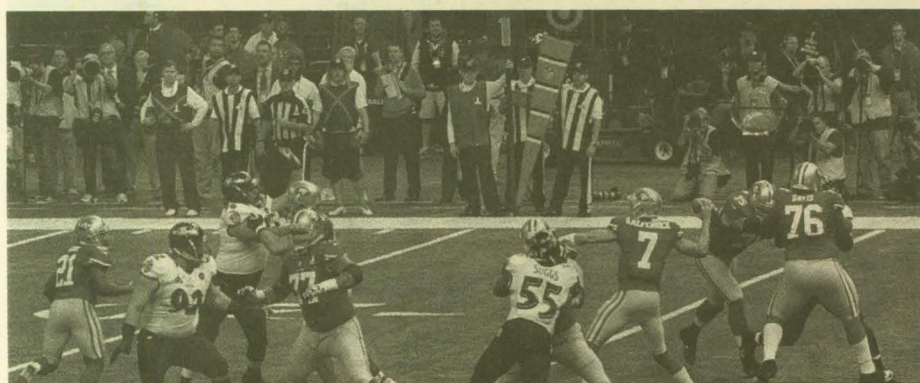
At UWSP vs. UW-Superior, Feb. 14 @ 7p.m.
At UWSP vs. UW-Superior, Feb. 15 @ 2:30 p.m.
At UWSP vs. Concordia University (Wis.),
Feb. 18 @ 7 p.m.

MEN'S WRESTLING

WIAC Championships, Feb. 14 @ 12 p.m.
Upper Midwest Regional, Feb. 28 - 29 TBD
NCAA Championships, Mar. 13 - 14 TBD

WOMEN'S WRESTLING

WNCC Championship (NCAA), Mar. 6 - 8
TBD



Katie Sowers Blazes Her Own Path

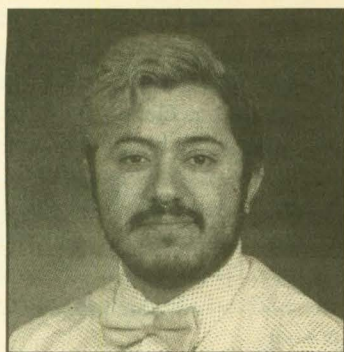
49ers and Chiefs at Super Bowl XLVII; Sowers not pictured.

Photo courtesy of Flickr user "Austin Kirk".

JERRY MARKARIAN
CONTRIBUTOR
jmark234@uwsp.edu

49ers assistant coach Katie Sowers is not only the first female to coach in the Super Bowl, she has also done so while being forced to overcome extreme prejudices as a member of the LGBTQ community.

With her story being one of success, fortitude and perseverance through adversity, she has become an inspiration to millions of people all over the world, in-



Sylf Bustamante. Gender & Sexuality Resource Center Coordinator.

Photo courtesy of UWSP.

cluding here in Stevens Point.

"Having someone who is open LGBTQ in one of the most masculine and popular forms of entertainment across the United States is very important," said Stevens Point Gender and Sexuality Outreach Coordinator Sylf Bustamante. "It provides visibility for a lot of people in the community who might not otherwise feel comfortable being themselves."

Sowers' dream has been to play a role on an NFL team since she was a little girl, but she didn't see that dream as a reality until the San Antonio Spurs hired Becky Hammon to an assistant coach position in the summer of 2014.

Upon hearing the news, Sowers, who had already been denied an assistant position for her college's basketball team years earlier due to sexual orientation, tweeted "Coming for the NFL..".

It was a bold tweet that held almost no stock at the time, as she was just coaching a girl's youth basketball team part-time and knew she would have many hurdles

to leap before she would be accepted in the league. Nevertheless, she knew she was up for the challenge.

Luckily one of the girls she was coaching on the team was the daughter of former Kansas City Chiefs General Manager Scott Pioli, who helped Sowers land a job as a scouting intern for the Atlanta Falcons in 2016.

She followed coach Kyle Shanahan to the 49ers one year later and it was there that she would land her first full-time coaching position in the league. Two years later she would find herself coaching on the NFL's biggest stage.

"It's amazing to see a female on the sidelines playing a role in the biggest event of the year," said UWSP Women's Basketball Head Coach Shirley Egner. "I hope its inspiring to young women to see that there are women out there breaking down barriers all the time."

Sowers hopes to not only be that inspiration to girls all over the world, she also hopes that more girls and individuals in the LGBTQ community follow her lead and break down barriers that were previ-



UWSP Pointers Women's Basketball Head Coach Shirley Egner.

Photo courtesy of UWSP Athletics.

ously seen as insurmountable.

"Sowers being able to remain visible in the public eye allows people to reflect on themselves," said Bustamante. "People who may be more conservative or masculine are able to see her worth in that she helped bring her team to the Super Bowl. That is something that is to be commended regardless of her gender or sexual orientation."



UWSP Women's Basketball Falls to UWEC

Photo courtesy of UWSP Athletics.

CALE JACOBY
REPORTER
cjaco190@uwsp.edu

The UW-Stevens Point Women's Basketball team lost at home to the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds 72-69 Saturday afternoon in which a Pointers comeback attempt came up just short.

The Pointers got off to a slow start and found themselves down by as many as 28 points in the first half.

They played much better in the second half and would cut the Blugold lead down to as little as three points, but the sluggish start would prove to be too much for the Pointers to overcome.

It was the story of two different halves in Saturday's action. In the first half, the Pointers were outscored 44-23, while in the second half they outscored the Blugolds 46-28. The Pointers' first half was riddled with turnovers finishing with 16 for the game.

UWSP struggled hitting their shots in the first half where they shot 29 percent from the field. In contrast, they shot 50 percent from the field in the second half which, would help them cut the deficit.

The Pointers had a difficult time stopping Eau Claire's Anna Graaskamp and Hallee Hoeppner, who combined for 33 points and a shooting percentage of 60 percent.

On the flip side, the Pointers' Taylor



Taylor Greenheck, Pointer's Guard.

Photo courtesy of UWSP Athletics.

Greenheck and Bailee Collins combined for 31 points on 59 percent shooting.

Pointers' guard Taylor Greenheck noted that her team cannot be so relaxed to start games.

She said, "We just need to come out stronger and can't really relax on offense and defense right away."

Pointers head coach Shirley Egner did



UWSP Pointers Women's Basketball Head Coach Shirley Egner.

Photo courtesy of UWSP Athletics.

not think her team came ready to play and talked about the difficulties of coming back from such a large deficit.

Egner said, "You can't spot good teams 20 points and expect to come out victoriously."

Egner made sure to hold her team accountable.

She said, "We were prepped. We were prepared. It's on them, and if they're not ready to compete when it's time to compete, you know, then they've got to figure that out. There's nothing we, as coaches, can do for them."

She did go on to describe her happiness with her team getting back into the game.

Egner said, "I'm really proud of how they came back and fought and you know, got it to a two-possession game."

The Pointers' next game was Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. where they went on the road to take on the UW-Oshkosh Titans.



Basketball Legend Kobe Bryant Passes in Helicopter Wreck

Artistic rendering of Kobe Bryant.

Photo courtesy of Annalise Batista, under Pixabay handle "AnnaliseArt".

JERRY MARKARIAN
CONTRIBUTOR
jmark234@uwsp.edu

Former NBA star and American icon Kobe Bryant was one of nine killed when his private helicopter crashed in Calabasas, California Sunday morning.

Stevens Point is grieving with the rest of the nation. Bryant was an inspiration to not only those who followed The Lakers, but people all over the world.

"I definitely try modeling my work ethic after Kobe's", said starting Stevens



Blake Ehrke

Photo courtesy of UWSP Athletics.

Point forward Blake Ehrke, "He would get two or three hours of work in before anyone else would even show up to practice."

"We put his two numbers, numbers 8 and 24, up on the scoreboard every day," Ehrke said when asked if the Pointers basketball team has done anything in remembrance of Bryant, "We always keep him in our mind during practice."

Also killed in the crash was his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and two of her teammates on her school basketball team and members of their family. The helicopter took off from John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California and was headed to Bryant's Mamba Academy in Thousand Oaks. They crashed only minutes

away from their destination.

The group was headed to a basketball tournament where Bryant was going to coach, and his daughter was going to play.

Officials are certain the dense fog that blanketed Southern California Sunday morning was the main cause of the crash but are looking into any other factors that may have played a role in the tragedy.

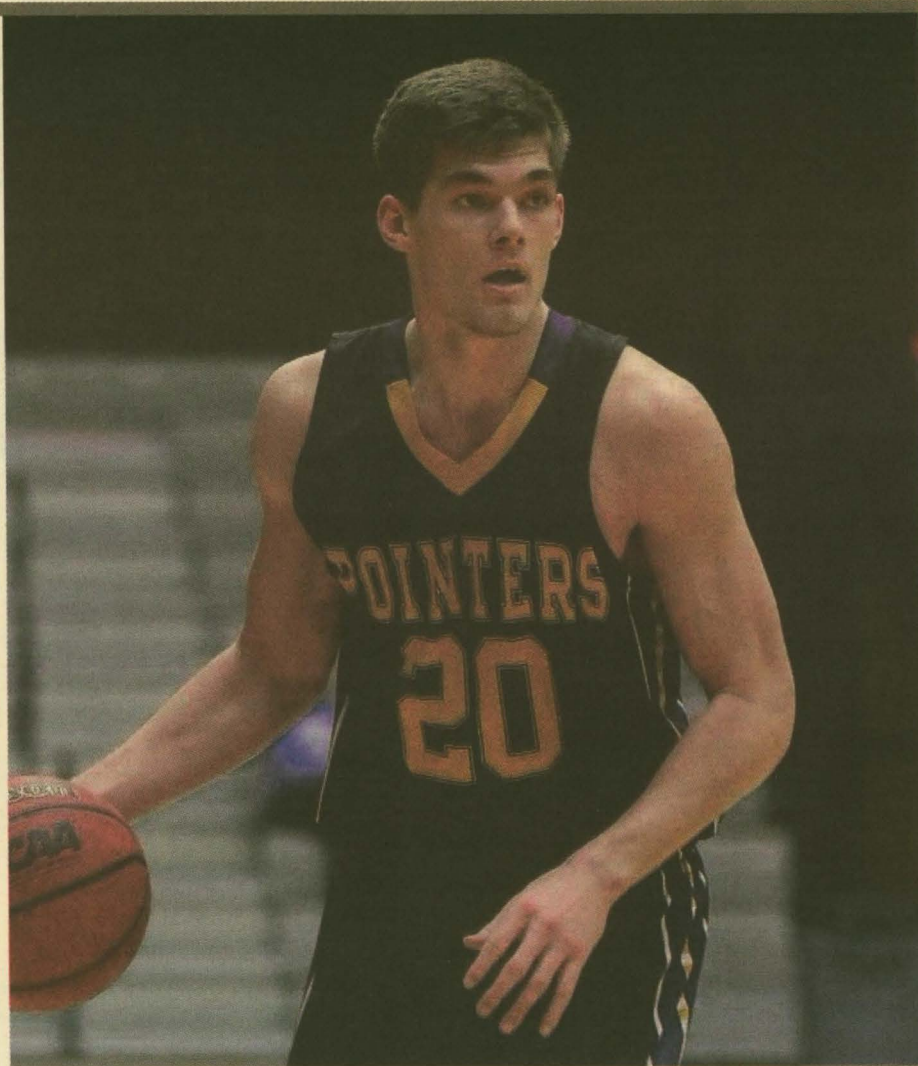
Pilot Ara Zobayan was aware of the dangers associated with flying under such conditions, as he requested air traffic control to keep track of the flight until they reached their destination, but he was too low to be seen on their radar. It was then that he attempted to climb above the layer of clouds, but it was ultimately too late to avoid the collision.

Bryant leaves behind a legacy that includes 18 All-Star appearances, five championship rings, two gold medals, and an MVP award on the court, but he arguably leaves behind exponentially more off of it.

Officials suggest that the lack of a Terrain Awareness and Warning System played a monumental role in the crash. The system surely would've alerted Zobayan of the imminent danger before it was too late.

The National Transportation Safety Board argued that the Terrain Awareness and Warning System should be required in all helicopters after a similar devastating crash occurred in the Gulf of Mexico in 2004, but their proposal was consistently ignored by the Federal Aviation Administration.

It remains to be seen whether the latest tragedy will be enough to change the boards mind on the proposal, but it was plainly obvious what was lost as a result of it.



Men's Basketball Team Wins Last-Second Nail Biter

Steven Frommell intently concentrating on his next move.

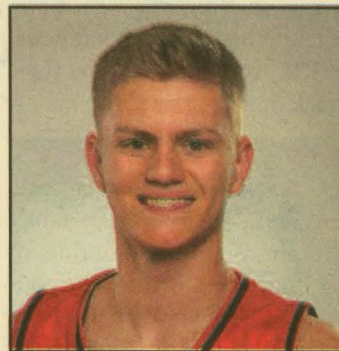
Photo courtesy of UWSP Athletics.

JERRY MARKARIAN
CONTRIBUTOR
jmark234@uwsp.edu



Garrett Nelson

Photo courtesy of UWSP Athletics.



Noah Hanson

Photo courtesy of UWSP Athletics.

The UW-Stevens Point Pointers defeated the UW-River Falls Raiders by a score of 61-59 in the Quandt Fieldhouse Wednesday night.

There were four lead changes in the exciting final two minutes as both teams went back and forth trading shot for shot before starting junior guard Garrett Nelson sniped the game-winning shot from behind the arc with only 34 seconds left.

"I ran baseline and my guy kind of lost me," said Nelson when asked about his game winning shot. "I was just ready to step up and knock it down if the ball came to me."

The team then went on to finish the game off with impeccable defensive play which saw them force two turnovers in the final seconds.

Senior forward Blake Ehrke sunk the dagger when his steal with nine seconds left gave possession of the ball back to the Pointers.

Both Ehrke and Nelson were key players in the contest as Ehrke's performance awarded him a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds and Nelson finished with a game-high 24 points on the night, including the aforementioned game winner. He hit eight of fifteen shots from the field including a team-high four 3-point shots.

"I try to affect the game in as many ways as I can, sometimes it's scoring, sometimes it's creating for others, sometimes it's just playing hard on defense," said Nelson, "I just try to play as hard as I can and make it happen out there."

On the other side of the ball, sophomore forward Noah Hanson made this game a very tough out for Stevens Point, as he was on fire for much of the night, shooting 50 percent from the field while also hitting five of eleven 3-point shots in the contest.

"Tonight just happened to be a night where a lot of those shots were going my way, I just wish I could've made a couple more of them," said Hanson. "It was a tough game though; they played a great game."

With the win, the Pointers move to an impressive 13-6 on the season and 5-3 in the conference. They will look to keep their momentum going with the playoffs now less than one month away.

The team will get a rare break this Saturday before they play the first of a two-game road trip next Wednesday when they take on the take UW-Whitewater Warhawks.



Black History is American History

Photos from pixabay.com

CAM CIESZKI
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
ccies594@uwsp.edu

OPINION

"The story of the Negro in America is the story of America. It is not a pretty story." The quote stems from Raoul Peck's 2016 film "I Am Not Your Negro." As Baldwin's words are narrated by a mellifluous Samuel L. Jackson, the camera zooms into the eyes of an older Black woman. She's mourning the loss of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Her eyes are welled with tears and her face visibly wears her sorrow.

The film works from the legacy of the late James Baldwin, using his unfinished manuscript "Remember This House" to

muse Black life in America and Baldwin's own reflections on some of the most important leaders within the Civil Rights Movement: Martin Luther King Jr., Medgar Evers, Malcolm X.

Even 41 years later, Baldwin's positions and prospects feel contemporary, especially as we celebrate Black History Month. The honorary month was first pitched by Carter G. Woodson. Disturbed by the fact that history books were omitting the contributions and experiences of Black Americans, he established Negro History Week in 1926. Soon, Negro History Week expanded to Black History Month in 1976.

Did a name seem unfamiliar to you when I mentioned prominent Civil Rights Movement leaders? If you didn't recognize Medgar Evers, I'm not surprised; I

only first learned about him from "I Am Not Your Negro." Evers was the first state secretary for the NAACP in Mississippi. He was crucial to the Civil Rights Movement for his voting-registration work, boycotting, and fight against state-supported segregation at the University of Mississippi. He was assassinated in 1963 in his own driveway.

Black history is American history, but why doesn't it feel adjacent within our country? Black history is relegated to a two-week classroom unit while white history is elaborated upon every single day. Black history and the acknowledgment of the contributions of Black Americans must extend past a single month. Black history must be more comprehensive than Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. We deserve to learn more than just

two of the many influential leaders within the Civil Rights Movement.

Humans are creatures of habit; we become accustomed to placability. We fear to rock the boat and challenging what's normal. And so rather than upset the majority, many of us silence and deny ourselves in the most minuscule of ways that end up doing the most devastating damage. Black people tolerate microaggressions and disparaging comments about our hair, our culture, our leaders, our skin, our mannerisms, our taste, and our history. But this ignorance can be challenged; it just takes work. It requires change. It requires "rocking the boat".

The work of Black History Month must continue. Our history follows us. It is foolish to believe otherwise.

LGBT+ People Aren't Here to Make You Look Good

FLORENCE ANDERSON
REPORTER
fande807@uwsp.edu

OPINION

On Oct. 14, 2019, I was happy to report on UWSP's new Pride Crosswalk between Albertson Hall and the DUC. It was a step forward for LGBTQ+ rights and issues in Stevens Point and promote diversity and inclusivity.

It was meant to be permanent. However, only a few weeks after the crosswalk had been painted, the colors started to fade. The vibrant rainbow became muted and muddy. An early Wisconsin snowfall didn't help the colors either, and as of now, the colors are almost nonexistent.

The Pride Crosswalk was a beautiful sentiment that meant a lot for LGBTQ+ students on campus, as well as the LGBTQ+ community in Stevens Point. But it feels like it was half-assed.

I understand that it would fade a little; this is Wisconsin after all. Snow fell less than a month after the crosswalk was painted and it's been snowing ever since. All that snow, salt, and water are bound to fade the paint a little.

However, it's almost completely gone. Did they not invest in winter-proof paint or did they just forget that winter's in Wisconsin are long and heavy? Either of these is a possibility but I highly doubt

this idea went through an entire team of people and no one thought of it.

The faded crosswalk makes a point about what LGBTQ+ issues are often used for: to make someone else look good. That 'someone' is typically a company but it can mean anyone.

I agree that UWSP had every right to post about how proud they were to add the crosswalk but when less than a month later it started to fade, I feel like it was all talk and minimal delivery.

While the crosswalk may be an example of using LGBTQ+ issues, a much bigger problem comes during Pride month. During Pride month, you can't go into a store without seeing a small section set aside for all sorts of rainbow-covered clothes and accessories.

This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but many of these companies only sell these to seem cool and progressive. However, it's more likely than not that they just care about profit. They don't care about LGBTQ+ issues or problems and may even give money to anti-LGBTQ+ organizations.

Movie companies are just as guilty though, especially Disney. Marvel's "Avengers: Endgame" and Lucasfilm's "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" contained gay characters, but they were minor.

Like, "not even named" minor. They had less than a minute of screen time and



Chancellor Bernie Patterson and UWSP leaders paint Pride Crosswalk.
Photo courtesy of UWSP.

could easily be cut. That was Disney's intention, so they can cut the "gay" scenes and please homophobes who can't stand to see a man talk about missing his husband for 30 seconds.

Despite these scenes being so small and cut in most countries, Disney, or at least fans of Disney, act like Disney is a progressive, amazing company for having minor LGBTQ+ characters.

The mainstream media doesn't help either, as any LGBTQ+ issue or character to them is a chance for them to make money or tell a good story.

For example, when UWSP painted the crosswalk, multiple news teams attended the ceremony. It was all over UWSP's social media and on every front page, even if it had nothing to do with the college.

Larger news sources do the same with

Disney's LGBTQ+ "representation". After "Endgame" and "The Rise of Skywalker" came out, my Instagram and Facebook feed was full of posts about Marvel's first out character and Star Wars' three-second lesbian kiss.

I will give UWSP the benefit of the doubt. I don't think they meant to use LGBTQ+ issues the same way larger companies do. They did seek out multiple LGBTQ+ people to be involved in the process after all.

I just don't think it was executed as well as it should have. I hope they noticed what has happened to the Pride Crosswalk over this past winter and find a better paint to re-do it in the spring to make up for their mistake.

If not, well then, it's clear what the LGBT+ community means to UWSP.



Valentine's Day Auction Raises Over \$1,500

All involved members of Sigma Delta Rho and Sigma Tau Gamma line up for a group picture.

Photo by Erin Henze.

ERIN HENZE
REPORTER
ehenz556@uwsp.edu

Sorority Sigma Delta Rho and Fraternity Sigma Tau Gamma invited students and community members to a Valentine's Day celebration on Feb. 7 in Michelson Hall, where they auctioned off dates and performed for the attendees.

The event started off with a performance by a group of the brothers of Sigma Tau Gamma, displaying their talents to set the tone of the evening. Throughout the night, members of both Sigma Delta Rho and Sigma Tau Gamma showed off their moves, some showing a little bit more than others.

While the event wasn't necessarily PG, it did raise over \$1,500 for the CAP Ser-

vices's SAVS branch at UWSP in the form of auctions. This branch focuses on educating students on sexual assault and helping sexual assault survivors, and the donations help keep this organization free for those who need it.

Dates with select members of Greek communities started with a bid of \$15, but one member of Sigma Tau Gamma, freshman Colton Clure, was bid up to the height of \$375.

Those being auctioned showed some of their talents off to the crowd, talents that ranged from poetry to singing to even partial stripping.

Some single students may get nervous when thinking about a Valentine's Day event. However, this event isn't aimed towards couples, as so many Valentine's

Day events are.

"We have a bunch of performances by both the fraternity and the sorority," said Sigma Delta Rho member and English major Cassie Ress. "You can get a free rose, free chocolates... It's just a really great way to meet people, just to have fun, and relax."

Other people may get nervous when they hear that the Valentine's Day Auction is put on by a fraternity and sorority, but Shundal Tillman Jr., a junior communications major and President of Sigma Tau Gamma, recommends that joining Greek life.

"Take that leap of faith. It's the best decision that you can make," Tillman said. "It has definitely changed me and molded me into the man that I am today."

Involved since his freshman year, Tillman played a key role in helping host the event and hype the crowd. He was even auctioned off for a \$60 date, ironically going to his own fiancé.

Ress also had some advice who weren't sure about the event.

"If you're scared to even come, you can honestly ask, you can find us anywhere on campus," Ress said. "We're always wearing our letters or hanging out in the IGC in the basement in the DUC. It's just a really fun event, just come talk to us, we'll tell you need to know."

More information about Greek life or specific fraternities or sororities can be found on SPIN under the respective fraternity or sorority or can be found on UWSP's Campus Activities and Student

Engagement page under Greek life.

Sorority and fraternity members can also often be found in their respective rooms in the basement of the DUC.

For next year, Tillman has only one thing to say.

"Come out and enjoy a great event and help make a change!"



Cassie Ress, member of Sigma Delta Rho and English Major.

Photo by Erin Henze.



Shundal Tillman Jr, President of Sigma Tau Gamma, at front, followed by some of the other members.

Photo by Erin Henze.



Sigma Tau Gamma member previews his talents.

Photo by Erin Henze.



UWSP A Cappella Hosts Open Mic Night

On Point members perform karaoke at the A Cappella UWSP Open Mic Night. Photo by Erin Henze.

ERIN HENZE
REPORTER
ehenz556@uwsp.edu

The UWSP a cappella ensembles geared up for second-semester auditions by holding a karaoke night on Jan. 31.

The four A Cappella ensembles on campus are No Strings Attached, Sforzando, Point Pitches, On Point, and the non-audition AcaWorkshop. Each came together with interested students to share their love of music in the form of karaoke.

Students could go in groups or sing solo at the event in the DUC Theater, where snacks were also provided.

The open mic karaoke night gave interested students a chance to show off their skills in a tension-free manner. However, group leaders wished students felt the same way in auditions.

"When you come to audition, we desperately want you to be the one as much as you want to be in the group," said Point Pitches representative Dia Yang. "We are all actively rooting for you while you're there, so nothing bad is going to come out of the audition."

Music is a big part of life for many people, but it can be difficult to practice in college.

"Everybody, no matter who they are or what walk of life they come from, they sing," said A Cappella UWSP President Megan Cichon. "They sing in the shower, they sing in the car, everybody sings, and

this is a great place for people to come together and do that with other people. Even if somebody is a Bio-Chem major or a music major, it doesn't matter. Everybody comes together and does something together, and that's something really cool."

Yang, a double-major in Physics and Math, agreed.

"I love singing, it was something that I didn't want to give up when coming to college," said Yang. "Obviously, I'm not a music major, so I found A Cappella UWSP, I auditioned, and thankfully got in, and the rest is history. There's just a really good community and I get to do what I love with my friends."

While both the open-mic event and second-semester auditions may be over, there are still many ways to get involved. AcaWorkshop, a non-auditioned ensemble, could be another choice.

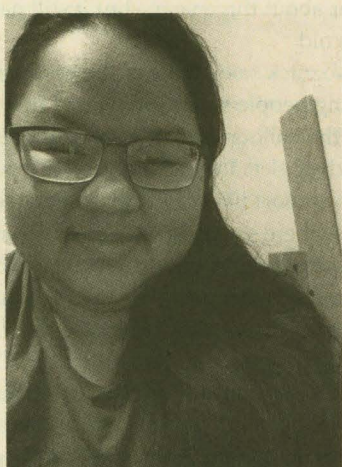
Outreach Coordinator Morgan Tillmann can answer any questions about AcaWorkshop, an can be reached at mtill917@uwsp.edu.

The ensembles will also be putting on a concert on May 9 in the DUC Laird Room.

More information about A Cappella UWSP, or any of the individual groups, can be found on their respective Facebook pages. Inquiries can also be sent to Cichon at mcich845@uwsp.edu. The A Cappella UWSP office is in DUC 062.



A Cappella UWSP President Megan Cichon.
Photo by Erin Henze



Point Pitches Representative Dia Yang.
Photo by Erin Henze.

Audiences Love "Six-Fingered Woman"

FLORENCE ANDERSON
REPORTER
fande807@uwsp.edu

On Feb. 6-9, the Department of Theatre and Dance staged senior BA Drama major Sophie McIntosh's "Cutaway," formerly known as The "Six-Fingered Woman." The show was presented as the Spring season's staged reading and all performances were fairly well-attended.

McIntosh has spent over a year writing the show and revisions were still being made when the Friday show premiered. While McIntosh wrote the show, she turned the reigns to Director, Professor of Acting, and Theatre Area Coordinator Tyler Marchant to direct her original work. The two worked together to cast and put the show on stage for this semester's first staged work.

"Cutaway" centers around three women, Talia, June, and Rodi. Talia is a Hollywood makeup artist who specializes in horror and gore makeup who recruits June to act as a reference for an upcoming gore film. Rodi is Talia's adult daughter with an addiction to cocaine and a strong rebellious side.

It was well-received by viewers. One freshman viewer, Gavin Giese, praised the show as "well-written and emotional, forcing the audience to consider what's healthy and unhealthy for the character." Another student, freshmen Teagan Stager, commented on the three actresses and called all three "incredible... and insanely good." Sophomore student Ryan Kreft agreed, stating that "they really brought all their emotions into it... it was really well driven."

McIntosh wrote many heavy themes into the show, such as self-harm, drug use, sexual situations, and mention of suicide. Themes such as these are easy to write in an inaccurate way but many thought McIntosh handled the situations very well. Stager said there was a "good balance between the severity between those kinds of situations without pushing them too far."

As the show contained possibly triggering themes, McIntosh made a point to include crisis hotlines in the program, pointed out by Stager.

Another student viewer, sophomore Brett Miller, complemented these themes as well. He called McIntosh "knowledgeable on the subject" and said, "they were handled in a way that was human but still managed to delve into the raw emotional parts of the issue." Giese shared Miller's feelings for the use of heavier themes in the performances. Giese said, "The play really does show accurately how substance abuse can tear a family apart," referencing the relationship between Talia and Rodi.

Almost all viewers agreed "Cutaway" would make an excellent main stage show and all said they would attend if they were given the opportunity to see it as a full production. Only one student said they would hesitate, but had nothing to do with the quality of the show. Freshmen Mackenzie Staidl said, "I'm sure it would make a great main stage show, with a set and all that, but with all the makeup needed... I think it would make a better film."

Overall, the show was loved by audiences. The cast and crew got a standing ovation and loud applause every night. After the show, the audience was given the opportunity to talk to the cast, director, and writer after the show and many students took advantage of the chance. Students and community members alike were amazed by the UWSP student's new work and hope McIntosh continues to work on the piece and other pieces in the future.

The Department of Theatre and Dance is following "Cutaway" with "Sense and Sensibility." The classic play will start on Feb. 28 and run through March 7. Ticket information can be found on the Department of Theatre of Dance page on the UWSP website.



Six-Fingered Woman Official Production Poster. Photo courtesy of UWSP Department of Theatre and Dance.

Fall in Love with Tapped for Valentine's Day

SARAH SARTELL

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
ssart621@uwsp.edu

A brand-new educational cooking event, Fall in Love with Tapped, will be held Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the College of Professional Studies Café Dining room on the UWSP campus. The event will be hosted by both the CPS Café and Tapped Maple Syrup.

Tickets are \$50 for couples for \$30 for a singles. The event is open to the public with tickets available on the Event Brite website or the CPS Café Facebook page. For a night filled with local food, education and relaxation, the CPS Café is teaming up with a unique food team to provide a special experience.

This is the first time the CPS Café is doing an event involving a demo and dining night. The inspiration came from CPS Café Graduate Assistant Trevor Drake's Wild Game Cooking event last December.

The Wild Game Cooking event was Drake's idea of bringing the hobbies of fishing and hunting to more people due to it being a decreasing activity. What's a better way to draw interest than food?

Partnering with Becoming Outdoors Women, an organization created at UWSP and now nationally recognized, they both

wanted to start a local food movement and engage people to try something new. Thus, providing a night of education on cooking and foods from outdoor animals that everyone loves, to appreciate them more.

CPS Café manager and co-facilitator of the event, Kim Damrow, expressed why people should come.

"We're merging local food with educational hands on experience," Damrow said. "It's something people don't normally see or know a lot do and this event provides a new learning experience people can go back home and try in their own

recipes."

The event is focused to educate about cooking new foods and the food system in Central Wisconsin; participants will learn what local foods are around the area how to help support them.

Dubrow emphasized the important of the event, noting the partnership with "local producers to collaborate on an educational focus."

There will be a five course meal throughout the night. With each dinner there will be a demo to show how a variety of products can be used in different ways.

The partner of this event is with Tapped, a Maple Syrup company created Jeremy Solin in Stevens Point and recently titled the "Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin of 2019" by the public. Solin is also the founder of Farmshed, a non-profit specializing in supporting local farmers and sustainability.

Other local vendors will be present for the event as well, including Whitefeather Farms.

This is only the first year, but Drake can't wait to continue this event in the future.

Drake said, "I'm excited for the future partnerships it can bring with local producers." Drake believes in the potential of this event that it will make an impact and hope other local producers will want to collaborate next.

Another aspect about the event is that the CPS will be providing free childcare for the night to make sure the parents can still enjoy a night to themselves without worrying about their children.

All guests will receive a complimentary maple syrup gift from Tapped. Damrow and Drake both encourage everyone to give this event a chance even if someone's curious, there's always something new to explore.



CPS Café is partnering with Tapped for an educational cooking event on Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m. Tickets available at Event Brite website.



Student Brightens Up Campus with Balloon Animals

The balloon squirrel mentioned in the story.

Photo by Gabrielle Arnold.

GABRIELLE ARNOLD

NEWS EDITOR
garno140@uwsp.edu

The semester is starting off, so tasks can tend to overflow and overtake the headspace of students. Things can get hectic this time of year when trying to compensate for the work you didn't exactly get done over break... and a quick mental break is just what some people need.

I was personally in the midst of this stress, studying away in Lower Debot, when suddenly a young man walked up to me and asked me, "Would you like a squirrel?"

Understandably confused, I asked, "A squirrel?"

He replied, "A squirrel. What color do

you want?"

I said, "Green, I guess?"

He then proceeded to pull an air pump and a balloon out of his backpack and craft a beautifully constructed balloon squirrel.

UWSP student and Natural Sciences major Matthew Woznick enjoys making balloon animals for students randomly throughout campus to spice up their days.

Woznick said, "I started doing it around campus because I thought people would like it, and it's a pretty cheap, quick, and relatively easy way to make someone's day brighter"

Woznick learned to make balloon animals in a high school drama class and discovered that it was something he could do well, so he decided to contin-

ue it as a hobby. Now, he has been doing it for about three years, but it still never gets old.

Woznick said, "One of the best parts is seeing people's reaction when I first get out the balloon and their eyes light up in childish glee. I also really like observing who is most likely to want a squirrel, because there seems to be some patterns."

Squirrels tend to be one of his favorite animals to make. He said, "I'm definitely not a professional balloonist. I don't know a lot of animals by heart, but I have done a few cool one-offs like a monkey, snail, mouse, and a parrot in a hoop - which is pretty finicky. My personal favorite is squirrels. I love squirrels, it's my favorite animal, and squirrel was the first animal I learned how to make."

Woznick doesn't do this daily - only about once a semester. Aside from making balloon animals, he has a passion for video and tabletop games. And his creative side isn't limited to balloons. He also has a knack for the art of words.

"A very specific nerdy thing I'm into is storytelling, so I read a lot about tropes, themes, visual/audio techniques, etcetera," said Woznick.

Woznick intends to continue making balloon friends after college, but on a small scale and less frequently. So, if a random guy comes up to you and asks if you want a squirrel, bunny, or other animal, don't be alarmed. It's just your friendly neighborhood balloon crafter here to brighten your day a little bit.



Local folk band The Oxleys Perform at McMallian Library

Cray Oxley is pictured on the left next to Sam Brunelli.

Photos courtesy of Ivylane Photo Co.

AVIANNA HOLMES
REPORTER
aholm524@uwsp.edu

Local folk band The Oxleys took a break from their usual bar scene to perform for library patrons at the McMallian Library in Wisconsin Rapids. The duo, made up of Cray Oxley and Sam Brunelli, serenaded the usually silent library with the support of drummer Nicholas Cerny.

The Oxleys are a Milwaukee-based folk duo. The duo met when Brunelli heard Oxley playing guitar on a street corner while they were both students at UW-Milwaukee. According to Brunelli they connected from there and began making music a few months later. Cerny became involved with the band after go-

ing to high school with Brunelli and collaborating in other bands together. From there, The Oxleys were born.

The band performed a mixture of covers and original songs off their debut album "The Oxleys," released in 2018. Oxley wrote the songs for their album from personal experience.

Oxley wrote the song "Silent Storm" about his time growing up in small-town Amherst, Wisconsin. The band sings of heartbreak and family, giving an authentic performance that any audience member can connect to.

The crowd was full of local library patrons as well as loyal fans. The audience varied in age from young children, college students, to retired patrons spend-

ing their evening at the library. However, The Oxleys provided a show that captivated everyone in the crowd.

It was difficult for fans to break from the usual silence of the library. However, they began to cheer as the band dived into their set.

The duo joked with the crowd about their silence, explaining it was much different from their usual bar scene. They also laughed as fans yelled out during the performance and cheered them on.

The band strives to connect with fans during their performances. They took time between sets and after the show to talk with audience members and even signed t-shirts for a group of fans.

Oxley provides vocals and gui-

tar, while Brunelli plays the keyboard and harmonizes. Brunelli describes the band's music as "Folk, Americana, Singer, and Singer-Songwriter." However, he says their next album will explore country music.

Brunelli said, "We're super proud of our most recent single "Just a Memory" and look forward to recording our second studio album."

The Oxleys will return to the area on March 6 for a show at Create Portage County in Stevens Point. They will perform with Australian folk artist Tom West. More information and tickets can be found on their Facebook page.

Pointer Poetry

UWSP students looking to find a creative outlet to submit their poetry and have the opportunity of getting their work published can submit their pieces to pointnp@uwsp.edu.

Cicada Shells

by Macy Powell

Year: Sophomore

Major: English

I'm missing summer,
when it is quiet,
so, so quiet,
that even the cicadas
are quieting down,
even the moon shields herself
with the clouds

Looking up,
I wonder if the moon
knows about us,
I wonder if she gives us
a happy smile or a sad one,
I wonder if the sound
of hands slapping mosquitoes
is as deafening up there

as it sometimes is down here
Shutting my eyes,
I wonder if she really plays
with the tides like everyone says,

or if we are fools
and she is just up there
because she has to be
Sad smiles today,
sad smiles tomorrow,

but happy ones may come
with the tide

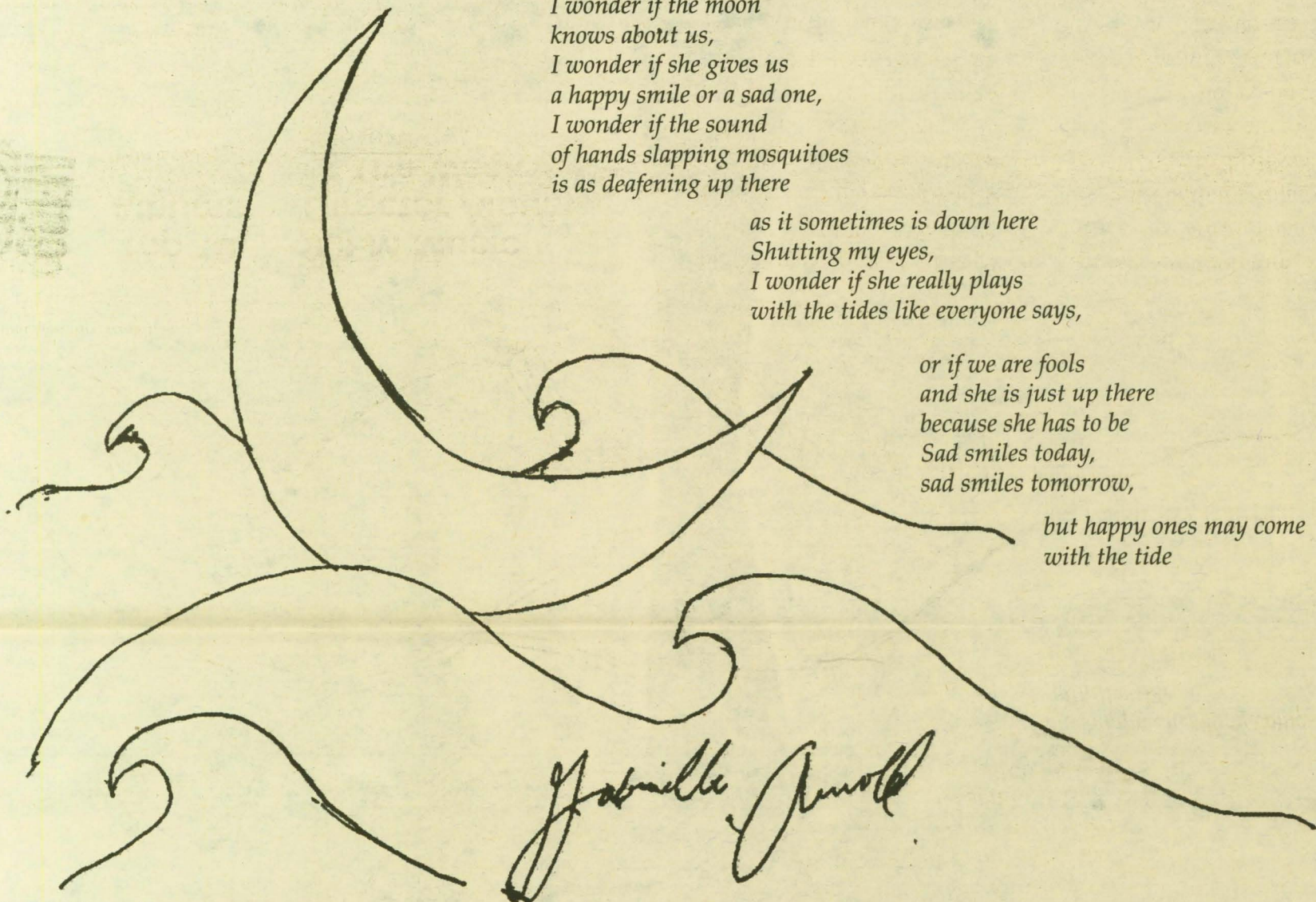


Illustration by Gabrielle Arnold.



Top 10 Albums

Feb. 6 - 13

10. Dubioza Kolektiv - # fake news
9. FYOHNA - Radio Sampler
8. Squirrel Flower - I Was Born Swimming
7. Andy Shauf - The Neon Skyline
6. The Wood Brothers - Kingdom in My Mind
5. Martha Wash - Love & Conflict
4. Okay Kaya - Watch This Liquid Pour Itself
3. The Black Lips - Sing In A World That's Falling Apart
2. Soil and "Pimp" Sessions - Man Steals the Stars
1. Fiona Silver - Hostage of Love

90FM Music Director Album of The Week

KEEGAN WEST

90FM MUSIC DIRECTOR

kwest591@uwsp.edu

Andy Shauf - The Neon Skyline

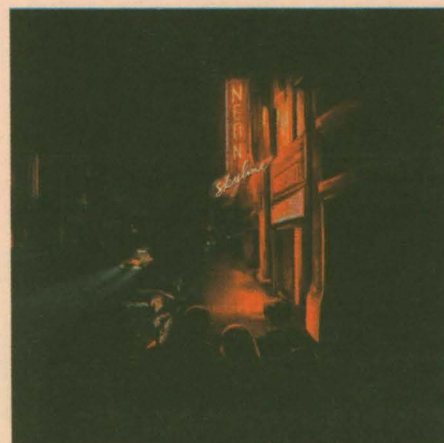
Folk music's history stems from storytelling. Similar to blues, three-chord songs with simple structures enhanced the listening experience by telling powerful stories. Bob Dylan, David Crosby, Woody Guthrie, and others brought storytelling to the mainstream in the 1960s. Since then, the folk genre has strayed from its roots. Andy Shauf is bringing it back with "The Neon Skyline," a concept album that tells the story of a heartbreaking night in his life.

Shauf is a Toronto-based artist known for his band Foxwarren.

His new solo project "The Neon Skyline" would restore hope in the folkies of the early 20th century. Shauf wrote, recorded, produced, and mastered this album all by himself. He did this to properly guide the story. The album begins when Shauf hears his ex is back in town and will be at the bar called the Neon Skyline. The thought of seeing her again sends him on a multiple song spiral reflecting on his heartache. He decides to go to the Neon Skyline. You'll have to listen to the album to see what happens from there.

The beautiful thing about the album is you can listen as intently or as passively as you want. You can pay close attention to every lyric if you are in the mood for a story. The lyrics describe conversations, the reactions in his head, and the

settings around him. You can also space out to Shauf's relaxing voice if that's what you prefer. It's easy to do. If you're a fan of folk, concept albums, or Canadians, "The Neon Skyline" has everything you need. You can hear "The Neon Skyline" by Andy Shauf in heavy rotation on 90FM, Your Only Alternative.



"The Neon Skyline," album cover. Photo courtesy of Bandcamp.com