Schmeeckle 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 Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center, allowing access to both the Green Circle Trail and the Schmeeckle Reserve trail system.

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

DeBot Reopens After a Year-long Closure

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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 allergies 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 into 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 increase.

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 students,” Conley said. “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.”

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One Stop Shop...

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 Schmeeckle 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 30-60 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 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 Schmeeckle this past October.

With the expected increase in traffic on the north end of Schmeeckle 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 Schmeeckle 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.

DeBot Reopens

continued from page 1

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The expected completion date is set for October.

Schmeeckle 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 Schmeeckle 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 Schmeeckle Candlelight Hike!

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

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

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

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

No article is available for inspection prior to publication. No article is available for further publication without written permission of The Pointer staff.

The Pointer is printed Thursdays during the academic year with a circulation of 3,000 copies. The paper is free to all tuition-paying students. Non-student subscription price is $10 per academic year.

Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes property of The Pointer.
The corona virus is an illness that has been spreading worldwide since December 2019. According to ABC News, it is the twelfth nationwide outbreak of a kind of corona virus, and it has infected over 26,000 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 MERS and SARS and 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 rashes, nausea, 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 unwell 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, which two 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 farming has strong and continued growth in Wisconsin, including at local farm Whitefeather Organics in Custer, Wisconsin. Photo by Nathan Dorn
SGA COMMUNICATIONS
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RILEY GARSKI

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 need senator’s choice! Needless to say, we need representatives.

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Represen...
Katie Sowers Blazes Her Own Path

JERRY MARKARIAN
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49ers assistant coach Katie Sowers is not only the first female to coach in the Super Bowl, she has also done so while eluding here in Stevens Point.

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, including here in Stevens Point.

Sylf Bustamante, Gender & Sexuality Resource Center Coordinator. Photo courtesy of UWSP.

Including 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 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, including here in Stevens Point.

Sylf Bustamante. Gender & Sexuality Resource Center Coordinator. Photo courtesy of UWSP.

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 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 it's 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 previously insurmountable.

"Sowers being able to remain visible in the public eye allows people to reflect on the road to take on the UW-Oshkosh Titans."

UWSP Pointers Women's Basketball Head Coach Shirley Egner. Photo courtesy of UWSP Athletics.

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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 Blugolds 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 turnovers to the Blugolds 7.

On the flip side, the Pointers' Taylor Greenheck, Pointers' Guard.

Greenheck and Baisie 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 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 victorious."

Egner made sure to hold her team accountable.

She said, "We were prepared. 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

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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 Lakeets, but people all over the world.

"I definitely try modeling my work ethic after Kobe's," said senior Blake Ehrke.

Men's Basketball Team Wins Last-Second Nail Biter

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The team then went on to finish the game off with impeccable defensive play which helped 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 18 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 13-4 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**

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**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 wet, 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 fighting 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.

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**LGBT+ People Aren’t Here to Make You Look Good**

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**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 fall 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 and 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” contain gay characters, but they were minor.

Like, “not even named” minor. They had less than a minute of screen time and 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. 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 LGBTQ+ community means to UWSP.
Valentine's Day Auction Raises Over $1,500

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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 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.

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."
Audiences Love “Six-Fingered Woman”

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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 credible ... and insanely good.” Sophomore Ryan Kreft agreed, stating “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. Stage 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 Stag. 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 develop 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 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 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.

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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, and On Point. Each came together in the form of karaoke.

Students could go in groups or sing solo to show what they are interested in the group,” said Point Pitches representative Dia Yang. “We are desperately want you to be the one as much as we want you to be in the group,” said Yang. “Obviously, I’m not 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 are 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, as can be reached at mttl897@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.
Fall in Love with Tapped for Valentine’s Day

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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 single. 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 to 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.

Student Brightens Up Campus with Balloon Animals

Gabrielle Arnold
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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 Debou, when suddenly a young man walked up to me and asked me, “Would you like a squirrel?”

Understandingly 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 continue 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 fun. My personal favorite is squirrels. I love squirrels, it’s my favorite animal, and squirrel was the first animal I learned how to make.”

The partner of this event is with Tapped, a Maple Syrup company created by Jenmy 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.
Local folk band The Oxleys Perform at McMal- lian Library

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 going to high school with Brunelli and collaborating in other bands together.

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 spending 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.

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

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.
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 Gabreille Arnold.

Top 10 Albums
Feb. 6 - 13

10. Dubioza Kolectiv - #fakens
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

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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.

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