

UW-Eau Claire class studying how dogs understand the world

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (WEAU) -If you have ever wondered how smart your dog is, a team of students at UW-Eau Claire is trying to find out by taking a look at how man's best friend learns.

At emBARK in Eau Claire, more than 20 UWEC students like Tia Ravara are getting the chance to work with man's best friend. One of the goals of this class, which is called Animal Behavior, is to see how dogs process information.

That's something Ravara hopes to use with her own pet.

"My family is trying to get my dog to become a service dog, so using these tests would be really helpful in knowing how to train my dog and putting my knowledge and experiments in science into training my own little dog at home," Ravara said.

As part of these tests, 35 to 40 dogs try to find treats under certain conditions.

When all these tests are done, Smith's students will take the data they collect and try to answer questions they come up with like the impact age has on how well a dog performs.

"I think it's so good to kind of have some information on how dogs learn, so we can look at training in a different light, so we understand our learner a little better," Mishefske said.

By doing that, we might just be able to answer the question how smart is your dog?

Smith said this is the class' first year at UW-Eau Claire. She hopes to expand the testing session to include more dogs next time.

Evers includes UWEC building in funding plan

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (WEAU) - A capital spending plan from Governor Tony Evers includes funding to complete the UW-Eau Claire Science and Health Sciences Building.

Evers made the announcement Tuesday to spend \$3.8 billion on building projects across the state, with nearly half directed toward work across the UW System.

In a statement, UW Eau Claire Chancellor James Schmidt thanked the Governor, saying “we are grateful and encouraged” about the announcement.

The proposed \$345 million project has been in the works for years and would replace the current Phillips Science Hall. The first phase of funding was included in the 2019-21 state budget. The capital spending plan will ultimately need approval by the republican-controlled legislature.

The Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce and Chippewa Valley regional legislators praised the announcement.

“As much as this project is critical to UW-Eau Claire fulfilling its educational mission, it’s even more important for the economic impact it will have in the region and the state for our future workforce and for rural healthcare,” David W. Minor, President and CEO of the Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce, said.

Texas travel center Buc-ee's looking to open location in DeForest

DEFOREST, Wis. -- A Texas roadtrip staple wants a taste of Wisconsin.

Buc-ee's is looking to open a new location in DeForest, according to a proposal put in front of the Village of DeForest Planning and Zoning Commission.

Famous in Texas for its beaver mascot, large food and drink selection and clean restrooms, Buc-ee's is looking to make DeForest its first location in Wisconsin and northernmost in the country.

The travel center would be located near Interstate 39/90/94, north of County Highway V and east of County Highway I, and would feature 120 gas pumps, 613 parking spaces, and a 73,000 square foot store near the middle of the site.

Currently, the land is undeveloped. Part of the Buc-ee's proposal includes improvements to the nearby highway network, which is under Dane County and Wisconsin Department of Transportation jurisdiction.

Buc-ee's opened its first location in Clute, Texas, in 1982 and its first travel center in Luling, Texas, in 2001. The chain now owns 57 locations across Texas and other states.

Evers wants extended bar hours for Republican convention

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin Democratic Gov. Tony Evers wants bars to stay open until 4 a.m. next year for the Republican Party's national convention in Milwaukee.

A provision in Evers' budget proposal would allow bars in 14 counties surrounding Milwaukee to extend their hours to accommodate convention-goers, [CBS 58](#) in Milwaukee reported Monday. The convention is expected to draw tens of thousands of people to battleground Wisconsin's largest city from July 15—19, 2024.

Currently, Wisconsin bars and restaurants must close by 2 a.m. on weekdays and 2:30 a.m. on weekends.

Evers' idea will need the approval of the Republican-controlled Legislature to become law.

A [similar proposal](#) died in the state Senate in 2020, when Democrats were scheduled to host their national convention in Milwaukee. The convention was delayed a month and ultimately became a largely virtual event.

Scott Stenger, government affairs officer for the Tavern League of Wisconsin, said the group was working on its own proposal to benefit its member bars and restaurants during the convention.

"The ultimate goal is you want people to leave the great state of Wisconsin and say, we had a hell of a good time in Milwaukee," Stenger told CBS 58. "We don't want a situation where people can't have their dinner if it's that late at night."

White House releases ambitious cyber strategy calling for more regulation of vulnerable sectors

The White House on Thursday released an ambitious national cybersecurity strategy that calls for new federal regulation of vulnerable critical infrastructure firms and for software makers to be held liable when their products leave gaping holes for hackers to exploit.

The strategy -- shaped by major hacking incidents that threatened key public services in the first year of the Biden administration -- embraces the US government's regulatory and purchasing power to force companies that are critical to economic and national security to raise their cyber defenses.

It reflects a widely held belief in the US government that market forces have failed to keep the nation safe from cybercriminals and an array of foreign governments such as [Russia](#) and [China](#).

"We ask individuals, small businesses and local government to shoulder a significant burden for defending us all. This isn't just unfair, it's ineffective," Acting National Cyber Director Kemba Walden told reporters Wednesday. "This strategy asks more of industry, but also commits more from the government."

The strategy is a policy document and not law, but it could shape corporate behavior for years to come as firms compete for billions of dollars in federal contracts that increasingly require a minimum set of cybersecurity defenses. And the White House says it wants to work with Congress to develop legislation that holds software makers liable when their products and services don't provide adequate protections from sabotage.

The goal of US government and corporate work on cybersecurity should be to "correct market failures, minimize the harms from cyber incidents to society's most vulnerable," a copy of the strategy states.

Teen sisters jump into icy pond to save 2 kids

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (KCCI) - Two teenage sisters from Iowa are being recognized as heroes after they saved two kids who fell through the ice into a pond behind their apartment building.

Sisters Jacora and Jasmine Morris were scrolling through TikTok on Saturday when they happened to look out their third story window at the right time. Two kids were playing on a frozen pond behind the apartment building when they fell through the ice.

As soon as the sisters noticed what had happened, they sprang into action.

"I immediately screamed, 'They're drowning.' And then, me and my sister, we ran downstairs... We were falling down the stairs to get back here," said Jasmine Morris, who is 15 years old.

"I just stopped what I was doing, got up and I was just running out. I was just in shoes, shorts and a tank top," said Jacora Morris, who is 17 years old.

The sisters didn't hesitate to jump into the icy water to help the kids, who they say were around 7 or 8 years old.

"I'm numb. So, those kids, they've been in there longer than me. They've got to be numb. At some point, they were going to just stop moving, and I didn't want them to just stop moving," Jasmine Morris said. "So, it was just, 'Come on, just get them out. You can get out later. Just get them out.'"

Tennessee poised to become first state to restrict drag performances in 2023

Tennessee is set to become the first state this year to enact legislation to [restrict public drag show performances](#).

The state Senate on Thursday passed a [bill](#) along party lines to limit “adult cabaret performances” on public property so as to shield them from the view of children, threatening violators with a misdemeanor and repeat offenders with a felony. It was passed by the Tennessee House last week and Gov. Bill Lee, a Republican, has said he will sign it.

Once signed, the law would go into effect on July 1, 2023.

Tennessee’s is the first of nearly a dozen such bills presently working their way through GOP-led state legislatures. Republicans say the performances expose children to sexual themes and imagery that are inappropriate, a claim rejected by advocates, who say the proposed measures are discriminatory against the LGBTQ community and could violate First Amendment laws.

Tennessee Republican state Sen. Jack Johnson, who sponsored the legislation, previously told CNN that his legislation “is not anti-drag. It is pro-child.”

US, Russia hold highest-level talks since Ukraine invasion

NEW DELHI (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov talked briefly Thursday in the highest-level in-person talks between the two countries since [Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#). But there was no indication of any movement toward easing the intense tensions between their two nations.

The short encounter came as relations between Washington and Moscow have plummeted over Russia's war with Ukraine and tensions have soared amid a myriad of disagreements, complaints and recriminations on other matters ranging from arms control to embassy staffing and prisoners.

U.S. officials said Blinken and Lavrov chatted for roughly 10 minutes on the sidelines of [the G-20 conference](#) of foreign ministers in New Delhi. But there was no sign of any progress and the conference itself ended with the grouping unable to reach consensus on the Ukraine war.

Still, with relations at perhaps their lowest point since the Cuban Missile Crisis during the Cold War, the mere fact that the two men met showed that, at least for the moment, lines of high-level communication between Washington and Moscow remains open.

Egypt reveals newly discovered chamber inside Great Pyramid



FILE - Policemen are silhouetted against the Great Pyramid in Giza, Egypt, Dec 12, 2012. Egypt unveiled on Thursday, March 2, 2023, the discovery of a 9-meter-long chamber inside the Great Pyramid of Giza, the first to be found on the structure's north side.(AP Photo/Hassan Ammar, File)

(AP) - Egypt unveiled the discovery of long corridor inside the Great Pyramid of Giza on Thursday, the first to be found on the structure's north side.

The corridor, which measures 9 meters (nearly 30 feet) by 2 meters (more than 6 feet), is perched above the famous structure's main entrance and was detected using a scan, authorities said. The function of the chamber is currently unknown, although such corridors often lead to further archaeological discoveries.

Egyptian archaeologist Zahi Hawass and the country's Minister for Tourism Ahmed Eissa, announced the discovery at the pyramid's base.

The chamber was discovered by the Scan Pyramids project, an international program that uses scans to look at unexplored sections of the ancient structure.

The pyramid about 11 miles from Cairo's center is also known as Khufu's Pyramid for its builder, a 4th Dynasty pharaoh who reigned from 2509 to 2483 B.C.

Statue of Little Mermaid vandalized again in Denmark



FILE PHOTO: A cycling fans takes a dip next to the Little Mermaid statue by Edvard Eriksen as riders pass during the first stage of the Tour de France cycling race in Copenhagen, Denmark, Friday, July 1, 2022.(Daniel Cole | AP Photo/Daniel Cole)

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — The famed statue of Hans Christian Andersen’s Little Mermaid, one of Copenhagen’s biggest tourist draws, has been vandalized, with the colors of the Russian flag painted on the rock on which she sits, a newspaper reported Thursday.

The oft-attacked 1.65-meter (5.4-foot) -high bronze sits at the entrance of the Copenhagen harbor.

It was not known when the vandalism took place. The rock was painted in stripes white, blue and red. No one has taken responsibility for the act.

The statue was created in tribute to the Danish storyteller Andersen. It has long been a popular target for vandals, who have previously blown the mermaid off her perch, beheaded her and painted her.

The bronze is based on a mythical sea king’s mermaid daughter who, according to the Hans Christian Andersen tale, falls in love with a prince and longs to become human.

Menomonie Mustangs headed to State Hockey

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (WEAU) - In 1991, the Menomonie Mustangs defeated Superior to win the WIAA State Boys Hockey Championship. 32-years later, the Mustangs are headed back to state.

On Saturday in Somerset, Menomonie defeated RAM Hockey 3-2 in a thrilling Division Two sectional final game.

The Mustangs will face fellow Big Rivers foe New Richmond in the State Semifinals in Middleton on Thursday morning.

Not only is this the first time the Mustangs have been to state since 1991, it marks an amazing turnaround for the team. Last year they won just two games.

It's a great run that the players and coaches are excited to continue at the State Tournament this week.

"You know, it's awesome to go from so low to so high in just a season," says junior goalie Jack Droudt.

"We had a lot of people work hard in the off season this season, so it happened for a reason."

"It's huge. You know, we had to play against some competition every night. So does everybody. But playing in the Big Rivers, I think it helps us for this moment," says Head Coach Matt Ellis.

"I think it's our work ethic, really, honestly, you know, they all work together. They love each other's teammates and they work for each other. That's the big thing."

UW-Eau Claire Women's Basketball earns NCAA Tournament selection

[Will face Whitman in first round on Friday in Chicago](#)

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (WEAU) - For the second consecutive year, the UW-Eau Claire Women's Basketball team has earned a trip to the NCAA Division III tournament. They will face Whitman College (WA.) in the first round on Friday, March 3rd at 5:30PM. The first and second rounds will be played at the University of Chicago's Ratner Center.

The Blugolds finished runner-up in the WIAC Tournament to UW-Whitewater and were third in the regular season standings. Their record is 20-8 on the season, which earned them an at large bid into the field.

They join fellow WIAC teams UW-Whitewater (WIAC Champions) and UW-Oshkosh (at large) in earning bids to the NCAA Tournament. UW-Stout, who finished as regular season co-champions, did not make the field.

This will be the 24th tournament appearance in team history for the Blugolds, who have a 35-23 record in those contests.

Kendall Gretsich talks Paralympic success as two-sport athlete, journey to adaptive sports

PARK CITY, Utah — For **Kendall Gretsich**, [winning six gold medals](#) at the recent World Para Nordic Skiing Championships in Östersund, Sweden, was terrific, but for the 30-year-old Illinois native, the wins come with an asterisk.

“It’s a little bit tough for me because it’s just kind of a weird year,” said Gretsich ahead of this season’s final FIS Para Nordic World Cup, set for March 1-8 at Soldier Hollow Nordic Center in Utah. “Worlds was just a little bit different this year, because obviously [Russia and Belarus were not competing](#). And then [U.S. teammate] [Oksana \[Masters\] is injured](#) this year. I feel like everyone made a really big deal about worlds this year, but for me, I just went there and did what I expected.

“I feel like it’s getting portrayed as like, ‘That was the most successful [worlds] that you’ve ever had,’ and I just feel differently about that. Not that I didn’t earn it, but it wasn’t [the hardest] challenge.”

BOYS HOCKEY

02-21: Final

Hayward	4
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New Richmond	8
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02-21: Final

RAM Hockey	7
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Black River Falls	4
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GIRLS HOCKEY

02-21: Final-OT

Black River Falls	2
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Coulee Region	3
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02-21: Final

Wisconsin Valley	0
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Superior	8
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02-21: Final

Hayward	4
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Central WI	2
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02-25:

Superior	7
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Hayward	5
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QUIETER WEATHER TAKES HOLD INTO THE START OF THIS WEEKEND WITH SEASONABLE TEMPERATURES

After an active past few weeks of weather, a quiet weather pattern unfolds over the next few days, but clouds may still try to find their way into the mix. We are expecting intervals of clouds and sun throughout the day today, with temperatures remaining near average, topping out in the low to mid 30s. Winds will remain light and variable. High pressure will remain in the area, keeping things dry, but light winds will make it difficult to mix out any low level clouds that may present themselves over the next few days. Heading into tonight, a few clouds hang around with lows dipping into the upper teens and low 20s.

EAU CLAIRE, WI

[current](#) [today](#) [tonight](#)

**24** F° C°

Fair

Pressure	29.04 in
Wind	CALM 0 MPH
Dew Point	17°
Feels Like	24°

Sunrise	6:42 AM
Sunset	5:55 PM
Moonrise	12:54 PM
Moonset	4:39 AM

COMMERCIAL

Buc-ee's

Ever since our inception in 1982, Buc-ee's has been committed to providing a clean, friendly, and in stock experience for our customers.

America now knows what South Texas travelers already knew — Buc-ee's, South Texas' friendly neighbor along the way, has the cleanest restrooms in the country.

Any Texan who has traveled on Interstate 35 north or Interstate 10 east of San Antonio knows that Buc-ee's is the place to seek roadside relief. On Monday, Cintas, a corporate supplier to the service industry, made it official, naming the Buc-ee's location here the winner of a nationwide restroom contest.

With 83 toilets and a cleaning crew that works around the clock, clean restrooms, represent comfort to travelers at Buc-ee's travel and gas centers.