

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest



Mister Kitty, the Creepiest Critter Winner of the YAC’s Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest posted Oct. 27.
Photo contributed by Jerrika Shipley

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The Yellowjack-et Activities Crew (YAC) hosted their first annual Virtual Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest Oct. 23.

This event is part of the YAC’s contin-ued attempts to try

and get more online students involved in campus activities. The contest was open to online and in person students for students with their pets or stuffed animals.

The contest had two cat winners. The Best Costume Concoction was awarded to a styl-

ish grey cat named Dynamite, dressed as a sequined witch. The Creepiest Critter was awarded to Mister Kitty, a mysterious black cat, who was dressed up as a bat.

Both winning pets are owned by Jerrika Shipley, an online UW-Superior student.



Dynamite, the Best Costume Concoction Winner of the YAC’s Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest posted Oct. 27.
Photo contributed by Jerrika Shipley.

What was the Point of the Fire Drills?

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Oct. 1 & 2 were filled with fire drills here on the University of Wisconsin-Superior campus. This allows staff and students to become familiar with building alarm systems and to know how to correctly and safely evacuate buildings in case of an emergency.

These drills happened to take place just before National Fire Safety Prevention Week; a week meant to raise awareness about fire safety issues and initiatives. So, what do stu-dents and staff need to think about while on campus when it comes to fire safety and prevention?

Holly Johnson, an environmental health and safety specialist here at UWS, spends a lot of time working across campus and with facilities management to cover the behind-the-scenes things that students do not always see, from chemicals used in science labs to snow removal. Her

job also covers duties like planning fire drills, making sure that there are evacuation maps, fire extinguishers, and evacuation routes posted around campus for students and faculty to see.

Johnson said that when it comes to fire safety, it really can be as simple as, “if there is ever a fire, just call 911, pull a fire alarm,” and that students should “be familiar with where the fire extinguishers are, in case you need one to get yourself out of the building.”

UWS students and staff also have access to campus police’s annual Campus Security Report and Cam-pus Residence Halls Fire Safety Re-port, which not only gives statistics about past incidents on campus, but lays out current regulations for how these events are handled. Including what kinds of fire safety systems are in place in UW-Superior’s residential facilities, and past fire related inci-dents, including their causes.

According to the 2025 reports,

over the past three years UWS Res-idence Halls have only seen two fire related incidents, both of which were kitchen related, and included no injuries to anyone involved.

Along with her regular job re-sponsibilities, Johnson was excited to share about new safety initiatives across campus. “One thing that I’m excited about, we have a safety committee on campus now, and I feel like we’re doing a lot of good things. You know, trying to connect with everybody.” This group meets once a month in different buildings across campus to talk about ways to improve campus and make it better and safer for students.

More information can be found through the UW-Superior Campus Police’s Annual Campus Security Report & An-

nual Campus Residence Hall’s Fire Safety Report, on annual campus security and fire safety.



Photo of fire extinguisher on the second floor of Ostrander on Oct. 29.
Photo by Emily Tews | Promethean

Therapy Dogs Return to Campus

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The Jim Dan Hill Library welcomed back several therapy dogs on Oct. 7, inviting students to take a break from their busy class schedule. For two hours, students had the opportunity to stop by for a quick visit, or to stay a while and unwind with the dogs. The event is highly anticipated by students and faculty alike, and occurs several times a semester.

Each therapy dog has its own unique story. A

golden retriever named Teaka has become a familiar face at the JDH Library’s therapy dog events over the years. She served as a therapy dog since the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. Due to her calm and gentle personality, her role as an unofficial therapy dog has extended far beyond the pandemic.

Lori Hutchins is Teaka’s proud owner. Hutchins, a retired Min-nesota teacher, has shared her life with many dogs over the years – especially golden retrievers. Teaka

was a frequent visitor in her classroom, helping to ease students’ anxiety. Teaka did not mind the extra affection added to her daily routine. “She just eats this up, she loves the attention,” said Hutchins with a smile.

As a former teacher, Hutchins is aware of the pressure and anxiety many students feel at school. “College students are going through a lot of stress with classes and life and being away from home,” said Hutchins. She added that having therapy dogs available

helps students cope with the stress and uncertain-ties of their day and the semester.

Research backs Hutchins’ claims, proving that students feel better going about their day af-ter an encounter with one of the dogs. “Just having them around has been shown to make a calmer environment for people,” said Hutchins.

If any students missed the therapy dogs’ Octo-ber visit, no worries; they will be back at the JDH Library on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m.



Lori Hutchins and her golden retriever Teaka in Jim Dan Hill Library on Oct. 7.
Photo by Georgia Youngblood | Promethean

Staff Pets Collage

 Hannah Hutton’s cat Uno	 Alicia Zoltowski’s cat Oliver	 Brendyn Otradovec’s dog Zeus	 Gus Schupp’s dog Cami	 Georgia Youngblood’s donkey Elissa	 Ella Hill’s cat Strawberry
 Abby Hoffman’s cat Old Dutch	 Noa Mikami’s dog Linda	 Brendyn Otradovec’s cat Ginny	 Emily Tews’ guinea pig Skippy (R.I.P.)	 Emily Tews’ cat Ash	 Ella Hill’s cats Dani the Menace to Society (Calico) and Jagger (Fat Old Ginger)
		 Brendyn Otradovec’s cat McGee			 Emily Tews’ cat Sunnie

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