ALARMS 5:30 PM 9/15/17 S. KOCH

 A new personal safety device designed to deter muggers is on the market for college students through a company called BASU (Bah-soo), though the device is best used in tandem with sound safety planning. Sophia Koch (cook) has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 82 O/C: STD

SOPHIA KOCH: THAT IS THE SOUND OF THE EALARM (EE-ALARM), A SMALL, USB-LIKE DEVICE THAT CAN BE CLIPPED LIKE A KEYCHAIN ONTO A BACKPACK OR BELT LOOP AND TRIGGERED TO PRODUCE AN ALARM IN THE CASE OF A MUGGING. THE DEVICE IS ONE OF MANY HIGH-TECH PERSONAL PROTECTION ITEMS AVAILABLE ON THE MARKET.

KARL FLEURY: IT’S, WHAT I LOOK AT IT AS, AND WHAT AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD GET THAT TYPE OF DEVICE, IS IT’S JUST A, IT’S ANOTHER TOOL OR RESOURCE IN YOUR TOOLBOX, OF TRYING, FOR PERSONAL SAFETY.

SOPHIA KOCH: THAT WAS KARL FLEURY (FLER-EE) CHIEF OF CAMPUS POLICE AT UW-RIVER FALLS. THERE ARE MANY DEVICES AND APPS AVAILABLE, HE SAID, THAT STUDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT SAFETY CAN USE IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. HOWEVER, CAREFUL PLANNING AND COMMON SENSE CAN OFTEN ENSURE THAT AN EMERGENCY NEVER HAPPENS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

MIRANDA HAACK: I MEAN, I TRY TO STAY IN GROUPS WHEN POSSIBLE, LIKE, NEVER WALK ALONE AT NIGHT.

SOPHIA KOCH: THAT WAS MIRANDA HAACK (HAHK), AN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJOR IN HER JUNIOR YEAR AT UWRF. THIS CAMPUS, SHE SAID, FEELS RELATIVELY SAFE, AND THE UWRF SECURITY REPORTS SUPPORT THAT SENTIMENT. NO ACCOUNTS OF ROBBERY OR AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WERE REPORTED FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR. FLEURY CAUTIONS, HOWEVER, THAT CRIMES CAN HAPPEN EVEN IN A QUIET AREA.

KARL FLEURY: A CRIME CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE, ANYPLACE, ANYTIME. IT DOESN’T MATTER IF YOU’RE IN SMALL TOWN U.S.A., OR IF YOU’RE IN, LIKE FOR EXAMPLE, YOUR EXAMPLE, IF YOU’RE IN THE TWIN CITIES.

SOPHIA KOCH: FOR FALCON NEWS, I’M SOPHIA KOCH (COOK)

 Specific safety items easily accessible to students aside from the BASU eAlarms (ee-alarms) include apps like bsafe (bee-safe) and React Mobile, which have the ability to GPS track the user and inform a contact list if the user does not reach their destination. Keychain panic buttons are also easily found on the web, and UWRF offers the Safe Ride Program to students for driving around town.

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