DORMS 3/29/21 B.SHEPHERD

On campus residency has taken a hit due to many students participating in classes virtually. What does this mean for the university and students who are still living on campus? Brooke Shepherd has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 1:10 O/C: I’M BROOKE SHEPHERD

BROOKE SHEPHERD: UW-RIVER FALLS IS CURRENTLY FACING 50% OCCUPANCY RATES. KARLA THOENNES (TEN-nis) IS THE DIRECTOR OF RESIDENCE LIFE. SHE SAYS THE IMPACT OF LESS STUDENTS LIVING ON CAMPUS HAS BEEN LARGE.

KARLA THOENNES: “THE RESIDENCE HALLS, WE HAVE TO PAY FOR EVERYTHING. ALL OF OUR BORROWING THAT WE HAVE TO DO FOR BUILDING AND RENOVATION WE HAVE TO PAY FOR, ALL THE UTILITIES. MAYBE THERE’S LESS HOT WATER BEING USED, MAYBE LESS ELECTRICITY, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE UP FOR 50% OF THE INCOME.”

BROOKE SHEPHERD: EMMA POLUCHA (po-LOO-cha) IS A SOPHOMORE LIVING IN THE DORMS THIS YEAR. THOUGH HER CLASSES ARE ALL ONLINE, SHE WANTED TO REMAIN INVOLVED IN THE RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION. POLUCHA SAYS THERE ARE AN ABUNDANCE OF EMPTY ROOMS ON HER FLOOR.

EMMA POLUCHA: “THERE’S NOT AS MUCH SOCIALIZATION AND I DON’T KNOW AS MANY PEOPLE ON MY FLOOR LIKE I DID LAST YEAR WHERE ALL OF THESE EVENTS WERE GOING ON WE ACTUALLY INTERACTED WITH EACH OTHER, WE HAD FUN, WE WENT TO HALL DINNERS AND WHATNOT, BUT THIS YEAR IT’S DEFINITELY TAKEN A TOLL ON THE FEELING OF COMMUNITY OF THE FLOOR.”

BROOKE SHEPHERD: POLUCHA’S ROOMMATE MOVED OUT SPRING SEMESTER, AND SHE CURRENTLY SPENDS MOST OF THE TIME IN HER ROOM STUDYING. FOR FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M BROOKE SHEPHERD.

UWRF staff hope to see occupancy back to 80% in the fall.

###