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og news

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Bowling Green State University

Thursday January 25, 2018

Volume 97, Issue 42

Outsourced

Impending new shuttle costs, pressures to save money
mean an end to University-owned shuttles. | **PAGE 2**

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Lake Superior
State

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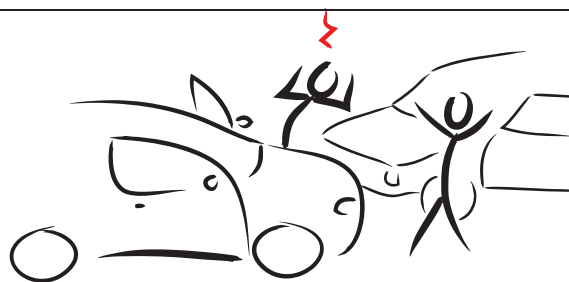
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University shuttles driven to extinction

By Meredith Siegel
Reporter

The University is outsourcing its shuttle services, and while some think this will benefit students, others believe the negative consequences drivers could face outweigh the benefits. The department made the decision Wednesday to outsource for lower-cost drivers and use new buses.

“The University is always looking for ways to save our students money, create efficiencies and lower costs, and that’s really what started us down that path,” Brad Leigh, the executive director for Business Operations, said.

However, fees for students will remain the same.

“The shuttle service is funded by a general service fee that the students are charged. The fee itself should remain unchanged; it’s

been costing us more to run it than the fee was covering. This will allow us to lower (the cost to run the service) so that the fee is sufficient to cover that cost,” Leigh said.

According to an email sent out Wednesday, the buses will need around \$250,000 in replacement and maintenance costs, and the decision to outsource will save from \$200,000 to \$250,000.

This arrangement will go into effect July 1, 2018.

Leigh also said with lower costs, students should be expecting new buses and better technology, hopefully with “the same friendly service they’ve been accustomed to and appreciated.”

Different students have said they loved the service from the shuttles, especially service from Richard L. Van Horn, who goes out of his way to develop personal relationships with all the students who ride his bus. He goes to their sporting events and performances and keeps track of where they go after graduation. He is determined to make them smile. He continually expressed love for students he has met while driving the buses, which he estimated to total about 50,000.

He has been very vocal on Facebook about his opposition to the outsourcing, and he feels that he is not receiving support from the University.

Students have shown love for Van Horn in return. When he expressed his disappoint-

ment with the outsourcing on Facebook, students responded with messages of love for him. There is now a petition on ipetitions.com for Van Horn to keep his job, which held 1,090 signatures as of Jan. 24, 2018.

Van Horn had stated before the announcement that, if the University decided to outsource, his last day driving would be May 15, 2018. He feels the changes will make it hard on him, but he said he loves the students nonetheless.

“I’ve never had a decision made by the University that I passionately did not agree with,” Kody Korbas said, a gerontology senior who has been driving the buses for three years. “I’m all for finding ways to save money, finding ways to give the students here the same services, but I truly believe that this decision will not be a great decision for the University for many different reasons — for not providing charters, not hiring students.”

Another problem opponents have with the agreement is that people under the age of 25 cannot currently drive for Groome Transportation, the company that will operate the new shuttles.

“Their current policies do say that the drivers should be 25 years of age,” Leigh said. “That is where it becomes a challenge for some of our student drivers, and we’ve asked (Groome) to revisit that. And they’ve agreed to go back and talk with their group to see if there could be a way they could make an

Shuttle continued on page 7

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2018 Women's March: signs and solidarity

One year after millions around the world marched against hate, injustice and Trump, the women are still marching. The 2018 Women's March brought new issues, along with new and creative signs, to the movement in an attempt to keep the feminist fury going. Here are some of my favorite signs from this year's march and why they are important:



Brionna Scebbi
Reporter



The theme of this year's March was "Power to the Polls" which focused on registering and informing voters. Several signs depicted blue waves indicating a possible political shift if people vote promoters of hate and bigotry out of office in the midterm elections.



One of the biggest criticisms of the first Women's March was a lack of messages about intersectionality. Whether this year's March corrected the absence of issues such as equity for women of all races, sexual orientations, religions, legal statuses and socioeconomic classes is up for debate. However, the fact that signs such as these are getting attention shows movement in the right direction. Future marches must elevate the stories of underrepresented women if womankind as a whole is to rise up.



One of the biggest movements to shake the nation since the first Women's March was #MeToo. Women who shared their sexual assault stories on social media were able to stand beside other survivors at this year's March. Seeing the solidarity of women carrying #MeToo signs in the crowd and hearing the words speakers like Natalie Portman and Halsey had to share nodded to the power these women are taking back.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

Cake or pie and why?



"Pie, I don't like frosting."

ALYSSA STULTS
Freshman, Pre Nursing



"Cake, because it's sweet and sugary and icing is so good."

TAYLOR DUNN
Freshman, Middle Childhood Education



"Pie, I like fruit and I'm not a big fan of icing."

LILLY CHERRI
Freshman, Pre Med



"If I could do ice cream cake I would do that, but I prefer pie over regular cake."

NICK BIERE
Sophomore, VCT

The travel “Trump Slump”



Stepha Poulin
Forum Editor



Haitians protest Trump's recent comments.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Tensions are high after President Trump's recent comments about countries he described with quite “colorful” language – could this, along with the overall political climate in the United States, affect the number of incoming international students?

Research shows the number of international students is declining, according to a Nov. 2017 *Inside Higher Ed* article.

“After years of growth, enrollments of international students at American universities started to flatten in fall 2016, and a downward trend in new enrollments appears to be accelerating this academic year, with nearly half of universities surveyed (45 percent) reporting a drop in new international students this fall.”

While universities are generally seen as liberal environments, the number one reason foreign students cite for not wanting to study abroad is the United States' political climate.

How does this reflect on the average American, though?

Many of my friends and acquaintances are welcoming of foreign students and immigrants, regardless of their political orientation. However, individual experiences don't change the headlines people abroad see.

A concerned U.S. parent may not want to send their child to study abroad because of horror stories published in the media, like a student going missing. However, parents in other countries are concerned about U.S. politics in general – or specifically our Commander-in-Chief.

International headlines about the United States are not helping attract international students, or even tourists for that matter.

The U.S. National Travel and Tourism Office and the U.S. Department of Commerce have reported that U.S. tourism dropped four percent in the past year. An article in *Forbes* magazine labeled the drop the “Trump Slump.” A small drop in tourism can have a large effect, according to *Forbes*.

“In 2016, the U.S. travel and tourism industry generated over \$1.5 trillion in economic output, supporting 7.6 million jobs, according to SelectUSA, an international trade analyst firm. That represents 2.7% of overall GDP.”

The lower rate in tourism has triggered a response from the tourism industry. Basically, they've created a PR group for the entirety of the U.S.

President Trump has triggered something akin to a public relations crisis in the United States. For someone so business savvy, one would think he would be smart enough to know the financial damage his words may cause.

“International headlines about the United States are not helping attract international students, or even tourists for that matter.”

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Letters are to be fewer than 300 words. They should be in response to current issues on campus or in the Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS:

Guest Columns are generally longer pieces between 400 and 700 words. Two submissions per month maximum.

POLICIES: Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Forum page permits. Additional Letters or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS:

Send submissions as an attachment to bgfalconmedia@gmail.com with the subject line marked “Letter to the Editor” or “Guest Column.” All submissions are subject to review and editing for length and clarity before printing.

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New, lowkey bar on downtown strip

By Stepha Poulin
Forum Editor

Main Street Bowling Green has a new bar crawl stop: a speakeasy-like venue called Vice & Video.

Bowling Green is one of America's top 100 college towns due to the small city's bustling nightlife. Vice & Video stands out from the other bars downtown, though. The buildings front façade may trick passersby into thinking a 1980s video store opened.

"It gives it a general video store feel. During the day, people walking by might think it's just a video store," manager Preston Crawford said.

Its style turns from retro to modern as visitors enter the bar, all while sticking to the "video" part of the bar's name. Flat screen TVs are mounted on walls to display classic and new music videos, ranging from Tupac's hits to Nicki Minaj singles. Rather than just playing music over a sound system, all songs are synchronized to music videos on the TVs.

"The overall vibe is different than other bars in BG," Crawford said.

Besides the unique look of this venue, Vice & Video offers drink selections that are hard to find in Bowling Green. There are several blended margarita flavors available, ranging from classic margaritas to ones with fruity twists. The bar mainly serves tequila, unlike other bars in the area.

A bar also found on Main Street, 149, is connected to Vice & Video. The bars are connected via a doorway, and patrons can pay a single cover charge to enter both bars. Visitors can enjoy the classic bar vibes of 149 and get a new experience at Vice & Video.

The speakeasy nature of Vice & Video is evident by their advertising methods – there are no advertisements. The bar doesn't even

have an online presence, it simply relies on people finding out via word-of-mouth.

According to workers, Vice & Video has had a lot of success, even without advertising, after opening on Jan. 11.

"Once the word got out, it was crazy," door-girl Rebecca Mannion said. "It's like a speakeasy. The bar is a throwback with all the old videos out front."

Bar-goers, like Robby Hertzfeld, are pleased with the new venue.

"I frequent 149, which has been really popular lately. It used to be more lowkey, so I'm glad I have a new place to go," Hertzfeld said. "I prefer how lowkey this place is."



Vice & Video is both located and connected to its neighbor Bar 149.

PHOTO BY LUIS ROYO ROMERO

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Hockey looks to take on Lake Superior

By Zane Miller

Sports Editor

The Falcon hockey team will face the Lake Superior State Lakers on Friday and Saturday night for the second time this season. The previous series between the two teams on Nov. 10-11 resulted in the Falcons taking both games, one of which in a shootout.

"I think they've got some really good offense," Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron said. "Their top six forwards have been really good and they've got some guys on the back end that can help with the offense... Without naming just one guy, they've got some guys that can really play and that's where I think this team is dangerous is their offensive potential."

Lake Superior State comes into this weekend holding a 4-13-3 record in the WCHA, however they are just one spot out of making the playoffs. The Falcons are coming off of a sweep against the Alaska Anchorage Seawolves, another team fighting to make it into the playoffs.

"Lake Superior's a little bit closer to that

eight spot in the playoffs than Anchorage was," Bergeron said. "I think Lake Superior is really good at home and the message to our group is that we've got to start the series this Friday much more like we started at Ferris State than at Northern Michigan, at Northern in the first seven minutes were not good, but the first seven minutes at Ferris we were winning 2-0, so we've got to be ready to go."

The Falcons will come into this weekend holding an 11-4-5 record in the WCHA. They currently hold the number three seed in the playoff running. Despite the differences in the standings between the two teams, the Falcons believe that both teams are in a similar situation by trying to put themselves in the best possible position going into the playoffs.

"I feel like both teams are playing meaningful games, it's getting late in the year and that's where we're alike," Bergeron said. "We're trying to prepare a team to play a series where these games really matter and so are they."

The team is also looking to focus on Lake Superior State's power play unit, which



Freshman forward Max Johnson skates against Alaska Anchorage earlier this season. PHOTO BY LUIS ROYO ROMERO

holds a 17.7 percent success rate with 20 power play goals scored this year.

"They've got special teams that are capable," Bergeron said. "Especially on the road, that momentum, whether it's five on five or five on four, matters and we want

to keep that momentum at least neutral as much as we can. I know that offensively and from a power play perspective, this is a dangerous team and those are two areas that we have to be focused on and those are two things that I expect from Lake Superior."

Men's basketball loses to N. Illinois

By Jamison Terbrack

Sports Reporter

The Falcon men's basketball team lost to the Northern Illinois Huskies 93-62 after defeating them earlier this season, as the Falcons now sit at 3-4 in league play.

"We didn't come to play," Falcons coach Michael Huger said. "From start to finish our guys thought it would be like the game over in BG and they didn't come ready to fight and we lost by 30. We have got to come ready to fight every time we step onto the court."

Sophomore guard Rodrick Caldwell had 13 points to go along with 11 from junior forward Demajeo Wiggins. Wiggins' double-double streak came to an end in this game as he only could corral eight rebounds against the Huskies.

"We didn't respond to them at all. We didn't come to play," Huger said. "I don't know what it was. You can't continue to blame it on being young and all of that, we have enough games under our belts. We have to come ready to fight and we didn't come ready to fight. I told them they were going to be most physical this game. I told them they were going to drive the ball more this game. Everything we told them they were going to

do they actually did. We didn't come prepared. I don't know if our guys weren't listening and paying attention to detail or just think it was going to be easy like they thought like the game at BG. They thought they were going to play the same game and do the same things and teams make adjustments. We make adjustments and we have to come ready to play and ready to fight and we didn't do that."

The Falcons finished with mixed team stats in this one as they shot .286, perfect from three point range, but had 13 turnovers.

"I thought we played poorly in the first half, we didn't share the ball," Huger said. "We were very selfish, we took selfish shots and when you do that it's contagious, one guy gets it and another guy gets it and now your whole team is selfish and we didn't share the ball. Down seven (after the first half) I thought we were fortunate and it showed in the second half, we didn't come to play."

The team will next play on Saturday, Jan. 27, on the road against the Toledo Rockets.



Sophomore guard Rodrick Caldwell defends against Central Michigan earlier this season. PHOTO BY MEGAN GAUMER

Shuttle continued from page 2

adjustment to their current policy to allow for student employees at the University to continue to be drivers under this new agreement. So, all we can do is ask them to revisit it, and they have agreed to do that. If, in the event that they are not able to change that, we would gladly work with all of our students to find them other employment opportunities on campus.”

Seven students will have to be considered for continued employment or find new jobs next year. Shuttle salaries are among the highest for student on-campus jobs, at \$11.57 per hour.

“A lot of things that I view that could be problematic — because the reason we started hiring student drivers was because there was not enough interest in the community, and so I foresee that being a problem with the potential outsourcer,” Korbass said.

Korbass loves driving the buses, and he thinks it a great opportunity for students to

meet people, get to know the campus and surrounding areas and have a job that is not sitting at a desk.

He considers his fellow bus drivers a “second family” and worries about the impact on them.

The University’s current drivers will be considered for employment with

Groome, but there is no guarantee. All drivers must be able to obtain an Ohio Department of Transportation Operator Card. Requirements for the card include a physical exam.

“I’m all for saving money, making the University as best as it can be, but I don’t want this decision to impact so many people it will be impacting — not just

student shuttle drivers, but full time and part time people, as well,” Korbass said. “(A) third party company compared to an employee from the University... can be completely different.”

“I don’t want this decision to impact so many people it will be impacting -- not just student shuttle drivers, but full time and part time people as well.”

Kody Korbass
Gerontology Senior



Much like the current, the new shuttles will be University branded.

PHOTO BY LUIS ROYO ROMERO

Current employees may not necessarily be taking a pay cut, but their pay is not longer up to the University; it will be determined by Groome Transportation, Leigh said.

Groome will also not be providing charters, which Korbass finds problematic.

“(Groome) won’t be providing charters, and so the people on campus will have to go through a different company. So, money that could be staying in the University will not be because the new company will not be providing that service. Someone who uses the charter service often will have to be paying an outside service for it and have to be paying

more for it because it’s an outside service. For instance, Childers is a company in Toledo that we use for big events that we can’t provide enough buses for, like preview days, stuff like that; they are more expensive to charter bus than we offer,” Korbass said.

Charter buses are something the shuttle department is looking into with Groome, Leigh said.

Other departments on campus have been outsourced in the past, like the dining halls and the Falcon Health Center.

New buses should be arriving on campus next fall, Leigh said.

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15-day enrollment numbers update

By Evan Hayes
Campus Editor

The University released its 15-day enrollment numbers for the Spring 2018 semester today, breaking down statistics for graduate, undergraduate and Firelands campus students.

Enrollment rates in the undergraduate, graduate and Firelands programs have all stayed relatively flat; growth this semester is bolstered by online programs.

"Our enrollment growth continues to be driven at our undergraduate main campus enrollment, as well as our eCampus, which is how we deliver most of our exclusive online degree programs," Cecilia Castellano, vice provost for strategic enrollment planning, said.

The graduate program enrollment has dropped almost five percent this semester, and undergraduate enrollment has increased 0.6 percent. Firelands enrollment has dropped by three percent this semester.

Graduate students have seen a 59 percent

increase in eCampus enrollment this semester, while undergraduate students have seen a 41 percent increase. This has coincided with a decrease in distance education programs, which are now moving towards online platforms.

"You'll see the distance campus numbers are down, but that's because distance used to be our delivery method for online courses," Castellano said. "Now, we've moved to an eCampus, which is an eight-week carousel where students come in and take courses part time (for) eight weeks."

With enrollment at Firelands and distance learning programs dropping, the University is pleased to see enrollment in eCampus courses increasing. The program will serve as another option for those looking to invest in higher education but need a more flexible schedule.

"Part of our strategic plan at the University is to continue to expand the quality education of a traditional four-year institution to working professionals that are interested

in advancing their careers or getting retooled or recertified," Castellano said. "We're very pleased with how, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, those programs continue to grow."

One of the statistics released highlighted that the projected persistence rate for the 2017 freshman on main campus was 91 percent; this comes after a fall report which said freshman enrollment was down.

"91 percent of the students returned, and that is right around where we were last year," Castellano said. "As we continue to admit strong academic freshman classes, they continue to persist and retain at a stronger rate."

One trend that has carried over from the Fall 2017 semester is a decrease in international graduate students. The University has continued to work with students to gain deferred acceptance, but troubles have risen when obtaining student visas.

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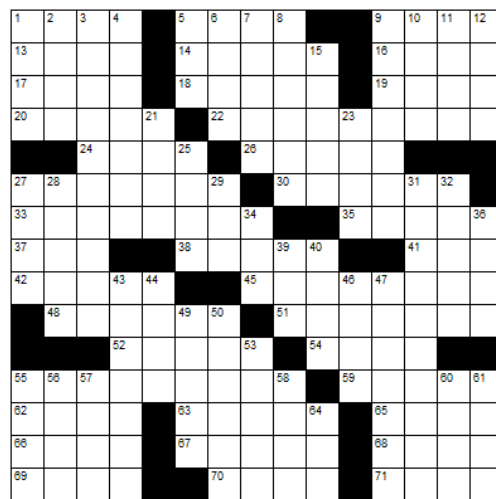
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The Daily Crossword Fix



DOWN

1. Lather
2. Dwarf buffalo
3. A type of lender
4. Ancient timepiece
5. Mayday
6. By mouth
7. Snow house
8. Washbasin
9. Detective (slang)
10. Pearly-shelled mussel
11. Flower stalk
12. Anagram of "Note"
15. Well-known
21. Satisfy
23. Salute
25. Certain
27. Leave in a hurry
28. Tossed
29. Central
31. Not ready
32. Renders senseless
34. Spy agency
36. Curved molding
39. Cover
40. Anagram of "Sire"
43. Be overly critical
44. Immediately
46. South American weapon
47. Egg-shaped instrument
49. Precise
50. Restart a computer
53. Indolence
55. Absent Without Leave
56. Devil tree
57. Analogous
58. Type of sword
60. Street
61. Picnic insects
64. South southeast

ACROSS

1. Exhausts
5. Dirt
9. Burst of wind
13. Two-toed sloth
14. Keyboard instrument
16. "Do ___ others..."
17. Not up
18. Artillery burst
19. Bearing
20. Smooths
22. Highly offensive
24. Partiality
26. A religion based on sorcery
27. Layer
30. Loathsome
33. Hotheaded
35. Slowly, in music
37. Biblical boat
38. Ancient Roman magistrate
41. Type of dog
42. Adolescents
45. Conveyed by air
48. Author
51. Bishopric
52. What we pay to the govt.
54. Smack
55. Flexible
59. A kind of macaw
62. A collaborative website
63. Cages
65. Weightlifters pump this
66. Ear-related
67. Carries
68. Tidy
69. Lean
70. You (archaic)
71. Contributes

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