TROUP STREET SETBACKS

Troup Street construction was projected to finish in November, but the project now has a later deadline. | PAGE 12

FCC to decide on new net neutrality policies
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PETA2 gives BGSU an A+ vegan rating
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What’s next for Bowling Green city schools?

By Paul Garbarino
City Editor

In about one month, the Bowling Green Board of Education will begin discussing its plan to revive the school bond issue from the 550-vote loss this election, initiating a campaign to make Bowling Green City Schools a more competitive district.

“Right now, we’re in limbo,” Superintendent Francis Scruci said. “Our board of education has decided to take time away from the topic, and we’re going to reconvene probably in the latter part of December or beginning of January and have conversations about where we go from here.”

The tax increase seeking to consolidate three district elementary schools into one, fix the high school’s decaying infrastructure and provide additional educational resources to students was met with heavy opposition.

“People are just reluctant to take on extra taxes,” City Council member Bruce Jeffers said. “It’s close enough that there’s a pretty good chance, if they put the bond up again and make some alterations, it could pass. I’ve been in education for 30 years, and I’ve seen a number of similar issues that people are reluctant for a while, and they think about it a little further, and they see that it’s necessary.”

Pamphlets containing misleading or false information circulated around the city, fueling much of the campaign against the bond and leaving many Bowling Green residents hesitant to contribute money to the cause.

“Most operating levies or bonds that are not simply renewals are usually not passed for the first time around,” Jeffers said. “It’s customary for people to get a lot of questions answered.”

City Council offered unanimous support for the bond, citing the influx of residents and money entering the city as a reason for an improved education system.

Communities face difficulties maintaining residents and healthy wage-paying jobs in the city without a quality school district in place, and cities like Perrysburg, with advanced educational resources, can siphon students and families away.

Council is determined to make change.

“Maybe the approach, as a city, we take after this is to have a conversation between City Council and the school board,” City Council member Daniel Gordon said. “At the core of this bond issue, and the reason why myself and so many others supported it, was that we did not want to continue tolerating the existing inequities that occur in the BG school system that occur because there are different resources going to different schools. And I certainly felt that the kind of resources you get as a student should not depend on where you live in Bowling Green. And that’s definitely a quality of life issue that the school board, but also something City Council should care about.”

While alterations may be made to help ensure passage, Scruci said he has no plans to make a watered-down version of the bond. He said the current version is exactly what will meet students’ needs.
Net neutrality will affect us all

Net neutrality policies have been discussed since the last presidential administration, and the topic is making headlines again with the words of the new FCC chairman, Ajit Pai. He has suggested reforms that would negate past net neutrality rules under the guise of giving internet service providers more freedom to compete.

These reforms don’t consider how the consumer is affected, though. Most of us use the internet, so we all should be concerned about what Pai’s plans entail.

How would these proposals hinder net neutrality? One needs to understand how current net neutrality rules work before understanding how Pai could completely change how we access the web.

Currently, ISPs are treated as companies providing a utility, like gas, water or electricity. The service they provide is considered a necessity for modern life. This stops ISPs from giving preferential treatment to certain entities on the web or creating internet packages resembling cable TV package options.

Without net neutrality, ISPs could create internet packages which fill certain niches of web traffic. For example, one could pay for a social media package and receive data that can only be used on sites like Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Consumers would have to purchase another data plan to access other sites.

The web without net neutrality could have other consequences, too. ISPs could throttle download/upload speeds on websites. This could greatly affect streaming services like Netflix and Hulu. Imagine waiting 10 minutes for each episode to buffer every time you want to watch something.

This may seem impractical, but ISPs could use this to revive the dying cable TV market. More people are switching to streaming services. If streaming shows suddenly became an inconvenience, then (maybe) more people would move back to regular TV. I wouldn’t though – I’m petty.

Some countries don’t have net neutrality, and it is reflected in their data packages for phone service and internet service. One phone service plan from Mexico is a great example of how data usage can be lumped into categories and have a price tacked onto it.

However, in this country, we’re used to a free and open internet. It’s done wonders for us. To me, the internet is like the library of the 21st century.

Discriminating loading times and data usage for individual websites infringes on how people access information. With a free and open internet, more people can access knowledge than ever before. In a way, we’re holding back the advancement of our country by revoking net neutrality.

The FCC is still going through the bureaucratic process, so there’s still time to call and complain about Chairman Pai’s plans. These people are supposed to represent all of us, but they need to know they aren’t doing so properly. Don’t be complacent, and take action.

If net neutrality becomes a thing of the past, at least you can say you tried to fight for its repeal.

Stay thankful after the holiday

Do you remember the feeling of sitting around the table with your family, talking about how thankful you are after just finishing a massive turkey dinner?

If yes, I’m glad. If no, maybe we should have more Thanksgivings. Only four days removed from the holiday and it already seems like everyone around me has forgotten how much they really have to be thankful for.

For some reason (cough, cough-corporate America), we follow up a holiday all about recognizing how thankful we are with a day all about waiting in long lines, pushing and shoving to get what we want and spending loads of money on material objects.

Black Friday was originally referred to this name by police in Philadelphia because of how dense traffic was, both in vehicles and on foot. Retailers, of course, didn’t like this, and tried to rebrand as Big Friday. When that didn’t work, they recoined the term Black Friday to mean the day books went from red (deficit) to black ($$$).

It gets worse every year. When I was a kid, Black Friday sales didn’t start until 5 or 6 a.m. Eventually that shifted to midnight, then 8 p.m. Thursday, then 6 p.m. Thursday, and now there are sales that start at 6 a.m. on Thanksgiving morning.

Do we, as Americans, spend any time even on actual Thanksgiving day to recognize everything they have to be thankful for anymore, especially those small things people often overlook?

With the development of Black Friday’s massive sales for mega-companies, like Kohl’s, Walmart and Dunham’s, came Small Business Saturday to support local businesses that couldn’t compete with the doorbuster sales at larger chains.

With the development of online shopping came Cyber Monday — today. While we leave out Sunday as a major shopping day, we have three of four consecutive days filled with greed over material objects instead of spending our time off work and school with our families.

I’m not saying I don’t enjoy the deals. I understand when your child wants a $300 Xbox that’s on sale for $175. Why pay more if you don’t have to, especially when the holi-

Continued on page 4
Hoping the Queen biopic is better than it first seems

By Chase Bachman
Columnist

We made it a girls’ trip. While we would occasionally buy gifts and make lists of the sales we wanted to look for, we were never disappointed if we didn’t get what we wanted. We were just thankful to spend the quality time together and thankful to get some deals. One year, my mom jokingly asked if there were any of those huge TVs left that everyone lined up for at 6 p.m., and the guy working at Walmart actually said they did, so we bought one because our TV had just broken. At the University, we also have an amazing drop-in day of service called Giving Tuesday every year after all of these greed-filled days. The event was brought to the University by the Student Philanthropy Committee a few years ago to counter the loss of thankful feelings we feel after all of these days dedicated to shopping.

This year, the event will be in the BTSU Room 228 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tuesday. I challenge BGSU, as a community, to put in more hours of service this year than ever before to give back and show that we don’t stop being thankful just because Thanksgiving is over.

As a self-described movie nerd, I’m always looking forward to the next good film to watch. Hollywood is constantly churning out ideas, whether it’s a new Marvel film or some other long-awaited sequel. Production companies typically produce movies in a formulaic manner for the general public, and in turn, net studios billions (or at least cool several hundred millions) of dollars. It’s a solid arrangement for most of the people involved.

Over the last several winter breaks, I have looked forward to seeing a lot of these new movies. The film I might be most anxious to see, though, is the biographical drama “Bohemian Rhapsody,” depicting the iconic English rock band, Queen, and its lead singer, Freddie Mercury. The film is currently under production and isn’t scheduled for release until Christmas of 2018, so why discuss it now?

A couple of weeks ago, photos were released of actor and “Mr. Robot” star, Rami Malek, as the Queen frontman. While I contend the studio did an excellent job making Malek resemble Mercury (although Sacha Baron Cohen would’ve been my first choice), I’m worried this film won’t realize its full potential. In an interview on the “Howard Stern Show,” Cohen recounted how he was involved in the early days of the film’s development, but eventually parted ways with the project due to creative differences. Cohen explained that he wanted the film to explore the darker, more adult themes of Mercury’s life, including the parties, drugs and sex.

Members of the band have stated they would prefer to create a more family-friendly film in which the story ends before Mercury even contracts HIV, which I’m sure the studios love because it’s safer and will earn more at the box office. However, I would rather see the adult-oriented film, with drugs, rock music and sex everywhere. Not because I’m perverted, but because that film would be honest and simply more entertaining. I’m not crazy about films following the same blueprint, but I wish more musical biopics would follow the “Straight Outta Compton” method: identify and focus on the more talented members of the band early on (as they did with Eazy-E, Cube and Dre), show the appropriate amount of nudity, violence and drugs to accurately convey the story and tell the story in its entirety. That means depicting the death of a band member and all the discomfort and vulnerability that comes with it.

The remaining members of N.W.A. were willing to depict Eazy-E’s HIV-related death. Eazy-E and N.W.A.’s whole approach was too tough and show no vulnerability. “Straight Outta Compton” went there, and now we expect Queen to omit a huge section of its own story for the sake of the box office?

I love the band Queen, and I especially love the talents of Freddie Mercury. The guy is arguably the greatest singer of 20th century, and I’m not sure that second place is close. Go to YouTube and find the video of him improvising at Wembley Stadium in front of roughly 72,000 people, then tell me the name of a better singer.

The point being, I’m like any other movie nerd or Queen fan. I just want to see the best possible film that is both honest and entertaining. I think Queen owes it to us to tell the whole story, and while we probably won’t get it, we can at least hope for one that is entertaining. I, and many others, would like to get our money’s worth in theaters Dec. 25, 2018.
New Pokemon games disappoint veterans

By Jacob Clary
Pulse Editor

Pokemon is one of, if not my favorite, video game franchises of all time. I have been with it since the beginning and have seen all of its highs and lows. “Pokemon Ultra Sun” and “Pokemon Ultra Moon” are not even close to being the best the series has to offer if you are a series veteran like myself. However, if you are looking to get into the series after possibly taking a break or never playing, the two games are serviceable jumping-off points.

These two games are follow-ups to the games released last year, “Pokemon Sun” and “Pokemon Moon.” The strengths those games brought to the series are back, like Z-moves, the elimination of Hidden Machines and a more involved story. However, none of these are changed or improved much in the new games. The story feels the same as the previous games. There is a little bit of a difference, with the addition of a couple new characters, but for a brand new $40 game, it really isn’t worth it if you played the previous games. Many of the cut scenes in the games are also the same, as well as un-skippable, so you have to watch them again if you’ve played the older games.

However, these games are a great beginning for people. There are four islands that the player travels to in the game, and the first one serves as a tutorial of sorts, giving players a way to learn how to battle and catch Pokemon. These games are outstanding at teaching the new player the ins-and-outs of the battle system, how to traverse the world and why they should care about the story. The games get a bit of credit for that, but as a veteran, this tutorial makes the games feel many hours longer in the beginning than I was hoping.

I thought I had played 10 hours, but it was actually four, and that’s my least favorite part of these games.

Pokemon is, and always will be, one of my favorite series, and “Pokemon Ultra Sun” and “Pokemon Ultra Moon” still scratch that itch if you haven’t played a game in the series in a while. If you are looking to get back into the series after a long hiatus, then they are an amazing way to come back. But, if you already played “Pokemon Sun” and “Pokemon Moon,” then I can’t help but say to take a pass and wait for the next games. They are too similar to be worth a purchase.

Animal Crossing mobile app a joy to play

By Stepha Poulin
Forum Editor

Over Thanksgiving break, the creators of the popular Nintendo game series, “Animal Crossing,” released a new mobile game, and it is super addictive (I could barely put down my phone to write this review).

The game has many of the staples of past Animal Crossing iterations, like picking fruit, fishing and collecting bugs. However, the developers created a mobile-friendly game that is like a fast-paced version of “Animal Crossing: New Leaf.”

Rather than being the mayor of a small town, players are tasked with creating a campsite – but not just any campsite. This campsite will be the go-to hangout for all your animal friends and acquaintances. It will be the best campsite ever to be camped upon.

By increasing relationship levels with animals around the campground, you can eventually host them at your campsite. These campers net the player rewards which can be used to build furniture and amenities to attract new animal friends.

As an avid Animal Crossing player, this game seems too fast-paced at times. But, most mobile games have that quality. Its fast-paced nature was beneficial after a couple of days of grinding for the in-game currency called “bells.”

Since I was used to past, slower-paced Animal Crossing games, I had no problem waiting for new reward opportunities. Yet, players that are new to the Animal Crossing saga might fall victim to in-game purchases. Micro-purchases may be small (as the term implies), but they add up. Those new to playing this game could easily rack-up huge sums on their parents’ credit card statements.

Keith Sarver, junior at the University, never played Animal Crossing games religiously. However, he’s already found himself making a couple micro-purchases.

“I’m ashamed to admit it, but I already bought the two cheap launch starter packs,” Sarver said. “It was only $5, though. I’m thinking about getting the $21 one though, because that’s a lot of ‘dollarydoos.’”

Mobile games can be addictive – so be warned. It’s easy to justify small purchases, so don’t beat yourself up about spending a couple of dollars in a free-to-play game. Just don’t give in to the impulse to have the best digital campground through loads of real-life money.

Other than that concern, the game has been a joy to play. The graphics are great and enhance the Animal Crossing aesthetic.

Since the trees resemble real-life trees during fall, one can assume Pocket Camp will have the same seasonal rotation as past games. This might provide new opportunities for collectibles, since new species might appear during other seasons.

Many think Animal Crossing is a game for children, but I’d recommend this new app to everyone. It is visually pleasing, has very intuitive game-play and is easily a contender for the best app of 2017.
Pixar’s “Coco” good but is not great

By Jacob Clary
Pulse Editor

Pixar is the most talented and prestigious animated filmmaker in the world. “Coco,” their newest film, is not as good as some of Pixar’s other work, but it is still a good time and a worthy addition to their catalogue of films. The premise is very interesting, the characters have a lot of heart and the visuals are colorful and creative. I enjoyed the musical aspects of the film, as most of the songs are good. “Coco” was a good film from a studio that I expect to make great films every time.

The premise of “Coco” is the main character, Miguel, has somehow traveled to the land of the dead and needs to find his family to get back to the land of the living. It seems like a simple plot, but I liked where it allowed the story to go. By not overcomplicating what the movie wanted to be, the plot helped the story’s ability to expand in other areas. The story of the film is predictable in the beginning, with Miguel not wanting what his family expects from him. However, there was another part I thought I had figured out almost immediately, but because the film fooled me, I enjoyed it.

The movie’s simple premise made it predictable, but also helped set up some good twists in the story. These twists are not huge and don’t change up much of the movie but, they do make the movie better as a whole. They change the expectations of the viewer and, looking back on it, I’m really happy with the majority of the story. I also liked the way the movie sets up the potential peril that all of the characters could become accustomed to in the afterlife, which I won’t spoil it here as it is a pretty big part in the movie. The sum of the story is very fun and interesting, and I liked the places where it took the characters.

The characters in “Coco” are my favorite parts of the movie. Only a handful of them are important to the actual story, but even those who are not important to it are fun to watch. The focus of the film is Miguel, and I loved his plight in the story. His conflict is how the story is able to go to all the places it does, as well as get the characters to all interact with each other. These interactions are what make the movie good, and I was looking forward to any time a character would be around Miguel to talk with him.

The characters are also how the twists are able to work so well. Because I enjoyed the characters so much, I wanted them to succeed, which led me to thinking one way, which the movie could then pull right out from under me. Without my love for each of the characters and their well-being, I wouldn’t have liked the twists as much. It is a testament to the character development in the movie that both these parts work so well.

The movie’s visuals are also amazing. Every single scene, there were multiple things in the background and foreground that I looked at and took my breath away. It felt like the world in “Coco” was an actual place, with people who have real lives. The two cities in the film feel real, but for very different reasons. In the land of the living, the city feels real because I can compare it to other cities I have actually seen. The land of the dead however, feels real because it is something that I have always imagined could be real. It feels like Pixar reached right into my brain, pulled out what I thought an afterlife could look like and put it in a movie.

I loved both of the settings in the movie, but I liked the land of the dead more just because of how unique it is. I don’t want to say that the land of the living is boring, but because it feels like a real city you feel like you’ve seen it before, it is a bit less interesting. Both of the settings are great, though, and were highlights of the film.

“Coco” is a very good film from a studio that makes the best animated films in the world. When a movie from Pixar isn’t amazing, it feels like it hasn’t lived up to expectations for the viewers. It is very good thought, and one of the better films that Pixar has made in the last couple years. Try and make some time in the next couple weeks to go and see “Coco,” whether you have to go by yourself or with others, because it is a good time.
The University’s athletic department has $23.7 million in expenses, the smallest in the MAC this year. The department continues to look for ways to be more efficient and use funds in the best way possible.

“Our budget has stayed relatively flat,” Athletic Director Bob Moosbrugger said. “We did ask our coaches to plan for a 5 percent cut in their budget.”

However, the department also faces the challenge of managing the current budget with rising expenses, which, according to USA Today, are increasing for schools across the board.

“Even though our revenue has stayed flat, our expenses are going up,” Moosbrugger said. “Housing went up 2 percent and then everything else from travel, that’s all going to go up. So while the allocation from the university has stayed flat, we knew we were going to have to cut some to keep up with the increase in expenses.”

The department also struggles with having a lower level of financial resources right now than other schools. Moosbrugger feels that they can bring in top level talent.

“(The budget) is still, unfortunately, the last in the Mid-American Conference. That’s not something that we go out and sell our recruits on, even though that’s our budget and it is what it is,” Moosbrugger said. “BG is a great community, and it’s a great college town, so it’s a good balance of everything that can still attract great student-athletes here, and we can win championships regardless of what that budget may be.”

The department also wants to continue to put a primary focus on scholarships going forward as well.

“I know our coaches still don’t feel that they’re budgeted the way they should be. I agree with them.”

-Bob Moosbrugger
Athletic Director

With all of the current challenges, the department also knows they will have to do their part to bring in as much funding as possible.

“While we have the lowest institutional support in the MAC, I don’t think that’s going to grow anytime soon,” Moosbrugger said. “We have to go out as an external staff... as I told in our staff meetings. We’re all fundraisers, we’re all ticket sellers and we’re all NCAA compliance folks, so it’s on us to sell the product out into the community and get fans into our stands to help raise money for this department. That’s the only way we’re going to stabilize our finances.”

Looking from the perspective of a specific team, the Falcon hockey team faces challenges with longer travel distances between other teams in their conference and higher gameplay expenses. This led to a conversation about possibly removing the hockey program back in the 2009-10 season.

“The travel costs in the WCHA are definitely greater than they were in the CCHA,” Falcon hockey head coach Chris Bergeron said.

“I know our coaches still don’t feel that they’re budgeted the way they should be,” Moosbrugger said. “I agree with them. We need to allocate more to them, but if we don’t take care of our first priority, which is scholarships, we’re never going to get ahead.”

Moosbrugger also has some long-term plans for the university’s athletic programs.

“Ultimately, I would like to stabilize our finances,” Moosbrugger said. “That’s going to take our alumni to step up, and we’re reaching out to a lot of student-athlete alumni because the fact of the matter is the state is not providing the resources to the university like they once were.”

With all of the current challenges, the department also knows they will have to do their part to bring in as much funding as possible.

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Athletic Director

MAC Athletic Department Expenses

1. Western Michigan $37,643,168
2. Akron $35,378,884
3. Buffalo $34,219,719
4. Miami $33,285,723
5. Ohio $31,168,868
6. Central Michigan $29,618,926
7. Eastern Michigan $30,212,703
8. Northern Illinois $28,746,741
9. Toledo $33,289,417
10. Kent State $28,029,169
11. Ball State $27,226,309
12. Bowling Green $23,719,835
Hockey splits series with Red Hawks

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcons hockey team split their series against the Miami RedHawks, winning 3-2 in a double overtime contest Saturday night after recovering from a 6-3 loss on Friday night.

"I'm much happier with our effort," Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron said. "I thought our guys responded with a strong effort after a poor one, and the message is going to be to stop doing that, stop putting ourselves in a situation where we're responding, but, once again, we proved that we can."

In the Saturday game, freshman forward Brandon Kruse scored the opening goal with only 34 seconds remaining in the first period. However, Miami evened the score with a goal of their own in the second. As the teams again went even in the third period with Miami taking advantage of a power play chance and with sophomore defenseman Alec Bauhauser scoring with 38 seconds remaining in regulation to tie it back up, the game went into overtime.

In the overtime period, Miami outshot the Falcons 4-1, but neither team was able to score, sending it into a three-on-three double overtime period. While neither team was able to score for much of the five minutes, the Falcons scored late in a period for a third time in the game as Spezia tipped in a rebound chance to give the Falcons the 3-2 victory.

Bergeron was proud of how the team was able to show resiliency by coming back from the 2-1 deficit.

"The feeling on the bench was that they weren't going to settle for that if they didn't have to," Bergeron said. "I'm proud of our group for not settling, the resiliency that we built up, that was there, and it showed, and Alec made a good play. I'd like to see us not be in that situation, but at least we proved tonight that, when we're in that situation, we can do just fine."

However, as the game officially counted as a tie in the standings, the team believes getting the double overtime goal doesn't change how they saw the game.

"I'm happy that the fans are happy and that our players are happy," Bergeron said. "Miami would have been happy had they scored that goal, which Ryan (Bednard) made sure didn't happen, but it goes down as a tie, and if it's a league game, that's an extra point for us, but I don't take a whole lot from that. The result was a tie, and I'm happy we were able to score late."

Friday, the team fell behind 3-1 early, with a goal from junior defencemen Connor McDonald at the 13:50 mark of the first period getting the team on the board. However, they fought back midway through the second as senior forwards Brett D'Andrea and Tyler Spezia both scored to tie the game back up. Nevertheless, Miami scored the next three goals unanswered to take the 6-3 win.

"We were definitely the second best team out there from the beginning," Bergeron said. "I know their staff pretty well, and I know that they would have prepared their team to come into a difficult place to play against a team that takes pride in working hard, which we didn't do, especially early. We were chasing it all night long."

The team will next play Friday and Saturday nights at home against the Bemidji State Beavers.

Football falls in final game of season

By Zane Miller
Sports Editor

The Falcons football team fell in their final game of the season Tuesday night against the Eastern Michigan Eagles 34-31. The team finished with a 2-10 overall record, 2-6 in the Mid-American Conference.

"I thought we played hard," Falcons head coach Mike Jinks said. "We killed ourselves in the first half because, really, I thought we came out with a little bit more energy than they did and could have put them away or had a lead coming into half."

The game began with senior running back Josh Cleveland rushing for a 72 yard touchdown as the Falcons grabbed a 7-0 lead. However, Eastern Michigan jumped ahead with a touchdown pass from Doege to senior wide receiver Teo Redding. The team retook the lead early in the game as Spezia tipped in a rebound, giving the Falcons the 3-2 victory.

Midway through the third period, Eastern Michigan added to their lead with another touchdown run to make it 27-17, but the Falcons came back on their next possession with a touchdown pass from Doege to senior wide receiver Teo Redding. The team retook the lead with a 62 yard pass from Doege to junior wide receiver Datrin Guyton. However, Eastern Michigan scored a rushing touchdown just before the end of the quarter.

Both offenses struggled in the fourth quarter, with neither side able to score, so Eastern Michigan held on to win 34-31.

The team had a chance to take the lead in the fourth quarter, going for it on a fourth and one instead of trying for a long field goal, but the team was stopped as Eastern Michigan ran down the clock on the ensuing possession.

"We had a great chance to win the ball game," Jinks said. "We had the ball late and had a chance to make a play, but we really didn't know how many possessions we'd have left. I felt like, if we can't get this yard, then it's not our night."

Doege threw for two touchdowns and 256 yards, along with a rushing touchdown, to give the team the lead early in the game.

"Jone (Doege) was banged and bruised and averaged 30-something points a game," Jinks said. "A lot of that had to do with his ability to make plays, so he was efficient tonight."

"I'm happy that the fans are happy and that our players are happy."

-Falcons Head Coach

Final Game Stats

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Aquaponics, the combination of hydroponics and aquaculture, is working its way onto the University’s campus as the greenhouse attempts to expand its newest program. As the University strives to become a more green and sustainable campus, aquaponics may be the next step toward this goal.

Hydroponics, the study of growing plants without soil, and aquaculture, the farming of fish or other aquatic organisms, are efficient methods of producing both plant and fish crops, according to a study conducted by Iowa State University professor D. Allen Pattillo.

The University greenhouse is home to different species and biomes, but its newest addition includes tanks of fish, pumps and crops. Kevin Neves, the University biology instructor, started this system in fall 2016 when he arrived on campus along with two other students. He has been working in aquaculture for 15 years, and in the three years before coming to the University, he was working on an integrated multi-trophic aquaculture setup in Maine.

“In a standard aquaculture operation, you’re growing fish and you’re feeding the fish. Fish produce waste, and we need to deal with that waste in one form or another,” Neves said.

The greenhouse aquaponics system currently has two tanks full of yellow perch, which are fed standard fish food. The perch grow to about 10 or 12 inches, the standard to sell them for consumption. Next, all the feces and uneaten food go into another tank filled with freshwater shrimp and an orange mesh that allows bacteria growth.

The shrimp then take the ammonia fish produce and convert it into nitrate, which is a type of plant fertilizer. The nitrates travel through pipes into floating beds in which plant roots grow into water. Most of the water then is drained out and pumped back into the yellow perch tank.

Plants being grown from this system include kale, spinach and a few experimental plants, such as tomatoes. Neves first tried to grow thyme and lettuce, which failed in the system.

“It’s environmentally friendly, it’s sustainable, everything looks good and it has so little impact on the environment,” Neves said.

This system is low maintenance, only requiring those who maintain it to feed the fish, and occasionally add a few gallons of water to the system as water evaporates in the greenhouse.

Frank Schemenauer, a horticulturist for the greenhouse, became involved with the project after he discussed the possibility of housing the aquaponics system with Neves. Schemenauer focuses on logistics and input during assembly, assisting students growing plants for and within the system.

“I think this system is providing students and future students with a fun and problems for the plants.

“I think the aquaponics system is a great addition to the greenhouse,” Schemenauer said. “It highlights the potential to produce food in a closed-loop system, utilizing fish waste as a resource to facilitate plant growth with minimal environmental impact.”

One of the students who helped create the aquaponics system was Lana Neff, a third-year marine and aquatic biology major. She now helps with basic care and maintenance of the system.

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Collab spreads to Honors College

By Keefe Watson
Managing Editor

Collaboration space became a focus at the University this fall, marked by the opening of the Collab Lab in the Jerome Library. Now, the Honors College is looking to spread collaboration to Founders Hall.

Preliminary plans have been established to gut and renovate unused space in the basement of Founders Hall, which serves as the home of the Honors College and Honors Learning Community.

The basement used to serve as a space for one of three dining halls on campus, dating back before the time of the Oaks dining facility. Still relatively untouched is the old servery space.

“This servery space was saved to renovate later ... for expense reasons,” associate dean of the Honors College Jodi Devine said.

The space has “built-in barriers” to the process of renovation, including exposed gas lines, electrical lines and exhaust hoods, Devine said.

The space was left untouched in 2013 when the Honors Program became the Honors College and moved from Harshman Hall to Founders Hall. The rest of the dining area became the current honors spaces.

“We renovated those (other) spaces to become our office suite, the Den, a classroom and a second smaller classroom that we call the seminar room,” Devine said.

For honors students, especially those living in Founders Hall as HLC members, the Den is an open space for social and academic activities.

“The Den is our large community space where we do programming. Sometimes, we do orientation sessions there,” Devine said. “It’s also a place for students to informally just gather and hang out.”

The Den earned its name from its nature as a mostly underground room in the building – the opposite of its predecessor, “The Loft,” in Harshman Hall when the Honors Program called it home.

“(It’s) the Honors College students’ living room,” Dean Simon Morgan-Russell said about the Den.

The new space in Founders will offer students more than the “living room” style space currently at their disposal. It will feature movable furniture conducive to working. The space in the new room will also offer students room to collaborate, and even large tables for artwork or other large projects.

“We saw this as an opportunity to have a dedicated space for group projects,” Morgan-Russell said.

The work areas are inspired by the Collab Lab, which opened at Jerome Library in August. The Collab Lab offers movable furniture, some technology and supplies to build prototypes.

“The Collab Lab in the library was really the exciting impetus for this,” Morgan-Russell said. “We’re looking at what works over there and doesn’t work.”

The new space in Founders Hall will offer similar building opportunities to the Collab Lab’s.

“In addition to the furniture that would be in this space, we also want to have some creative supplies,” like cardstock, butcher paper, markers, index cards, play-doh and more to be available, Devine said.

Devine and Morgan-Russell anticipate the new space to help honors students, especially those who live in Founders, who consistently try to find areas in the building good for academic study. The 950 students enrolled in the Honors College will have access to the new space – 360 of them live in the HLC in Founders.

“This is a space we don’t have,” Morgan-Russell said.

The Honors College is collecting feedback from students both formally and informally. The preliminary plans are on display in the Den for students to view and offer feedback, and feedback is sought from members of the Honors College Student Advisory Board, Devine said.

“I think this new space will foster a positive and lasting learning environment for future honors students. Specifically, it will afford students a suitable space to work independently and collaboratively within the Honors College,” member of the advisory board, sophomore, Maison DeWalt said.

“In our next round, we’ll start to send out pictures to all of the students,” Devine said.

In addition to the new collaborative space, the Honors College has plans to construct a new entrance into the basement of Founders Hall.

“If we can do an entrance into honors from outside, that will help land right into this hallway and people can see” the various areas of the Honors College, Devine said.

Currently, Honors Students not living in the HLC must enter on the first floor of Founders Hall and go downstairs to the Honors College space.

“This entrance would be open the same times the upstairs entrance would be,” Devine said. “There’s no new access granted, it’s just a different access point.”

Morgan-Russell said the new entrance will offer a better opportunity for community-building as students enter and walk by the honors spaces.

“I think having an additional entry location makes the space more accessible and when things are more convenient, they are often utilized more often,” advisory board member, junior, Madison McDonald said.

The two projects together are estimated to cost one million dollars, at half a million each.

“Breaking it out into two separate projects puts both of those things more within reach of a donor who wants to support them,” Morgan-Russell said.

Morgan-Russell said he hopes to see the collaborative space finished in a couple of years, with the entrance project coming after.

Neves hopes to incorporate the fish and plants he grows into Dining Services.

Aquaculture is expanding in numerous states, including Ohio, where over 25 fish and crustacean species are cultivated and sold.

As the Earth’s population grows, people continue to deplete the Earth’s resources, including marine life, according to Matthew Smith, Ohio State University Extension Aquaculture Specialist. “Overfishing is real, and although harvesting techniques have gotten a lot better, much of our bodies of water are overfished,” he said. “Aquaculture helps alleviate the burden on our waters.”

As for long-term goals, Neves is trying to gain funding for the greenhouse aquaponics system. If he receives funding, he intends to add on to the greenhouse and add more tanks and plants for large-scale production, in hopes of profiting from the system.

“It’s proof of the concept, and so the goal would be to sell these locally-environmentally-friendly, green perch,” Neves said. “There’s a huge market for hydroponic crops, and people are really excited about that.”
Students feel construction impacts

By Abigail Shifley
Reporter

Residents of Troup Street have been dissatisfied by ongoing construction to replace waterlines and service line connections along the street.

According to the Bowling Green city website, the construction was scheduled to end in November, but right now, the construction shows no signs of completion. In the past week, construction workers have been digging into the ground, likely to access the waterlines.

The holes on the street have been filled with gravel, but the street itself is still rough and unpaved.

Troup Street resident Page Turrittin, University senior, said, “One of the construction site, the construction was scheduled to end in November, but right now, the construction shows no signs of completion. In the past week, construction workers have been digging into the ground, likely to access the waterlines. The holes on the street have been filled with gravel, but the street itself is still rough and unpaved.

Troup Street resident Page Turrittin, University senior, said, “One of the construction site, the construction was scheduled to end in November, but right now, the construction shows no signs of completion. In the past week, construction workers have been digging into the ground, likely to access the waterlines. The holes on the street have been filled with gravel, but the street itself is still rough and unpaved.

Turrittin also said that the construction has been ongoing since the fall of last year. However, residential spaces are not the only buildings that line the Troup Street construction zone.

A parking lot and two University buildings, the Tucker Telecommunications Center and the Social Philosophy & Policy Center, are also on Troup Street.

According to the University’s website, the TTC is the University’s television station and is used by students to study media and telecommunications.

The parking lot is a student lot and is heavily trafficked.

Hallie Benson, a senior and Troup Street resident, said, “One of the construction workers told us it was supposed to be done around Thanksgiving, but now it doesn’t look like it’ll be done until January.”

Benson also said she and her roommates were never told the construction was happening. The only notice they received was a boil water advisory — a notice from the city that water might be contaminated — which they received a few weeks after the construction had started.

Benson said, “It would’ve been nice to know that they were going to be tearing up the street.”

Similar construction took place earlier in the year on Manville Avenue; however, the residents spoken to were not as frustrated as the current residents of Troup Street.

One Manville Avenue resident said he was pleased with the city’s handling of the construction and that it didn’t bother him at all.

Another resident, Robert Ketner, said the construction “slowed things down,” but overall, Ketner was unbothered by the construction.

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