City Councilman Daniel Gordon has announced state representative candidacy. Sit-down with newly elected Bill Herald. | Pages 2 & 3

Thoughts on Disney’s influence on Star Wars | PAGE 4

Softball looks to begin new season | PAGE 12

Local brewery hosts first open-mic night | PAGE 14
Gordon “confident” he’ll win against Gavarone

By Paul Garbarino
City Editor

Bowling Green 1st Ward Council member Daniel Gordon of the Democratic party announced his plans to run for state representative in Ohio House of Representatives District 3 Sunday night, and he is certain he can beat the current representative from Bowling Green, Republican Theresa Gavarone.

“I might be young, but I went up against a Republican candidate when I first ran for office, and I won by a landslide,” Gordon said.

Gordon was just re-elected to serve a fourth term as 1st Ward Council member this past November, and has been serving since 2012. Beginning immediately, Daniel will campaign for the primary election held on May 8 and the general election held on Nov. 6.

He says that it will take a lot of hard work to win against Gavarone, but he is very confident in the message of his candidacy.

“The legislature has been fiscally irresponsible,” Gordon said. “They can’t fix the roof by knocking out the foundation. They couldn’t pay off the money they lost spending on pet projects and rewarding their corporate friends, so they took our taxpayers’ money instead. And they have nothing to show for it. We got ripped off, and the worst part is they keep doing it. Not on my watch. I’m going to get our money back.”

One of the biggest issues Gordon sees and wants to address is the gutting of government funds and how that is negatively impacting local communities. The state continues to cut funds year after year, promising a minimalist government is better for Ohio residents, but Gordon says it is only preventing local municipalities from implementing the projects they need for better quality of life.

“Budgeting is about priorities,” Gordon said. “What you fund well is what you care about. So, why does Ohio rank last among all 50 states in funding programs to fight against abuse of children and the elderly? Why does the legislature continually fail to support higher education, or fix the unconstitutional funding mechanism for our public schools? Why do they continually fail to raise enough money to fight the opioid epidemic?”

Ensuring funds are available and money is appropriated to the right programs is the core of Gordon’s platform.

If Gordon replaced Gavarone, that would change the composition of the Ohio House of Representatives to 65 Republicans and 34 Democrats.

Gordon earned his bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in public administration from Bowling Green State University. He can be reached by calling his phone at 419-450-2164 or email at dg4bg1@gmail.com.
Bill Herald returns to BG city council

By Paul Garbarino
City Editor

With 51.98 percent of the vote in the November 2017 elections, William J. Herald narrowly won the 4th Ward seat for Bowling Green City Council, previously held by Scott Seeliger. Herald had served on Council between 1984 and 1991, and has made a return to fulfill one of his most prominent values: public service.

Herald’s victory came as a surprise; Seeliger, who is a retired University football coach, was unanimously approved by City Council to be Theresa Gavarone’s replacement on 4th Ward after she was elected to be Ohio’s representative for 3rd District. Herald’s success stems from his extensive campaign, where he knocked on over 3,000 doors in the Bowling Green community and talked with most of the residents west of North Main Street and north of West Wooster Street.

He joins Greg Robinette as a new Council member, and they both represent the Republican Party. There are now two Republicans and five Democrats who compose the political makeup of City Council.

He has made altering the roll call order on City Council his first initiative and improvement to the city. While he acknowledges it is a minor matter, he is addressing it exactly because it is a minor issue and because he views the change as an improvement to audiences viewing the meetings.

What do we know about Mr. Herald? Here is a list of facts that highlights all the key information about who he is, why he wants to lead and what he has in store for City Council.

1.) He is a long-time Bowling Green resident and community member

Herald has been a resident of Bowling Green for over 40 years. He lives here with his wife, Karen, and has three children, Jonathan, Joel and Amy. He also has a daughter and son-in-law, Lesley and Jeff, and four grandchildren named Kaitlyn, Ellie, Brooke and Zachary.

In the community, he is a former youth baseball coach and former fourth to fifth-grade Sunday school teacher. He is also a member of the Bowling Green Covenant Church.

Herald continued on page 13
Stop making Star Wars movies

By Stepha Poulin
Forum Editor

It has been announced that there will be a new series of Star Wars movies produced and written by the same guys who write and produce “Game of Thrones.” This has been met with varied responses, depending on how much the person likes “Game of Thrones,” but it does say something about Disney, such as the way they fight to keep content, and profits, to themselves and how they aim to get profits as well. Disney has a history of extending copyright laws to keep Mickey Mouse out of the public domain.

The first copyright laws from 1790 granted people a 14-year term with a 14-year renewal, granted the author was still alive at the end of the first 14 years. By the late 1990s, with the Sonny Bono Copyright Act of 1998, works created after the start of 1978 are granted “life of the author plus 70 years” or corporate works from 95 years from first publication or 120 years from the year of creation, according to Artrepenuer.com.

This phenomenon is called the “Mickey Mouse curve.”

So, while Disney does not own fairy tales, like Cinderella and Snow White, just their specific movies that draw from those stories, their continual need to cling tightly to their intellectual property that should have been given to the public decades ago is indicative of their want for making money.

This was also clear when they tried to trademark, which is used for words, symbols, or phrases that may represent a company, Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, a literal cultural holiday, when Coco was in the works.

Franchising is also a huge part of the Disney name, who now also owns Marvel Studios and Lucasfilm Ltd., both with huge, money-making franchises under their belt. Other media companies under Disney include ABC, ESPN and 21st Century Fox.

Other franchises Disney has created, like Pirates of the Caribbean, still have sequels being made, despite the movies becoming less and less favored by critics and consumers alike. Franchises and sequels are safe money because people love to see more of the stuff they already like, but at a certain point the game gets old, and the people working on the film stop caring about what they are making because it’s all for money anyway. Also, audiences get bored of the same stuff, eventually.

Star Wars is huge right now and it’s doing well financially, despite conflicting reviews of the Last Jedi from fans and critics. Critics liked it a lot more than the fans did.

And, even though the new upcoming Star Wars movie, Solo, about Han Solo, is not expected to fare well with audiences, due to directing changes in the middle of filming, the trailer just being released four months before premiering and the rumors that there was an acting coach brought in for the lead actor, who is portraying an iconic character and an iconic actor.

But now, it seems that Star Wars movies will saturate blockbuster releases even more, with three more movies set to be made. It seems like easy money, because audiences and consumers love franchises, but soon the quality of the movies will deteriorate, like the Pirates franchise. These new movies will not have the distance and time that allowed Star Wars fans to forgive the mistakes of the prequels.

If we want to remember Star Wars fondly as an iconic cultural landmark,

it’s time to stop making movies set in that universe, at least for another decade or so. Let us enjoy the stuff we have now.

Take some risks and create a new cultural icon, Disney.
Social media and businesses

By Victoria Scanlon
Guest Columnist

Looking for tips to use social media for higher impressions? Use this guide to start using social media the RIGHT way and explode your business/website today!

I’ve been using social media for different types of business marketing ever since I can remember. Upon starting this business I’ve discovered hundreds of new techniques, sources, apps, plugins and more – readily expanding my knowledge every single day.

This has been a long journey so far, and a lot to learn. Yet, this has also been absolutely amazing and I have continued to love every part of this type of career.

I mean think about it, if you have thousands of readers and customers every day, all clicking through the pages, articles, books and products that are plugged 100 times with money-making content, you’re bound to be making money all throughout the day. The key is a large amount of content, and a huge percentage of the people, posts counts, such as 60-200, can be just as beneficial to reach a higher percentage of the people using it. Also using #’s with low followers is awesome to reach the tons of people using it. Also using #’s with low followers can bring typically around 30-40 percent of those people as new followers. Which is always a great chunk more than previously.

Tips for social media success:

• Keep a personal written schedule to meet daily/weekly posting goals, keep up on all accounts and post appropriate content at the correct times on each platform.
• Post content organically on each forum. Creating a post according to the layout of each social page is important for professionalism and optimal interaction.
• Get creative! Post pictures with the work family, selfies while working hard or even food from lunch because it was just oh-so #bomb.
• Use hashtags! Seriously. Facebook doesn’t use hashtags, but everything else does. And boy, does it help! Simply adding a hashtag with 1,000,000 posts is awesome to reach the tons of people using it. Also using #’s with low post counts, such as 60-200, can be just as beneficial to reach a higher percentage of the people using the link. Either way, this is the way to spread each post everywhere!

“Social media is one of the tools that sky-rockets companies into what they are today.”
— Victoria Scanlon – Guest Columnist

• Utilize engaging posts, such as Q&As, Polls, “Follow” and tons more. These are important to drive impression counts through the roof and see share counts rise.
• Perform a small follow-spree on each site every day, and you will see exponential growth. Followers are key to outreach, and actively following an extra few thousand a month (50 per day with eight accounts really adds up) can bring typically around 30-40 percent of those people as new followers. Which is always a great chunk more than previously.

PHOTOS PROVIDED
Picking the right gift for your Valentine can be time-consuming and maybe even a little stressful for some. But with the many unique and locally owned shops in downtown Bowling Green, finding a perfect gift can be easy and even fun.

**BEN FRANKLIN CRAFTS AND FRAMES**
For the Valentine with a sweet tooth, Ben Franklin is the “one-stop shop” for festive goodies. From their boxed and bulk candies to the baking and decorating supplies, a perfect Valentine’s Day is easier than ever. They also offer a great selection of cards, decorations and gifts for every Valentine. Looking to get crafty this February? Ben Franklin also has a wide variety of craft supplies and projects perfect for a custom gift. For a full list of services and supplies, visit [benfranklin-bg.com](http://benfranklin-bg.com).

**THE GOLDEN VANITY AND MODE ELLE BOUTIQUE**
Treat yourself or your Valentine with the “You Blow Me Away” date night package. This $75 experience equates to $100 in products and services from both stylish shops. The package includes a conditioning masque, a hot towel infused with essential oils, a bombshell blowout, makeup application, and a Valentine’s Day red velvet clutch. Don’t have the time this Valentine’s Day? Never fear, this offer is valid for the whole month of February. More information and a full list of their services can be found at [thegoldenvanity.com](http://thegoldenvanity.com).

**COYOTE BEADS**
This locally owned bead and jewelry haven is perfect for the fashionable Valentine. In addition to the countless beautiful pre-made jewelry, this shop offers the option for you and your Valentine to make a creation of your own. They offer various workshops to make necklaces and bracelets of all kinds. Perhaps one of the most unique options is their customizable essential oil diffuser bracelets. These one-of-a-kind pieces are available to make for $16. They are such a thoughtful gift and the essential oil only enhances the piece. Hours and workshop information can be found on their website – [coyotebeadsbg.com](http://coyotebeadsbg.com).

**GIFT CARDS**
Still don’t know what to get your Valentine? Most downtown Bowling Green businesses offer gift cards! Stop in during business hours and give the gift of whatever their heart desires. In most cases, gift cards can be purchased in any amount. For a complete list of downtown businesses, visit [downtownbgohio.org](http://downtownbgohio.org).
With Valentine’s Day quickly approaching, many Falcons are seeking the perfect romantic date. Whether it be watching a movie at home on the couch with an order of Pollyeye’s breadsticks or eating a romantic dinner for two at Sam B’s, there are plenty of things students can do for a guaranteed fun time.

Senior Bailee Jesse is excited for her holiday plans.

“My ideal Bowling Green Valentine’s date would be going to see a movie at the mall because it is cheap,” she said. “I really want to see 50 Shades Freed, so if I could drag my boyfriend to that I would be super happy.”

After some entertainment, Jesse has plans to eat some local food.

“I want to go to dinner at Easystreet because that is where our first date was and I really love their food,” said Jesse. “If we are still hungry, I would want to get some ice cream at Dairy Queen.”

While Jesse is taking advantage of a few of Bowling Green’s traditions, Senior Dylan Nyugen is opting for a more low key evening with his girlfriend.

“I really do not feel the need to do anything extravagant to celebrate Valentine’s Day with my girlfriend,” he said. “The perfect date would be ordering Wings Over BG and then having Insomnia Cookies delivered for dessert.”

Although Bowling Green is not the biggest town, Jesse still feels like there are plenty of opportunities and activities for students to participate in to celebrate.

“Bowling Green is a unique town with a lot of fun things to do,” she said. “Most people probably would not peg this small college town as a romantic destination, but if you are with the ones you care about, it really does not matter what you do.”

While a trip to the movies or getting a bite to eat may not be everyone’s cup of tea, there are still plenty of other activities that students could partake in with their special dates.

“I know of some people who are planning to grab a cup of coffee at Flatlands and some other people who are planning on just going out for a casual game of bowling at Al Mar,” said Nyugen.

From traditional cuisine to fun activities, Bowling Green has an array of opportunities destined to turn any couple into falcon flames.
With busy schedules and limited budgets, college students often can be the most challenged to celebrating holidays with loved ones in their lives – especially when it comes to Valentine’s Day. But a quick trip visiting downtown Bowling Green’s local businesses shows that a perfect Valentine’s Day is just a short trip away.

And downtown BG is not just for couples as there is plenty of February 14 fun for a friend’s night out or some simply good old “me time.”

**FOR BREAKFAST**

Start your day off with a visit to one of BG’s welcoming breakfast spots! Kermit’s Family Restaurant offers a cozy and casual atmosphere perfect for the quintessential comfort food we all know and love. Doors open 6:30 a.m. weekdays and 7 a.m. on weekends. This stop isn’t just for breakfast either! Kermit’s offers a variety of affordable and delicious lunch and appetizer options as well.

**FOR BRUNCH**

Whether you plan on waking up at the crack of dawn or slowly getting ready for your day, Everyday People Café has you covered for all of your Valentine’s Day brunching needs. Doors open at 6 a.m. along with their full cocktail menu which runs until close at 3 p.m. They have daily specials, fresh baked goods and the perfect mimosa to kick-start your day.

**FOR LUNCH**

Classes and work can often get in the way of a typical Valentine’s Day dinner, but not to worry, Call of the Canyon Café is perfect for an early meal. They offer a great selection of unique sandwiches, soups and salads along with their delicious pies and cookies. This cozy southwestern inspired spot is only available from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. so be sure to put it at the top of your lunching list.

**FOR DINNER**

There are numerous spots to grab a fantastic dinner in downtown. From pizza to steaks and everything in between, it might be hard to decide just one place! If you’re looking for something new and special for Valentine’s Day, try Two Foxes Gastropub. This spot is open until midnight and is great for late night eats. This quaint and trendy eatery bases its menu around burgers, but also offers great sandwiches and gourmet fries. Try one of their suggested drink pairings or go off book with any of their specialty cocktails. This fun, pub-like atmosphere is sure to be a hit no matter your crowd.

**COFFEE AND DESSERT**

If you’re looking for somewhere to satisfy your sweet tooth after dinner or simply just a cozy coffee date any time of day, Grounds for Thought is a great place for specialty lattes, fresh baked goods and scrumptious layer cakes. Open from 6 a.m. until 11 p.m., there is plenty of time to explore the endless rows of books, learn a new board game or sit and relax with your Valentine.
truck by Cupid’s arrow and need a last-minute date idea for Valentine’s Day? But you don’t have the resources or desire to leave campus? Look no further than what BGSU has to offer! Here are three date ideas for all students who want to enjoy Valentine’s Day but want to stay on campus.

First up, the causal coffee date. This option is perfect if your relationship is new or not serious yet. BGSU offers you two great options. One is Starbucks located on the first floor of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. It is best to go sometime not in-between classes as the line can get crazy! If you’re not a Starbucks lover there is also Dunkin Donuts located in the corner of the building housing the Oaks dining hall. If you chose to go the Dunkin Donuts route, you and your date will be able to sit in the shop while enjoying your Valentine’s Day themed donuts.

If your relationship is a bit more serious, or you are looking for something more special, check out the Black Swamp Pub located on the first floor of the student union. The Pub is a great on-campus date location because it is going to a real restaurant without having to leave campus. You can enjoy a romantic date for two in the dimly lit restaurant that is sure to have delicious food you cannot get anywhere else on-campus!

And finally, if coffee or dinner is not your idea for a date you can check out one of the free events BGSU has to offer. At 8 p.m. Feb. 14 in the Bryan Recital Hall of the Moore Musical Arts Center, there will be a Faculty Arts Series: Faculty Composers show. What’s more romantic than taking your date to a show?

Campus has a lot to offer and by planning a date at one of the on-campus dining options there’s a bonus: Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts and the Pub all take Falcon Dollars!
Why Not Celebrate Your Friends on Valentine’s Day?

By Makala Nelsen | Falcon Communications

While Instagram may be loaded with posts about significant others and restaurants fill with couples on Valentine’s Day dates; who said V-day couldn’t be a day to just appreciate important people in your life--your best friends! We all know that we wouldn’t be anything without the love and support of our besties, so why not use this day to appreciate your girl gang! Here are five steps to having a perfect Valentine’s day with them!

MAKE EACH OTHER VALENTINES
Throw it back to elementary school and make your besties some cute Valentines to give to them on V-day. Let them know how much you care about them so they can all feel the love on this day!

GO ON AN ADVENTURE WITH SOME SOLID TUNES
Go to your favorite store, an arcade, find a cool museum, explore a town or just drive around, because what’s better than taking a drive with your friends while jamming out to your favorite songs? So get ready to take a random road, find some great pit stops, get your dance moves and voices ready and blast your car with your crew’s top tracks! Don’t forget to take lots of pictures during this adventurous feat.

TREAT YOURSELF TO AN A+ DINNER
Get your girls, put on your favorite outfit and hit up your favorite go-to restaurant. Order your favorite meal, and don’t forget to get that dessert that looks good on the menu because what is Valentine’s day without a little dessert? While you’re with your crew, spend some time off your phones and talk to each other!

HOLD A SPA NIGHT
Let’s face it we all live hectic lives. Wind down your epic day and use the rest of V-day to detox and relax with your besties! Do your nails, a face mask and turn to Pinterest for some other relaxing spa activity ideas. By the end of the night, you will feel refreshed and ready to go!

CHICK FLICKS, CHICK FLICKS AND...MORE CHICK FLICKS (PLUS ICE CREAM!)
Since its Valentine’s day and love is in the air, you may as well put on the comfiest clothes you own and binge your favorite chick flicks. Laugh at all the cliché lines with your friends and indulge in your favorite ice cream.
Some late game shots go in and some turn into “what if’s,” which is what happened to the Falcon men’s basketball team on Tuesday’s game against the Ball State Cardinals, as the Falcons fell 59-56.

With time running out in the game, Falcon sophomore guard Dylan Frye released a good shot from deep that went in and out of the hoop, only for Ball State to march down the court and hit a game-winning buzzer beater as time expired.

“(Moses on Ball State) got a lot of fouls called,” Falcons head coach Michael Huger said. “Some good calls and some cheap ones, so you know it is what it is and there is nothing you can do about it. I thought it was a well-called game on both ends and we have just got to be able to make shots and come up with a big stop when we need to. We got a great look at the end from Dylan, it was down half way and came out and that is the ball game. Then Persons (Ball State Guard) takes his shot at the other end and his goes in so that is the difference.”

The Falcons were playing shorthanded in this one as they were without their double-double machine junior forward Demajeo Wiggins.

“(Ball State) tried to (adjust to Bowling Green’s small lineup) in the beginning and then they went back to what they do,” Huger said. “If we were able to make shots we would have been able to make them pay for that but we did not make those shots. We had some great looks, Matt Fox had a great look from the corner, two great looks from both corners, but was not able to knock them down and they were able to capitalize using their size on the other end. We did not make them pay for staying big and that is what we normally do and that’s the game.”

The Falcons were lead in this one by junior guard Antwon Lillard who had 15 points and Frye who finished the game with 14.

“We were not really being effective with the bigger lineup and we had to change and make that adjustment to Matt Fox who hit some threes,” Huger said. “He had some great looks in the second half, just was not able to knock them down.”

The Falcons play next on Saturday at home against the Eastern Michigan Eagles.

Upcoming Games

FEB 10 (SAT) 4:00 PM
VS Eastern Michigan

FEB 13 (TUE) 7:00 PM
VS Western Michigan

FEB 16 (FRI) 7:00 PM
AT Buffalo

FEB 20 (TUE) 7:00 PM
VS Akron

FEB 24 (SAT) 6:00 PM
AT Kent State

PHOTO BY MEGAN GAUMER

Senior guard Matt Fox looks to pass in a game earlier this season.
Softball looks to build on 24-32 record

By Travis Devlin
Sports Reporter

The Falcon softball team begins a new season on Friday afternoon with two games in Cleveland, Ohio where they'll open up against the Niagara Purple Eagles followed by the Cleveland State Vikings, the host of CSU Dome Tournament.

On Saturday, the games will continue, where the Falcons will take on the Canisius Griffins, Niagara once again and finishing off the tournament on Sunday afternoon with just one game against the Robert Morris Colonials.

But, this is a new year for the Falcons, coming off a 24-32 overall record in 2017, head softball coach Sarah Willis expectations far exceed the previous two years and has championships on her mind.

"Especially now that I do actually have my first full recruiting class," Willis said. "(The expectation) is certainly to make the MAC tournament and to compete to win the MAC Championship this year."

Along with having her first full recruiting class under her belt, bringing eight new players to the team, the Falcons also have many players that are returning from last year's team.

"Half the team is new, while half the team is coming back. It'll definitely make for an interesting combination, I think a really good one."

"The expectation is certainly to make the MAC tournament and to compete to win the MAC Championship this year."

Sarah Willis
Falcons Head Coach

"(The expectation) is certainly to make the MAC tournament and to compete to win the MAC Championship this year."

Willis realizes that depth and talent has improved since year one on the job with her teams, but whether that translates to a real game on the field is yet to be determined.

"I'm remaining optimistic about this season," Willis said. "Certainly, you can see where we've improved, I see it everyday in practice, whether that's consistency with our pitching staff and our bullpen, our defense."

While Willis mentions a lot of areas where she believes her team has gotten better, one element for this Falcons team is the offense and ability to score.

"I think the biggest difference is going to be our offensive lineup this year, the runs that we're going to be able to put up on the board this year," Willis said. "We have a lot of strength, again, a lot of depth in the lineup. So, if someone's not getting the job done, we have people to go to this year that we didn't have before in the past."

Some of the returning players are the biggest contributors from last season, including three out of the four top offensive players coming back from last year are sophomore Kendyl Wheeler, red-shirt senior Aspen Searle and junior Alex Sorgi.

Willis agrees that the players' offensive efficiency is important and hopes to be replicated for this season, she sees the girls as bringing a new benefit for the team as a whole.

"I think that's going to mean good leadership in the lineup," Willis said. "When you have your top three offensive numbers returning and those three are staggered throughout the lineup, I think that's just going to show good leadership and it's going to supply the maturity that we need to lead some of the youth that are going to be making appearances in the lineup this year."

The hopes and goals for her team aren't just for the players, they're for Willis and her coaching staff as well. In her mind, in order for the team to be better, the coaching staff needs to work just as well together and Willis is confident that'll lead to good things for the players and her staff this season.

"This is actually the first year I have returning assistants," Willis said. "It's certainly going to help with the ebbs and flows of every game, decisions, decision making time and when we need to make changes or adjustments throughout the season. It starts with us, it starts at the top and I believe in the confidence we have in each other."

Upcoming Games

CSU DOME TORUNAMENT

FEB 9 (FRI) 4:30 PM ET
VS Niagra

FEB 9 (FRI) 7:00 PM ET
AT Cleveland State

FEB 10 (SAT) 3:00 PM ET
VS Niagra

FEB 10 (SAT) 5:30 PM ET
VS Canisius

FEB 11 (SUN) 1:30 PM ET
VS Robert Morris
2.) He has an extensive education background

Herald achieved not one, but three degrees, all from the University. He started with his Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and computer science. At the time he earned it, computer science was a new and growing program, and the University was one of the only schools with a computer science program. He also obtained his Master of Arts degree in public administration/policy, and a Master of Science degree in applied statistics. Herald states, “It would be ‘overkill.’”

Herald has a single committee at least once and chaired the founder of the city’s sidewalk commission that still operates today. Many of the sidewalks neighboring Bowling Green schools can be attributed to the actions of the sidewalk committee.

5.) Here are his visions for the current Council

“When I was on Council ages ago, for eight years, it was a very fulfilling job. It was perhaps the best job I have ever had because I was able to positively affect the community, and more importantly serve its citizens.”

— William Herald
Bowling Green 4th Ward City Council member

7.) He lives to serve

“When I was on Council ages ago, for eight years, it was a very fulfilling job,” Herald said. “It was perhaps the best job I have ever had because I was able to positively affect the community, and more importantly serve its citizens. A very important part of being on Council is constituent service, acting liaison between citizens and their local government, and I was able to do that.”

The number one aspect of his role as a public servant is actively listening to his constituents, accurately representing them and actively trying to improve their lives, he said.
Sugar Ridge Brewery in downtown Bowling Green is home to a new open-mic night for poets and writers who want to share their work. It’s mostly informal; speakers sign up during the night, or just go up when the list runs out.

Thursday, Feb. 1, was home to the very first show. The back room of the Ridge, where the poetry was held, was full and around 15 people performed some of their work.

The event was set up by two people, Billy Gruber, a dish washer at Sugar Ridge Brewery and Tyler Ruggles. Also, they both performed poetry and have a long history writing poetry. Their work is important to them and they wanted to give space for writers to share work that is important to them.

The pieces performed ranged from haikus, poetry, flash fiction, short stories and rap. Anyone was welcome to go up and share, one person reading a piece from a play they were preparing for.

“It’s intimidating showing your work” so they wanted to make this a space where writers could share whatever they wanted, Ruggles said.

Gruber got the idea to hold a poetry night at Sugar Ridge from the “rich poetry scene in Dayton” which is his hometown.

Gruber felt that Bowling Green has a great open mic music scene, but there is not a good spot for poets and writers to share their work. Gruber is also in a band and does other kinds of art.

“Writers are often the introverted type,” Ruggles said. “This kind of event encourages them to come out.”

“I really enjoyed it. It is kind of my thing, my space. So it was really enjoyable for me, really comfortable,” said Faith Hufford, who shared a poem.

Others shared poems about their life while one person shared a short story from the perspective of Tiffany Trump, one of Trump’s children.

Bowling Green has a great creative writing program, Gruber said.

The University creative program has a literary journal for student writers called Prairie Margins.

Gruber definitely wants to continue doing open-mic nights at the Ridge and is planning to have another one the last week of February. He is taking this time to “do some research” to find out the best nights and times best for the most number of people.

Another goal is to bring in professional poets and writers to share their pieces and experiences.

Mike Mullins is the owner of Sugar Ridge Brewery.
Leisure reading: the art is not dead

By Abigail Shifley
Reporter

The decline of pleasure reading may not be quite as steep as it seems. The amount of U.S. adults who partake in literary reading in 2015 has dropped 3.9 percent, according to the National Endowment for the Arts’ Annual Arts Basic Survey. The number of U.S. adults who partake in literary reading now stands at 43.1 percent. According to the survey, literary reading is literature such as poetry, plays, short stories or novels.

Despite this decline, the amount of U.S. adults who read for pleasure has stayed at 80 percent from 2011 to 2016, according to a survey by the Pew Research Center. Even though this survey did not specify the content of “pleasure reading,” it still shows that a good amount of people still enjoy reading.

Katie Mihaly, library associate, said the University Library’s leisure reading section has gotten a lot of attention. The section has been in the library since January 2017, and within 2017 300 checkouts were made in the section. It contains about 50 bestsellers — including novels, cookbooks, memoirs and celebrity biographies, graphic novels and popular non-fiction.

“The reason we did it is because we would get a lot of questions like, ‘I just want something to read for fun, where would that be?’ and the way our collection is set up, there wasn’t really an area where you could just browse and find something to read. So, we wanted to provide that,” Mihaly said.

Mihaly said she switches out novels in order to keep the leisure reading section recent. One shelf of the collections has a number of bestseller and the second shelf usually contains a theme. The theme for this month is “Black Artists.”

She also said the University Library provides Kindles that students can check out. These Kindles have about 50 to 60 bestsellers on them that students can choose from for pleasure reading.

Mihaly also said that students may start reading more after they are done with school. In her experience, she never had time to read when she was in school, but now it is part of her routine after work.

“There wasn’t really an area where you could just browse and find something to read. So, we wanted to provide that.”

— Katie Mihaly —
University Library Associate
Meet your Morale Captains: Emma Hawley

BG News will be introducing you to the Morale Captains in following issues. Check in each week to meet a new member of the ZiggyThon team!

By Brionna Scebbi
Reporter

What inspired you to become a Morale Captain?

Dance Marathon has held a special place in my heart for many years now. When I was in high school I was a cheerleading coach for an elementary school team. One day I was at the gas station and saw one of my little cheerleaders’ face on the miracle child change jar raising money for Children’s Miracle Network. The next practice I asked the child’s mom about it, and she responded “You didn’t know Reagan was a miracle child?” and continued to tell me her entire journey through it all. I was shocked because Reagan was such a sweet and spunky little girl, and I would have never have guessed she was a miracle child.” and I continued to tell me her entire journey through it all. I was shocked because Reagan was such a sweet and spunky little girl, and I would have never have guessed she was a miracle child. What goals do you have for ZiggyThon?

My personal goal for this year’s Dance Marathon as a Morale Captain is to raise over $1,000 for the kids. I also want to encourage others to share this amazing experience with me because it is a life changing event that will not only impact our lives but the miracle children’s lives as well.

What are you most excited about for this year’s Dance Marathon program?

This year I am most excited about sharing this amazing opportunity with the other members of the Core Committee. Everyone involved with Dance Marathon is so positive and supportive, so I can’t wait to spread that attitude with the entire DM family. I also can’t wait to get to know the Miracle Families and continue to change lives one day at a time!