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news

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GAME ON

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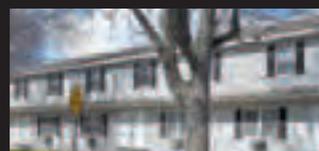
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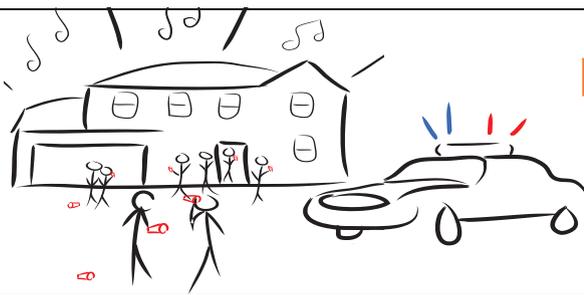
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Call to ban plastic bags on campus

By Paul Garbarino
City Editor

The University's Environmental Action Group began gathering signatures to petition the use of plastic bags on campus Tuesday in the Union.

The petition is a part of EAG's "12M" initiative, a campaign to raise awareness of the consequences of plastic bag use. EAG members launched the campaign Monday by writing the symbol "12M" all over campus with chalk.

"'12M' is a symbol related to plastic bags," Brad Holmes, EAG president, said. "It stands for two major things. First, 12 minutes,

which is the average amount of time between a bag being collected by someone and being discarded. It's the lifespan of a plastic bag. 12 million is what it also stands for, and that is — 12 million barrels of petroleum are used every year to produce our plastic bags."

This information comes from research done by the Center for Biological Diversity and the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA further states that, of the approximately 1 trillion single-use plastic bags used worldwide annually, only about 5 percent of those plastic bags are properly recycled.

Plastic bags are often attributed as a leading cause of waterway pollution and wildlife harm, and are seen as wasteful contributions

to landfills. According to the CBD, 100,000 animals are killed annually by plastic bags.

"The main goal is to get plastic bags banned outright from campus, and the lesser goal is (to) just raise awareness about plastic bag use in general and its bad environmental effects," Ross Martin, sophomore environmental policy major and EAG member, said.

San Francisco was the first city to ban plastic bags in March 2007. Other universities are taking on similar initiatives. As of 2016, North Carolina State University banned the use of plastic bags and switched to paper bags, which are decomposable.

EAG members hope the University will switch over to using more sustainable alternatives to replace plastic bags.

"We are looking into alternatives, and there's been a variety of canvas bag programs that have been put into place here at BGSU," Holmes said. "Some have been more successful than others. However, we are sure that alternatives exist, including canvas bags, bags

made out of hemp and paper bags."

Holmes said plastic bags have been ingrained in our American culture. They are convenient for transporting goods and groceries, so moving away from using them can be a difficult sell to some people. "We're trying to reduce that culture on campus in a way that opens up students' thinking and habits to form (them) around using reusable bags, their backpack or things that aren't these plastic bags," Holmes said.

With their petition underway, EAG members hope they will garner enough support to gain the attention of the University's administrators.

The Undergraduate Student Government will be hosting Nicholas Hennessy, the University sustainability manager, Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Room 308 of the student union for an open forum. He will talk about the initiative and provide updates on campus sustainability. Students are encouraged to attend.

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PHOTO BY PAUL GARBARINO

Environmental Action Group collected petition signatures on Tuesday.

Helping sexual assault victims

By Meredith Siegel

Columnist

The University's It's On Us and the Cocoon are holding a "What Were You Wearing" exhibit on Wednesday, April 11 in honor of April being sexual assault awareness month. Sexual assault is a huge issue in the United States, especially on college campuses.

There are many misconceptions about sexual assault that cause these cases to under-reported and they rarely go to trial. Most of the time, women are asked what they were wearing when they were assaulted as if their outfit is an excuse to rape someone. The "What Were You Wearing" exhibit showcases the real outfits people were wearing when they were assaulted or raped, to show that many women are not wearing super provocative or revealing clothing when they were assaulted. In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness month and this event, here are four ways to support a friend if they have been sexually assaulted.

1. Get them resources to help

There are many resources available for people who have been raped in Bowling Green. Students can report their assault to the Title IX office or the BG Police if they believe they

want to want to file a case about their assault. If they want their assault to remain confidential, they can go to the advocate from the Cocoon that is available on campus and has training on how to deal with survivors of sexual assault. Rape kits are not available at the Falcon Health Center, but they can be done at the Wood County Hospital.

2. Let them know it wasn't their fault

Many survivors of sexual assault are reluctant to get help because they believe they did something to deserve their assault. An assault is never the victim's fault, no matter what they were wearing, if had said yes to something previously or they were flirting with their assaulter. False rape accusations are extremely rare, it is important to believe the person who has been assaulted.

3. Support their decision about whether they will or will not report to the police

While it may seem like the best decision for a survivor would be to report their attacker to the police press charges against them, whether it be to get closer for the survivor or to punish the assaulter, the criminal justice system is pretty cold and unforgiving to survivors. Many feel increased trauma by having to retell their story over and over again to police to who may

"Sexual assault is a huge issue in the United States, especially on college campuses."

— Meredith Siegel —
Columnist

believe misconceptions about rape. Assault cases are rarely pursued in court and they are extremely hard to win. Whether a survivor wants to go through that is up to them.

4. Learn more about sexual assault

There are many ways assault can happen and there is no right or common response from survivors. The more you know about assault the better you can help survivors. According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, 1 in 6 women will be a survivor of rape or attempted rape, and someone of any gender is raped every 98 seconds. Therefore, anyone can assume they know a survivor of sexual assault. Doing research through RAINN or Planned Parenthood can help you develop your knowledge about sexual assault.

#YouTubeShooter top tweets

By Stepha Poulin

Forum Editor

This week, Nasim Aghdam entered the YouTube headquarters armed with a non-automatic gun. The details of the shooting have triggered a partisan debate on Twitter – but it is far from civil.

Details about this tragedy provide a lot of material for political rhetoric, whether you are conservative or liberal. But how far is too far when it comes to making your side of the argument valid, and are generalizations about active shooters the best way to start a discussion about solutions to these tragedies?

To me, some of the more inflammatory tweets about this event are making light of an extremely serious scenario.

Most of the tweets focus on the "typical" way people profile an active shooter. Typically, the image of a white male with a machine gun comes to mind when one thinks of the scenario. The shooting at YouTube headquarters really couldn't be any more different, though.

Aghdam was a young, Muslim woman.



She described herself as a vegan, artist, bodybuilder and animal rights activist on her recently-deactivated Instagram account. She created a variety of content related to her interests on YouTube, however, she also spoke out against YouTube's recent string of demonetizations.

Active shooters shouldn't receive the respect we would give to our peers. However, whether the shooter is a man, woman, white or black, we should not let those attributes (or others) become indicative of whether someone is more likely to be an active shooter.

Some Twitter users are focused on how this ruins the liberal narrative about active

shooters and gun control. They mainly cite how the shooter wasn't carrying an automatic weapon, or the fact California has some of the strictest gun control laws in the U.S.

In the end, that kind of discourse isn't what concerns me. There are plenty of ways to word those sentiments without demonizing a group of people – and people are entitled to their own beliefs.

There's no way for me to stop people from posting content I consider to be derogatory. Yet, if you post things like this for the sake of comedy, edginess or getting a top tweet, try thinking about how it would feel to see your gender, race or religion painted in this light.

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

What would your name be if you could change it?



"John Stamos."

ADAM VICKERS

Junior, Supply Chain Management



"I like my name."

BRETT LANCE

Sophomore, Political Science



"I wouldn't change my name."

GRIFFIN HOPKINS

Sophomore, Computer Science



"Jefferson Steelflex from Drake and Josh."

VINNY CUSINZA

Freshman, Business

New women's basketball hire

By **Chase Bachman**
Columnist

Not too many programs can say they got their first choice at head coach. I can't confirm the University had other, more preferred choices, but it's pretty hard to imagine that they could've gotten anyone better than Robyn Fralick.

It was announced via Twitter on Tuesday that Ashland University women's basketball Head Coach Robyn Fralick would be hired as the new coach of the University's women's basketball squad. She was formally introduced in a press conference Wednesday at 2 p.m.

The University has to be absolutely thrilled about the hiring of Fralick. Her resume and record speak for themselves. Over three seasons at the Division II school, Fralick acquired a record of 104-3, winning 97 percent of her games as the head coach. That's the highest winning percentage in the NCAA among coaches with at least 100 games under their belt, men's or women's, in any division. Higher than UConn, higher than Coach K, higher than the late-great Pat Summitt.

Her first year at the helm of Ashland was easily her worst, finishing 31-2 (re-building year, no doubt). Her second year, the Eagles went 37-0 en route to the Division II National Championship. Last year, the team returned to the Championship game undefeated but lost, finishing 36-1.

Most people will counter by saying that all of her accomplishments must be put in the context of playing Division II competition, and that's a legitimate argument. Looking at the team's offensive numbers, however, you can see that Fralick can and will create successful basketball teams at every level.

Her team last year averaged more than 98 points a game. The team shot more than 50 percent from the field, 82 percent from the free throw line and almost 40 percent from beyond the arc. All are exceptional numbers for any basketball team, but the one that sticks out to me most is the team's assist totals: exactly 24 assists per game. That number is better than some NBA teams. As a basketball nerd, that gets me really excited.



Photo Provided

That tells me Fralick is just plain incredible at creating offense. Her players pass the ball really well, and based on the percentages, the shooter gets a really good look.

"We're gonna work hard at being a family," Fralick said at the introductory press conference in regard to building a relationship with her new players. It will be interesting to see how these players recruited by former head coach Jennifer Roos will work in Fralick's system. I imagine that everyone will benefit statistically, guards in particular will thrive.

This upcoming season, look for everything to improve for the women's team. The team scoring average will jump into the 70s. The shooting percentages will improve significantly. The assist numbers will definitely skyrocket, and most importantly, there will be an increase in wins.

It's not bold or sensational to say this is the greatest hire in the program's history. It's completely reasonable. Yes, that includes Curt Miller. Miller, at the time he was hired by the University, hadn't been a head coach anywhere. In terms of resume at the time of hiring, Fralick's is the more outstanding one.

However, it's still only a great hire for

"I can't confirm that Bowling Green State University had other, more preferred choices, but it's pretty hard to imagine that they could've gotten anyone better than Robyn Fralick."

— **Chase Bachman** —
Columnist

the program. Fralick has to go out and prove she belongs in the Stroh. It doesn't automatically make her the greatest coach in program history. That title of course belongs to Miller, but maybe not for much longer. We could soon see a women's team that experiences a rebirth, and a return to its prime.

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

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Falcon eSports prepares for big event

By Samantha Nicholas
Reporter

Falcon eSports started as just a group of guys playing games in the art building, but they have grown so much over the past four years; they are now holding an event expecting around 70 people. On Saturday, April 7, Falcon eSports will host Battle of the Birds, an esports tournament. They will play games like Super Smash Bros, Dragon Ball Fighterz and Street Fighter, among others. The tournament is open to everyone; though, there is an entry fee which will go toward the prize money for the winner of the tournament.

Battle of the Birds is set to play against Miami University, one of many universities across the U.S. to create a varsity esports team. Numerous universities, including Lourdes University in Toledo and Robert Morris University in Illinois, are now offering scholarships for esports from anywhere between \$2,000 to \$5,000 to scholarships that cover 50 to 70 percent of tuition, according to Forbes.com. Keaton Smith, president of Falcon eSports, would like to see the University move in that direction.

“Bowling Green, as a school, is going to have to recognize that all these other schools are leaving us in the dust about adding these varsity-backed programs,” said Smith.

Universities with varsity video gaming teams also compete in tournaments where players can win a lot of money to help with tuition and other costs. In August 2017, The International’s Dota 2 Championship reached more than \$20.8 million for the prize pool, according to Fortune.com.

“All these other schools that are comparable to BGSU are bringing in these varsity esports programs. Students are getting scholar-

ships; they are competing with other teams around the nation, and that’s something I definitely want to see us doing,” Smith said.

Battle of the Birds is one of Falcon eSports’ monthly events held on Saturdays, but they also have weekly events held on Fridays, called BG Battlegrounds. The weekly events have free entry and are also open to the public. Smith wants to see the organization grow and more people come to the meetings.

“These other [students] will just sit in their dorm room and play Overwatch online

and play with their friends back home, but we want to try to bring them out,” Smith said.

Currently, Falcon eSports can only run games that are on a TV with controllers, but they hope to start including other platforms.

“We want to move towards PC games, but that takes a five versus five or six versus six set up, which would be 10 to 12 computers, and we don’t have those resources,” said Phillip Zulli, a Falcon eSports member.

Falcon eSports has organization meetings every Thursday at 5:30 in the Bowen Thompson Student Union Room 306.

Falcon eSports meetings every Thursday at 5:30

Bowen-Thompson Student Union room 306



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“Bowling Green, as a school, is going to have to recognize that all these other schools are leaving us in the dust about adding these varsity-backed programs.”

— Keaton Smith —
President of Falcon eSports

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Community Action Plan: final draft

By Paul Garbarino
City Editor

City Council members Daniel Gordon and John Zanfardino led a public forum to gather feedback and discuss the final draft of the Community Action Plan, which seeks to revitalize Bowling Green neighborhoods.

Generating a strong household market, attracting and retaining families and professionals, improving housing and rental property quality and encouraging greater investment in the city are the primary goals of the CAP's community-led collaborative effort. A group of 22 community members gathered at the forum Tuesday night to voice what they believe should be the priorities of the initiative to reach these goals.

A new self-certification program for landlords was at the forefront of discussion. It would involve a checklist that will ultimately be developed and issued by the city, and every landlord would have the option to follow it. Zanfardino said this program would hold landlords accountable and force them to ensure that their homes meet city code standards, are safe to live in and are more aesthetically pleasing.

Many community members were concerned because the program is not required, so landlords can simply ignore it. However, through incentives like marketing and competition, Zanfardino believes natural market forces will compel landlords to complete the certification program.

Core development, involving the improvement of downtown walkability and mixed-use building development, currently is the No. 1 priority listed in the plan, but many community members voiced that target reinvestment in housing quality should be the primary concern.

"Target reinvestment, especially living in Ward 1, should be the number one priority," Julie Broadwell, University Not in Our Town co-chair, said. "If we are not bolstering those homes in Ward 1, entire homes are going to flip."

Zanfardino hopes the city will be able to generate enough revenue to fund an additional position for code enforcement, so

landlords will have to abide by city housing code more closely.

"While living in Ward 2, I see the homes are not good family homes. They're fine for college students, but there can't be sustainable family living in these homes," Ross Martin, second year University environmental policy major, said. "In Ward 2, make the homes much more desirable rental housing for both college students and families. If there are nicer apartments in town, it could hold other apartments in town accountable and force them into investing in better living."

The city runs into issues with balancing the amount of rental houses designated for college students versus homes for permanent residents. It's often difficult for non-students to find a place to live because rent does not even begin until the beginning of the fall semester for a lot of rental agencies.

Finding this balance is what Gordon believes is essential to increasing the retention of businesses and permanent residents. People leave solely because of poor rental property quality.

"I've been here a really long time, so whatever we end up doing I want it to be a good plan and get it right the first time, so we don't have to come back and do it again," Gordon said. "I think this plan should be bold, because this town deserves the best."

The plan is not going to be officially voted on and approved. The plan will consistently be under the influence of public feedback.

"I see some things that are immediately doable, and I see some things that will need some time and investment from the community," Zanfardino said. "Whatever is submitted, the more people that are involved and engaged, I think the more speedy and thorough the implementation."

The city is considering having a Google Form available to the whole community but designed to target University students to participate in the Community Action Plan ideas. Gordon and Zanfardino hope to have the form live soon. For now, residents can send feedback by email to Zanfardino at johnzanfa@gmail.com and Gordon at dg4bg1@gmail.com.

You can find the full plan, here: <https://www.bgohio.org/community-action-plan/>

"I see some things that are immediately doable, and I see some things that will need some time and investment from the community."

— **John Zanfardino** —
City Council member



PHOTO BY PAUL GARBARINO

Council members Daniel Gordon and John Zanfardino led the public forum Tuesday night.

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The Indians will officially end the use of the Chief Wahoo logo after this season.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Cleveland Indians end Chief Wahoo logo

By Erin Dziak

Sports Reporter

The Cleveland Indians Home Opener on April 6 marks the beginning of the last season that will feature Chief Wahoo at the corner of Carnegie and Ontario.

On Jan. 29, the Cleveland Indians announced Chief Wahoo will no longer be included on the uniforms or on any merchandise on MLB.com after the 2018 baseball season. The change is happening due to social pressure from fans, activists and Major League Baseball.

Third-year student Rory Gallagher said that the change will have no effect on his identity as a fan of Cleveland baseball. "I think that Chief Wahoo is a racist caricature of Native Americans," Gallagher said.

Matthew Donahue, a professor in the popular culture department of the University, said when a mascot changes, the social and societal attitudes of the time play

a role in the change. "Sports team mascots play a role both for the team and the community in which the team is based," he said. "The mascots are meant to provide an identification of a team's brand or image."

The social pressure that accompanies a controversial mascot brings negative public attention to the team which can cause fans to boycott games or petition against the team in some form. Advertisers might back away from conducting business with a team that is involved in a controversy.

According to David Burns, an associate professor of communications at Salisbury University, corporations work at maintaining a positive reputation within the community. "If the atmosphere surrounding a corporate logo becomes negative or dated, the corporation needs to act to save its reputation and future profits," Burns said in an email correspondence.

Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, changed its original mascot from the Mi-

ami Redskins to the Miami RedHawks at the urging of the Miami tribe, which originated from the Great Lakes area but is currently based in Oklahoma. James Garland, then president of Miami University, called the original nickname inappropriate and requested a change. The logo and mascot were officially changed in 1997.

Public perception is important when it comes to changing an aspect of identity for a team. The fans play a crucial role in how the change will impact the organization and they need to be taken into consideration.

In his 2015 dissertation examining how changes in sport team logos can affect audience consumption, Marlon R. McPhatter of Florida State University wrote: "In the midst of any perceived identification change, loyalty from devoted fans can be achieved through the process of stressing positive elements of the organization."

The rebranding or modernization of teams can be difficult in the public eye

because they have their own traditions. The original fanbase might be hesitant to change any of those traditions.

"In my view, teams have gotten their fans accustomed to viewing the team brand in various ways and therefore emphasizing or de-emphasizing one aspect of the brand may be less shocking today than in the past," Burns said.

In Cleveland's case, the logo is the only aspect of the brand that is changing, making the change a lot less shocking to fans.

Logos undergo changes throughout their time in use. Even the Cleveland Indians' Chief Wahoo has changed multiple times since its inception in 1948. A team's rebrand does not necessarily have to mean the death of an

era, but simply a change in representation.

In the absence of Chief Wahoo, the team will play baseball and the fans will continue to show their support in Progressive Field without the shadow of a controversial logo.

"In my view, teams have gotten their fans accustomed to viewing the team brand in various ways and therefore emphasizing or de-emphasizing one aspect of the brand may be less shocking today than in the past."

David Burns
Salisbury University



PHOTO PROVIDED



PHOTO BY KEVIN MENSAH

Women's basketball signs new head coach

By Zane Miller

Sports Editor

The Falcon women's basketball team will have a new head coach for next season, as Robyn Fralick was announced on Tuesday to be taking over the coaching duties going forward.

Fralick was previously the head coach of the Ashland Eagles of Division II basketball, where she helped lead the team to a 104-3 record over her three seasons as coach, including a D-II National Championship in 2017 and a runner up finish in the D-II National Championship this season back on March 23.

"Any time there's a transition, there are challenges, coming to a place and a new team, the transitional things are challenges in themselves and I'm going to work hard to go through those and move through them as quickly as possible."

"When you get a group of people together that love each other and love to play, special things happen," Fralick said.

Fralick also said that having local connections helped her in the decision to coach for the Falcons.

"It's such a great opportunity," Fralick said. "I'm originally from Michigan and all of my and my husband's family live in that area, so we're still really close to family. It's a region that I'm really familiar with recruiting." However, Fralick also wants to get to know the team better going into the offseason to get a stronger understanding of what to build on.

"I've really got to know the team and its players and figure out how to maximize who

we are," Fralick said. "(How we can improve) is still to be determined."

The team also understands that having a new head coach will be a challenge, however, they believe they will be able to minimize the impact going into next season if they can work together to improve collectively.

"We're going to focus on building together," Fralick said. "We're going to focus on building on the court and off the court and that's where we really want to start... Any time there's a transition, there are challenges, coming to a place and a new team, the transitional things are challenges in themselves and I'm going to work hard to go through those and move through them as quickly as possible."

Fralick is also excited to be coaching in the Mid-American Conference, as the fellow MAC teams of the Central Michigan Chippewas and the Buffalo Bulls both had strong seasons on the women's basketball side.

"That's always your hope as a coach," Fralick said. "What Central Michigan and Buffalo did was just incredible, for them to both make the Sweet 16 in the same year from the MAC is just a true testament to how good the MAC is."

The team will likely begin their new season in early November.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Robyn Fralick will be the new head coach.

"When you get a group of people together that love each other and love to play, special things happen."

Robyn Fralick
Falcon Head Coach

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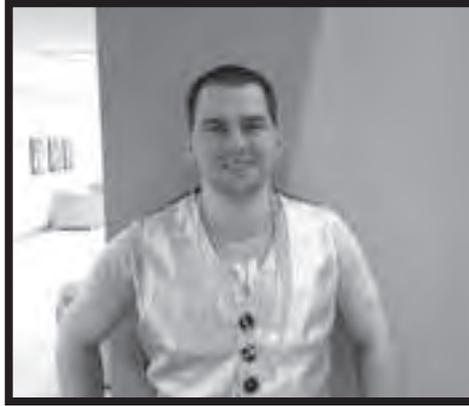


PHOTO BY BRIONNA SCEBBI

By **Brionna Scebbi**
Reporter

What inspired you to become a Morale Captain?

Hanging out and being with all the kids was definitely a reason why I wanted to become

BG News has introduced you to Morale Captains over the last several months. Ziggython is this Saturday at 6:00 p.m.!

a Morale Captain. Also, my first year there were two guys in my chapter that inspired me... Then my Morale Captains were pretty awesome my first year and then it just kind of kept going. Then I decided that I wanted to be one to help make other people feel welcome and happy to be part of something bigger.

What goals do you have for ZiggyThon?

I set my personal fundraising goal at \$1,000 to see if I can make it to "comma club." And I just want to inspire my dancers to achieve this and keep going.

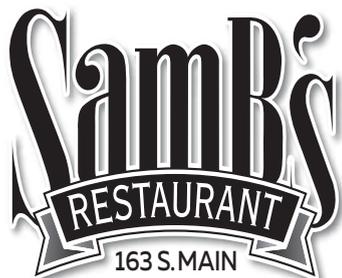


What are you most excited about for this year's Dance Marathon program?

The whole event, everything about it. I look forward to it every year; I do it every year. It's like the happiest moment of my life when I go for it. The whole event is what gets me to keep going every year. To see the kids, the tunnel run in, all of the alumni who come back home, the big reveal and the run in of the bikers, those are what I look forward to every year.

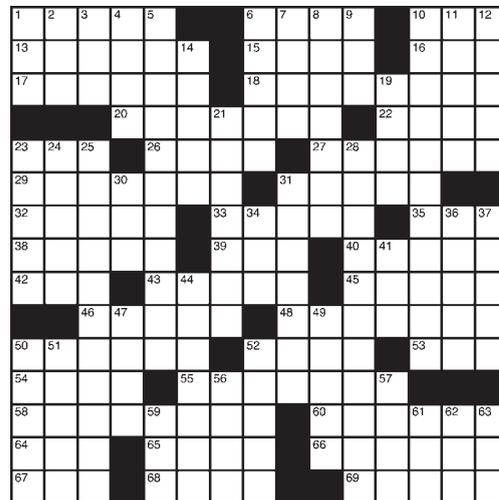


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The Daily Crossword Fix



- DOWN**
- Place for losers?
 - Scratch or dent
 - Little six-footer
 - Lower-APR deal
 - Armstrong improvisation
 - Far-reaching
 - Govt. agents
 - Bobbing wreckage
 - Country W of Iraq
 - Stop on a redecorating spree
 - Make more toys?
 - Far from posh
 - Wedding site
 - Ones on either side of a "v."
 - Conduits for gods' wisdom
 - South Pacific monarchy
 - Ruin
 - King novel set in a graveyard
 - Nominally sovereign country
 - Minor peeve
 - With 52-Across, jeweled creations made for Russian czars
 - Rock's ___ Lobos
 - Buyer of 31-Across' soul
 - Sacked out
 - CPR provider
 - Canopy support
 - Apple MP3 player
 - Anne Brontë's "___ Grey"
 - Medicare card specification
 - Big name in online financial services
 - "It's somebody ___ problem"
 - Check out rudely
 - Geometric figure
 - Towel word
 - Pulls a yard prank on, briefly
 - Color nuance
 - College-level H.S. classes

ACROSS

- Sharp as a tack
- Fave texting pals
- "2 Broke Girls" network
- Chain known for fresh-baked bread
- Count (on)
- "Blessed ___ the meek ..."
- Imaginative
- Lacking scents
- "My parents are gonna kill me!"
- Page with views
- Cough syrup meas.
- Cowpoke's pal
- Like the Flash
- Tennis period since 1968
- Legendary soul seller
- Tag line?
- Woodworking device
- Fryolator sound
- Central parts
- High ball
- Piece of a pansy
- Pub pint
- More than a little plump
- Put a little extra into the part
- MapMyWalk statistic
- Dilapidated place
- Vegetable container
- See 31-Down
- Tolkien creature
- Viola's clef
- Italian relative of grits
- Hard-to-pass drivers
- Catwoman portrayer Kitt
- Seafarer
- Tropical getaway
- Rise to the challenge ... and a hint to a hidden word in 5-, 10-, 25- and 28-Down
- "___ takers?"
- Some Fr. martyrs
- Relaxes

ANSWERS



THE BG NEWS SUDOKU

8			5	7				
2			1		6	8		
	7		6		1			
		9	6		1			7
4								
	3		8	5				
			4	3	1			
1	5			8			2	
	8		1	6		7		

SUDOKU

To play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. There is no guessing or math involved. Just use logic to solve

6	7	5	9	2	1	4	8	3
4	2	8	6	7	9	5	1	3
9	8	1	3	4	5	2	6	7
1	6	2	5	8	4	7	3	9
3	5	9	6	7	2	8	1	4
7	4	8	1	3	9	6	2	5
5	1	4	2	9	8	3	7	6
8	9	6	7	1	3	5	4	2
2	7	3	4	7	1	9	6	8



Transparency for sexual assault

By Meredith Siegel
Reporter

The University is still working on following through with the recommendations provided by the Sexual Assault task force.

The task force recommendation list is extensive and while many points are still being worked on by several committees, there have been major accomplishments including the hiring of both Jennifer McCary, as Title IX Coordinator and Angela Clark-Taylor, as the new Director of the Women's Center.

"There was an initial timeline, we want to be able to figure out what these committees can do, but those dates have now come and then gone by the end of March, just about, and now committees are starting to talk about what's the timeline for us actually doing it," McCary said.

Other accomplishments include events and trainings on campus, as well as an already established survivor's emergency fund through the Women's Center, Clark-Taylor said.

McCary wants students to know "the University remains committed. There was a long delay between the announcement that I was coming and that there were some other things coming and when I actually arrived in January, (and) when we will finally be able to provide updates on the violence prevention center and things like that," McCary said. "There is a long delay and I don't want people to think that, that delay means that things aren't happening. We've just had to identify the funding and resources available (for these projects)."

Two major points being worked towards are the hiring of a Male Engagement Coordinator and the creation of a physical Sexual Violence Prevention Center on campus.

There are many aspects to hiring and cre-

ating spaces on campus, and the University is working towards balancing accomplishing goals in a timely manner, working out budget negotiations and making sure everything done is according to standards.

"From what I can gather since I've been here, the approach has been to respond and people are responding. There are people working really hard here on this campus to respond to issues of sexual violence," McCary said. "Everyone may not necessarily know what that response looks like and so one of my goals is to be more transparent."

Both McCary and Clark-Taylor are pushing for greater transparency between the University and students about these issues, to make sure students know these goals are being worked towards, even when roadblocks come up.

The goal of the Violence Prevention Center is to "triage education, the preventative piece, with response," Clark-Taylor said.

"I'm hoping it'll be a place that triages things that are already going on and makes them more accessible by having a point person," Clark-Taylor said. "For instance, we would have a conduct manager for sexual assault cases on campus. Also to work on things

like stalking, domestic violence, sexual harassment, covering some of the things Title IX and the Women's Center cover."

To accomplish greater transparency and understand the conversations around campus about sexual assault between students, there are many things happening to gain a student perspective.

Students are holding focus groups to gather student opinions on the Sexual Assault Resource Center and reporting that information back to McCary.

"My goal with the student groups, I wanted them to be student led, a couple students are working with me," McCary said. "Did the task force report hit the needs of students and was there something missing?"

McCary has not received the information from these focus groups yet. The University sent out a "campus climate survey" which has a whole section dedicated to sexual assault.

Campus culture around sexual assault is incredibly important for both prevention and care aspects of assault. There will be more focus on men.

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