UPSET CHIPS
Star performances lead Falcons to 79-72 comeback victory over Central Michigan Chippewas | PAGE 8

Learn swing dancing with fellow falcons
PAGE 2

The best places to take your valentine
PAGE 10

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Swing on by for dance lessons

David Escobedo
Reporter

BGSU offers many campus organizations that teach great skills or connect people with similar interests. Falcon Swing Society manages to do both: teach people swing dancing and connect them with many enthusiastic members.

FSS is an on campus organization that teaches its members how to swing dance. Members can learn East Coast swing dance, which teaches its members how to swing dance. Falcon Lindy Hop and the Charleston. Originally started in 2010, the club is still going strong with similar interests. Falcon Swing Society manages to do both: teach people swing dancing and connect them with many enthusiastic members.

Being comfortable with yourself and taking things at your own pace is a big part of dancing. Members won’t push you to do anything you’re not okay with. So dancing may be the main activity that members are learning and participating in, but there are other things to be learned as well.

Falcon Lindy Extravaganza, or FLEx. FLEx is a yearly event put on by FSS. Allison Palmer, FSS president, describes it as a sort of swing dancing convention. “Through a whole weekend … we have instructors from different areas around the Columbus area or Ann Arbor scene come and teach us lessons throughout the day. And then we have open dances at the end of the day where people can practice what they learned in the lessons,” Palmer said.

FLEx this year is April 12-14. More information about FLEx or FSS can be obtained from their Facebook page.

Falcons find their valentines on game show

Brionna Scebbi
WBGU-FM Contributing Writer

Love is in the air this Valentine's Day, and two BGSU students will get the chance to find their soulmate — or at least a date — on the Falcon Flame Game.

This game show is a BGSU spin on the 1970s Dating Game. Last year, one lucky “Freddie” and one lucky “Freida” found a date for Valentine's Day by asking three contestants in each of their rounds a series of questions. The contestants didn’t know which love bird they were competing for as their voices are distorted and they’re hidden from sight, but with every question they asked, they were one step closer to finding their match.

This year’s Falcon Flame Game is hosted by Zach Davis and Isaac Pritt of Plastic Shatners Improv. The winners of the Falcon Flame Game will receive a variety of fun prizes including dinner and a date activity. WBGU-FM Promotions Director Brooke Jones is excited for the contestants to find their Falcon Flame on Thursday. “I’m hoping our two main contestants find good matches, and if a relationship doesn’t work out, at least they had a memorable Valentine’s Day date,” Jones said.

Students and community members can tune in to WBGU-FM’s Facebook page to watch the live event starting at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday to root for their favorite contestants and watch some fellow Falcons find love this Valentine’s Day.

WBGU-FM and the Plastic Shatners are also coordinating an opportunity for students to spread their own love to significant others, friends, roommates and more with Cupid Grams. Members of the improv group and radio station staff will be delivering valentines and performing improvised songs around campus on Thursday.
Making the most of Valentine’s Day
Embracing your singleness, celebrating self-love this holiday

Mary Ross
Columnist

Valentine's Day is here. For the people who file under “single” or “it’s complicated,” this holiday can be a pain. Hearing all my friends talk about their V-Day plans with their significant others at first felt like a gut punch.

But rather than sulk about the idea of being alone on Valentine's Day, I'm deciding to embrace my singleness, and for good reason. Not only have I been the only person who has been a constant source of love and support for myself since last Valentine's Day, but I also have grown much more as a person during this past year as a single lady than I ever did while in a relationship.

Because of the amount of self-growth in the past year and my single status, Valentine's Day gives me another reason to celebrate, well, me. All too often, it seems people forget they are the No. 1 person in their life.

I’ll admit, I used to fall into this category. I put my family and friends before me, never thinking about how doing this was affecting me. If you fall into the category of forgetting you are No. 1, this means it’s an opportunity for you to celebrate yourself on Valentine’s Day, too.

While people in relationships make plans with their significant others, you can plan to do whatever you want. While people in relationships spend money on presents for each other, you can treat yourself and splurge on whatever you have been eying for a while now. More important than any of that, while people in relationships worry about if they are doing enough to make the other person happy, you can focus on yourself and what makes you happy.

I mean, all of those things are what I will be doing on Valentine’s Day. I’ll go to class and hopefully learn something. I’ll be working five hours, which, with minimal wage, equates to about $40. Rather than spend the money on a gift for a significant other, I’m going to be spending the $40 on treating myself. As for dinner, I will probably go to Dunkin’ to grab a mint hot chocolate to have with pizza rolls in my dorm room before I go to work. All that sounds lame, I’ll admit. However, sticking to my schedule with a little splurging thrown in there is what will make me extremely happy on Valentine's Day. Seeing as Valentine's Day is a day of love and happiness, I would say how I plan to spend the day isn't half bad.

Although meant for lovers and normally a pain for single people, Valentine's Day doesn't have to be such a dreaded day. If you can embrace whatever status you are and stick to doing things that make you happy, you can make the most of the holiday any way you choose to spend it.

STEPHA POULIN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Letter to the editor
PETA manager responds to forum editor, defends

Dear Editor:

The website mentioned in Meredith Siegel’s Feb. 10 column is run by a front group for the meat industry, whose self-professed strategy is to “shoo the messenger” because it fears PETA’s impact in educating people about the meat industry’s cruelty and environmental destruction and our success in changing consumers’ buying habits.

PETA works to stop animal suffering on all fronts, from speaking up for gentle sheep who are punched in the face, kicked, stomped on and even killed during shearing — as PETA’s video footage from 11 eyewitness exposés of nearly 100 wool-industry operations on four continents shows — to protesting cruel, experiments in which songbirds are captured, fed crude oil, wounded without pain relief and killed.

We’re also proud to help animals in the communities surrounding our Sam Simon Center headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia. Last year alone, our fleet of mobile spay-and-neuter clinics sterilized 11,464 dogs, cats and rabbits, all at little to no cost to their guardians. Operating the clinics cost PETA more than $1.2 million in 2018 alone. We’ve helped thousands of impoverished families keep animals they would otherwise have given up, by providing free veterinary care, food and other services.

For animals who are beyond hope of rehabilitation, PETA’s shelter of last resort offers a peaceful end. Unlike many limited-admission facilities, PETA does not put up barriers such as fees or waiting lists, and we welcome animals who are unadoptable, including dogs who have become aggressive from being chained 24/7 and are slowly dying from advanced heartworm disease and feral cats who are ravaged by injuries and illnesses. For these animals, euthanasia is a kindness — sometimes the only kindness they’ve ever been shown.

We transfer many adoptable animals to other local shelters, and we’ve found loving homes for many ourselves. I invite readers to visit www.PETASaves.com to learn more about PETA’s work and to get involved.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Montville
Manager
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)
KennethM@peta.org

Confronting the colorism issue

Rosiland Fletcher
Columnist

From the stares and the questioning looks – though it seems like malice – to why some individuals of color walk into a predominantly white area of town, it’s an intense and irritating experience.

As a light-skinned, black female, I have noticed stares and experienced the same consistent question: “What are you?”

I was warned to never put hands in my pockets or argue with a police officer, but it was never much of a personal reality; I never experienced any direct discrimination. I never bothered to listen because I did not “see color,” just people from all walks of life, which is part of the issue.

Significantly, people who are darker are told the exact same thing. It is a persistent reality for darker-skinned people to experience situations like being followed in the store or being intentionally pulled over by a police officer; there are various scenarios to speak of.

Darker-skinned individuals are facing discrimination more so than their light-skinned counterparts, and it is one out of many reasons colorism needs to be confronted.

Colorism is “prejudice or discrimination against individuals with a dark skin tone, typically among people of the same ethnic or racial group,” according to the English Oxford Dictionary. It is an issue that need to be discussed more, especially within person-of-color communities.

Colorism originates from post-colonial times, from the days of colonial expeditions of the British Empire and other European states. Also, with the Transatlantic Slave Trade through the 14th to the 19th centuries, there was consistent “mixing,” or sexual relations between people of different races, and their offspring emerged as a mixed-race, or “mulatto,” in the terms of the time.

There are instances like that of Dido Belle, who was raised as an aristocrat, but faced prejudice in the British aristocracy due to her mixed-race origins. Or the horrifying thought of the fact a white slave master willingly took advantage of a black, female slave while also subjecting her to the harsh exploitations of slavery.

With this in mind, it is clear another reason colorism has caused modern-day racial and social tensions among Americans is due to historical confrontations.

According to David Knight, a race and social justice writer, “color-conscious banter” between people-of-color or even white people reflects biases, or “implicit biases” that tend to display favor of lighter skin. Meaning, social influences have made persons of color, specifically darker-skinned, to be seen as less.

Kenneth and Mamie Clark’s doll study in the 1950s, during which various children were given the option of a white or black doll and a majority of the children chose the white doll, including black children, illuminates this influence. Displaying stereotypes and assumptions of P.O.C. have affected how people are seen and how one sees themselves.

The roots of colorism and social influences through the centuries has affected how colorism, from the past and present, affect P.O.C. If the persistence of racism, colorism and discrimination thrive into an ugly historical repeat, people will be harmed because they are considered at a lesser value than others, leading to the dehumanization of countless individuals. Ironically, people are being harmed day-by-day, and there is little public attention on such occurrences.

Colorism, despite the gradual and tedious process of confrontation, is necessary in the country. By understanding colorism and how it affects darker-skinned individuals, it will start to help prevent negative biases and potentially negative encounters. It is the key to confronting colorism and starting to see others as equal.
Technology trade-in programs give consumers options

Parker Kern
Reporter

Consumers have increasing access to technological products that make their lives easier. However, the desire for the “latest and greatest” has some consumers mystified and, in some cases, vexed. How do they turn what they have into what they want: usually a newer version of the product they currently own?

Technology companies like as Apple, Amazon and Samsung have advanced their products so rapidly consumers are left scratching their heads, attempting to figure out how to springboard themselves into having the newest technology available. All this for them to likely face the same dilemma in a year or less, when an even newer model comes out. So what are retailers and tech companies doing to help spur the sales of newer products?

Apple is one of the largest forces in technology today. With iPhones, MacBooks and everything in between, they set trends with new products and software advancements regularly. Apple has implemented a program called Apple GiveBack, whose tagline reads, “Turn the device you have into the one you want.”

To complete the give-back process, one must first identify what type of product they have (smartphone, tablet, smartwatch or computer, which doesn’t necessarily have to be an Apple product), then self-assess its value through a short series of questions. Next, Apple gives an estimate for the product. From there, the consumer is sent to a page to select the new product they’d like to trade in for and complete the ordering process. The new product is ordered, and a trade-in kit for the old device is on its way.

Once Apple has received the old device and assessed its value, one has the option to choose an Apple Store gift card or a partial refund on their recently purchased new product.

Although the online GiveBack program is an important part of Apple’s system, new products are still in demand.

“They’re definitely popular,” said former Apple Store employee Natalie Magana. “Launch times were the most insane. People always want the newest products available.”

Magana also said the iPhone upgrade program, a program similar to GiveBack, only for iPhones, is also popular.

“The introduction and launch of the iPhone upgrade program was huge. It allows customers to make monthly payments on the newest model and not be tied to any phone service company, while having the ability to get a new model every year,” she said.

Although Apple has made it easy for customers to upgrade their devices with a couple of clicks or a visit to an Apple Store, students have found their own way to reach the same goal. Senior multiplatform journalism major Stephia Poulin has found sites like eBay and Facebook Marketplace are also suitable places to sell older devices in preparation for an upgrade.

“Generally, people notice with trade-ins that stores try to, in a way, low-ball you for your devices. You’re not going to get nearly the price you could at a store than if you sold it on eBay, social media or just by word of mouth,” Poulin said. “You could make more of a profit and be that much closer to getting a new device if you sold it online. I think people go for the convenience factor when they go into stores to trade-in. If you wait and try it on your own, it’ll be more lucrative for you.”

Although many consumers are fixated on having the newest technology in their hands, for some, newness of their products is not an issue. Junior public relations major Kari Toncre is one of these consumers and does not have the desire to always have the most recent version of products.

“Most of my electronics are considered older models now, which I purchased when they were new. I definitely have a desire to have electronics and technology that work, but if they fail, then I want the latest and greatest, or at least something close.

“The only electronic device I have traded in is my iPhone when my two-year contract was up with my cell phone company,” Toncre said. “When I traded my phone in upon the completion of my contract, my existing phone deducted from the price of a newer model.”

Regardless of how one feels about technology and the ever-evolving collection of products being launched constantly, there are many ways to upgrade technology to have the best possible products.
Professor researches criminal activity by police

Phil Stinson, sitting in his book-lined office, tells how his research started in the fall of 2004 on a bet — a bet that grew into a dissertation and then research that is getting put into Pulitzer Prize winning stories with the Wall Street Journal.

Stinson is now an associate professor of criminal justice at BGSU, but his research started when he was a college student. A criminal justice ethics class at West Chester University sparked the discussion about how often police officers commit crimes.

“A classmate of mine didn't think police officers got arrested very often, and I thought they did,” Stinson said. He talks about this nonchalantly, even though that was the very moment his research started.

Stinson set out to find cases of police officers being arrested.

“I knew that the government, the federal government, didn’t collect any data, and they certainly didn’t analyze or disseminate anything on crime by police officers, so I decided to use the Google News search engine,” he said.

Stinson set up 48 Google News alerts, which are the same alerts he uses today to collect this data. He came up with a “handful” of officers that had been arrested that week and took it back to his class.

Stinson did end up winning the bet.

“I cashed in that a long time ago. It was just a beer; I’m not much of a better,” he said.

But he didn’t really win just a beer but rather an opportunity to continue research that he now dedicates his life to.

“The idea was that I could show several officers would get arrested before our next class and did. I have stayed in touch with the professor that taught that class — we’re friends on Facebook — and I think she’s retired now, but I reminded her that this started in her class as an in-class project basically and grew into something that’s become a major part of my research,” he said.

BGSU is home to the Police Integrity Research Group, which is one of the only places in the country collecting data on crimes committed by police officers. This information is incredibly sought-after today because of the backlash against police brutality cases.

He started teaching at BGSU in 2009 and has 15,000 cases in his database, 9,088 of which are fully coded in the system. The goal of his research is “to improve policing.”

Stinson said that BGSU mandates research that is for the public good, and believes that his research is just that. He wants to determine the officers who are committing crimes and why.

In the group’s research, they found a significant chunk of the officers arrested were within three years of retirement eligibility, the opposite of what prior research was showing.

The group also runs into many cases of officers previously “being in so much trouble that they were arrested,” yet still employed, and sometimes being moved to other precincts, showing up in the database more than once. Stinson and the Wall Street Journal found that about 10 percent of the officers they looked at were employed again somewhere else.

“One officer from Florida, (in) condition of her plea bargain, was that she not work in law enforcement again; we found her working as a deputy sheriff in Richmond, Virginia,” he said.

“The takeaway is that there is a problem with law enforcement officers getting arrested,” he said.

Even though the number of officers committing crimes is very small relative to the number of officers in the country, “these are people who are sworn to uphold the law, and they’re not supposed to be committing crimes,” he said. “That’s troubling.”

His research, which is having an impact on police brutality and police accountability, all started with a bet in a college class.

— Phil Stinson —
Associate Professor of Criminal Justice

"These are people who are sworn to uphold the law, and they're not supposed to be committing crimes.”
Herald runs for Council seat again

Adam Gretsingr
City Editor

One of Bowling Green’s long-standing citizen leaders looks to run for reelection this year.

William Herald, a current member of the City Council, announced his run for reelection for the Fourth Ward seat Jan. 1.

“It has been an honor to serve the citizens of Bowling Green this past year as well as during my previous eight years on Council,” Herald said in a message to the press. He also said he would look forward to representing citizens’ interests if he were re-elected.

Herald went on to list his goals for his next term, which included:
• Helping citizens interact with the town government.
• Improving neighborhood conditions around town.
• Supporting economic development that helps the city.
• Maintaining careful city budgeting practices.
• Ensuring consistent, responsive city services continue to improve.

Herald currently heads the city’s Public Lands and Buildings Committee and works in its Community Improvement and Public Utilities Committees. He has served on all seven committees throughout his whole career with the city, has headed more than half of them and once acted as President Pro-tem.

The note describing his application for re-election emphasized his efforts to canvas and use citizen opinions, including hosting 36 public meetings about City Council matters, writing newsletters and surveys for interested citizens and personally visiting homes.

Herald had returned to a Council seat in 2017 after an election period out of office following a popular vote.

Though he earned his doctorate in public policy and management from Ohio State, Herald earned a bachelor’s degree and masters’ degrees in applied statistics and public administration/policy from BGSU.

He has resided in Bowling Green for more than forty years, working in both business and college education spheres during that time. He is currently employed as a data scientist for the First Solar energy equipment company.

Herald and his wife, Karen, have three children and four grandchildren.

Elections for City Council position take place this November.

NAMI plans family mental health program

Emalee Mierzwia
NAMI Intern

Nationa Alliance on Mental Illness will sponsor a Family-to-Family Education Program specifically for families of individuals living with a mental illness.
• The course will cover information about Schizophrenia.
• Mood disorders.
• Panic disorder.
• Obsessive compulsive disorder.
• Borderline personality disorder.
• Post-traumatic stress disorder.
• Coping skills such as handling crisis and relapse.
• Basic information about medications
• Listening and communication techniques.
• Problem-solving skills.
• Recovery and rehabilitation and self-care around worry and stress.

The curriculum has been written by an experienced family member and mental health professional. The course will be taught by NAMI volunteers, who have done intensive training as course instructors.

“This course balances basic education and skill training with emotional support, coping strategies and empowerment. We hope families with relatives who are living with a mental illness will take advantage of this unique opportunity,” a NAMI Wood County instructor said.

The course is designed for parents, siblings, children, friends and significant others taking care of people with severe and persistent mental illness, rather than the individual under their care.

The NAMI Family-to-Family Education course is free. The 12 sessions start in Bowling Green on March 4th from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the NAMI Wood County Office. For more information or to register, go to www.namiwoodcounty.org or contact the director of programs at the NAMI Wood County office at (419) 352-0626.

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Guillermo (Will) Pacheco is the 2019-2020 **FREE RENT** Winner at Mecca Management, Inc.

This exciting event took place at the sold out BGSU Mens Basketball game against Toledo.

Will is a Junior at BGSU, with a major in Architecture. He is also involved with the American Institute of Architecture. This is Mecca’s twelfth year, giving free rent for the school year, to one lucky person.

**CONGRATULATIONS WILL.**
Falcons come from behind to pull out win

Evan Hayes
Pulse Editor

After falling behind early and eventually losing to rival Toledo, it looked like the BGSU men’s basketball team was headed for a similar result against Central Michigan Tuesday.

But the Falcons refused to go out quietly, using a strong second half to secure the 79-72 victory. The second half saw Bowling Green lock down on the defensive end and make 16 of 18 attempts from the free-throw line within the last five minutes of the game to take the lead.

“In the Toledo game, we missed those free throws, the same free throws that make a difference in the game,” head coach Michael Huger said. “I didn’t put any extra pressure on them after the Toledo game or yell and scream about missing free throws. We talked about it, and it was onto Central Michigan.

“Today, it was a much better outcome at the free-throw line. All those guys stepped up and hit big free throws down the stretch, and all of them we needed. At every single point, we needed those free throws.”

The Falcons’ (17-7, 9-2 MAC) second half run was spurred by a stifling defensive turnaround that saw the team hold the Chippewas (16-8, 5-6 MAC) to 30 percent shooting. They also took advantage of sloppy play by CMU, converting 19 of 22 second-half free-throw attempts and forcing nine turnovers during that span.

Junior Dylan Frye scored a game high 23 points and was 4-10 from 3-point range, while redshirt-sophomore Justin Turner scored 20 points and grabbed six rebounds. Senior Demajoe Wiggins recorded his sixteenth double-double of the season with 17 points and 11 rebounds.

It was another slow start for the Falcons in the first half, jumping out to an early 23-8 lead in the first eight minutes on the back of four made 3-pointers. Frye answered back for BG, making three straight 3-pointers to keep the Falcons close, but the Chippewas controlled the rebounding advantage (20-12) and the score (42-32) at the half, shooting 16 of 33 from the field and 50 percent from 3-point range as the two teams headed into the break.

“Coach got on us in the locker room. Our defense wasn’t good at all, if we’re being completely honest,” Wiggins said. “...We just didn’t bring the energy, the effort, and we weren’t playing with any heart in the first half, from myself all the way down to every player on the roster.”

The Falcons came out with a renewed defensive intensity in the second half, holding CMU scoreless from the 15-minute mark until the nine-minute mark. The Falcons went on a 10-0 run in that time, led by Turner, who scored every point of that run.

The Chippewas offense then went cold down the stretch, and the combination of defensive stops and free-throw line excellence allowed them to pull away.

“We were able to get stops. Our guys finally understood what I was saying at halftime; it started to click in, and you saw it right away,” Huger said. “I saw a different team; I saw a different energy in the second half. That was the difference in the game.”

The Falcons will travel to Dekalb, Illinois, Saturday for their next matchup with the Northern Illinois Huskies. The game is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. and will air on ESPN3.

An inside look at the BG hockey team

Jamison Terbrack
Sports Reporter

After a stellar start to the season, things have cooled off with the weather for the Falcons.

The team currently sits in a tie for second place in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association with the Northern Michigan Wildcats at 43 divisional points. There is a clear cream of the crop in this conference, as the Minnesota State Mavericks dwarf all other nine teams with 59 points.

This ranking may be coming at just the right time according to Falcons’ sophomore defenseman Justin Wells.

“I think with a weekend off we could regroup and really focus on the details of our game to try to find consistency for the last six league games before playoffs,” Wells said.

The Falcons have been led offensively by a trio of sophomore forwards through the season with Brandon Kruse, Max Johnson and Connor Ford, who all have over 20 points so far.

Kruse, a 2018 Round 5 draft pick of the Vegas Golden Knights, has been able to use his blazing speed and playmaking ability to garner 29 points (eight goals, 21 assists) to lead the Falcons offensively.

Johnson’s 27 points (11 goals, 16 assists) and Ford’s 21 points (12 goals, nine assists) round out the trio point leaders. Johnson uses precision and accuracy to get the job done while Ford, a center, is often seen all over the ice making plays happen with his legs.

The highest goal scorer on the team is currently junior forward Lukas Craggs. He uses his big body to bring a very physical presence to the ice that opposing players do not like to mess with. He also leads the team with 72 penalty minutes, followed by his sophomore forward brother Sam Craggs who has 49 minutes.

Kruse and Craggs were both named to the Hobey Baker Award watch list earlier in the season. The Hobey Baker Award is an annual award given to the top National Collegiate Athletic Association men’s ice hockey player. The award is named after a former Princeton standout who died fighting in World War I.

This Falcons team features one of the stronger blue-lines in recent memory with junior Alec Rauhauser and seniors Connor McDonald and Chris Pohlkamp, who have provided a veteran presence all year long.

Joining the team on the defensive core is freshman Tim Theocharidis, who is having an extremely solid and productive season. Coming from Ontario, he is second on the team in defensive points only to Rauhauser.

Most important for this team has been the playing from both goaltenders. Coming into the year, it was expected that junior rearguard Ryan Bednard would carry the team at times with outstanding netminding; he has with an extremely impressive 1.34 goal against average through 20 games to go along with a 0.925 save percentage.

Those numbers would stand out at most other schools, but not at BGSU, as sophomore Eric Dop has been even better when given the chance to play, with a 1.34 GAA and a 0.948 save percentage.

The Falcons next take the ice at Slater against the Nanooks of Alaska Anchorage on the weekend of Feb. 15-16.
The Alliance of American Football: Likes and dislikes

Evan Hayes
Pulse Editor

If you’re a fan of football, this time of year is usually one of the worst. The Super Bowl, the zenith of the sport and perhaps its most widely watched broadcast, is now in the rearview with the rest of the NFL season. The College Football Playoff probably left a bad taste in your mouth yet again, Clemson and Alabama fans notwithstanding. There’s only so much excitement to gain from Joe Flacco changing teams and the NCAA transfer portal.

“I’m a fan of football everywhere, there’s a brand new league for those itching for a pigskin fix.”

Evan Hayes
Pulse Editor

But luckily for football fans everywhere, there’s a brand new league for those itching for a pigskin fix. The Alliance of American Football premiered last week as an alternative professional football league, with two games airing on CBS. The league’s debut was a success, drawing higher viewership numbers than the Rockets/Thunder game that in the same time slot on ABC and almost as many as the highly anticipated college basketball matchup between Duke and Virginia.

The league is largely a response to the previously-defunct-but-soon-to-be-resurrected XFL, founded by current WWE CEO Vince McMahon. Its focus is to create a solid football product in the hope it will attract fans as an alternative to NFL play. In function, it makes one dream of an increasingly modernized NFL run by former players a reality. While the quality of play might lag behind some conferences of D1 college football, the end product is entertaining and fun to watch. Here are some of my likes and dislikes to help you get a better feel for the AAF.

Likes:

AAF App: The AAF app is one of the more intriguing aspects of the league, with potential to provide new avenues for football fandom. The app allows fans to follow games on their phone in real time, showing where the ball is and where all players are through live tracking. The league is planning to stream games that aren’t broadcast elsewhere through the app, and it is using the app to feature a new style of integrated fantasy game. The game as it allows fans to predict what type of play will happen next (run or pass), where it will go (left, right, up the middle) and what the end result will be (first down, touchdown) and earn points for each correct prediction.

Executive Structure: The AAF is innovative, and as such, wants to create the best football product it can. The league’s executive structure is designed with this goal in mind, with members of player relations and football operations being former NFL players. Troy Polamalu, former Steelers safety, serves as head of player relations, while J.K. McKay, former Buccaneers wide receiver, serves as head of football operations. Former Steelers receiver Hines Ward and former Vikings defensive end Jared Allen serve as player relations executives, while former Giants defensive end Justin Tuck is a member of the player engagements board of advisors. With so many former football players involved, the AAF has made players a major focus.

De-emphasized Kickers: Chicago Bears fans will like this one. The kicker has been heavily de-emphasized in the AAF, only really kicking field goals. There are no kickoffs; instead, teams start at their own 25-yard line. No extra points, either. Teams are required to go for 2-point conversions. Perhaps the most interesting rule is the removal of onside kicks. Teams can keep possession of the ball after scoring by attempting a scrimmage play from their own 28-yard line and gaining at least 12 yards. A team may not attempt such a play after a field goal or touchdown unless it is trailing by more than three possessions or if there are five or fewer minutes remaining in regulation.

Throwback players: As an NFL junky, I’ve spent a majority of my young life getting to know names and faces of players and getting invested in their college careers and professional starts. This can be a difficult aspect in football, where many players flame out fast. In the AAF, fans get to watch players such as failed Jets quarterback Christian Hackenberg and disappointing Browns running back Trent Richardson play football again. These are guys the football world considered dead, and now they’re scoring touchdowns in front of audiences on par with other major sports leagues. That in and of itself is to be celebrated.

Dislikes:

Blitz limitations: One of the best developments over the past decade in the face of increased NFL passing offenses has been the rise of the pass rush and edge defender. NFL teams now pay premium money for players who can get after the quarterback, and schemes are increasingly putting more pressure on offensive lines. That’s why the AAF’s rules on blitzing seem silly. Defenses are forbidden from rushing more than five players at or across the line of scrimmage, and no defensive player can cross the line of scrimmage from more than 2 yards outside the offensive tackles. Violating these rules prompts a 15-yard penalty. In a time where quarterback safety has taken precedence, this seems like a step in the wrong direction.

Throwback players: As I said earlier, I get to watch Christian Hackenberg and Trent Richardson play football again in front of millions of eyes, and that should be celebrated. But after watching Hackenberg and Richardson’s teams play each other this past Saturday, I’m not sure if this is a good thing. Hackenberg looked like the same guy who couldn’t have bought an incompletion when he was with the Jets, and Richardson showed that he still misses wide open rushing lanes with the best of them. While the overall league structure and rules might make the game more entertaining, the lack of quality players right now isn’t a good thing.

Overtime rules: With all the debate that took place this NFL postseason about overtime rules in football games, the AAF’s overtime rules seem a little underwhelming. The rule is as follows: each team gets one possession from their own 10-yard line, with four downs to score a touchdown. No field goals are allowed. Games can end in ties. Personally, I think that college has the best overtime rules in football now, and I hate that football games can end in ties. These overtime rules feel a little gimmicky, with the 10-yard line seeming too easy.

Sky Judge: The NFL has now outsourced all of their replays to an officiating center, where multiple people aide officials in making the right call. The AAF has boiled this down to one person, who they call the sky judge. The sky judge will be in the press box and can instantly correct “obvious and egregious” officiating errors. The sky judge uses real-time technology to correct errors involving player safety, as well as pass interference inside of five minutes left in the fourth quarter. Putting this all on one person feels like it could lead to increased personal pressure or unchecked mistakes based off opinion.
Local spots to consider on Valentine’s Day

Stepha Poulin
Editor-in-Chief

With Valentine’s Day on Thursday, students might be looking for date night plans. Bowling Green may not be the first city that comes to mind when one thinks of a romantic night on the town, but people can find several date spots within walking distance of campus — other than bars — to visit on Thursday.

BG Beer Works
322 N. Grove St.
Valentine’s Day hours: 5-11 p.m.
If someone is looking for a happy medium between going out to the bars on Thursday and treating a loved one to a romantic date, then the city’s self-proclaimed “beer whisperers” might be the perfect date. The sheer number of local and imported beer sets BG Beer Works apart from the average bar.

Call of the Canyon Cafe
109 N. Main St.
Valentine’s Day hours: 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
This small, aromatic cafe is a local option for a romantic Valentine’s Day brunch or dinner. All baked items are homemade, so couples don’t have to worry if they aren’t skilled enough to make their boo breakfast-in-bed.

Campus Pollyeyes
440 E. Court St.
Valentine’s Day hours: 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
If couples are short on time on Thursday, then they can get this Bowling Green classic delivered straight to their dorm or apartment. Pollyeyes also has seating inside but they recommend calling ahead. The restaurant doesn’t take reservations but will probably be packed.
The Stones Throw Tavern & Grill
176 E. Wooster St.
Valentine’s Day hours: 4 p.m.-2 a.m.

The Stones Throw is more of a sit-down restaurant, making it a popular choice for date nights. That being said, it’s best to call ahead and make reservations. There are already 25 reservations made for tomorrow, which is typically a busy day for the restaurant, since it hosts trivia night each Thursday.

D.P. Dough
1616 E. Wooster St. #8
Valentine’s Day hours: 11 a.m.-3 a.m.

Pizza is a college classic, and D.P. Dough is close to many students’ hearts. What better way for Falcon Flames to show their love for each other than through some stuffed dough?

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Student-made job fair spotlights BG

Adam Gretsingter
City Editor

Finding long-term career options in Bowling Green can be challenging, but a new student-led job fair is looking to fix that.

BGSU’s Career Center is hosting the Bowling Green Job Fair Feb. 28 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Student Union, Room 201, but it will depart from past fairs by centering its focus on career options in Bowling Green.

Between 20 and 30 businesses are slated for the event, some of which include the chemical-focused Betco Corp., Centaur Tool & Die Inc. and Biofit Engineered Products. Though many companies attending the fair are more industrial in nature, few are focused in one area of expertise and some are service or retail-oriented.

The fair will also host businesses with branches in Bowling Green, like CWS Environmental Clean Water Systems, Inc. and Toledo Molding & Die, Inc.

A mission statement for the fair emphasized the need for a strong connection between the city’s businesses and BGSU.

“The University and the City of Bowling Green possess a unique symbiotic relationship that allows for mutual improvement between the local community and University students,” the mission statement said.

It also said the school hoped to complement this relationship by providing career opportunities to students where possible.

Senior political science major Paul Garbarino created the idea for this fair last September during a business conference hosted by Betco.

While attending that conference, Garbarino realized the company, among others in the local community and University students, “The University and the City of Bowling Green more competitive in hiring. Garbarino also described this fair as an “opportunity for students to find work within the city” and not have to look elsewhere for employment.

He added that attending any type of career fair is good for a student, as they provide experience and networking opportunities.

He also said Bowling Green would benefit by attracting student or former-student workers. However, he hopes a career fair such as this can make Bowling Green more competitive in hiring.

The fair is part of Garbarino’s Honors College Capstone Project, but his desire to plan was not merely academic.

“I wanted to do this,” he said, because he saw the need for such an event in Bowling Green.

This event comes a month after the Career Center’s Spring EXPO Job and Internship Fair.

**SUDOKU**

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

**THE BG NEWS SUDOKU**

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Across

1. Tablet  
2. Magma  
3. Assist in crime  
4. Rubber wheel  
5. Implore  
6. Boxes lightly  
7. Mentally irregular (slang)  
8. Not closed  
9. Carries (pregnancy)  
10. Rude  
11. French for “Queen”  
12. Type of rubber  
13. Goulash  
21. Enemy  
25. French for “Name”  
26. Country bumpkin  
27. Black, in poetry  
28. Blunder  
29. Wildlife warden  
30. Type of cap  
31. “What a shame!”  
32. Submarine  
33. A city in western Russia

Down

14. Log home  
15. Bishop of Rome  
16. Tidy  
17. Blatant  
18. Cards with 1 symbol  
19. Small amount  
20. Seafront  
22. Again  
23. Dawn goddess  
24. Building addition  
26. West Indies music  
30. Wand  
31. Automatic transmission of data  
37. Thunder  
38. Vibes  
39. Debauchee  
40. Debilitates  
41. Ringworm cassia  
42. Chinese mafia  
43. Unit of gold purity  
44. Pester  
45. Chalk  
46. Run away  
47. Not thin  
48. Ringworm cassia  
49. Found on cave ceilings  
50. Russian emperor  
51. As well  
52. Hefty volume  
53. Ancient Peruvian  
54. Adolescent  
55. Visual organs

**ANSWERS**

34. Chinese mafia  
35. Graphic symbol  
36. 365 days  
38. Harsh  
40. Debilitates  
42. Ringworm cassia  
43. Unit of gold purity  
44. Pester  
45. Chalk  
46. Run away  
47. Not thin  
48. Ringworm cassia  
49. Found on cave ceilings  
50. Russian emperor  
51. As well  
52. Hefty volume  
53. Ancient Peruvian  
54. Adolescent  
55. Visual organs