Students, business owners and other citizens are split on a possible plastic bag ban. While some advocate for a full ban, some business owners worry about the proposition of a plastic bag tax.

Continued on page 12
House dwelling limit change a win for everyone

Paul Garbarino
Managing Editor

The Northern District of Ohio federal court’s decision to strike down the city of Bowling Green’s dwelling limit ordinance is a win for both the city and realtors but will most likely spark little change overall.

Federal Judge James R. Knapp ruled the decades-old ordinance limiting the number of unrelated occupants in a R-2 single-family residential zoned property to three as unreasonable and arbitrary, and the changes are effective immediately.

The new ruling states that the number of tenants simply can match the number of bedrooms so long as there is ample off-street parking to fit all the tenants.

This law mainly impacts properties in the R-2 zones that possess four bedrooms but could still only house three unrelated tenants due to the restrictive old ordinance.

The old dwelling limit ordinance was enacted around 30 years ago to reduce code violations, partying, disorderly conduct issues and excessive occupancies. However, in his opinion, Knapp wrote restricting housing based on relationship between tenants is unconstitutional and the city failed to convincingly argue how the rule achieves the above goals.

Proponents of the decision praise Knapp for reducing ambiguity affiliated with housing regulations and destroying an outdated, unfair law that arbitrarily restricted both renters and property owners in the city.

“The change helps us as council people because the judge was very good to the city of Bowling Green in writing his opinion,” Councilwoman Sandy Rowland said. “In his opinion he was very specific on what it had to be based on. You’re allowed to rent to the same number of bedrooms you have, and he defined the bedroom. And you also have to have off-street parking for the number of people you have rented. So it’s crystal clear now.”

Since the city has construction records of houses and apartments, they can see how many bedrooms a property has, so the change eases zoning code enforcement. For example, if a rental house has three bedrooms, there should not consistently be four or more vehicles in the off-street parking space or else the city has reason to believe the tenants are exceeding the occupancy limit of the property.

Some realtors expect the change may raise the value of their properties. Since landlords can now add more tenants in their rental properties, they’ll potentially be able to accumulate more revenue, thus raising the value of their rentals.

“Obviously, the more income you can produce in a property, the more it’s probably worth,” said A.A. Green Realty broker Mark Remeis. “In this case, a landlord or owner is going to, most likely, get additional income just because they’ll be able to put more bodies in there than they were able to before.”

Some students praise the ruling for justly removing the old restrictive ordinance and giving them more freedom as to how many roommates they can have. And they hope the decision will potentially lead to lower rent costs.

Senior business major Olivia Forshey said, “When I lived in Bentwood (Estates), we had four bedrooms, but we were only allowed to legally have three people there, which makes no sense at all. Because we had enough room for four people.”

There is some speculation as to exactly how the change will impact property values and what it may do to homes in the city.

Councilman John Zanfardino is concerned over whether the new ruling will raise property values in the long run, and while it may raise some, it could reduce the value of others.

“If a block has one rental out of 30 houses versus 15 rentals on another block, the block with less rentals is honestly going to look better and have better maintenance,” Zanfardino said.

Since the population density of Bowling Green remains relatively static because BGSU is always admitting a similar number of students each year, Zanfardino said it also may be possible the change may lead to an increase in vacant properties. If population stays the same, but more people live in less houses, some properties may not get filled.

Overwhelmingly, however, the change is not expected to have a substantial impact on the city, and its residents.

“If you’re living next door to a house that has suddenly gone from three people to five or six people, it might be quite an unpleasant change,” Councilman Bruce Jeffers said. “But I don’t think that will happen in a lot of places, and overall, I don’t think there will be a drastic worsening of crowded situations.”

There were 233 properties grandfathered into the new ruling that were already exempted from the old ordinance, and the quantity of properties that possess more than three bedrooms and parking spaces limited by the old ordinance is small.

“I thought it was very well reasoned and very well-done by the judge,” Bowling Green City Attorney Mike Marsh said. “I thought he took the whole thing seriously. It would have been easy in his decision to just find that our raw-number standard was arbitrary and unconstitutional and leave it at that, but he didn’t. He also devised a standard that I believe is reasonable and is constitutional. So I think it settles something for once that has been up in the air in a matter of straight debate around here for years. Now we have a standard that is easily measurable, and I think it will also make it easier for property owners to comply with.”
The Academy Awards do not represent films

Vaughn Cockayne
Web Editor

The lead up to the 2019 Academy Awards has been a bumpy one. Every few months it seems as though the Academy has been hitting the film world with a series of changes that were eventually reversed.

From the original decision to have Kevin Hart hosting the ceremony to several categories being dropped from the telecast altogether, every single reform the Academy has announced has disappeared. With only a few days left until the ceremony, questions about its integrity are on the minds of every critic and cinephile.

It must be pointed out that this controversy is not the first time the Oscars have changed their formula. But it is the first time they have expressed desire for change and the public told them no. This controversy makes film lovers question who the Academy wants to be.

It’s possible the Academy wants to transition away from being respected in the realm of high art and transition toward a more popular approach. However, if that was the case, then films like “The Favourite” would not have been nominated. Also the idea of a “popular film” category would be insulting to those involved.

If it isn’t the case that the Academy is hoping to popularize the ceremony, then they must still be looking for respect in the high art arena. However, if they are looking for this respect, then we wouldn’t see stunts pulled every year where the host and several celebrities meet with “normal” people.

Evidently, the Oscars are at a crossroads of identity as to where to go from here. It is already common knowledge the Oscars have been scrambling for views every year and it could be entirely possible this year’s success is based on people’s interest in the controversy.

While I don’t think that the Academy intentionally created these controversies to generate buzz, I do think these controversies have really shown the true face of the Oscars. Film critic Richard Brody said it best in his comments on the Academy on Twitter.

“The Academy doesn’t care if critics and cinephiles are up in arms about the ceremony: I think they are in a state of blind flailing panic over whether anyone young and anyone noncoastal (the union of these sets, not the intersection) is watching,” Brody said.

Every ploy for people to watch has simply been a way of testing the pulse of America. Sooner or later the Academy will have a perfect formula to get the amount of viewers they need to stay afloat.

In the wake of some of these proposed changes, I have lost almost all respect and admiration for the ceremony. Not necessarily because they were going to not show the cinematography award, but because of how upset this made the film community. Why should it matter what an independent awards show thinks about the films that came out each year? The lists of Oscar snubs gets more ridiculous year after year.

After becoming painfully aware about the Academy’s intentions going forward, one can only hope the film community changes its attitude toward the Oscars.

Letter to the editor: Stewart B. Epstein

The ‘biased liberal media’ is a myth

It is my hope to see the day when both conservative-Republicans and liberal/progressive Democrats will become more politically honest and truthful with the American people. There is tremendous room for improvement on both sides. For example, I recently had the displeasure of reading a letter to the editor in my hometown newspaper in which the writer claims that all liberal/progressive Democrats are “dangerous” because they want to deny freedom of speech to all conservative-Republicans. Can we please stop this kind of over-generalizing and over-exaggerating that is done by both sides?

The one constant mantra, myth, and “greatest hit” that comes from the conservative-Republican side is the false belief that most of the “mainstream media” is heavily pro-liberal/progressive Democrat. This is “an oldie but a goodie” from the right-wingers amongst us. If there is some way to do this, I would love to provide your readers with research evidence that proves that the opposite is true. I have read it.

Let me start with just a few examples: One objective study found that more Americans read pro-conservative-Republican daily newspaper editorials than the opposite. If anyone looks up “conservative think-tanks” and “liberal think-tanks” online, they will see and prove to themselves how many times more that there are conservative ones than liberal ones. Please try to prove me wrong. Look it up. It is overwhelming.

I can also direct your readers to the recent empirical research study done by the respected “The Brookings Institute” which concluded that conservative-Republican in the national news media as well as conservative-Republican politicians and political candidates insult liberal/progressive Democrats more than the reverse.

There is also a very well-known conservative-Republican author (who has a strong dislike for “illegal immigrants”) who has admitted that the “mainstream media” is now more pro-conservative-Republican than the opposite. She states that many conservative-Republicans know that this is true, but pretend that it is not true because they love to play the “underdog” and to act like they are the “victims” of and are “outnumbered” by the so-called “big, bad, bullying liberal media” because it gets them a lot of votes and a lot of financial donations. I could go on and on because I have more research evidence and studies that I would love to share with your readers.
Using critical thinking in an age of information

Meredith Siegel
Forum Editor

Critical thinking is one of the most important skills any of us can ever learn and one that I believe isn’t being taught very well, especially in high schools.

A recent bout of debate online among teenagers has been about symbolism in novels and essentially whether authors use it. This argument is somewhat pointless because of course authors use symbolism. It’s an incredibly important device, and being able to read between the lines and understand what an author is subtly trying to say is an important aspect of critical thinking.

This also heavily applies to news and politics and what people like the president are telling us. Children need to be taught to be skeptical and how to fact-check something they are being told. When they don’t develop these skills, they don’t know how to confirm or deny what they are being told. It’s much easier to just believe what you hear.

And now that we’re in the age of Ted Talks, YouTube video essays, Wikipedia rabbit holes and highly specific meme pages, it’s easy to get lost in the information and believe what you see. Especially when the people talking seem informed or trustworthy. And all of this is heightened by algorithms creating political bubbles, so you never see another viewpoint unless you go looking for it.

I’m definitely not knocking Ted Talks, video essays, Wikipedia or meme pages; I engage with and get information from all those places. I think they’re great resources, and they serve to get people interested in important issues. There are a lot of experts out there talking about important issues in a more entertaining or easily digestible way.

The problem starts with people who are not experts claiming to be so and deliberately spreading misinformation. An easy solution to that is teaching fact-checking skills and instilling a critical eye in students at an early age.

The problem gets more complicated when issues or situations are not easily digestible, and they need a more critical and nuanced frame. Not every solution is easy and the ability to understand things with refinement is the only thing that will create a truly well-informed world.

Understanding racism takes a more critical eye than just saying, “If I’m nice to Black people, then racism is over.” This ignores the systems like housing discrimination and the prison-industrial complex that feed into modern racism.

And you can get a more nuanced understanding from a Wikipedia deep-dive or a video essay, but it takes digging deeper than something you may have been told initially. And you can get an even more nuanced view from philosophical or scholarly articles. Before critical does not mean thinking something is bad; it means looking for the holes in the argument.

I think the internet has done a lot of great things for exposing injustice in the world, but if we close ourselves off to other viewpoints, deeper understanding and critical thinking, we are not truly understanding our world.

Voting makes a difference

Mary Ross
Columnist

Trump has a habit of saying things that make Americans furious, even before we elected him as the face of our country. Whether his comments have been sexist, racist, discriminatory or just derogatory, each one brings his character into question.

Moreover, his comments bring the character of the entire country, especially the people who voted for him, into question. Why would they elect a man like this? Why would a party even nominate a man like this for president? Why would anyone want a racist, sexist, homophobic and discriminatory man as the face of our country?

Not only is Trump all these things, he also does little to conceal any of it, causing some of the people who follow him to believe it’s okay to be this way and become racist, sexist, homophobic and discriminatory too.

Trump has received backlash for years about his character, his policies, his ideas and more. But normally this backlash has been in small amounts where it isn’t powerful enough to be effective.

However, recently, there has been backlash that may be powerful enough to make a difference. After the longest shutdown in government history, caused by Trump’s inability to compromise on the funding for his notorious wall, Trump issued a state of emergency, which would give him the necessary funds to build his wall. Backlash quickly came from 16 states who filed lawsuits to stand up against the unnecessary national emergency.

Although this could be the start of something big, I question why more states haven’t followed suit and filed similar lawsuits. The New York Times compiled information from the polls about Trump’s wall from various sources, showing a consistent trend that a majority of Americans disapprove of the wall. With a majority of Americans disapproving of the wall, why aren’t the representatives of these people standing up for them?

American people elected these public officials to fight for their rights and their beliefs. My state, my county, my city, my friends, my family and I voted for people to fight for our rights and our beliefs. We voted for people we thought would best serve our interest. So, it is only plausible that we get infuriated when our representatives don’t fight for us and repeatedly don’t do so.

But rather than just stay angry at our officials for not standing up for their people, we should use that anger to motivate us to vote for and elect better people and better officials. We should use that anger to motivate us to educate ourselves about candidates in order to vote for representatives who best represent us. We should use that anger to motivate us into making our vote count for not only a number on a ballot but within each one of us as difference makers in the world.

By using our right to vote, we can pick better public officials who will represent us better, so one day soon, we will have representatives who stand up against a discriminatory president. By using our right to vote, we can elect a president who sees all people as equal and represents each person in the United States as such.
Digital privacy not just an individual issue

Digital privacy not just an individual issue

Facebook lost a lot of the public’s trust in 2018, when it was revealed early in the year that it shares large numbers of users’ messages and other personal data with firms like Cambridge Analytica.

This revelation and Edward Snowden’s 2013 leaking of classified National Security Agency documents were landmark moments that opened the door to new debates about privacy and transparency. Before last year’s scandal, people were aware that Facebook and other web-based companies collect information but not quite to the extent that was reported.

According to BGSU communications professor Clayton Rosati, the idea of “individual” privacy is a bit of an illusion. In his words, all the private information we store in hotel rewards clubs, personal contacts or photos on mobile phones is on shared infrastructure that can be hacked by individuals, governments, subpoenaed, etc.

“We’re all in the same boat that way. So, in that sense, the problem of privacy is collective, not individual—it’s public not simply private,” he said.

A popular question that comes with the topic of privacy is how much people have to fear if they have nothing to hide. On the surface this seems to be a simple question with a simple answer, but there are plenty of possible scenarios that muddy the waters. People can have legitimate reasons to hide items or information without implying that they’ve done anything wrong, like in cases of secret ballots.

“We keep our vote secret, not because we did something wrong but because someone may use it against us or persecute us for our choices or beliefs,” Rosati said.

Freshman social work major Hannah Hess thinks the principle is generally correct, but people should still be able to choose what content of theirs is available for others to access through sites like Facebook.

“Just because you have nothing to hide doesn’t mean that you should have to bear it all for everyone to see. That’s a very individual choice,” she said.

Like Hess, freshman psychology and sociology double major Noah Waymire is skeptical of the notion that the principle is air-tight. Even if someone’s digital footprint is free of material they may find embarrassing or compromising, other people may think otherwise of it.

“If you have nothing to hide then you have nothing to hide, but I feel like if there are people out there who really want to get to you and make it hurt in certain ways, they will find something they can use against you,” he said.

The broader debate behind this issue is about whether digital privacy should be considered a right or a privilege. The Forbes.com article “Is Digital Privacy A Right Or A Privilege?” infers that the issue of private companies and the government holding too much power over the privacy of individuals is not as bad as it sounds, but it has the potential to become that way. Author Steve Andriole maintains that explicit permission from internet service providers and media companies to collect data and the ability to get benefits from it being collected would be good to rebuild trust.

There is no easy separation between government surveillance and data collection from entities like Facebook, even if it’s highly questionable, Rosati said.

“Edward Snowden revealed how blurred this line is by exposing the NSA’s Prism program, which allowed them to collect data directly from tech firm’s own servers. Again, in the wrong hands our consumer data economy and government surveillance apparatus, which are now inseparable, are key part of a recipe for tyranny,” Rosati said.
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Whether you are looking for a place of prayer and worship, a faith-filled community, or a relaxing getaway from studies at BGSU, St. Thomas More University Parish is here for you.

Located across from McDonald Hall at 425 Thurstin Avenue, St. Tom’s is easily within walking distance from the university. “Our desire is to share our love for God and God’s love for us within the University community while exploring what it means to be Catholic,” says Fr. Jason Kahle. “We are a welcoming community for all people.”

We offer ample gathering areas including Fireside Lounge, Anitoch Library, Seton Hall Gymnasium, various meeting rooms, and a parish courtyard. Students are free to use these spaces. There is also a Newman Housing Community, where students can live with peers desiring to grow deeper in faith together. All rooms are furnished with two beds, desks, chairs, and closets. Rent includes Wifi, utilities, and parking. We were also blessed with the donation of a laundry facility this past year. Applications have already been accepted for the 2019-2020 school year, but feel free to stop by to hang out in Fireside and learn how to connect with our community of faith.

For students looking to get involved, St. Thomas More sponsors the Catholic Falcon Community, a Catholic Christian student group on campus. They meet Thursdays at 7:30pm in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Room 201 for fellowship, fun, service, prayer, and group discussions. Topics vary each week, and are designed to engage students, empower leaders, and allow them to fully explore the faith.

St. Tom’s and the Diocese of Toledo has partnered with FOCUS to offer weekly Bible Studies for anyone wanting to go deeper in their faith. You don’t have to be a Catholic or even Christian; you just need to be open to exploring how Jesus invites us all into a personal relationship.

We also offer opportunities for service events throughout the year. One major way is through our Alternative Spring Break trip during BGSU’s Spring Break. Students can also serve those in need through the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or during the local service events on Saturdays through the Catholic Falcon Community.

On behalf of Fr. Jason, the St. Tom’s staff, and parishioners we welcome all new and returning students, parents, alumni, and friends into their family of faith. Through the Sacraments, service opportunities, weekly formation events, Fall and Spring retreats, the Newman Housing faith-based living community, and social gatherings, many opportunities are offered to experience God anew!

FOR MORE INFORMATION check us out on social media. Visit our website (sttoms.com), like us on Facebook (facebook.com/bgsucatholic), follow us on Instagram (@sttoms_bgsu), or download our Parish app (St. Thomas More Catholic-BGSU).

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**Student runs for City Council**

**Press Release**

Madi Stump is running for the 1st Ward seat on Bowling Green City Council this election cycle. Madi is a student at BGSU studying environmental policy and analysis. She is the director of governmental affairs in Undergraduate Student Government and sits on the city Bicycle Safety Commission.

Stump is looking forward to continuing to develop a strong relationship between the downtown community and the university community. She sees a divide between the campus residents and the city residents, as well as between the long-term BG residents and the residents who have more recently joined our community. Bowling Green prides itself on its small-town, community feel. We can only work to further this community sense by embracing diversity and welcoming all people into our group, says Stump.

This is one way Stump wants the municipal government to work on fostering a high quality of life and community. She also hopes to put the “community” into the Community Action Plan, encouraging residents to partake in the process of improving Bowling Green. It is more important than ever before that our local communities come together to improve life and protect our rights as local governments.

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**FREE RENT WINNER!**

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.**
Men’s basketball wins late over Akron

Evan Hayes
Pulse Editor

Sophomore guard Justin Turner came into Tuesday’s conference matchup with Akron just 22 points away from becoming the 46th player in program history to cross the 1,000 career-point threshold. The Falcons’ leading scorer sat scoreless at halftime while his team trailed, the result of an ice cold offensive start.

“I know I had zero, but at the same time I knew I’d figure it out eventually. In the first half, they were kind of everywhere on me and closing in, timing the gaps,” Turner said. “I knew I would figure it out once I got my legs under me and just to keep attacking.”

Coming out of the half firing on all cylinders, Turner scored all of his game-high 23 points in the second half. He made nine of his 11 second-half shot attempts, the last of which was a basket with 0.9 seconds left that sealed the game for the Falcons (19-7, 11-2 MAC).

Akron’s Loren Cristian Jackson 3-pointer with 19 seconds left tied the game, setting the stage for Turner’s heroics. Walking patiently into the frontcourt during the final 15 seconds, Turner worked off a screen into the middle of the floor before crossing over to his left and charging to the rim for the left-handed finish and a 71-69 lead.

“The first half was one to forget for the Falcons, who fell behind early in the first half 29-25. Frye led the way with 13 points, but the team struggled to find any rhythm offensively, shooting 10-35 (28.6 percent) from the field and 4-15 (26.7 percent) from the 3-point range. Despite the cold start offensively, head coach Michael Huger was more worried about the Zips offense.

“We don’t discuss scoring or any of that stuff. We discuss playing better defense and playing tougher on the defensive end, and that’s what we discussed at halftime. I wasn’t pleased with the way we defended; they were able to get everything they wanted, and we had to take some things away.”

Turner’s hot offensive play in the second half sparked the Falcons offense, with the team shooting 17-31 (54.8 percent) from the field while making 4-10 3 pointers. All of Laster’s points came in the second half as well, providing the Falcons with a spark off the bench.

“It changed the complexion of the game, the pace of the game,” head coach Michael Huger said. “Everything started to amp up a little bit once we started to get stops, and Justin was the catalyst of that.”

It was another close win for the Falcons, and another second half comeback. Playing from behind has become a bit of a theme for the Falcons in the second half of their season, but with each win the team gains valuable experience.

“I think it shows the character of this team. I think it shows how much depth we actually have; people that can come off the bench that we can actually rely on to close out games,” Turner said. “And just the experience of this team. We’re still getting experience but at the same time we’re not folding in certain predicaments; we’re coming out through these situations.”

Bowling Green is 11-2 this season in the MAC, which is the best start through 13 conference games in program history. BGSU remains in first place in the MAC with the win. The Falcons moved to 13-1 on the season at home, setting a Stroh Center record for men’s basketball wins in a season.

The Falcons will travel to Athens, OH, this coming Saturday, for a road matchup with Ohio University. That game is scheduled for a 6:30 p.m. tip-off and will be broadcast on CBS Sports Network.
Forecast of second half of NBA season

Parker Kern
Sports Reporter

After a somewhat lackluster All-Star Saturday Night and conversely, a relatively competitive All-Star Game, the NBA has officially surpassed the unofficial halfway point in the season. With some teams vying for the league’s worst record, attempting to get the first pick in the draft in June, some teams vying for home-court advantage throughout the playoffs and some teams on the bubble of even being in the playoffs, every team is going through its own unique situation.

For the most part, teams are what they are at this point. If they’re a true contender for an NBA Championship, it’s more than likely the team and its players know that (i.e. Golden State Warriors, Milwaukee Bucks, etc.). If a team has no shot at the playoffs and are simply competing for the first pick in the draft, they’re well aware of that, too (i.e. Phoenix Suns, New York Knicks and even the Cleveland Cavaliers). If the teams are in the latter category, for the remainder of the season, it’s likely that the team will seemingly “give up” on trying to win games. If they win on a given night, great. If they lose, it’s arguably even better for the team in the long run. Commissioner Adam Silver has crusaded against tanking in recent years, but that certainly will not stop teams from doing it, unless further terms that could result in potential consequences are put in place.

As I mentioned, there is a third category for NBA teams – the “on-the-bubble” teams. These are teams that are on the lower end of each conference’s projected playoff bracket, along with the teams that are a few games out of the projected bracket. The most high-profile team out of these is the Los Angeles Lakers. LeBron James’ first season in Hollywood has been less than stellar for both him and the team because of a groin injury he suffered in a Christmas Day matchup against Golden State (which the Lakers won) that sidelined him for almost two months.

At the break, the Lakers were one game below .500, with a record of 28-29. If James and the Lakers are to miss the playoffs this year, it will be the first year since 2005 that a LeBron-led team has missed the playoffs, dating all the way back to his first stint in Cleveland.

It will be interesting to see if James can lead the motley crew of youngsters in L.A. down the stretch into the playoffs. If he does and wins even one postseason series, it may be his greatest accomplishment yet. This is due to the higher level of competition in the Western Conference after James single-handedly owned the Eastern Conference for the last decade.

There is one team from each conference that may not necessarily be the No. 1 seed in their conference come playoff time but I believe will solidify themselves as a scary team no one wants to face in a seven-game series. These two teams are the Philadelphia 76ers (East) and the Oklahoma City Thunder (West).

The 76ers bolstered their starting lineup by trading with the Los Angeles Clippers for combo forward Tobias Harris. Harris is a young, athletic player who is long, can defend multiple positions well and can get open on the perimeter and knock down threes. He is an excellent complement to the young duo of Ben Simmons and Joel Embiid. As Harris further learns the offense and gets more involved, look for Philly to make some serious noise coming out of the East.

Russell Westbrook is one of the most unique talents in NBA history. His accomplishments are so underappreciated because they have become pedestrian. This man has averaged a triple-double for the past two seasons and is on pace to make it his third straight in 2018-19. The only player comparable to him at this point is “Big O” Oscar Robertson, who was a trip-dub machine back in the 1960s.

Regardless, Westbrook and his MVP candidate counterpart, Paul George, have both been playing out of their minds for the Thunder this year. If they continue this illustrous streak, along with the team’s supporting cast matching their intensity, I would give them a shot to win a seven-game series against anybody in the West – yes, that includes the Warriors.

The second half of the NBA season promises to be very interesting. With two smaller market teams, the Milwaukee Bucks and Denver Nuggets, making serious noise in the Eastern and Western conferences respectively, it will freshen up the playoff race a bit, as they will be competing against the normal culprits – the Celtics and Rockets of the world, among others. As for my predictions, my MVP pick is Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks (although I could see James Harden winning it again), and my NBA Finals selection is the Golden State Warriors winning in six games over the Philadelphia 76ers. Whoever your team is, I wish them luck for the remainder of the season.

Women’s basketball suffers second straight MAC loss

Zane Miller
Sports Reporter

The Falcon women’s basketball team were defeated by the Central Michigan Chippewas 92-54 Wednesday, as the team falls to a 1-12 record against MAC opponents so far this season. Central Michigan came into the game in first place in the MAC’s West Division and was able to increase their lead as they moved to a 10-3 record against MAC opponents.

“One of the main points that we made in the locker room was that this is what elite looks like and I hope that you felt what that felt like,” Falcons head coach Robyn Fralick said of Central Michigan.

The first quarter began with Central Michigan taking a 31-17 lead, as the Falcons initially held an 11-9 advantage near the midway point of the quarter before the Chippewas made a 13-point rally to pull ahead for the remainder of the quarter, with Central Michigan sophomore guard Micaela Kelly and freshman center Jahari Smith each scoring 4 points during the run. However, junior guard Andrea Cecil still had a strong quarter, leading the team offensively with 8 points.

In the second quarter, Central Michigan would increase their lead even further, outscoring the Falcons 21-12 to give themselves a 52-29 advantage heading into halftime. Central Michigan took advantage of a late rally, earning them 11 consecutive points, 6 of which came from senior forward Reyna Frost. Cecil had a double-digit half with 10 points, while freshman guard Morgan McMillen followed not far behind with 9.

“They have a lot of players that can do multiple things,” Fralick said. “Defensively, I thought they were really locked in against us. Our turnovers early really hurt us; I thought it made us tentative, and it also gave them more momentum.”

In the third, the Falcons continued to struggle to hold off the Central Michigan offense, as the Chippewas' outshot the Falcon’s 24-13 on the quarter to make it a 76-43 game. Central Michigan led off the quarter with 9 straight points before being broken up by a Falcon layup, which was then followed by 4 more Central Michigan points on a layup and two successful free throws.

McMillen led the team offensively in the quarter with 5 points.

The fourth quarter saw Central Michigan outscore the Falcons 16-11 to seal the 92-54 victory. Central Michigan's strongest run in the quarter was 8 points, with senior guard Presley Hudson getting 6 of those points with a pair of 3-pointers.

Cecil and McMillen each ended the game with 14 points to lead the Falcons offense, while Central Michigan was led by Hudson, who had 24 points, along with Frost who finished with 21.

“Presley Hudson and Reyna Frost — they're two of the best players in the league and two of the best players in the country,” Fralick said. “It's not coincidental, they have an incredible relationship with the basketball, and if you want to be elite, that's what it looks like … A great way to learn from it is to see what it feels like go up against it and be inspired to get better.”

The team will next play Saturday on the road against the Miami RedHawks.
Student writes children’s book: ‘Stay Awake, Moon!’

Jemiah Blackshear
Reporter

Elaina Rae Eskins, a communications sciences and disorders senior, never dreamed a simple poem she came up with while gazing at the moon would start a year’s journey of excitement.

“When I was younger, I used to write all of these short stories, and I always dreamed of becoming an author, but I never thought it would happen this early in my career,” Eskins said about how she got her start.

As of December 2018, she is an author of the children’s book, “Stay Awake, Moon!” Eskins’ journey started when she read the poem to her roommate, who said that her poem sounded like a great start of a children’s book and connected her with Abigail Cloud, an English professor and the editor-in-chief of Mid-American Review, literary journal.

From there, Eskins and Cloud met several times over the course of the spring 2018 semester. Cloud showed Eskins the techniques to reword things into the appropriate format according to the creative writing process.

“I was surprised that (Cloud) was willing to take the time and help me write this book; I wasn’t even a part of the creative writing program,” Eskins said. “As the editor-in-chief of Mid-American Review, along with being a professor, she already had a lot on her plate, and still she was very patient with me.”

Once the writing process finished Eskins turned to her close friend and graduate, Greta Brubaker, for the illustrating process. Brubaker illustrated the book just as a favor for her friend.

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Community split over plastic bag ban

Adam Gretsinger
City Editor

The Bowling Green community was divided over a plastic bags ban at the Community Improvement Committee meeting meeting before city council proceedings Tuesday. More hearings about the ban are set for March 4, as not all the lobbyists could speak in the given time.

The committee heard different arguments for and against a plastic bag ban. Off-campus college students, business owners and advocates spoke before a packed chamber.

Many of the ban advocates tried to use other cities' and states' examples of plastic bag bans or reduction policies to make their cases, but some did not present exact statistics.

One argument from BGSU student Madison Stump said the business section of the town should liken this situation to that of the Apple Airpods; though the products were initially ridiculed at first, they were eventually accepted by the public and other businesses. Businesses should be equally patient when waiting for plastic bag policies to become common and accepted, she said.

Joe Demare, head of the Wood County Green Party, argued for a full ban on bags. “This is something we have to do as a society,” he said, adding the pollution of plastic in water supplies led directly to people’s bad health.

“Plastic bags can be at the top of the list,” he said about solving the greater environmental issue of plastic waste surplus.

Council member William Herald congratulated the lobbyists for proving their passion for environmental action but asked for more concrete plans for solving problems.

However, not all presenters were in favor of the ban. Robin Belleville of Frosty Fare ice cream shop said a plastic bag tax component of the proposed plan would be hard to implement in such a small-scale business and could heavily impact her shop’s financial bottom line. She said it might even be enough to make her consider closing shop.

A representative from the Bowling Green Christian Food Pantry also criticized the plan, saying the pantry needed many plastic bags to sort food products to needy families, as items like meat products needed to be separated from others in leak-proof plastic bags maintained donated from “big box” businesses that recycled. He said he hoped the council would not forget nonprofit organizations in the process and ban plastic bags entirely.

The Environmental Action Group 12M initiative advocated for a ban on plastic bags on campus.