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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
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Coffee shop celebrates anniversary

By Keefe Watson
Campus Editor

Flatlands Coffee recently celebrated its one-year anniversary and has entered its second year of business with a larger staff, regular clientele and more sales.

“Heading into our second year here we’re doing things that we weren’t doing in the first year, like catering...business is continually growing every day,” Zach Mickens, a barista, said.

Ben Vollmar opened the coffee shop on Halloween of 2015.

The shop celebrated its anniversary with online promotions, gift card giveaways and dollar-off drinks. Coffee-cupping, also known as coffee-tasting, was also introduced.

“Each person got a flight of four different coffees...(we were) trying to teach people how to taste coffees and know their personal preference and what separates a good scoring coffee from a bad scoring coffee,” Vollmar said.

Coffee-cupping is now expected to occur about once a month with increasing frequency if it becomes popular.

After he opened the store, he ran it solo for a month before hiring his first employee.

The staff at Flatlands attributes the shop’s success to the unique customer experience.

“You’re coming here more for an experience that anything else,” Mickens said.

Part of that experience is the quality of customer service the baristas are held to.

“We do focus on the experience, we want to have a conversation with you, we want to find out what you like, we want to give you what you like, maybe help you try something new,” barista Laura Skebba said.

The atmosphere features simplistic decorations and a minimalist approach conducive to both a social and working environment. Vollmar’s wife is an interior designer, and designed the shop herself.

“The goal is to stand out in Bowling Green because our product is so different, we want to communicate that in the atmosphere,” Vollmar said. “A lot of Bowling Green, we feel like, kind of specializes in the eclectic look...so the opposite approach would be the minimalistic approach.”

With the minimalistic ambiance, the shop gives most of its focus to its product.

“I like the vibe...it’s a clean look, I like the clean lines,” Staten Middleton, a customer of six months, said.

Middleton and his co-worker, Jasmine Gramling, come to Flatlands two to three times per week, often stopping on their way to work. Middleton knew about the shop from driving by during its construction.

“I like that their drinks in general are flavorful without needing lots of sugar,” Gramling said.

That flavor can be attributed to the scientific approach the baristas use.

“Flatlands Coffee will focus on changes to their food menu as they enter their second year of business.

“The quality of the coffee, we have a scientific approach to the way we brew coffee. We put thought into everything from the coffee beans to the water that we use,” Skebba said. “When you order your coffee, it's still beans.”

Skebba recently graduated from the University with a degree in chemistry. The scientific approach used at Flatlands instantly intrigued her as a customer and even more as an employee.

“This is a science experiment, this is awesome,” she said.

Gramling’s father, James Felan, experienced his first taste of Flatlands’ coffee on Saturday.

“(They have) excellent black coffee, it was very good,” Felan said. He also mentioned the friendly staff.

With a smaller but established coffee menu, changes to the menu are now focusing on food. In response to customer demand, Flatlands began serving sandwiches on Monday.

“Rather than have a giant menu where some

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Prepping for Thanksgiving

As many of you are aware, Tuesday night was the election, and Donald Trump is now the president-elect of the United States. Typing that sentence made me sick to my stomach all over again.

I’m also sure you’re aware that we’re about a week and a half away from Thanksgiving. Usually, that would be enough to make anyone happy. I can say with certainty that we’re all ready to leave campus and spend some time with our families.

However, spending time with family may be a little difficult for people this year, especially because of differing political views between different members of a family. I like to consider myself an expert on differing family politics. So, I’d like to give anyone who may be struggling with topics to talk about that don’t involve politics or give people some deflecting points if political talk does break out over turkey and potatoes.

I come from a family that loves to eat, so my go-to to change the topic has always been food. If someone at the Thanksgiving dinner table starts talking about something that’s making you uncomfortable, divert their attention with food. There’s sure to be plenty of food on the table, so just offer your family member a plate of green beans (or whatever is closest for you to reach) and hope they’ll be distracted enough to forget what they were talking about just moments before.

If political talk happens pre- or post-Thanksgiving dinner, there’s also a chance where a simple subject change might do the trick. After all, there’s multiple football games that are going to be on TV during the day. If you and some of your family are into football, there’s always a chance talking about football will be enough to change the subject. If professional football isn’t going to do the trick, try switching to college football. The Ohio State-Michigan game is right after Thanksgiving and, if your family is like mine, there’s a literal divide where some people root for Ohio State and some people root for Michigan.

Of course, not everyone likes football, so that’s when another game plan needs to come into play. The revival of “Gilmore Girls” comes out the day after Thanksgiving, so if your family is driving you nuts, you can always hide away with the girls of Stars Hollow.

As to finding something to watch before the big meal, that’s where you have to come up with your designated go-to show. It’s always an important thing to have in times of emergencies, like family disagreements. For me, my current go-to is “Chicago Fire.” It doesn’t matter that I’ve seen the episodes multiple times. The show brings me comfort and that is what matters.

But, of course, if politics does keep rearing its ugly head, and you feel like you have to defend your position, whatever your political beliefs may be, try to prepare a list of your arguments in advance. That way, if you’re like me and would get flustered, you have a list of what you want to get out.

Good luck with Thanksgiving if you think your family is going to be crazy political.

Reply to Lauren at thenews@bgnews.com
Concerning the Nexus Pipeline

The community's way of life is in danger due to the possibility of leakages and explosions. This is especially pertinent due to the geology of the proposed route. Ohio sits on the edge of the New Madrid Seismic Zone, and at least 200 earthquakes have had epicenters in Ohio since 1776. There is also the Bowling Green Fault that intersects the pipeline route near the Maumee River.

Already, surrounding communities are taking action. The residents of Waterville recently banned pipelines and compressor stations by passing a community bill of rights. Waterville has now joined many other communities that are legally and democratically defending their right to clean air and water. We hope Bowling Green will join these other communities in protecting our most valuable resources.

However, in order to fight the pipeline, we need the support of our community. At a city council meeting on Nov. 7, citizens spoke up against the pipeline, including current and former students. Furthermore, a peaceful gathering occurred downtown on Nov. 5 where community members, including University faculty and staff, stood in solidarity with those being affected by the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Nexus Pipeline. There will be another city council meeting on Nov. 21 to continue discussion on the pipeline. We hope to see a representative from the University present on Monday to listen to the community members’ concerns about the pipeline and possibly make a statement on behalf of the University. As is stated in the BGSU Creed,

“I aspire to be an engaged global citizen and leader. I seek to improve my community. I collaborate with my fellow Falcons in changing the world.”

As students attending Bowling Green State University, we think it is of paramount importance to protect our water resources, not only for the people that currently live in the area, but for future residents as well, including future students who may be looking to attend the University. As an integral partner in the success of the Bowling Green community, we feel it is imperative that the University uses its powerful voice and influence to oppose the Nexus Pipeline. We sincerely hope the University can and will publicly take a stand for the safety, health and security of the students, faculty, staff and neighbors that support and serve the institution of Bowling Green State University.

In response to the election

It feels surreal to wake up and see everyone carrying on like normal. I know that about half the country voted for it to be this way, but it doesn’t feel right that everyone’s world is not crashing down around them a little bit. I went to bed before the results were actually called, but I knew that Trump would win. It hit me hard. I knew that some people felt this way, but I truly did not believe that a majority of this country were willing to vote for someone who endorses racism, misogyny, xenophobia and homophobia.

I feel that everything I believe in has been denounced by Trump and his supporters. I value equality, diversity, open-mindedness and a drive to learn and grow. And no matter how you feel about Clinton or Trump’s “policies,” it cannot be denied that Trump’s platform was built and continues to survive on a pedestal of white supremacy and male privilege. He has been endorsed by the KKK and White Nationalists. Trump does not believe that people like me or people like my friends matter. He has been accused of sexual assault a dozen times and yet here we are. This only shows a lack of respect and support for women. And still a woman with decades of experience, a willingness to grow and learn and raw intelligence was told she was not as qualified to be president as a man with no experience and no filter. I was told that intelligent women still can’t lead and that people of color don’t matter as much as white voters, like me, and that disturbs me. I feel like we’ve been pushed back 70 years.

Trump isn’t the only person who terrifies me in the White House. Mike Pence still has Trump’s ear. It is frightening to consider that people simply did not know these things about Trump when they voted for him. Maybe they weren’t able to interpret Trump’s rhetoric as racist, because they have never been forced to think about race before. It’s scarier to know that people knew who Trump was, as a person and as a leader, and chose to vote for him anyway. They thought a flawed, stiff woman was somehow worse than a bigot, a liar and a racist.

But all hope is not lost. Trump does not have an unlimited amount of power, despite it still being alarming. We still have Obama until January. We have to stand together and stand up for what we believe in. We have to refuse to be afraid. When something is happening that we disagree with, we have to make it known that we disagree with it. It is so important that we hold our heads high and support our friends and family who feel they may be in danger from this election. Be positive and be strong.
Comedian loads University with laughs

By Tom Rodgers
Reporter

The Bowen-Thompson Student Union was filled with laughter and excitement as comedian Pete Holmes cracked jokes about Bowling Green and various other topics Thursday night. The event was put on by the University Activities Organization (UAO) and was open to the public. The comedy act primarily attracted students, and included several comedic acts such as renowned comedian Brent Sullivan and University student Callie Inkrott.

Holmes was able to keep his act appropriate, while still having a healthy disregard for the “PG Standard.”

“They told me to be PG-13, but the students never want it,” said Holmes. “I’m not a dirty comedian, but I like to swear.”

Holmes particularly enjoys touring at colleges across America. He has been to hundreds of colleges, particularly in the Midwest.

“I do a lot of colleges, I love performing for young people,” he said. “They have hope and wonder in their eyes and hearts. People need to laugh all the time. I can’t speak for everybody, but for a lot of us, I think we need to laugh more than ever right now.”

Opening for Holmes was comedian Brent Sullivan. Sullivan is a 25 year-old comedian based out of New York City. Sullivan has appeared on “Conan” and “Live with Jimmy Kimmel.”

Sullivan’s act was engaging and brought tears of laughter to the audience. Specifically, the crowd enjoyed how Sullivan described his last week as a heterosexual male.

The act was raunchier than the other performances. Sullivan approaches conventional LGBT issues in unconventional ways in his act and works to bring them to mainstream comedy.

The event started by announcing the winner of the Funniest Falcon Contest. The competition was put on by UAO, and encouraged students to submit videos of their stand up ability. The winner, Callie Inkrott, was given the opportunity to perform an act as a warm up to comedian Brent Sullivan.

Inkrott’s act was a major hit. The crowd, full of University students, cheered on their peer with excitement.

“My comedy style is pretty sarcastic,” said Inkrott. “I like to bring up a lot of issues with our society and put a funny twist to them just so it brings it to people’s attention in a positive light. I’m excited for a new audience. This is a great opportunity to expand to other people who don’t usually get to see the comedy culture at BG.”

Inkrott is a member of two student comedy organizations: “Lady Parts Improv” and “The Plastic Shatners.”

Next week, the Plastic Shatners will hold an improv festival called Falcon Fuse. The act will be held Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m in the BTSU Theater.
Falcons look for first winning streak of season

By Zane Miller
Sports Reporter

The Falcons football team will play at home against the Kent State Golden Flashes on Tuesday night as both teams have been eliminated from playoff contention but are looking to end their seasons on a high note.

"On the defensive front, they're going to get after you," Falcons head coach Mike Jinks said. "They've got a pretty solid front seven. From an offensive standpoint, they're going to run it, they're going to run it with their backs, they want to really slow the game down, so it's one of those deals where we're going to have to be patient."

Hanging games played on Tuesday is something that is unique to the Mid-American Conference, with most other NCAA football games being played on Saturday, however, the team feels that it helps with getting recognition for the conference.

"It's different," Jinks said. "It's an unbelievable asset to our conference, we're able to recruit on a national level or at least a regional level because our brand is well known and it's known because of these Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night games... but it definitely takes some getting used to with bringing the twos on the road, having study halls when you're preparing for a game and taking tests right before kickoff, that's a little bit different."

The team is also coming off of their first Mid-American Conference victory of the season against the Akron Zips and the team is looking to build off of the momentum.

"My biggest goal is that we're playing as fast as we possibly can come Tuesday," Jinks said. "We played hard all year, but we just ran around with a different confidence (against Akron) and we threw our bodies around, I want to continue to do that."

The team is also preparing for a very physical game against Kent State, that they know will require all of the players they have available.

"The biggest deal right now is getting with our training staff and seeing who can play and who can't," Jinks said. "Kent State, to their core, they want to be a physical, grind-it-out football team and we're late in the season, either you're going to be physical or you are not."

The team is also looking to try some new offensive formations in their final two games in preparation for next season.

"What I want to do here is win ball games," Jinks said. "We're going to do what our personnel allows us to do and in the next couple of weeks, you're probably going to see us more under center and that's more the kind of ballgames that I feel comfortable in... we're going to stay a tempo team, but I think you'll see a lot more diversity, more versatility and more formations moving forward."
Hockey sweeps Northern Michigan in two

By Zane Miller
Sports Reporter

The Falcons hockey team earned their first series sweep of the season, defeating the Northern Michigan Wildcats on the road 5-1 on Friday night and winning again 5-3 on Saturday night.

“I thought we played well in the series overall,” Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron said. “To come up with two wins in a difficult place against a good opponent, we'll take that every time.”

Friday's game began with the Falcons scoring on the power play at 4:44, with senior defenseman Sean Walker giving the team an early lead. The team added to the lead at the 14:26 mark as senior forward Kevin Dufour scored to make it a 2-0 advantage.

Senior forward Matt Pohlkamp finished off the first period scoring a little less than three minutes later, as the Falcons took a 3-0 lead.

“I just think we were ready to play,” Bergeron said. “We had a big kill five-on-three in the first period, that was key for us, but our power play gave us the momentum by scoring that early goal.”

Northern Michigan was able to chip into the lead in the second period, scoring at the 5:44 mark and holding the Falcons off the board to make it a 3-1 game after two periods. However, the team would seal the victory in the third, as junior forwards Brett D'Andrea and Mitch McLain scored in the third period, allowing the Falcons to take the 5-1 win.

“We were opportunistic around the other team's net,” Bergeron said. “To score five goals, that's a pretty good output for us.”

On Saturday, the team was able to start off strong again as sophomore forward Matt Meier scored his first goal as a member of the Falcons 2:40 into the game.

Northern Michigan came back with two goals of their own later in the period to take their first lead of the series. The Falcons responded with 49 seconds remaining in the first period, as junior defenseman Mark Friedman tied it up at two.

“Finding a way to score a couple goals to keep us in it was big,” Bergeron said. “I think they got the better of us the whole first period, but Mark Friedman made a great play on the side of the net and it kind of settled us into the game.”

The team regained the lead in the second period with another goal from Dufour, but Northern Michigan evened it up again, scoring late in the period to make it 3-3 going into the third period. In the third, sophomore forward John Schilling scored at 9:33 to retake the lead for the Falcons and Pohlkamp closed it out with an empty net power play goal with just over a minute remaining to take the 5-3 victory.

The Falcons will next play on the road Friday and Saturday night against the Alabama Huntsville Chargers.

Falcons close regular season with two wins

By Brandon Luthman
Sports Reporter

Over the weekend, the Bowling Green Falcons’ volleyball team won two home matches against Buffalo and Akron, closing their regular season with a 20-9 overall record an 11-6 conference record.

The team had a very impressive weekend, winning both matchups with comfortable leads.

On Friday, the Falcons took on the Buffalo Bulls, in which they defeated in three sets. With scores of 26-24, 25-15 and 25-14, the Falcons dominated the Bulls. In the matchup, Jelena Sunjic had a great performance as she recorded 21 kills. With zero attack errors, it was a very efficient matchup for Sunjic. Madeline Garda posted 14 digs in the match, as she continues to lead the country in total digs and digs/set.

Head Volleyball Coach Dani jela Tomic was impressed by her team stating, “Jelena was just unbelievable, this was one of her best matches this year. Those are just All-American numbers and she kept us in the match in the first set. Our serving was the weapon that kept Buffalo out of system. It made it a little bit easier for us to defend them because they have dangerous hitters that are hard to stop when they are in system.”

On Saturday, the Falcons celebrated senior night in a victorious fashion. While honoring the four seniors on the team: Delaney Arkeilpane, Madeline Garda, Alyssa Maloney and Jelena Sunjic; the Falcons won in a three-set match against the Akron Zips. With scores of 25-18, 25-16 and 26-24, it was a tough matchup for the Falcons, as they prevailed in their 20th match of the season.

Jelena Sunjic had another dominant performance. The honored senior recorded 20 kills, displaying her style of play during these past four years at Bowling Green.

Isabelle Marciniak was finding scoring opportunities all night long, as she had 39 assists. Senior, Madline Garda recorded 15 digs, now just two shy of the school record at BGSU.

Coach Tomic responded to her team’s performance, by saying, “When Jelena plays the way she played last night and tonight, she's unstoppable. She had 26 kills again and no errors. That's something not many players can do and she did it back-to-back. But you win as a team and you lose as a team. Jelena couldn't be hitting that way if our serve receive wasn't good. What the seniors have done for this program is something you want for every player. They've left a legacy. They are great role models and great leaders. Every challenge we threw at them, they stepped up. I hope we can continue creating memories over the next few weeks, because I love all four of them.”

After the weekend, the Falcons will head into the MAC Conference Championship Tournament being seeded at four. With that high of a seed, the Falcons will have a bye for the first round of the tournament, and will automatically be advancing to the second round of the tournament. On Friday, the Falcons will face the winner of the 5th and 8th seed matchup.
Members of the Bowling Green community were able to speak their minds and share their feelings following Tuesday’s election results in an on-campus Town Hall forum.

Many attendees expressed disappointment regarding the lack of information and attention to an alleged incident of assault that occurred on Crim Street Wednesday following the election.

According to a Nov. 11 Sentinel-Tribune article, the alleged assault was reported at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday morning in the 200 block of Crim Street, a day after it was said to have occurred.

Kendall Lake, senior and director of The Vagina Monologues on campus, spoke about the lack of clear and swift communication following the incident.

“I’m going to ask point blank if there are any members of the administration that can enlighten us as to why we didn’t hear about the incident that happened.”

Vice Provost Thomas Gibson chose to address Lake’s question.

“What folks really need to understand is, when incidents are reported on social media, it takes some effort for me and other administrators to known that there’s potentially an issue,” Gibson said. “If it’s not reported directly to someone either within Student Affairs, the Dean of Students Office (or the University Police Department, there is cause for some delay in our ability to respond.”

The incident was originally brought to the University’s attention through Twitter, at which point the University reached out to the student who was attacked. The student met with administrators and worked with that student to file a police report so that an investigation could begin.

“We take these issues very, very seriously. I take these issues very, very seriously,” Gibson said.

The University responded to the incident and communicated the incident within 24 to 48 hours, Gibson said.

On Thursday night, Nicole Jackson received an email from one of her graduate students who did not feel safe on campus. Jackson, an assistant professor in the History Department, replied to Gibson on Monday.

“I get here tonight and I find out that there was essentially a student attacked,” Jackson said. “So how are we supposed to make this place safe for our students if we don’t know what happened.”

Jackson’s words were met with applause from other attendees.

“And on top of that, we recruit students. How in the world do you expect me to

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things are just okay or mediocre, we just want every item to be one hundred percent solid,” Vollmar said.

The shop sees many returning custumers, but new customers, particularly townspeople, are more often visiting the shop as its reputation spreads.

“Maybe word of mouth finally caught up to them,” Mickens said.

Students are the shop’s primary customers, and its original target customers. These include both undergraduate and graduate students. Some professors frequent the shop, too.

“We love working with students,” Mickens said. “We’ve got plenty here for students, gratuitous amounts of caffeine, constructive work space, plugs (and) Wi-Fi for free.”

Flatlands uses coffee beans from all over the country, this week the beans are coming from Durham, NC, next week they’ll come from Virginia.

“Coffee is this really big, unique experience and our customers kind of get to come along,” Mickens said.

As Flatlands’ reputation builds, it is making strides to engage in the local community. It now serves weekly catering orders, and, a few weeks ago, there was a pop-up boutique in the back of the store for a few local artists.

Since last November, the staff at Flatlands has grown from only Vollmar to five additional baristas. With over 50 applicants to choose from when he hires, Vollmar can be particular when hiring.

“I’m looking for people that actually care about what we do,” Vollmar said. “I’m looking for a positive attitude, an eagerness to learn and, specifically, a passion for coffee.”

Vollmar didn’t start his business to directly compete with or hurt any small businesses, but to offer a different coffee experience.

“We have a hundred pizza places in town, and they’re all successful, and no one blinks an eye about you getting pizza at all them,” Vollmar said. “The same should go with coffee.”
Club takes new spin on holiday donations

Amber Jones
Reporter

As the leaves turn shades of orange and brown and fall sets in, it is the time for giving thanks and giving back to the community. TOMS club welcomes the season with their 2nd annual Feast to Feed event.

"Last year for the event, we did a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with a variety of dishes such as cheesy potatoes, salad and pies," junior and President of TOMS club, Alexis Kieffer, said.

The Feast to Feed is a benefit dinner hosted by TOMS club during the fall season. Community members pay their way in by donating non-perishable food items that will be donated to local food pantries. Wanting to step away from the traditional themes of canned food drives, TOMS club put a spin on the event by feeding everyone who donates.

"Each of our exec board members will be cooking the food for the event," Kieffer said. "We have a Facebook page for the event allowing people to RSVP, so we can know how much food to get and make for the event."

With many people filling their bellies with traditional Thanksgiving food, TOMS is switching up the food they want to serve the guests. The theme for this year's dinner is "Taco/Nacho Night," which will consist of a buffet offering protein options of chicken or beef along with other ingredients.

The event was inspired by the FEED supper project. That project allows guests to make a donation to provide meals to children and families in need and host a dinner, as well.

"We wanted to do something similar to the FEED project, that's why we named it Feast to Feed as sort of a play on words type of thing and we also thought it was a pretty cool title," Kieffer said.

TOMS club decided to cook the food for the event as a sign of thanks to participants for helping and providing food for others to have on Thanksgiving.

"It is great that students are coming together to put on an event that is open to the public and allowing everyone to come together and provide food to the local food pantries," prep cook of dining services and community member Marge Ziegler said.

The non-perishables that people will be giving to gain access into the event will be donated to the Common Good community center in Bowling Green. The Common Good has a program known as "Our Daily Bread." According to the Common Good website, this program offers loaves of bread and small pantry items, available every day for free. The Common Good accepts many non-perishable foods and hygiene items.

"Our mission as a club is essentially to start something that matters, give back to the community and provide resources to community members. With this event, we are doing just that and more," Kieffer said.

The Feast to Feed event is Thursday Nov. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Hanna Hall Room 207.

Marge Ziegler
Prep cook of dining services
“This election hit me so strong, even though I do not identify as an American citizen, but this is not the America I signed up for when I decided to leave my homeland.”

Amira Hassanaoui
GSS President

Among many who spoke at Monday’s forum was Graduate Student Senate President Amira Hassanaoui. Hassanaoui is an international student from Tunisia, and introduced herself as a cis woman of color. “This election hit me so strong.” Hassanaoui said. “Even though I do not identify as an American citizen, but this is not the America I signed up for when I decided to leave my homeland.”

Hassanaoui protested during the Tunisian revolution and has pledged to herself to never be silent when faced with or as a witness of oppression. President of Black Student Union Jauntez Bates, President of the NAACP chapter at the University Bryce Davis, President of USG Amanda Dortch and other University student leaders spoke to those in attendance Monday evening, too.

There were a multitude of other diversity-related issues discussed at the forum. These issues included a want for diversity educational programs for students, a lack of diversity at the University, the increase of racism and marginalization on campus and in the community observed since the election, unreported instances of hate crimes and a need for people to educate themselves on the topic of marginalization. The town hall meeting was hosted by Undergraduate Student Government, Office of the Dean of Students, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Office of Campus Activities, Graduate Student Senate, Black Student Union, Latino Student Union, Not In Our Town, Vision and many other campus groups and offices.

“We’re going to take the information that we learned here… and we’re going to push it forward,” Dortch said. “Because if we’re just talking about it then nothing ever gets done... nothing ever is changed.”