The BG News January 19, 2017

Bowling Green State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/bg-news

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/bg-news/8956

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 License. This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at ScholarWorks@BGSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in BG News (Student Newspaper) by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@BGSU.
PETITION DENIED
Mazey announced she will not support the University as a sanctuary campus to comply with federal laws. | Page 2

Hockey takes on Alaska Nanooks in home series | Page 8

Columnist urges a return of child-like questioning | Page 3

Council aims to ban discrimination against Muslims | Page 5
Sanctuary petition lacks Mazey’s support

By Keefe Watson
Campus Editor

President Mary Ellen Mazey has announced that she will not support the circulating petition to make the University a sanctuary campus.

“As a public university, we must, and are required to, follow all laws,” Mazey said. “And therefore we will work within the federal laws, and I will not support the petition to become a sanctuary campus.”

All international students on campus have completed all necessary documentation before their arrival, and therefore would be unaffected by a sanctuary campus, Mazey said.

Mazey does, however, support the BRIDGE Act currently on the floor of the US Senate. If passed, the BRIDGE Act would provide some additional protections for individuals currently protected under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

“We do support the BRIDGE Act before the U.S. Senate. We will continue to work with the DACA students, but we must do so through the legislative process,” Mazey said at the Faculty Senate meeting this afternoon.

About 68 percent of the budget at the University is tied to federal funding, according to Mazey. She said all federal law should be followed to guarantee that funding is safe.

Separately, Provost Rodney Rogers also spoke to Faculty Senate members, addressing a potential change in the academic calendar. Currently, the University is one of only four public universities in Ohio with a 16-week semester – most other schools have a 15-week semester.

“At this point, everything is looking very positive toward moving to a 15-week term,” Rogers said.

This would allow the University to be aligned with the University of Toledo, which is also changing to a 15-week semester starting in the fall of 2017.

The earliest the University would move to a 15-week term is fall of 2018, Rogers said. Moving to a 15-week term would also allow for a January intersession before spring break, commonly referred to as a J-term.

Rogers hopes that the final decision to change the term length and add this intersession will be made soon so that planning can begin.

Mazey also addressed the recent passage of an Ohio law that will allow on-campus concealed carry of weapons by those with concealed carry licensees, if approved by a college or university’s board of trustees.

“We do not endorse any change to the University’s current policy which prohibits concealed carry on campus,” she said.

The senate also anticipates Governor John Kasich to release the state budget for the next two years around the next time Faculty Senate meets in February.

“(The state budget) probably will be a zero percent increase,” Mazey said. “We don’t know what that means in terms of

Continues on Page 6
Stay curious, ask questions

Most children go through a stage in their lives where they ask “why” or “what if” in response to everything and anything.

For me, this stage of my life never ended and I’ve formed a career that allows me to continue asking the questions I want.

However, this isn’t the case for everyone. Many children ask 300 questions a day from ages of 2 to 5, but after that the number plummets. But it remains to be asked, why do we stop asking questions?

There are a number of ideas and reasons surrounding the answer, but it’s likely a combination of a many things rather than just one hypothesis.

Let’s start with the person receiving a good chunk of those questions: mom and dad. There is often a point where parents no longer have the answer. They truly don’t know why the sky is blue and eventually they just say “enough!” Now that child could be hesitant to ask another question in fear of a backlash from asking questions. Around this time, children are also starting their formal education. This is vital because this is when kids start learning from someone other than their parents. It’s also a time when they are expected to give answers instead of asking questions.

While there is value in responding to a question with “why do you think that happens?” There’s still a reward system built on giving answers, rather than asking questions. It’s incredibly unfortunate because there is real value in asking why.

Asking questions is the manifestation of our need to gather more information, which is exactly why children do it so frequently. They have a lot to learn, and they’ll never know if they don’t ask, especially before they learn to read.

For me, the why stage embodies the curiosity and drive to explore without hesitation that is present in all children. Most importantly, this stage shapes their critical thinking skills for the rest of their life.

For me, the why stage embodies the critical thinking skills for the rest of their life. This leads to a more exciting and interesting learning experience for them!

For example, Ms. Mathis in Chicago used this approach to math. When it came time to learn about money, her class was more interested in asking, “what makes a billionaire a billionaire?” To work off their interest, she created questions to answer their question but also meet the standards for the grade level. This not only teaches the class what they need to know, but also allows them to do it in a way that’s interesting to them. This leads to a more exciting and interesting learning experience for them!

So, keep asking questions and keep helping kids answer their questions! It’s important for understanding of how the world works and for expanding your knowledge base.

Cari Ritzenthaler
Columnist

FORUM

January 19, 2017 | PAGE 3
Encouraging diversity in BG

The University and the community surrounding it preach a love and appreciation for diversity. These past couple of days have proved that Bowling Green does care about its minority citizens, but we still have a long way to go to really make our city a place where all people feel safe.

It is incredibly important that we make Bowling Green a safe and welcoming place for all people because true tolerance is what makes a city and a campus great. All people deserve to feel safe in what they consider home and there are thousands of minority students that call BG home. They support this city and it’s our job to support them back. We need to make sure everyone here has a voice because new perspectives make our community better.

Councilman Daniel Gordon pushed to pass a resolution that will preemptively protect Muslim community members in Bowling Green from hateful speech and actions. In the city council meeting on Tuesday many students spoke about their own experiences and how this being passed would make them feel safer. I actually got teary eyed as I listened to Amira Hassanouii, a teaching assistant of Popular Culture at the University, speak about her home country and what BG means to her, because this is now her home.

The same feeling came over me when Bea Fields, a social work student, spoke about her father’s experiences and what it is like to be in an open queer relationship on campus.

While there are many resources here to support minorities in our community, this support does not extend to every individual person. There are horrifying instances when hate and fear get in the way of making this space a truly safe one. It is our job to create a culture of safety, diversity, and inclusion with legislation and on a personal level.

We need to acknowledge that it can be scary and disheartening to be a minority in America, and we can do something to make our campus, town and community supportive for all people.

But the good news is that this resolution was unanimously passed, with its first, second, and third readings happening on Tuesday. It received overwhelming support. This shows a great cultural and social shift happening in our community. There are people who want to protect our diverse space, and by making it safer, the diversity will grow. This resolution made it clear that the Bowling Green council supports the minority communities that find their home in the city.

However, President Mazey announced that she will not support the action to make the University a sanctuary campus. While it is understandable, given the very real fear of losing federal funds, it is still disappointing. We have a ways to go.

Now is the time to get involved. Now is the time to stand up for your friends and what you believe in. Now, more than ever, we have to protect people who are more vulnerable in this new presidential administration. There are undocumented immigrants in the United States that have been here for decades, have raised their kids here, have supported their communities but risk losing what they have worked for under the Trump Administration.

If we do not protect the right for all people to prosper in America, can we say the “American Dream” is real or achievable?

Bowling Green is a great city and a great place to go to school, but it could be even greater. Do what you can to make sure all people know they are welcome.

Reply to Meredith at thenews@bgnews.com

Enhance roommate experience

As second semester begins, we have returned to the University with yet another bright semester ahead of us. However, this article addresses one of the most foul, eye-rolling, cringe inducing topics: roommate problems.

Whether you and your roommate are enemies to the highest degree, or are best friends who share the most personal of secrets, living with people is a difficult thing to do.

However, even if you and your roommate have a bump in the road, it doesn’t have to be the ending factor in your friendship. In fact, most problems can be patched with a few simple steps and a whole lot of kindness.

The first step to take in living with someone successfully is to put yourself in their shoes. Are they an only child who has never had an opportunity to share things and live with another person, let alone multiple people? Are they one child in a family of six who shares everything with no hesitation?

The awesome thing about college is that there are so many different people from various cultures, backgrounds and upbringings. Yet, the diversity may create division when it comes to goals and living in the same room as someone else. That is why it is crucial to place yourself in the other person’s shoes, and occasionally try to see things from their perspective.

If it makes them uncomfortable to share, maybe you buy some of your own things. If their bedtime is 10 p.m., maybe you do the rest of your late night studying in the library or lounge. By being respectful of your roommate’s wishes you have a better likelihood of getting along with them.

The second step is to communicate effectively. When two people are living with one another in a small space, slight irritations and issues are inevitable. When those slight issues are bottled up and held in, they only escalate. Sometimes, before you know it, you haven’t spoken to your roommate in three weeks because you thought she was mad that you put a can of pop in the fridge.

Without communication, each small bump compiles and continues boiling up until the problems are blown out of proportion and practically irreversible. After a while, the situation becomes so hostile that trying to resolve the problem seems impossible, and could even end in one of you moving out. If the little things were just brought up then and there, a hostile situation would never arise, and the entire fiasco would have been avoided.

Rooming with someone successfully takes effort. Both parties must be invested, willing to empathize and open to communication. If each of these are accomplished, you’ll have an amazing roomie experience. Even if there are problems that can’t be worked out, and you two end up splitting, just know that everything happens for a reason, and the circumstance may end up better for you in the end anyway.

But no matter what, don’t let roommate probs stand in the way of having a blast at one of the best universities around. Roll Along!

Reply to Bailey at thenews@bgnews.com
Council says hate speech must end

By Hannah Finnerty
City Editor

With overwhelming support from the community, council members passed a first-reading resolution condemning violence, hate speech and discrimination targeting Muslim people.

Drafted by councilmember Daniel Gordon, in cooperation with Mayor Edwards, Bowling Green Human Relations Commission, Not In Our Town, Bowling Green Ministerial Association and the University’s Muslim Student Association, resolution 3655 is intended to be a preventative measure to hate crimes against the Muslim community.

“Bowling Green is a great community, and I am proud to call it home, but it is not immune either,” Gordon said.

Crediting the alarming rise in hate crimes against Muslims, most recently in Sylvania, Ohio, Gordon said the city needs to take action.

“What is national is also local. Our citizens, no matter their walk of life, deserve and have the right to live in a community where they feel safe, valued and respected. Too many members of our Bowling Green family worry that what happens elsewhere could happen here,” he said.

Dr. Emily Monago, co-chair of the Bowling Green Human Relations Commission and Interim Administrator-in-Charge for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at the University, agreed with Gordon’s sentiment, saying this resolution, however symbolic, shows residents, future residents and other communities how we treat our residents.

Continues on Page 11
Sanctuary continued from Page 2

raising tuition, so we'll just have to wait and see.”

The University saw a retention rate of 91 percent in the freshman class from the fall semester to the spring semester, Mazey said. Applications for the fall semester are up 4 percent from this time last year, which indicates a likelihood for freshman enrollment to once again increase from the previous year.

Faculty Senate’s next meeting is Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m. in the McFall Gallery.

Students rally to gain support for sanctuary campus petition

By Tessa Phillips
Reporter

Students and faculty members showed support for making BGSU a sanctuary campus at a rally outside of the McFall Center this afternoon.

The purpose of the rally was to gain the attention of Faculty Senate members before their 2:30 p.m. meeting. The rally was organized through a public Facebook event.

Although the term sanctuary campus does not have a specific legal definition, ethnic studies professor Michaela Walsh described it as a space where undocumented students currently protected by the Obama administration’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy are safe from being deported.

“I will fight for this to become a reality,” Walsh said at the rally.

Participants lined the sidewalk leading up to the McFall Center as they waited for the Faculty Senate meeting to begin, which was open to the public. Many could be seen holding signs.

The movement to make the University a sanctuary campus became official when Walsh created a web petition for the cause. As of the present moment the petition has acquired 369 signatures out of its goal of 1,000.

The petition began circulating at the end of November and now has 369 signatures.

A public forum was also held on January 12 at Grounds for Thought to help educate people about the sanctuary campus movement. Walsh spoke at the forum, along with her colleague, who is also an ethnic studies professor at the University.

“The school is in a difficult position right now, but I hope that President Mazey knows how important this issue is—not only in the lives of undocumented students, but in the lives of all students,” ethnic studies professor Louis Moreno said at the rally. “We want the campus to be safe and inclusive for everyone.”

After learning about the rally at the public forum, junior Neiko Alvarado attended the event today because he felt strongly about the cause.

“I am here because I am a second generation Latino-American, and I recognize that America is made great by the contributions of immigrants,” Alvarado said. “I think we have an obligation to protect undocumented students.”

Francisco Cabanillas, a Caribbean and U.S. Latino culture and literature professor, attended the rally and expressed concern for students in this situation.

“I am terrified for those students who have outing themselves as undocumented. They now risk being deported under the Trump administration,” he said.

The petition began circulating at the end of November and now has 369 signatures.
Mens basketball falls to Toledo

The Bowling Green mens basketball team dropped a conference game to their rival, Toledo Rockets, on Tuesday. This loss marks the sixth game in a row that the Falcons have lost to Toledo, and Head Coach Michael Huger has not yet been able to notch a win against the Rockets.

The Falcons went down early in the game and found themselves facing a 15-point deficit in the middle of the first half. The team was able to go on a run and come back from the deficit to gain a two-point lead, but that would be the only time the Falcons would lead in the game.

The Rockets went on a 13-0 run after regaining the lead to close the half and held the lead for the rest of the game. With just under ten minutes left in the second half, Toledo held their largest lead of the game by a 22-point margin.

“It’s basketball. It is a game of runs, and they had better runs than we did,” Huger said. “They were able to sustain their energy, especially toward the end of the game. We just have to continue to work, and continue to get better.”

At the final buzzer the Falcons walked off the court with a 12-point loss and 73-85 score. Those 85 points were critical in the game, as Bowling Green has yet to win a contest when their opponent has scored 80 points or more. This was the ninth time this season that Toledo has broken 80 points.

“Our defense was much improved from the previous two games, but we still gave up 85 points. With our defense being better, we were able to score 73 points instead of 52 and 53 points,” said Huger. “The energy was much better, but we still need to do a much better job. That’s it.”

Toledo senior guard Jonathan Williams, who came into the game averaging 25 points against MAC opponents, scored 20 in the game on 7-17 shooting. However, it was expected that Williams would score.

It was Rocket sophomore forward Nate Navigato that dictated the Toledo offense. Navigato averaged only 8.8 points coming into this game but was able to light up the Falcon defense for a career-high 22 points on 6-10 shooting. All six field goals came from behind the arc, missing only two of his eight long range attempts. Navigato also went a perfect 4-4 from the stripe and added seven assists.

“What hurt us the most was Nate Navigato getting 22 points. He’s a guy that is averaging eight,” said Huger. “He hit us up for 22, and then Luke Knapke scored 12. Those two were the difference in the game for Toledo. They stepped up and played well.”

The game pushes the Falcons losing streak to three and lowers their record to 7-11 on the season and 1-4 in the MAC.

The Falcons’ next game will come against Ball State this Saturday at the Stroh Center. Bowling Green has already recorded a 76-71 win over the Cardinals earlier this season.
Women's basketball loses to Buffalo

By Elias Faneuff
Sports Reporter

Many turnovers and second-chance opportunities haunted the Falcons women's basketball team as they fell to the Buffalo Bulls at home by a score of 61-50. The Falcons are now 1-5 in Mid-American Conference play. They have yet to win a conference game at the Stroh Center this year.

Leading the way for the Falcons was sophomore guard Sydney Lambert with 10 points, seven rebounds, and two assists. Also standing out was sophomore forward Maddy Cole, who provided a spark off the bench with seven points.

"It was a tale of two halves; we started off the game poorly," said Falcons head coach Jennifer Roos. "We gave up a number of offensive rebounds early and had five turnovers in our first 15 possessions. You can't dig yourself a hole against Buffalo, or anybody for that matter, in conference play."

In the first quarter, neither team would shoot the ball well until Buffalo's JoAnna Smith would hit a three point shot from the left corner to give Buffalo a narrow 7-3 lead with five minutes left in the quarter. Two minutes later, Cole would knock down a three of her own to cut the deficit to one. Great defensive play on both sides prevented any easy baskets, but it was Buffalo with the 14-8 lead after the first, following a poor shooting display by both teams.

Second chance points and turnovers really presented a problem for the Falcons in the second quarter, as they were unable to keep up with the pressure and hustle Buffalo displayed against them. Buffalo would lead 23-11 with five minutes remaining. The Falcons would respond with a couple of baskets down the stretch, trying to cut the deficit into single digits, but Smith would knock down huge shots for the Bulls as they led 33-18 at the half.

"We struggled a bit on defense, but turnovers killed us big time on offense," said Cole. "The defensive pressure by Buffalo really killed us, and that's one thing we got to work on which is handling the pressure."

In the third, neither team could make a basket in the first three minutes. The Falcons would hit the first two baskets, but Buffalo responded quickly with baskets of their own. It was back and forth mostly throughout until the 2:11 mark where junior guard Rachel Myers would hit a layup underneath the basket to cut the deficit into single digits by a score of 40-32. However, Buffalo made huge baskets under two minutes to keep the deficit into double digits and Buffalo led 47-33 going into the final quarter.

In the final quarter, the Falcons struggled to make shots and sloppy turnovers helped Buffalo get easy fast break layups down the stretch. The game was out of reach for the Falcons with two minutes left as Buffalo led 59-42. Coach Roos cleared her bench in the final minute and Buffalo got the road win.

Buffalo dominated the Falcons with 34 points in the paint, as well as 16 second chance points, and 15 points off turnovers. BG would turn the ball over 19 times and 25 points where scored off the bench.

"I knew it would be a physical game from the start," said Roos. "But we have to do a better job in executing and prevent turnovers because they did a great job in being aggressive and hustling to get the ball."

The team's next game will once again be at home as they will take on the Ball State Cardinals on Saturday with tipoff beginning at noon.

Hockey prepares to faceoff Alaska

By Zane Miller
Assistant Sports Editor

The University hockey team will play at home against the Alaska Nanooks on Friday and Saturday night, looking to build on their split series last weekend against Minnesota State.

"I'm looking for a very competitive weekend," Falcons head coach Chris Bergeron said. "I think that our series up there was very competitive; they're coming off a very strong weekend at Ferris [State]. Anybody that knows Ferris State and that building [knows] how difficult it is to play there; to walk away with the number of points they did means they're playing good hockey."

The team is also preparing for a close series between evenly matched teams, with the Falcons one spot ahead of Alaska in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association.

"I'm expecting a confident team and I'm expecting a rested team," Bergeron said. "They've been on the road for a while, but they're not coming from Alaska this week. They're already down here, so I do think they're going to be a team that's confident and hungry and I've seen an Alaska team hungry before and they're a handful when they're hungry."

The team also played on the road against Alaska on Dec. 16 and 17 earlier this season, with Alaska taking the first game 3-2; before the Falcons rebounded with a 6-3 win in the second game. However, the team doesn't feel that the recent meetings between the teams necessarily creates an advantage.

"It benefits both teams," Bergeron said. "They know us like we know them, so I don't think it gives anyone an advantage. You'd think that the only advantage we have is playing at home, but our home record hasn't been exactly what we would've scripted it... What [both teams] learned in the weekend at Fairbanks is that it's going to be competitive."

Alaska has also significantly improved from last season, when they were just one of two WCHA teams to miss the playoffs. This season, Alaska is well inside the playoff hunt.

"I think in the past, the last couple of years they've relied on certain players," Bergeron said. "This year they really seem to be a collective group; they really seem to be playing as a team and not relying on one or two guys. I don't mean that in a bad way that they relied on one or two guys... this group seems to be doing it by committee with everybody chipping in, one line through four, number one defense man through six and then goal-tending."

With the opponent's recent improvements, Bergeron realizes that the Falcons must face their competition head-on in the upcoming games.

"The bottom line is that they're going to compete really hard," Bergeron said. "We'll have to be ready to compete as well."
Shelter helps keep pets in homes

By Claire Morrow

Reporter

As the holidays come to a close, consumers everywhere flood the market with an abundance of returns and exchanges. With gifts of all kinds returning to their shelves, some may wonder what happens to the animals that are infamously gifted throughout the season.

Even though countless commercials flash across TV screens every day, leading us to believe that many animals given as gifts are taken back to spend their lives in shelters, continues on Page 12.
Service doesn’t have to stop after MLK Day

Hannah Finnerty
City Editor

Martin Luther King Day of Service has come and gone but that does not mean community service and civic engagement has to stop. Northwest Ohio has several organizations that are in constant need of donations and frequenting volunteers with different skill sets. This is not a full list of organizations in the area, but rather a stepping off point for those interested in extending their community service beyond MLK Day.

1. Wood County Committee On Aging

The committee has been providing senior citizens with opportunities, events and resources to “maintain their independence and enjoy this season of life,” since 1975, according to their website, wccoa.net. Besides in Bowling Green, they have offices sprawling throughout Northwest Ohio, including Perrysburg, Rossford and North Baltimore. The organization needs help with meal preparation, planning activities and supplementing office staff. Drivers to help drop off meals around the area during the day are also needed.
Volunteer Coordinator: Jacqueline Metz
Address: 305 N. Main Street, Bowling Green, OH 43402
Phone: 419-353-5661
Email: wccoa@wccoa.net
Website: http://www.wccoa.net

2. US Together, Inc.

US Together is a non-profit refugee resettlement agency located in Toledo that coordinates and organizes services to arriving refugees from all over the globe. While the list of services never ends, it includes housing assistance, English education, networking opportunities, appointment scheduling and job placement.
The organization started in Columbus in 2003 and has since expanded to Cleveland and most recently, Toledo.
Volunteer Coordinator: Corine Dehabey
Address: 3450 W. Central Avenue, Toledo, OH 43606
Phone: 419-469-2529
Email: cdehabey@ustogether.us
Website: http://ustogether.us

3. Cocoon Shelter

Cocoon is a “trusted partner, community leader, and transforming voice in Wood County and surrounding areas committed to ending domestic violence and empowering those affected by it.” They offer emergency housing, a crisis hotline, resources and confidential support to victims of domestic violence.
Phone: 419-373-1730
Donations Email: donations@cocoonshelter.org
Volunteer Email: volunteer@cocoonshelter.org
Website: http://www.cocoonshelter.org

4. Read for Literacy

A program stemming from Toledo’s public library, Read for Literacy aims to increase adult and child literacy skills in the counties of Northwest Ohio, including Lucas, Wood, Defiance, Henry and Fulton. Over 1800 volunteers make this program possible, and more are needed. Most volunteer positions require some form of training and a once-a-month commitment.
Phone: 419-242-7323
Address: 7223 Maumee-Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537
Email: readfl@toledolibrary.org
Website: http://www.readforliteracy.org

5. Sunshine Communities

This organization assists people with developmental disabilities with residential, vocational, clinical and therapeutic programs. By creating a community of strong relationships and providing services and activities, Sunshine says its residents can thrive. The operation needs volunteers to assist with services such as their therapeutic horse riding program. They also need people to help plan and execute social activities for residents. They also take groups of volunteers.
Phone: 419-794-1388
Address: 7223 Maumee-Western Road, Maumee, OH 43537
Email: volunteer@sunshine.org
Website: http://www.sunshine.org

Service doesn’t have to stop after MLK Day
City Council continued from Page 5

“This resolution has the power to tell our story—our story and also our behavior as a community—a community of residents who are concerned and care about diverse residents in this community,” Monago said. “It can tell as our story as a caring and inclusive and proactive community that will stand together and proclaim that we will not tolerate hate and discrimination in this community.”

The University was represented by several students speaking on behalf of the resolution.

Junior Bea Fields grew up in Bowling Green. While she and her partner have experienced discrimination and hate from members of the community, she is opportunistic about the city’s potential and the message that this resolution sends.

“You [Bowling Green] have the opportunity to be better. You have the opportunity to be the best,” Fields said. She said passing this resolution would be a step in the right direction.

Amira Hassnaoui, president of the Graduate Student Senate; Ahmad Mehmood, president of Muslim Student Association; and Neiko Alvarado, University student, also addressed the council.

 quote of the day

There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered.

Nelson Mandela
new research has found that this is untrue. In an interview with the Mother Nature Network, Inga Fricke, the Director of Pet Retention for the Humane Society of the United States, explained the misconception. “Fortunately, nowadays we have a considerable amount of data that has been collected surrounding this issue, and we know now that’s just not the case — in fact, studies show that animals given as gifts are actually more likely to be kept in their new homes,” Fricke said.

However, that doesn’t help the 7.6 million animals that are in shelters all over America homes is by implementing a new behavioral enrichment program. Behavior and training coordinator April McCurdy works with the animals (mainly the dogs) daily to make them more adoptable and allow them to stay in homes once they are adopted.

The behavioral enrichment program was developed by McCurdy and Outreach Coordinator Tonya Burkett to help the dogs and cats adjust to shelter life and become better behaved. McCurdy said the dogs become especially stir crazy if they are kept in the shelter too long, which leads to them becoming unadoptable.

“The longer they stay here, the worse their behavior becomes, and the worse their behavior becomes the less likely they are to get adopted, McCurdy said.

To combat this, the enrichment program will help keep the minds of the animals active and helps them de-stress. There are various ways that students and community members can get involved with this new program. One way to help can be by making crafts and puzzles to occupy the animals. Students can also help by just simply showing up to play with the animals and walk the dogs throughout the week.

Sign-up sheets can be found on the Wood County Humane Society website; however, volunteer work does require some outside training. The training is free and provided by the Humane Society for anyone interested in volunteering.

The shelter has flexible hours and students can even stop in to see the animals between their classes. More information about volunteer opportunities and shelter hours can be found at http://www.woodcountyhumaneorganization.org.