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Transportation budget bring mixed reviews

Tessa Phillips
Reporter

Gov. John Kasich signed a two-year, $7.8 billion transportation budget into state law at the end of March.

Money from the bill will go to the Ohio Department of Transportation, Department of Public Safety, Public Works Commission and Development Services Agency. The 2018-19 budget will allocate $33 million a year to Ohio’s 61 public transit systems, $10 million more than current funding amounts.

Bowling Green City Council member Sandy Rowland serves on the council’s Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee as well as the Transportation and Safety Committee, and had mixed reviews of the bill.

“It is difficult for one to say the bill is good or bad for numerous reasons,” Rowland said. “Why were some of the changes that have been made even addressed?”

According to a Lima News article, this legislation will retain the wholesale level motor fuel tax with an exemption for compressed natural gas. The bill will also make it permissible for unattended vehicles to remain on if locked or located on residential property, allow for transaction fees to increase a maximum of $5.25, allow county commissioners to levy a $5 motor vehicle license fee to assist with transportation costs and permit watercraft operators to keep track of skiers using a mirror.

“For example, why include something such as a car can be left running if doors are locked and it is on its own property? This has absolutely nothing to do with transportation,” Rowland said. “It is obviously something some legislator was asked to do and it got slipped in something as important as the budget.”

Rowland added that generally speaking, bills such as this one typically have some good provisions and some bad.

“Our highways do need improved infrastructure. All states, not only Ohio have deteriorating and unsafe highway structures,” she said.

State Rep. Robert Mccolley said the bill “administers a substantial investment in Ohio’s infrastructure and local communities’ needs while defending the tax dollars of our citizens,” according to the Lima News article. Mccolley, who serves as chair of the Finance Subcommittee on Transportation and who was also one of the bill’s sponsors, added that the bill “provides innovative solutions for many of our state’s transportation and economic needs.”

State Rep. Ryan Smith said the spending “will create jobs and put Ohioans to work,” according to a Cleveland, OH article.
Optimism – take it or leave it

Decisions are hard; even the little decisions, and if you’re an indecisive person, a quick choice could turn into a painstakingly long fiasco. While some decisions only take a minute, some are life-changing. The only piece of advice I have to offer about decision-making is to be confident in your choice. A lack of confidence or a lack of logic can be what

"You can wake up in the morning and decide to be angry. You can decide to be frustrated by the world... You have control over your disposition.”

Bailey Plummer  
Columnist

is truly critical in any decision-making situation.

I think it’s easy to forget just how many choices we make every day. Our brain is constantly at work deciding things for us: how many times we are going to snooze our alarm, what we are going to wear, what pair of socks to get out of the drawer; the list goes on and on.

We can also choose more than just things regarding our physical appearance or material items. We can also choose our feelings and dispositions.

If someone hurts our feelings or says something harmful, we can choose to let that sadness consume our entire day, or we can decide to let a smile be our sunshine throughout the day. Our brains decide what to feel, when to feel it and even how to react to those feelings.

While the amount of decisions we are responsible for may seem overwhelming, it really shouldn’t be.

We have control over the majority of the questions we are asked every day, and we have the control over our decisions.

Now occasionally, the decisions may go south, or we may have regrets, but the importance of making confident decisions cannot be stressed enough.

You can wake up in the morning and decide to be angry. You can decide to be frustrated at the world, and triggered by the little things that others say. You can be annoyed at the changing weather, or the stress of schoolwork, or the pain of broken relationships or friendships, or just plain fed up. You can do that. You have control over your disposition, and if that is your prerogative then be my guest.

But you will never achieve happiness...
If you didn’t already wish your grandma was Betty White

Pepsi tried to turn Kendall Jenner into some kind of civil rights icon. White House press secretary Sean Spicer majorly downplayed the Holocaust. United Airlines showed us a new way to deal with an over-booked flight situation. Hell, finals are approaching. If only there were some way to cope with the madness that is our political climate right now.

As I find myself lurking through the depths of the Internet on a daily basis, I become more and more overcome with a strange combination of anxiety-provoking emotions due to the constant saddening rollercoaster ride of a news cycle that our country seems to not be able to jump off.

Just the other day, halfway through reading yet another analysis of the most recent school shooting, I stopped. I then found myself attempting to think of anything, literally anything, to type into my search box that would offer some positivity and not be turned sour by some Internet meme connecting it to politics or current events. I then researched something (or better yet, someone) that I will never regret spending a questionably embarrassing time on the Internet finding every little detail about. Betty White.

Okay seriously, this woman is amazing. I guess I’ve always thought that, but digging deeper into her fascinating life really solidified that for me.

1. Her accomplishments blow me away. She’s received eight Emmy awards, three Screen Actors Guild awards, a Grammy and three American Comedy Awards. She’s in the Television Hall of Fame, the Hollywood Walk of Fame and even holds the record for the longest span between Emmy nominations; her first being in 1951 and her most recent being in 2011 (60 years!).

2. She’s an insanely successful animal activist. The American Veterinary Medical Association even awarded her with its Humane Award in 1987 in honor of all of her work with animals. African Wildlife Foundation, Actors & Others for Animals, the Morris Animal Foundation and the Los Angeles Zoo Commission are just a couple of the organizations she’s involved with. White even turned down a part in a successful film because it involved a scene where a dog is shoved in a chute.

To Jay Leno, she said, “of course it lands on some cushions and it’s fine, but I didn’t want to set that example, because you never know what nuts or kids will see it and think ‘I can do that.’” The director said, “The dog’s fine, the dog’s fine!”. But I said, ‘I just can’t do that.’” Oh but it gets better, even the U.S. Forest Service back in 2010 made her an honorary forest ranger. This woman is, as the kids say, my spirit animal.

3. She’s incredibly funny. Just google “Betty White quotes” and you’ll see. Some examples: “I may be a senior, but so what? I’m still hot,” “My only claim to fame is that I’m the only woman in the world who hasn’t slept with Tiger Woods,” “I’m a health nut. My favorite food is hot dogs with French fries. And my exercise: I have a two-story house and a very bad memory, so I’m up and down those stairs.”

To quote a tweet I once saw and spent a little too much time admiring: “Betty White was born in 1922. Sliced bread was given to us in 1926. Sliced bread is the best thing since Betty White.”

Sarah Smith
Forum Editor

“Interim optimism continued from Page 3

that way, and more likely, you will let your life pass you by because you were too caught up in the negative decisions you made and the unhappy disposition you forced upon yourself, rather than choosing to be happy.

So you can choose to be upset and annoyed and angered, or you can choose to put the sad thoughts away and let a more positive outlook prevail.

I’m not saying it’s easy. On some days, it may be the most difficult thing to do - to choose to be happy.

But I feel that in the long run, choosing to be happy is much more rewarding than choosing to be sad. You can choose to be angry at the world, or you can choose to be optimistic.

So falcons, make it a great day or not. The choice is yours.

Reply to Bailey at thenews@bgnews.com

SUBMISSION POLICY

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

GUEST COLUMNS: Guest Columns are generally longer pieces between 400 and 700 words. Two submissions per month maximum.

POLICIES: Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Forum page permits. Additional Letters or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS: Send submissions as an attachment to thenews@bgnews.com with the subject line marked “Letter to the Editor” or “Guest Column.” All submissions are subject to review and editing for length and clarity before printing.
BGSU grad runs for city council

Two-time graduate of Bowling Green, Holly Cipriani, announced in February that she will be running for city council for an at-large seat. Here’s an overview of what inspired Cipriani to run and what she hopes to cover.

Q: Why did you decide to run for city council?
A: I decided for a few reasons. My undergrad is political science, my master’s was in public administration; both are received from BGSU. When I first came to Bowling Green about 12 years ago I was the student that came with that intention of receiving my undergraduate degree and then moving on, but during my time as a student I got involved with different projects in the Bowling Green community, and I fell in love with (the) town and the more I got involved with the city and with community members, the more I realized I wanted to stay and continue the work that I was doing. So the reason I’m running now is, this just seemed like a good time considering the light of our federal administration and our current presidency. There seemed to be some concerns locally that people were wanting to see—not necessarily a change—but support. I hear from my neighbors and residents and people that I work with, that they want to have their voices heard, and I feel that I can be that advocate for them. I’ve always been dedicated to public service and I’m very interested in serving at the local level. I genuinely believe this is where true change can be actually happen and happen…in a very tangible way.

Q: What kind of experiences and credentials do you bring to the table as running for city council?
A: One thing that makes me unique is that I have my master’s in public administration, so I’ve spent my entire educational career focused on learning about our government structure; both at the theoretical level, but also in a very applied way as well. So educationally this has been my focus, and professionally I’ve been working since 2009, full-time, in a few different areas; all of them focused in public service. I’ve held positions as advocates for survivors of domestic violence, as well as human trafficking, and during my time there I helped build social service programs. I managed budgets and coordinated our programs, so I’m very familiar with the management side of things.

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“Small but Mighty” is how former Senior Warden Sharon Hupp describes St. John’s Episcopal Church, located at 1505 E. Wooster St., on the corner of Mercer and Wooster streets. It is still true, says current Senior Warden Pat Patton.

The Anglican Church was begun by Henry the Eighth, King of England, when he had a disagreement with the Pope. People of all denominations and backgrounds are welcome to worship at St. John’s, including those of no faith, she says. The church offers services based on the traditional English Anglican Church.

Worship is every Sunday at 10am. Sunday school is held the first Sunday of the month, from 9:45 – 11am, with a potluck lunch following for everyone present.

The church sponsors a Focus Group, as well as other activities. See the church website at www.stjohnsbg.org in order to contact the group.

“All Are Welcome”

WORSHIP

SUNDAYS AT 10 AM

You have chosen BGSU for your academic journey.

We look forward to joining you on your spiritual journey.
Baseball dominates Kent State

By Zane Miller
Assistant Sports Editor

The Falcons baseball team defeated the Kent State Golden Flashes 9-3 in a one game match-up on Tuesday afternoon, rebounding from a series loss last weekend against Toledo.

“(Kent State’s) the best in the conference; they’re the ones who were voted to win everything,” Falcon head coach Danny Schmitz said. “They’re an outstanding team, but this was huge because after that tough loss on Sunday we wanted to come out and play well today.”

The game started with a bang as freshman outfielder Jake Wilson hit his first collegiate home run in the first inning; a solo shot that gave the Falcons an early 1-0 advantage.

“I saw the slider that came in and was able to get my best swing on it,” Wilson said. “The ball kept carrying; the wind helped me out quite a bit. There’s nothing much to it, just keep making good contact.”

The team jumped out to a bigger lead in the second inning, beginning with sophomore infielder Riley Minorik hitting a two RBI single, followed by an RBI sacrifice fly by sophomore infielder Cam Daugherty. Junior infielder Randy Righter topped off the scoring with a two run homer to put the Falcons ahead 6-0.

“Hitting is contagious,” Schmitz said. “The guys were really battling; even when we made some outs we made hard outs, but you’ve also got to give our pitching credit. You’ve got Chandler Stillings going against Kent State as a freshman; he gave us four and two-thirds innings, he did a great job... we talked about the three phases, and I thought we had all three phases going today.”

In the fourth, Kent State was able to get one run back on an RBI single, however, the Falcons countered in the bottom of the inning with a two RBI double by senior designated hitter Greg Basalyga to make it an 8-1 game.

The fifth inning saw Kent State grab another run on an RBI double, which the Falcons again responded to in the sixth with a sacrifice fly from Basalyga. Kent State scored on an RBI single in the seventh, but that would be all the scoring from both teams as the Falcons took the 9-3 victory.

“I thought the guys had a great approach today,” Schmitz said. “Up and down the lineup, it was really really good. That’s what we needed against Toledo because that was phenomenal.”

The team will next play on Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons on the road against the Ball State Cardinals.
Softball falls in one game matchup

By Elias Faneuff
Sports Reporter

The Falcons softball team fell to the Miami (OH) RedHawks on the road by a score of 5-4 on Wednesday afternoon. The team is currently 6-6 against Mid-American Conference opponents.

“At the end of the day, defense is what wins games,” softball head coach Sarah Willis said. “Things like making plays behind the pitchers, and the pitchers challenging and being aggressive through the zone, are the things that have contributed to our recent victories. But, their big inning today started because we struggled to find the zone and gave up too many walks, for one reason or another, and we gave up a pair of 0-2 hits that led to runs and lost by one. If we don’t do that, and we make a few smarter pitches when we’re way ahead in the count, we probably come out on top today.”

In the top of the second inning, The Falcons got off to a great start offensively as freshman outfielder Kendyl Wheeler hit a two run homer deep to right field. This was Wheeler’s first collegiate home run. The team added another run on the board following an RBI double toward center field by senior third baseman Haley Schrock. The Falcons had an early 3-0 lead going into the next inning.

The RedHawks responded with a run of their own in the bottom of the third inning, as sophomore pitcher Meredith Miller gave up an RBI single that went toward center field—the momentum slowly shifting Miami’s way. Things didn’t get better for Miller in the bottom of the fourth since she walked four batters; one leading to a run cutting the lead to just one for the Falcons.

Sophomore Brooke Parker came in to replace Miller shortly after, but the RedHawks had the bases loaded with one out. Parker then gave up an RBI single toward right center field that drove in two runs for Miami. The final run for the RedHawks came from a fielding error by Haley Schrock, and the RedHawks took the lead by a score of 5-3.

In the top of the fifth inning, junior infielder Chelsea Raker blasted a homer deep to left field and provided some hope for the team heading into the final innings as Miami still led 5-4. Brooke Parker then came through, retiring three batters in the bottom of the sixth inning to give her team a chance to tie or win the game going into the top of the seventh. However, the Falcons were unable to produce any runs and Miami held on to win the game.

“We were right there with a chance to win the game today, and it’s important for us to continue to stay hungry heading into this weekend,” Willis said.

The Falcons will host the Buffalo Bulls on Friday afternoon beginning at 3 p.m., then on Saturday in a doubleheader with the first game beginning at 1 p.m. and the second beginning at 3 p.m.
## WCCOA partners with BGSU

*By Emily Gielink*

**Reporter**

The Wood County Committee on Aging (WCCOA) in Bowling Green is always looking for student volunteers to aid Ohio's senior citizens, because they're able to teach older adults new skills. There is a large volunteer base that keeps the WCCOA running; with BG residents and University students dedicating their time to the organization and creating new programs.

With programs ranging from “Cooking for One” to Wii bowling, these activities are packed into each month at different senior centers across Ohio.

The WCCOA frequently partners with BGSU and its students, offering internships and volunteer hours. Recently, the BGSU Gerontology Student Association partnered with the Wood County Senior Center to create a “Senior Prom,” which was a fiesta-themed party to celebrate Mexican style.

While most programs are free, some require participants to bring money to the event for food or pay registration fees for the six to eight week programs.

“Music Discovery Day,” a program created by Senior gerontology major Zach Miller, will take place Tuesday, April 11, from 3-5 p.m. at the Wood County Senior Center. This program allows older adults to partake in an instrument petting zoo, hear from a professional in the music industry and listen to live music.

“‘It combined my three passions: gerontology, music and helping others.’

**Zach Miller**

Gerontology major

“I had free reign to develop whatever I wanted,” Miller said. “It combined my three passions.”

Continues on Page 11
There are also technology programs, such as “Silver Tekkies Tablet Workshops,” that are taught by Rita Betz. For the past few workshops, the Chapman Learning Community has partnered with Betz to teach older adults about new technology, but new volunteers are needed depending on the size of the workshop.

“A lot of students come to us first, but we need anywhere between two to eight volunteers per workshop,” Betz said. “We are always looking to do something in the summer, and we ask that students have a passion for working with older adults.”

There are also programs targeted towards older adults with diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. These are taught by certified instructors.

“We always could use volunteers to keep an eye on them, because they aren’t always steady,” Miller said.

Each month has a new set of programs in store. With all the services that WCCOA provides, there are also trips and tours offered. The trips range from day trips to week-long trips in New Orleans and New York City.

To volunteer for WCCOA, students can contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Jacqueline Metz, and fill out the BGSU Student Volunteer form, found on their website.
That, I think, would play directly into what would be needed as a city council member, with the city management side of things... Specifically, in Bowling Green, as a graduate student, I had the opportunity to partner with our economic development office here in BG and create a shop local campaign to promote our local businesses and help our residents be informed consumers. Supporting our local business is something I would like to revitalize. It’s an initiative that I worked on years ago and would like to bring back, and I know our downtown has some concerns. It is struggling in some areas so using my background knowledge from there and from my educational experience... I also work right now on a project as part of the Community Action Plan which is a city initiative. I’m a volunteer there and planning Court Street Connects festival, which is an initiative coming out of the community action plan, focused on revitalizing our neighborhoods and also looking at potentially getting bike lanes; that is something that has been talked about for years. Basically I was a student before I could remember, and so taking some action now on trying to see if this is something that is viable in the city, so I’ve worked on a lot of different projects locally and in Northwest Ohio in general that I think would help with the experience needed.

Q: Are there any other issues you would want to cover if you get elected?

A: The main things that I’m currently focusing on would be our local economic development... revitalizing the BuyBG campaign and supporting our local businesses because I think that is important. Revitalizing our neighborhoods is another area I would love to see more focus put on, especially since we are a growing population, we need to make sure that we’re taking care of those that are here, so our residents, even our student population that is choosing to live in Bowling Green, that those neighborhoods are well cared for, and then just that Bowling Green remain a community where people feel safe and welcome. It’s important to me that we have leaders in place that will not only accept those initiatives but will actively advocate for them and appreciate the diversity that our town brings, so that’s something that I would very much be focused on.

Primary elections for city council are on May 2.