



Where we stand with same-sex marriage

» By **ANDREW THOMPSON**
Sports Editor

In the U.S, same-sex marriages are recognized and approached in the legal system differently from state to state, but more than 62 percent of Americans now live in a state that issues marriage licenses to same-sex couples, according to freedomtomarry.org.

Same-sex couples are able to marry in 32 states and in the District of Columbia. In the remaining states, same-sex marriage is either currently banned or under court review.

States where same-sex marriage is not recognized include: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Tennessee.

States that have declared same-sex marriage bans unconstitutional but it remains illegal include: Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, South Carolina and Texas.

Two of those rulings happened on Wednesday, Nov. 12, in Kansas and South Carolina, but despite this, gay couples are not able to obtain marriage licenses in these states.

The ruling in Kansas came down after the American Civil Liberties Union sued the state on behalf of two lesbian couples. Because the ACLU lawsuit was prompted by judges' rulings in Douglas and Sedgwick counties, however, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt is claiming the ruling only applies to those two counties.

According to the Associated Press, the situation in Kansas is being watched closely, especially after appellate rulings earlier in the month that upheld gay marriage laws in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee.

Those cases are all heading to the Supreme Court, and it is thought same-sex marriage could be addressed and decided nationwide by June 2015. **TAS**

Dean of Graduate Studies Dennis retires, Gotcher accepts dean position

» **STAFF REPORT**

Dixie Dennis resigned from her position as dean of Graduate Studies without warning on Friday, Nov. 14.

In an email sent to APSU faculty and staff, Dennis said, "I asked [Interim Provost Jaime Taylor] to keep my

secret, because I wanted to leave quietly."

Dennis was the creator of the Peay Read and was a member of the APSU community for more than 20 years.

On Monday, Nov. 17, Interim Provost Jaime Taylor announced Michael

Gotcher, former chair of the Communications Department, as interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

According to faculty, during a meeting held between members of the Communications Department, Professor Pam

Gray was decided as the interim department chair of communications. Gray will serve in the position through Spring 2015.

Gray began working at APSU in 2005, and currently coordinates all internship opportunities for communications majors. **TAS**



Left: Pam Gray, Right: Mike Gotcher
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO | APSU WEBSITE



"The Gov" and "The Governor" at the unveiling on Monday, Nov. 17.
CHRIS MALONE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fate of APSU mascot rests in hands of community

» By **DAVID HARRIS**
Staff Writer

After the unveiling of the new potential mascot, "The Gov" an APSU mascot competition has begun.

The two mascots campaigning against one another are the long-running Governor Peay X and the new mascot known as "The Gov." Governor Peay X has held his position as APSU's mascot since 2002.

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, the two mascots had a standoff in front of the courthouse. The new Gov explained APSU has entered a new era with its new logo, new football stadium and campus expansion.

While his opponent, Peay X, has had a successful career, The Gov said he believes it is time for a new mascot.

In opposition, Governor Peay X described how he has been on campus for 12 years and how the Gov has no record to stand on. Throughout his career, Governor Peay X has been involved in 30 Ohio

Valley Conference Championships. He described his record as "unimpeachable" and said he will remain on campus for many more years to come.

Both mascots had their share of community figures on their sides.

Supporting Governor Peay X was local attorney Kevin Kennedy, Don Jenkins of Jenkins and Wynne Ford Lincoln and Honda, President and CEO of Hand Family Companies Charles Hand, Legends Bank CEO Billy Atkins and local attorney, city councilman and former Govs Club President Joel Wallace. Wallace will also serve as Governor Peay X's campaign manager.

Siding with The Gov was Thurman Campbell, director of Business Development, Katie Gamble, Montgomery County Mayor Jim Durrett, Clarksville Montgomery County Director of Schools B.J. Worthington, Montgomery County Economic Development Council Executive Director Cal Wray and Brandi Bryant, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce president

and manager of 5 Star Radio Group. Bryant will serve as The Gov's liaison. The election began on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

Both mascots made an appearance at Tailgate Plaza for APSU's final home football game of the year on Saturday, Nov. 22.

The two running mates will attend upcoming basketball games and Peay Patrol events.

"I like the tradition that comes with the current mascot," said communications major Will Pryor. "At the same time, I think APSU is ready for an upgrade to adapt to their new logos," Pryor said.

Business marketing major Jeremy Williams said he thinks the new Gov is good. "I think we need to start with something new," Williams said. "We're going into a new time, so we definitely need to get a new mascot."

The polls will be open until Friday, Feb. 26, 2015. Everyone is able to participate.

Voters can text THEGOV for the challenger or PEAY10 for the incumbent to 85923. **TAS**



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Department of Theatre and Dance adds new degrees

» By CANDICE SNOW
Staff Writer

Beginning in fall 2015, APSU will offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a concentration in theatre and dance.

For years, students seeking a degree in this field have had to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications.

This not only forced theatre and dance students to enroll in extra classes to fulfill communications requirements, but also awarded them with a degree that does not fit their intended line of work.

According to the National Schools of Theatre, a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree is needed

when applying for jobs in this field.

“If you have spent four years taking acting classes, taking dance classes, taking voice classes, and then your transcript and résumé indicate you have a degree in communications, that’s just not right,” said Associate Professor of dance Brian Vernon in an interview with *The Leaf Chronicle*.

The Tennessee Board of Regents has approved an official APSU Department of Theatre and Dance and has appointed Vernon as the department chair.

“I’m actually changing my minor in dance to a major in dance because of this degree opportunity,” said junior Marquize Hill. “It makes me

happy that APSU finally has a degree in something I enjoy. There are a lot of students interested in that field. I know a lot of people who are changing their major now that it’s available.”

Starting fall 2015, the department will offer a Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in dance, acting/directing or design and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a concentration in musical theatre, dance, acting/directing or design.

A formal audition is required for admittance into the program.

For more information on the new degree programs and the audition process, call the department of theatre and dance at 931-221-6767. *TAS*



SGA passes 4 resolutions

» By LAUREN COTTLE
Assistant Features Editor

Three of four resolutions passed in the Student Government Association meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 18, aim to improve campus while one is to amend the SGA bylaws.

Resolution No. 10 passed with one abstention. It aims to put lighting on the exterior of Emerald Hills and Two Rivers area. Sens. Faith Merriweather and Amaha Teferra sponsor the bill.

Resolution No. 11, sponsored by Sens. Ryan Honea and Waqas Ahmed, aiming to send a formal letter of support to the Sustainable Fee Committee for the installation of water filtration systems on water fountains around campus, passed unanimously.

Sen. Edward Dziadon sponsored resolution No. 12 to paint the speed bump on

Drane Street. The bill passed unanimously.

Act No. 2 aims to change the SGA bylaws so all senators must submit their own piece of legislation rather than sponsoring a bill with someone else to fulfill the one mandatory piece of legislation. The act, sponsored by Honea, passed with two opposed and one abstention.

In new business, two resolutions were proposed.

Resolution No. 13 aims to send a formal recommendation to the Sustainable Fees Committee, the Housing Office and the Physical Plant suggesting that bike racks around residence halls be relocated and new bike racks be purchased for buildings that don’t have them, such as McCord, Clement, Hemlock, Harned and Marks.

The resolution is sponsored by Sens. Linda McIntosh and Faith Merriweather.

Act No. 3 proposes to appoint an extra senate seat for international students. Sen. Kramer Reynolds sponsors the act.

SGA members went to the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature from Thursday, Nov. 13, to Sunday, Nov. 16.

Vice President Dan Pitts was voted best lobbyist for the Tennessee Gun Association.

Act No. 1, aiming to amend the SGA bylines to make SGA events mandatory for senators and justices, failed in tribunal because the wording was unclear. President Zac Gillman announced the Tennessee Higher Education Committee’s open forum.

They will discuss the fact that since enrollment within the Tennessee Board of Regents is expected to go down again, the eligibility for the HOPE Scholarship may change and the full-time student requirements may be redefined. *TAS*

Campus Crime Log			
Date	Time	Crime	Location
Nov. 17	10:29 a.m.	Disorderly Conduct	Kimbrough
Nov. 15	4:39 a.m.	Theft	Meacham
Nov. 14	6:55 p.m.	Theft	Foy Fitness Center
Nov. 11	4:59 p.m.	Vandalism	Castle Heights North Lot
Nov. 10	10:05 p.m.	Vandalism	Castle Heights
Nov. 7	1:28 a.m.	Theft	Eighth St. Student Lot
Nov. 7	10:37 a.m.	Burglary	Castle Heights
Oct. 29	5:01 p.m.	Underage Consumption	Pace Alumni Center

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ANDY’S PHARMACY



Thursday is the new Friday

Earlier Black Friday shopping deprives retail employees of celebrating Thanksgiving

» By **COURTNEY DIGGS**

Staff Writer

Black Friday is the culmination of ultimate deals, but it is moving in an unfortunate direction as violent accidents occur and as stores begin opening on Thanksgiving Day.

Black Friday horror stories worsen every year, with deaths from trampling and fighting over merchandise.

With all these dangerous incidents occurring every season, should Black Friday continue to be promoted as much as it currently is?

And if events continue to happen, should companies who participate implement more security precautions?

Large corporations like Wal-Mart and Target are a small fraction of the stores that offer great deals for Black Friday, but most accident reports spawn from these major companies.

BlackFridayDeathCount.com provides a ranking list of deaths and injuries that have occurred at Black Friday events from 2006-2013, with a total of 7 deaths and 90 injuries. Should big companies like these do more for the sake of accident prevention?

"Everyone knows Black Friday equals chaos," said junior broadcast major Miranda Salters. "In order to tame the chaos and prevent injuries, security has to be beefed up."

Another concern of Black Friday is that it is slowly dipping into the Thanksgiving holiday. This year, Wal-Mart and Target are both opening their doors on Thanksgiving Day at 6 p.m.

This takes so much away from the true celebration of Thanksgiving. Black Friday should stay on its own day rather than taking over such an important holiday.

Thanksgiving brings families together. It's a time to break bread and stuff your belly, but with the hustle and bustle of pre-Black Friday preparations, people don't have time to sit down and enjoy what they are given.

We, as a nation, should stand up and boycott Black Friday events that occur on Thanksgiving.

"I think it's wrong that [Black Friday] starts at 6 p.m.," said sophomore communications major Hannah Holt. "First of all, that's right at dinner time, and I believe everyone should be eating dinner with their families. This is a very special time that families should surround themselves with other family members and loved ones," Holt said.

Many businesses remain open during Thanksgiving, and employees sometimes don't get the opportunity to sit down and celebrate with their families.

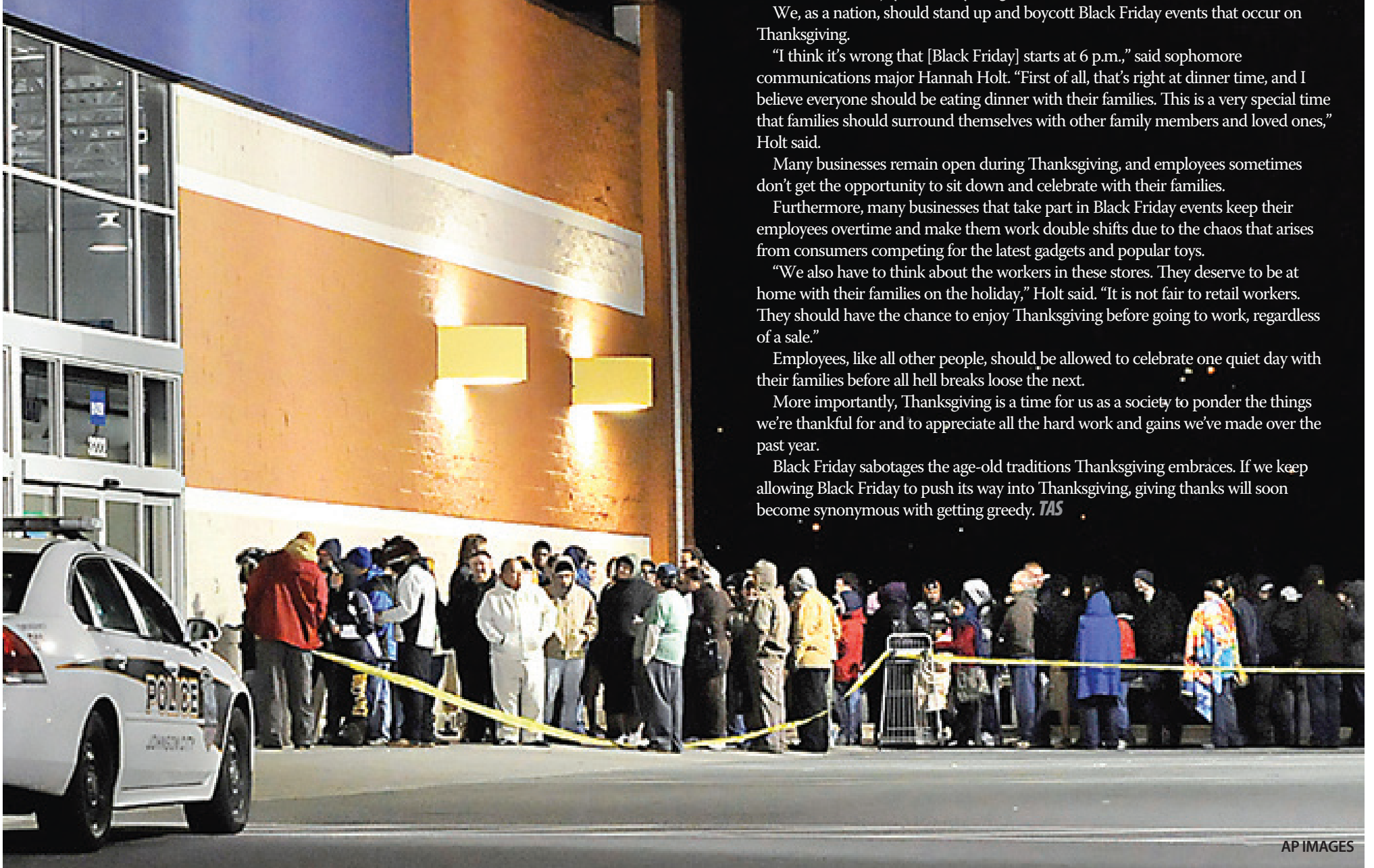
Furthermore, many businesses that take part in Black Friday events keep their employees overtime and make them work double shifts due to the chaos that arises from consumers competing for the latest gadgets and popular toys.

"We also have to think about the workers in these stores. They deserve to be at home with their families on the holiday," Holt said. "It is not fair to retail workers. They should have the chance to enjoy Thanksgiving before going to work, regardless of a sale."

Employees, like all other people, should be allowed to celebrate one quiet day with their families before all hell breaks loose the next.

More importantly, Thanksgiving is a time for us as a society to ponder the things we're thankful for and to appreciate all the hard work and gains we've made over the past year.

Black Friday sabotages the age-old traditions Thanksgiving embraces. If we keep allowing Black Friday to push its way into Thanksgiving, giving thanks will soon become synonymous with getting greedy. **TAS**



AP IMAGES

APSU parking unfair to commuters

» By **ANDREW THOMPSON**

Sports Editor

At APSU, parking is a constant issue among faculty and students. Whether it's the location of the parking spots, the number of them on campus or some crazy combination of the two, APSU is always talking about parking.

With all this commotion, one thing has become abundantly clear: APSU parking is currently chaotic and unfair.

The heart of APSU's campus is the most high-traffic area for students.

The MUC, Felix G. Woodward Library and many other academic buildings are found within this relatively condensed area.

Many of the closest parking spaces to these important buildings are reserved for professors and students who live on campus.

Alternatively, commuter parking lots are found on the edges of the campus, often as far away from the primary academic buildings as possible without technically leaving APSU.

This has created a scenario where those at APSU who use their cars most frequently are routinely required to walk the farthest.

Professors and dorm residents need to get to their classes in a timely manner, as well, but the current setup is not distributed as logically as it could be.

Dorm residents are not only in the minority at APSU, but they also use their cars much less than the average commuter.

Commuters use their cars every day on campus, whether it is

to run home between classes or to meet a friend.

Students who live in the dorms, however, conduct much of their business on campus and generally use their cars less often.

Despite this, dorm residents get some of the best parking spaces on campus.

Professors, on the other hand, have a much more compelling case. They are paid to teach at APSU, and their jobs are undoubtedly important.

What is not taken into account, though, is that professors also come and go less frequently than commuters.

Many professors teach multiple classes a day in addition to office hours, and because of this, often spend their time on campus in large chunks as opposed to the erratic comings and goings of the average commuter.

Even though professors are designated the more ideal parking spots, the chaos of APSU parking affects them, as well.

"From my perspective as a professor, there's no real preference in terms of who gets what spot," said communications professor Robert Baron. "It's not like I'm given a choice and I have to park in this lot. What affects that choice is how early I get here. So, if I want to work on campus on a given day, if I'm not here by about [9 a.m.], it's a nightmare. It seems to me we've got more people coming to campus than we've got spaces to put all of those cars," Baron said.

Regarding parking at APSU, one thing is certain: Those who use their cars the most not only get the worst parking spots on campus, but there also aren't enough of them. **TAS**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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ABOUT THE ALL STATE

The All State is published every Wednesday of the academic year, except during final exams and holidays.

Letters to The Editor should include author's full name, email and phone number, plus major and class, if applicable. Letters will be checked for authenticity and should be received

no later than 4 p.m. on Friday to be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for clarity and content, and should not exceed 300 words.

The All State's mission is to publish timely and pertinent news for the Austin Peay State University community. It serves as a voice for the students and

is entirely managed and produced by APSU students.

The All State is not an official publication of Austin Peay State University. The views herein do not necessarily reflect those of *The All State*, APSU or the Tennessee Board of Regents.

EVENTS

**Monday,
Nov. 24**OVC Women's
Volleyball
TournamentBread and
Words,
6- 7:30 p.m.
MMC
Ballroom**Tuesday,
Nov. 25**MSC Group
talks,
4:30 - 5:30
p.m.,
MUC 120**Wednesday,
Nov. 26-
Friday,
Nov. 28**Thanksgiving
Break**Monday,
Dec. 1**Achiever's
and Scholars
Meeting,
6- 8 p.m.,
CL 120**Tuesday,
Dec. 2**Krispy Kreme
Fundraiser
Delivery/Pick
Up,
8- 10:30 a.m.
MUC LobbyWDAACC
Peay Soup
& Speaker's
Corner,
4:30- 6 p.m.
CL 120**Wednesday,
Dec. 3**Student
Affairs
Holiday
Reception
1 p.m.
MUC LobbyWDAACC
FREE
Lunch and
Conversations
11:30 a.m.- 1
p.m.
CL 120*To submit on-
or off-campus
events for future
Community
Calendars, email
allstatefeatures@
apsu.edu.*

End-of-semester survival guide



JONATHON BUNTON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stress-relieving advice for finals week

» By MARINA HEAD
Staff Writer

The end of the semester can be an incredibly stressful time for students. There's pressure from finals and getting ready for the next semester, and all of that can be hard to deal with. Here are some ways to ease your heavy load.

Managing your time is a skill that will help you through your entire life. A way to get better at this is to make a schedule to help prioritize assignments and study time.

Making lists of all of your assignments and other things you may have to do is also more beneficial than freaking out and crying and then pulling an all-nighter in the library because you forgot.

"You need time management skills, and you need to know when to ask for help," said freshman nursing major Briann Bross.

Tabitha Montague, sophomore business major and avid planner, said the end of the semester boils down to time management.

"With all the assignments and exams coming up as well as busy holidays, if you don't plan accordingly and if you don't achieve some level of self discipline, finals week will be a week of misery," Montague said.

Another thing that comes with managing your time correctly is being able to spend the rest of it sleeping. Sleep has an incredible impact on everything you do, from how you interact with others to how you handle stress. Do yourself a favor and get more than just a couple of hours of sleep every night, especially before exam days. Everyone you talk to during the day will likely be grateful for it.

Eating healthy is something you should do

regardless of the time of year, but it is especially important at the end of the semester to combat stress and to boost energy. Regularly eating healthy food can improve mood, boost energy and lead to a healthier brain.

The best "brain foods" according to WebMD, are blueberries, salmon, nuts, seeds, avocado, whole grains, beans, pomegranate juice and freshly brewed tea.

Healthy eating is also a good way to combat emotional eating, which is "a situation that can result in eating too much, too little or an excess of high-calorie, sweet, fatty foods," said Health

"The secret to success is the proper balance between espresso shots, lack of sleep and crying time."

— Casey Leffel, senior physics major

and Human Performance professor Anne Black.

"Planning ahead," as well as "keeping a food diary" and participating in "moderate physical activity can help," Black said.

Along with eating healthy, an effective stress reliever is exercise. Exercise can lift stress, treat depression, improve learning, build self-esteem and keep the brain fit.

APSU offers many group exercise opportunities throughout the week and on

weekends. During a study break, fitting in a Zumba class, yoga class or a quick run can be beneficial in multiple ways.

Coffee from Starbucks isn't a proper replacement for rest, but it can be beneficial in assisting with concentration.

When you hunker down to study, it may be wise to have a cup of coffee or tea with you. This can help you keep from drifting off while studying for that class that you regret signing up for.

According to Casey Leffel, a senior physics major and an employee at APSU's Starbucks, "The secret to success is the proper balance between espresso shots, lack of sleep and crying time."

Even with concentration and caffeine, breaks are important. When you hit that point where nothing is making sense and you want to bang your head on the wall, take a walk or watch a few videos on YouTube. When you come back, it will all make more sense.

Corny as it sounds, the most important thing of all for survival during finals is friendship. There are many things you can do with a helping hand that you can't do alone. Studying with a friend can help you retain information better, and there's nothing more important for finishing projects than an extra set of eyes.

The end of the semester may seem like a frightening time, but we're all in the same boat. The person next to you is going through a similar experience. Chances are, they might even have a little bit of advice or an ear to lend. Don't just suffer silently and alone when you can suffer together.

Now all you need to do is buckle down and get to it so you can start all over next semester. **TAS**

Bread and Words gives back

» By ELENA SPRADLIN
Staff Writer

The holidays are a time of year when we're commercially invited to indulge, whether in food or gifts.

However, for the 20th consecutive year, the APSU Department of Languages and Literature will be hosting their Bread and Words charity event, inviting members of the APSU community to turn their attention to those in need while showcasing the creative writers.

Community's Bread and Words is an evening where people come

together, eat bread and soup and listen to student- and faculty-written poetry and fiction.

"I love the sense of community that is Bread and Words," said junior English major Elizabeth Upshur. "Everyone brings a little to the table, and everyone leaves full. It's a great opportunity to stand together and fight hunger right where we live."

Barry Kitterman, professor of creative writing and one of the faculty members who will be reading at this year's Bread and Words, said, "The idea behind the event is to raise a little money to

fight hunger in Clarksville, but also to give the members of our creative writing community a chance to reflect on the fact that there are people in our town, even on our campus, who are in need."

In past years, donations have gone to Loaves and Fishes, the Salvation Army and Share Our Strength, but this year for the first time, proceeds will be going to the APSU S.O.S. Food Pantry.

"For me, Bread and Words has always been about humility," said senior English major Sarah Key. "Barry Kitterman has done an excellent job of creating an event

centered on acts of kindness and giving back to those in need."

The event will be held on Monday, Nov. 24, in the MUC Ballroom. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m., and readings will begin at 7 p.m.

A suggested \$5 donation is requested at the door, but as Kitterman said, "We welcome everyone."

Among those presenting are Sarah Key, Elizabeth Upshur, Conor Scruton, Ericka Suhl and Chaseton Donahoe. Local guitarist Chuck Emery will be playing music at the event. **TAS**

APSU hosts Thanksgiving feast



Faculty and staff served food to students at Chartwells' annual Thanksgiving feast on Thursday, Nov. 20. CHRIS MALONE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Social anxiety distresses students

» **BY ANDREW THOMPSON**
Sports Editor

College is a stressful and turbulent time for many college students, and the daily responsibilities and activities of your typical college student provide many opportunities to be affected by social anxiety.

The Social Anxiety Institute defines social anxiety as “the fear of interaction with other people that brings on self-consciousness, feelings of being negatively judged and evaluated, and, as a result, leads to avoidance.”

It is easy to see how college students could experience social anxiety.

With countless social interactions with classmates, professors, friends or strangers one is liable to bump into on

campus, the opportunities to feel self-conscious or negatively judged following a social encounter are endless.

According to the Social Anxiety Institute, all of the above scenarios fit into common areas of interaction that lead to significant emotional distress in people dealing with a social anxiety disorder.

Those dealing with social anxiety are also often aware of the irrationality of their distress, and yet that same knowledge can lead to even more self-criticism and doubt, and all of this can lead to more emotional distress in social situations.

While the specifics of social anxiety may be lost on some, how it affects college students is certainly felt, and these impacts even find their way into the classrooms.

“Sometimes you feel too afraid to ask questions [in class] because you feel like people will judge you

or think you’re weird or stupid,” said sophomore chemistry major Kaitilin Baker.

The Anxiety and Depression Association of America reports that 40 million adults in the U.S. suffer from an anxiety disorder. In addition, 75 percent of those adults had their first anxiety episode before age 22, and a 2008 survey found that 80 percent of college students say they have frequent stress.

When all of these factors are added to an environment that pushes college students to perform, alongside common financial and social pressures, it makes a volatile cocktail perfectly tailored for social anxiety.

For those coping with social anxiety, APSU’s Student Counseling Services offers free counseling and support to APSU students and can be found in Ellington 202. **TAS**

Peay Pickup

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In partnership with the Clarksville Transit System (CTS), the Student Government Association provides students, faculty and staff **FREE** transportation around campus via **The Peay Pickup** and free transportation around town on CTS buses. CTS will operate **The Peay Pickup** trolley from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday **through the end of final exams.**

The Peay Pickup returns to the stops on the route during operating hours approximately every 12 minutes. Please have your University **Peay Pickup** card and University I.D. ready when boarding. To catch **The Peay Pickup**, just flag it down or wait at a stop sign. **Peay Pickup** trolley rides are available to those without the valid University **Peay Pickup** card and University I.D. for full fare.

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Top Tweets

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Tweets from students and staff from November

@Forever_Blonde_
PSA: There are only 7 days of class left in the semester #apsu

@austinsangelsap
Can't wait to have @JakeLowary on Austin's Angels next week. #APSU #TuesdayLiveAt5

@serahki
Coffee and class registration. #APSU

@austinpeay
#ThrowbackThursday: Remember when APSU's "Red Barn" had an indoor pool?

@letsgopeay
New York Yankee pitcher and APSU alumni Shawn Kelley autographed giveaways at today's Peay Patrol! #letsgopeay

@APDining
Thanksgiving lunch is being served! Come to the APSU Cafe now and get yours!

@AustinPeayAD
Election has begun for the new APSU mascot via @leafchronicle

@APSUALumni
Riley Braem ('10) - Speaking with APSU students on his experiences with theatre in London.

@APSU_Softball
Excited to announce third signee of 2015, Utility, Carly Mattson, from McHenry, IL. #GOVNATION

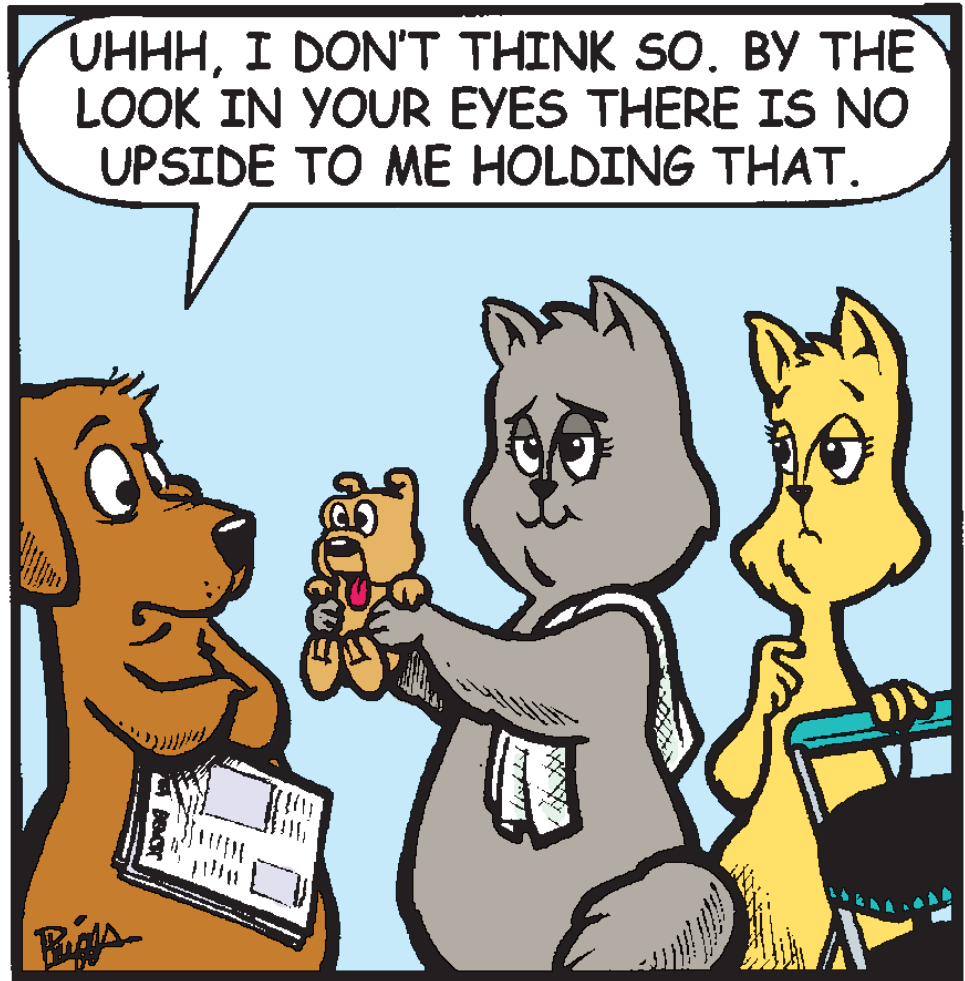
@austinpeay
Big things on the horizon for APSU's Dept. of Theatre and Dance

Old photo of Red Barn from @austinpeay

Photo of Carly Mattson from @APSU_Softball

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



MAGIC MAZE ● — FALLS : CITIES

L E B X U R O L I E B Y H V S
Q N K H E C G R A N I T E B Y
W T R O L J E G E T A B Y N W
U R P N L K I D A M I G D O B
Z X V S Q A O E A A B H M E K
I G E C A Y R L C R M W C G H
U S Q P N G K T E B U K X I L
J H F E C A Y V N L L U G P W
X V U S Q P A N E E O H A D I
M K J H F E E C S I C B Z Y X
V U O R B M U Z S T R Q P O M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Beaver

Cedar

Central

Columbia
- Elk

Granite

Great

High
- Idaho

Klamath

Pigeon

Seneca
- Sioux

Wichita

Zumbro

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3	4			8				7
		2			9		5	
	5		7			6		
1					7	9		
		6		4			7	3
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	6			5				1
5			9		2	4		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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November 17 - 25

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Predators on the prowl

The National Hockey League’s Nashville Predators have started the season with a surprise, and I think they can keep it up

» By **ANDREW FRANKLIN**
Staff Writer

As hockey fans may know by now, the Nashville Predators are off to a great start for a pretty good season.

The Preds are 12-5-2 as of Monday, Nov. 20, which is a surprising start, as many believed the Preds would have a similar season as last year, where they went 38-32-12.

New Coach Peter Laviolette has brought a new dynamic to the locker room, as he is known for his aggression and hard work.

The Preds have shown their hockey grit and aggression so far, but was it all due to a new coach or a few roster changes, and how long can the Preds hold on to their lead in the Central Division?

General Manager of the Nashville Predators David Poile made some excellent moves in the summer of 2014.

Nick Spaling and Patrick Hornqvist were traded away to Pittsburgh for the offensive powerhouse James Neal.

Poile also made a critical move by releasing previous Head Coach Barry Trotz from his 15-year tenure with the Nashville Predators.

Spaling and Hornqvist seem to be doing well in Pittsburgh, and Neal is doing spectacularly in Nashville, but it was a strange feeling not seeing Trotz over the summer, as Coach Laviolette brought his own personality and coaching methods to the training camp.

Trotz didn’t lose his coaching job for long. He was signed as the coach for the Washington Capitals for the 2014-15 season.

He and the Capitals are off to a rocky start as they are 9-7-4, which is good for fourth in the Metropolitan division.

Laviolette is a stellar choice for coach, as he is known for taking a job and bringing it life.

He had success with many other teams, such as the American Hockey League’s Providence Bruins, National Hockey League’s Carolina Hurricanes and the Philadelphia Flyers.

Laviolette has a fiery temper and is quick with his reactions, but he seems to spark the Predators in a way many have not seen in years.

He has brought his coaching style to

Nashville, which should have been a wake-up call for all of the Preds over the summer, and they have responded well so far.

The players have had some of the best chemistry so far since the 2011 season. Neal and center Filip Forsberg have gotten off to a remarkable start, both scoring nine goals so far.

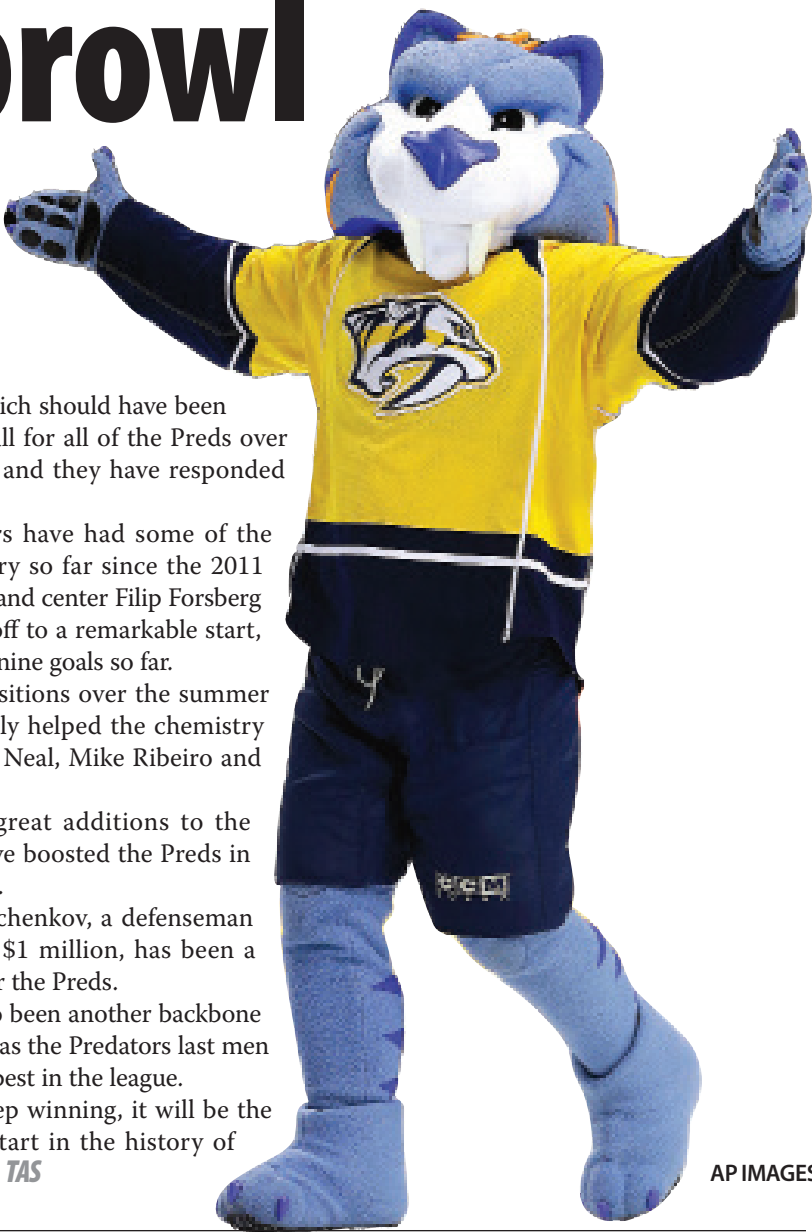
New acquisitions over the summer that have truly helped the chemistry and stats are Neal, Mike Ribeiro and Derek Roy.

They are great additions to the team and have boosted the Preds in the standings.

Anton Volchenkov, a defenseman acquired for \$1 million, has been a silent hero for the Preds.

He has also been another backbone for the team, as the Predators last men back are the best in the league.

If they keep winning, it will be the Preds’ best start in the history of the franchise. *TAS*



AP IMAGES

Carrie Daniels

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look at it that way at all,” Daniels said. “We look at our team as deep and experienced based on the minutes that have been played by the returners.”

Despite nine of the 13 players on this team being sophomores or younger, the Lady Govs return the main portion of their contributors from last year. The returners are led by junior guard Tiasha Gray, who led the Lady Govs last year in points, assists and steals.

Gray is joined by senior guard Kristen Stainback, a frequent starter in her first three years on campus and the vocal leader of the team on the court.

The sophomores are led by forward Beth Rates. The Kentucky native started 20 of 29 games last season, averaging seven points

and six rebounds per game.

Another key player for the Lady Govs this year is Rates’ fellow sophomore, center Tearra Banks.

In her first collegiate season, Banks earned the First-Team All Ohio Valley Conference Newcomer award by averaging nine points and six rebounds per game.

“These players have been in real-game situations,” Daniels said. “And we are hoping that the experiences they’ve had are going to help put us into positions to be successful.”

Even though this young team has more experience than most, they are still struggling to put a full game together.

Unlike previous years, though, Daniels said she and her staff feel the problems taking place now are things that can be corrected as a season progresses.

“We haven’t seen, in the games we’ve played so far, this team play for 40 minutes,”

Daniels said. “We are never going to play a perfect game, but what we have to get is 40 minutes of consistent effort. We are doing things a lot better than we were a year ago, but there is still a lot of improvement that has to be made.”

Another storyline this season will be the uncertain future for Daniels and her staff. In the offseason, she signed a one-year contract extension that will expire at the end of the 2014-15 season. Daniels said she understands the season is not only important for her, but also for the players and that she is focused on coaching this team and not what will happen down the road.

“No one wants to win more than me, my coaching staff and these players. We want a winning team,” Daniels said. “More importantly, we are wanting to make sure we are doing things the right way in every aspect. It is more than just winning

basketball games. Now, do I put pressure on myself? I do every day, but if I get caught up in feeling like I’m coaching for my job, I will lose myself. I’m confident we can turn this program into one these fans can get behind.”

This 2014-15 Lady Govs squad has a lot riding on their shoulders. Picked to finish 11th in the OVC this year, they have been judged on their track record over the past two seasons.

Daniels said she feels that they are not getting the respect they should but welcome the opportunity to prove the doubters wrong.

“If you are doing things the right way, the wins will come,” Daniels said. “I’ll be the first to admit the past couple of years have not been what any of us has wanted, but I do feel we are doing things the right way, and we are going to get it back. I do feel like we are going to get this turned around, and I do feel we have the layers in place to do that.” *TAS*

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APSU women's basketball head coach
Carrie Daniels comments on the young 2014 season

» By **JOSH STEPHENSON**
Staff Writer

The college basketball season is still in its infancy, and most teams around the country have only played the first couple of games on their schedules.

Analysts try to tell fans what to expect from their favorite teams, and diehard fans make predictions based on what they saw from their teams the previous year, but head coaches aren't sure exactly what they have in their teams at this point in the season.

"It's early; we are still trying to work some things out and get all of those jitters out," said Lady Govs Head Basketball Coach Carrie

Daniels. "During practice, players know what is coming. They know the plays and what the defense is doing. When you get out there against the opponents, it is all new. They don't know what to expect"

That lack of knowledge has shown up at times during the Lady Govs' first couple of games, the team making a few mistakes at key times that led to losses through their first two games.

Despite the early struggles, Daniels has something with this team that she hasn't had in a few years: depth and experience.

"Outsiders could look at us and think we are a pretty young team, but I don't think any of us

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Unpredictable NFL keeps fans guessing

» By **COREY ADAMS**
Staff Writer

Who is the best team in the National Football League? Not in terms of record, but who is the superior team?

Seemingly every year in the NFL, there is one team that stands out above the rest, where there is little argument to rule them out as the clear-cut Super Bowl favorite.

But, this season is different. Sure, there is still separation between the good teams, and the bad — I'm looking at you, Oakland Raiders. However, I can't recall a time where division races were as close as they are right now.

From the American Football Conference's North division, to the National Football Conference's South, there are close division races all around.

There are many under-performing teams this season, and while it hurts to see our teams suffer awful losses, it makes the league fun to watch.

It's no fun seeing the likes of Alabama Football or whichever team LeBron James is playing for run wild on opponents.

As fans of the NFL, we want to see fierce battles where playoff opportunities are on the line, and that

is what is happening.

This season, by record, the Arizona Cardinals have a convincing argument, but do we really think they can keep this pace up through their schedule?

I bet the majority of you said the New England Patriots are the best team in the league.

But games against the Packers and Chargers are coming up.

Then, the Patriots play their divisional rival, the Miami Dolphins who beat them in Week 1.

Certainly, New England is a top team, but are they really that much better than everyone else?

There are still talented teams out there who, on a good day, can knock off the Cards or Pats.

Look at what Green Bay is doing. They are a scary team but still are not running away with the NFC North division.

At one point, the Colts were thought to be the best team in football this season, but the Houston Texans are slowly creeping up on them.

Elsewhere in the AFC, the Broncos and Kansas City Chiefs are neck and neck in the West division, as well.

I don't understand this league, but one thing is for sure: It's providing storylines, and we should all appreciate that. *TAS*

