



news

Masterminds Escape Room opening downtown

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A new escape room will be coming to Ashland soon. The Masterminds Escape Room and Game Library will open on Nov. 2, two weeks after the ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on Friday, Oct. 20.

The “masterminds” behind the concept of the shop are Ben Garrett and his wife Ariel, who first got interested in the idea of opening an escape room after seeing ones in Mansfield and Wooster.

“We fell in love with the concept right away,” said Ben Garrett. “Escape rooms offer you a chance to escape from reality by focusing on solving various puzzles and challenges and that’s what we wanted to bring to Ashland after seeing escape rooms in Mansfield and Wooster.”

Due to the growth of downtown Ashland as a destination for not only families, but also the local student population, the Garretts feel very optimistic about business once the shop officially opens.

“We’re hopeful to get a lot of business once we open up,” said Ariel Garrett. “With how the downtown area’s been lately, I wouldn’t be surprised if we draw a large crowd. Now that people don’t have to go to Mansfield or Wooster for an escape



MEGAN FURBY

Masterminds staff interacts with the Ashland community before the official opening of Masterminds Escape Room and Game Library.

room experience, they can come here.”

The two escape rooms that will be featured are “Time Traveler,” and “The Heist.”

“Time Traveler” will allow play-

ers the chance to fix a time machine before it self-destructs.

“The Heist” simulates robbing a valuable jewel from a museum with high-tech security measures.

For the game library, board game

enthusiasts can get their chance to play any board game they desire. From Monopoly to Parcheesi, it is just a matter of choosing. The escape room will cost \$27 entry while the game library is only \$7.

College students receive a \$2 discount on prices.

Masterminds will be open Thursday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Fridays from 6 p.m. to midnight, and Saturdays from noon to 10 p.m.

Writing Center helps AU students

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The Writing Center is a free campus resource that offers help on any writing assignment for any undergraduate class at Ashland University.

Dr. Maura Grady is the director of the Composition Program and University Writing Center.

“Writing is a skill that needs to be practiced,” Dr. Grady said. “Seeking assistance from a peer writing assistant is the way for Ashland University students to practice their writing skills.”

The Writing Center changed its name from the Writing Studio two

years ago on the advice from AU President, Dr. Carlos Campo.

The Writing Studio had a creative writing connotation that was confusing for students and faculty. The new name unifies all university undergraduate course work.

Last semester a public relations class created a project to promote the writing center to student athletes, which is a suspected reason for the increase in the number of students using the writing center.

The Writing Center also has a Twitter page for Ashland University students to follow that provides updates on hours, writing tips and writing encouragements.

The Twitter handle is @au_writing.

The Writing Center offers several services, such as assistance in brainstorming, grammar, drafting, understanding peer and professor feedback, paper structure and several formatting style.

The writing center will help with any writing project except a timed test.

Professors are also encouraged to contact Dr. Grady if interested in having imbedded writing assistants in the classroom.

Several English professors have imbedded writing assistants in their classrooms for peer review

workshops.

Students may sign up for an appointment on ashland.mywconline.com and click on any available time with one of the 24 writing assistants.

Bethany Meadows, the first Writing Center intern, said working at the Writing Center over the past few years “is one of the greatest joys because it helped me decide to go into teaching and switch to an English degree.”

Dr. Grady said “it is rare in your life to be able to work on something that affects so many people” and “it has been gratifying” working as the director for the writing center.

She wishes “everyone would feel comfortable and excited to visit the writing center.”

In the fall of 2016 there were 900 appointments, and by spring of 2016 that number increased to about 1,300 appointments.

Since last school year the Writing Center increased accessibility to students and staff.

Currently the hours are Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Writing Center also increases accessibility by providing undergraduate students with drop in hours from 7- 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 3-5 p.m. on Fridays.

Art gallery opens new exhibit

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The art department will be opening up the Coburn Art Gallery once again for the AU campus and community as they host their new exhibit. The exhibit coming in is entitled, “Thy Neighbor.” It opens Oct. 26 at 4:30 p.m. and will run through Nov. 17. The gallery can be found inside of the Center for the Arts building.

“Thy Neighbor” will be a mail art exhibit that is a part of the larger exhibition, “Strength through Connections.” Artists were invited to make postcards that built a better understanding of community population through race, class, and religion. These postcards were then mailed to Coburn Gallery Director, Cynthia Petry.

Petry, who has been the gallery director for 11 years, said, “the main theme is addressing our diverse community and ways we can better interact within it.”

When the exhibit is put up, it will be displayed in a grid format.

Currently, the gallery is set to have over 100 cards. Petry explained the diversity within each of those cards.

“We have cards that are international, national, regional, and Ashland,” Petry said. “We have a wide variety of cards that are coming in.”

Petry sees a great value not only in the works coming in, but also in the way that they are delivered to her as well.

“Everyone who touches these cards gets to see the artists’ message,” Petry said. “It could poten-

tially affect someone just by holding them for a minute.”

While the exhibit is going on, an animation artist will be coming in to give an artist lecture and a four-hour animation workshop. This workshop will be open to all.

Petry stated that she hopes this exhibit will help push the campus and community into interacting with each other more. She also says that this encourages people to talk to others that they may not have engaged with beforehand.

Overall Petry is excited about the upcoming gallery and the potential that it holds to impact the community.

“I want to see students come and interact with the work,” Petry said. “I hope it will help people to get outside their boundaries and comfort zones.”

AJR concert coming to Redwood

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CAB and Tech Crew are hosting an AJR concert in Redwood on Nov. 10 at 9 p.m.

Brothers Adam, Jack and Ryan Met formed their band AJR in 2006.

Their sound combines pop, electronic, dubstep, and doo-wop.

Some of the people they have opened for are: Demi Lovato, Train, The Wanted and American Authors.

This event requires a ticket, which are still on sale in the Hugo Young Theatre Box Office.

Tickets are \$15 for non-students and free for students with their AU ID.

Junior Elinor Fortescue is Committee B Co-chair of CAB and is putting this event together.

“We decided on AJR because their style really fits with Ashland! We think our students will really connect with and enjoy AJR,” Fortescue said.

Sophomore Committee B Co-chair Olivia Bosse added to why CAB decided on AJR.

“They are an up and coming band with a unique style,” she said.

This will be AJR’s first time performing at AU.

“Our advisor actually reached

out to their managers to see if they’d be interested,” Fortescue said. “We’re so excited that they said yes because it is their first time performing here!”

Fortescue talked about what CAB is doing to get the word out about AJR.

“We’re really trying to get the word out there about the concert,” Fortescue said. “We’ve put up posters all around campus and making sure we’re telling everyone we know.”

Bosse said to prepare for AJR, CAB is selling tickets, making posters and flyers, and has stayed in contact with the band.

Putting on events for each school year is planned very carefully.

“We send two leaders to the National Association for Campus Activities conference each year who watch many different acts perform,” Fortescue said. “They bring their thoughts and ideas back and our lovely intern puts a showcase together for all of CAB to watch and then we as a whole decide who we like best and think our student body would really enjoy! Our fall and spring schedules are finalized before each school year.”

This is one of the most highly anticipated events of this semester.

“We could not be more excited,” Fortescue said.

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