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A NEW KILCAWLEY



Plans for a new center go back to December 2022.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

Bringing in the bucks for a new center

By **Cassandra Lucyk**
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University has received more monetary donations toward a new student center.

Paul McFadden, president of the YSU Foundation, said it received \$2 million toward the \$20 million goal, since the initial donation.

“The Gelbman Foundation has pledged \$1.5 million and the Young family has pledged \$400,000. We have a quarter of a million dollar gift and a \$200,000 gift. So, we’re over \$8 million at this point,” McFadden said.

The new donations come after the Zoldan family, the founders of Phantom Fireworks, donated \$5 million.

Joy Polkabla Byers, associate vice president of Student Experience, said Kilcawley Center will be remodeled to better meet the needs of students.

“We are using the results from the needs assess-

ment, a feasibility study that was done about a year and a half ago to see what campus needed in a student center,” Byers said. “A couple things that we found out is we want to modernize our facility and have more open spaces for students to collaborate and work on projects together.”

Byers said YSU plans on using the limited space it has more efficiently.

“We can use the spaces multiple ways, and we can flip them easily. Such as, a large ballroom that can be split into four different meeting rooms. Those are the types of things that we’re thinking about when we talk about modernizing our student center on campus,” Byers said.

During construction, the facility will be completely shut down, but alternative locations will be provided for students to reach their food, event and meeting needs.

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Testing your faith

By **Hannah Werle**
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University’s board of trustees approved a new policy March 2 allowing students three class absences a semester for religious holidays.

The policy was written in response to a change in the Ohio Revised Code via Ohio House Bill Number 353, called “The Testing Your Faith Act.”

The act, which outlines the same rules as YSU’s policy, went into effect April 3 and applies to all state institutions of higher education. Its purpose is to establish procedures to accommodate the beliefs and practices of students in regard to academic requirements and religious absences.

As per the bill, the policy requires students to provide a list of dates that will be missed throughout the semester within 14 days of the course’s start. Faculty will be required to arrange accommodations for any missed materials or assignments.

Instructors will then provide a summary of the policy, the procedure to report a violation and a contact for more information in their course syllabi.

Dr. John R. Jakubek, chair of the board, said that while the policy’s frequency of use is to be determined, it’s meant to ensure students can freely practice their faiths.

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Kilcawley

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Previously, YSU tore down buildings and replaced them with new ones without recognizing donors. Byers said the families who donated money in the past will still have recognition.

“One of the things we’re looking at is creating an honor wall or recognition wall. I’m not sure what the title will be. That will be branded very much YSU, recognizing those who have impacted our student center over the years,” Byers

said.

The Kilcawley family, families who donated money to the university and those who have naming rights of different spaces will be acknowledged in the updated building. There will also be opportunities for new families to be involved and recognized.

Although former YSU President Jim Tressel recently resigned, McFadden said Tressel and his wife are still heavily involved with this project.

“We always have a volunteer campaign

cabinet in the campaign, and former President Tressel and Ellen have volunteered to be the campaign leaders of this effort,” McFadden said. “We had several calls down in Florida on behalf of the Zoldan Center. Former President Tressel attended every meeting and advocated [for] the center.”


McFadden said the YSU Foundation and others involved in the project are still working on the timeline and raising funds for the new Zoldan Family Student Center.




Parts of Kilcawley's interior have already been updated and repainted.


Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar


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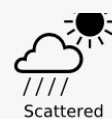
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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed

Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
High: 53°F	High: 53°F	High: 60°F	High: 65°F	High: 71°F	High: 71°F	High: 70°F
Low: 35°F	Low: 27°F	Low: 34°F	Low: 38°F	Low: 46°F	Low: 51°F	Low: 46°F
Chance of precip: 40%	Chance of precip: 2%	Chance of precip: 2%	Chance of precip: 9%	Chance of precip: 12%	Chance of precip: 24%	Chance of precip: 25%



Information courtesy of accuweather.com

Team building and technology

By John Cox
Jambar Contributor

Creation and education are at the heart of Hack YSU, a 36-hour hackathon where students of various experience levels come together to create something new.

Students are tasked with finding a team and creating a piece of hardware or software, which can be any idea the group wishes to pursue. The projects are presented to a panel of judges near the end of the event. Prizes are awarded to the best projects.

The Youngstown State University Computer Club organizes the event. Club president Samuel Hofmann said that experience with programming and computers isn't necessary to be involved with the event.

"You don't have to be a computer expert to go to our event. If you have an idea or passion, you can come in and end up with a project at the end of the 36 hours," Hofmann said.

Hofmann said turnout for Hack YSU is good, with usual attendance between 100 and 150 students, but they don't always stay for the entire event. To combat this, the club is incorporating new attractions for attendees.

"Often many people show up on the first day and leave the first night," Hofmann said. "We've been focusing on guest retention during the event and setting up more talks to attend during the event, giving learning opportunities to the students that show up."

Coding and programming are complex tasks and Hofmann wants to ensure Hack YSU is an easy entry for coding.

"We're continuing to have a focus on technology coding and providing easy ways to get into programming without it being a daunting task," Hofmann said.

These focuses are meant to entice students with a range of experience with computers and programming

languages.

Sophomore computer science major Nathan Gallagher said the beginner-friendly nature of Hack YSU and the guest speakers are what enticed him to attend last year's event.

"It was advertised as beginner friendly, and being a freshman at the time, I thought it'd be a good idea to attend and see what I can learn," Gallagher said. "There were guest speakers that came in that did various talks on certain subjects that were high-level topics and were also topics you might see in a real-world job. As a freshman, I found that very interesting."

Through various sponsors, students are provided food, drinks and shirts. Hofmann said some students leave the venue at night and return home, but some stay the full 36 hours, with accommodations.

"We have a quiet room where they can bring a sleeping bag or air mattress and we also have YSU police security at night," Hofmann said.

The Computer Club chooses mentors based on their knowledge level and they serve as facilitators for projects, Hofmann said. This gives students attending Hack YSU the opportunity to network with experts in the field.

Gallagher said being able to work with others on the projects was rewarding.

"One of the most important things when it comes to computer science is being able to work as a team. Being able to meet new people and work on a project that you've never worked on before is a rewarding experience and that's something that'll carry on into future endeavors," Gallagher said. "The experience of going in and learning new things is not something that you might get in a traditional classroom."

Hack YSU is April 14 through 16 in the DeBartolo Stadium Club. Registration is open via QR codes on flyers or on Hack YSU's website.



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Photo by John Cox / Jambar Contributor
Hack YSU will be held April 14 through 16.

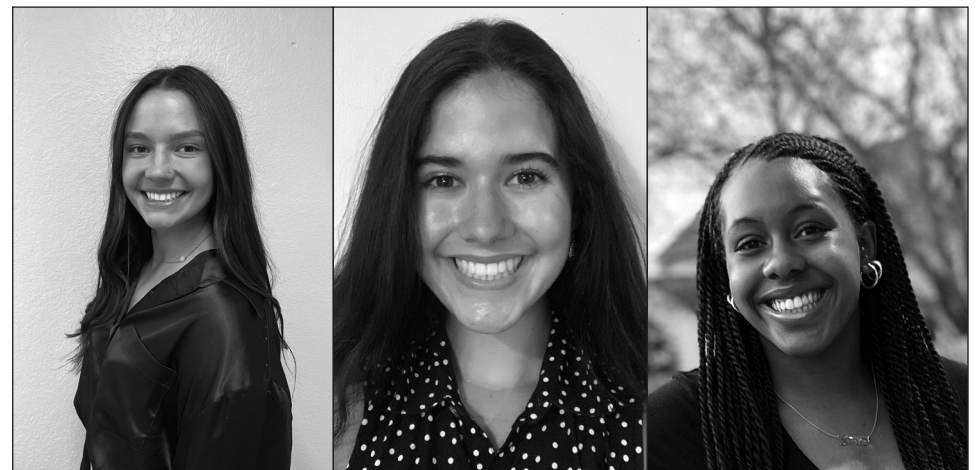
News Brief

YSU Women Retirees Scholarship Recipients

The first recipient is Abigail Knight from Austintown. Knight is majoring in forensic science and is a member of Youngstown State University soccer team.

The second recipient is Janelle Pezzuti of Clarion, Pennsylvania. Pezzuti is majoring in chemical engineering with a special interest in energy and environmental conservation.

The final recipient is Daria Williams of Youngstown. Williams' major is social work with a goal of helping families and children.



Photos courtesy of YSU Women Retirees
Recipients from left to right: Abigail Knight, Janelle Pezzuti and Daria Williams

Religion

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“[The policy] gives [students] the opportunity to take those important days with respect to their religion when they feel that there’s a time of worship or time of gathering with people of their denomination,” Jakubek said.

Under the new policy, students will be under no obligation to provide proof of their religion.

Mark Vopat, professor of philosophy and president of YSU’s chapter of the Ohio Educational Association, said he doesn’t believe there’s a problem for which a policy is necessary.

“This is a solution seeking a problem. We’ve already had the means to give religious accommodation for pretty much everything,” Vopat said. “[Regarding] the number of religious holidays that people will observe,

we’ve never had a problem.”


According to YSU’s previous attendance policy, instructors were already required to provide students with academic accommodations for absences caused by faith-based events.

The policy will be available on YSU’s website, along with a non-exhaustive list of major religious holidays occurring within the next two academic years.



Treasurer Dean Esmail and Yara Habo at the Muslim Student Association’s Fast-a-thon Iftar dinner.

Photo by Hannah Werle / Jambar Contributor



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The board of trustees will uphold the state law.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

Beautifying Youngstown

By Madison Fessler
Jambar Contributor

AG Beauty Salon and Spa on Lincoln Avenue is celebrating its one year anniversary. The salon opened April 25, 2022.

Owner of AG Beauty Salon and Spa, Alexandra Galantis, said her and the employees are brainstorming ideas about how to celebrate the one year anniversary. Anniversary announcements will be made on the salon's Instagram account.

Galantis, a 2022 Youngstown State University alumna, obtained her bachelor's degree in general studies with a focus in early childhood education and special education. Galantis plans on going back to school to get a degree in early childhood education and her teaching license.

Galantis started her cosmetology career at 17 as a certified nail technician. Galantis became a nail technician because of her love for the salon industry, along with wanting to work a job she loved through college.

"I've been a nail tech since I was 17. I graduated from Raphael's School of Beauty Culture with an advanced manicuring certification in 2019," Galantis said.

Galantis said she opened the salon because she noticed a lack of beauty services near YSU. She never had the intention of opening her own salon, but when Galantis saw the vacant space next to University Nutrition, she decided to open AG Beauty Salon and Spa.

The salon offers esthetic services such as waxing, massages and makeup along with beauty services including nails, pedicures and hair services.

"I was driving by and saw the building and I just wanted to check it out," Galantis said. "I decided to open a salon in Youngstown because there's not really much on campus."

Kristen Kopnicky, a hairstylist at AG Beauty Salon and Spa, said she enjoys the environment created at the salon.

"I love that Alex really wanted to make it a very team-oriented environment," Kopnicky said. "I'm really looking forward to growing with this [salon]. We have a lot of really cool ideas and I can't wait to see them come to life."

The salon provides services for everyone in the Youngstown area. However, its main focus is YSU students who prefer somewhere close to campus.

Another hairstylist at the salon, Lindsey Melton, said she enjoys working with YSU students and getting to know them.

"I love the opportunities that I've gotten to talk to people from YSU about everything we offer here, and I'm excited for more students to come visit us," Melton said.

AG Beauty Salon and Spa also partners with YSU clubs and sponsors events hosted by clubs and organizations.

"In the past, we've partnered with Penguin Positivity Club and Her Campus and we donate to different fundraisers and different clubs," Galantis said. "We definitely love partnering with different organizations."

Galantis said now that the salon is open, she is going back to school to study advanced esthetics to further her passion of skin care, makeup and offer new services in the future.

"We plan to expand our services throughout the year. We post all of our new services on our Instagram," Galantis said.

AG Beauty Salon and Spa takes walk-ins and appointments. For more information on the salon, including services, hours and partnership opportunities, visit AG Beauty Salon and Spa on Instagram @agbeautysalonandspa or call (234) 228-9587.



AG Beauty Salon and Spa stylists and technicians.

Photo courtesy of Alexandra Galantis



Photos by Madison Fessler / Jambar Contributor

AG Beauty Salon and Spa is located on Lincoln Avenue by University Nutrition.



Photo courtesy of Youngstown State University
Zara Rowlands, dietetics professor.

HEALTHY MIND, HEALTHY LIFE

Fueling your brain and body

By Lindsey Linard
Jambar Contributor

Many college students suffer from mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, but are unaware that nutrition and diet can affect how they feel.

According to Don Martin, a counseling program professor at Youngstown State University, around 20% of college-aged individuals have significant mental health issues. While mental health problems can be triggered by a variety of elements, food can greatly impact brain function and mental well-being.

“You can’t control a lot of things in your life,” Martin said. “But, you can control what you put into your mouth.”

Zara Rowlands, a registered dietician and dietetics professor, explained there’s an important connection between the brain and stomach which can affect how the brain works.

The gut biome produces chemical compounds and processes amino acids that are precursors to neurotransmitters like serotonin, melatonin and dopamine. These chemicals greatly affect brain chemistry as they regulate stress, relaxation, sleep, blood pressure and coordination.

“Neurotransmitters are what really govern our brain function,” Rowlands said. “There are certain foods that can promote better brain function, and there are some that really promote a lot more anxiety and depression and stress.”

Some of the most common ingredients that can negatively impact mental health are salt, refined sugar and carbs. These foods may raise blood pressure and can cause a rapid rise and fall in blood sugars, which can trigger feelings of anxiety and leave one feeling tired and irritable.

Fad diets such as Keto and intermittent fasting can also negatively affect brain function because they don’t give the brain the energy it requires, leaving the body feeling weak and tired.

A majority of college students are also severely lacking in nutrients from fruits and vegetables, according to Rowland. Rowland said she recommends following the MIND diet, which consists of vegetables, berries, nuts, fish, poultry, healthy oils and limits red meats, solid fats, cheese, dessert and fried food.

“We usually require students to do diet assessments, where they have to assess their own diet,” Rowland said. “Guess what they’re not eating — fruits and vegetables. Those are probably the most nutrient-dense. A lot of vitamins and minerals for the calories that they provide.”

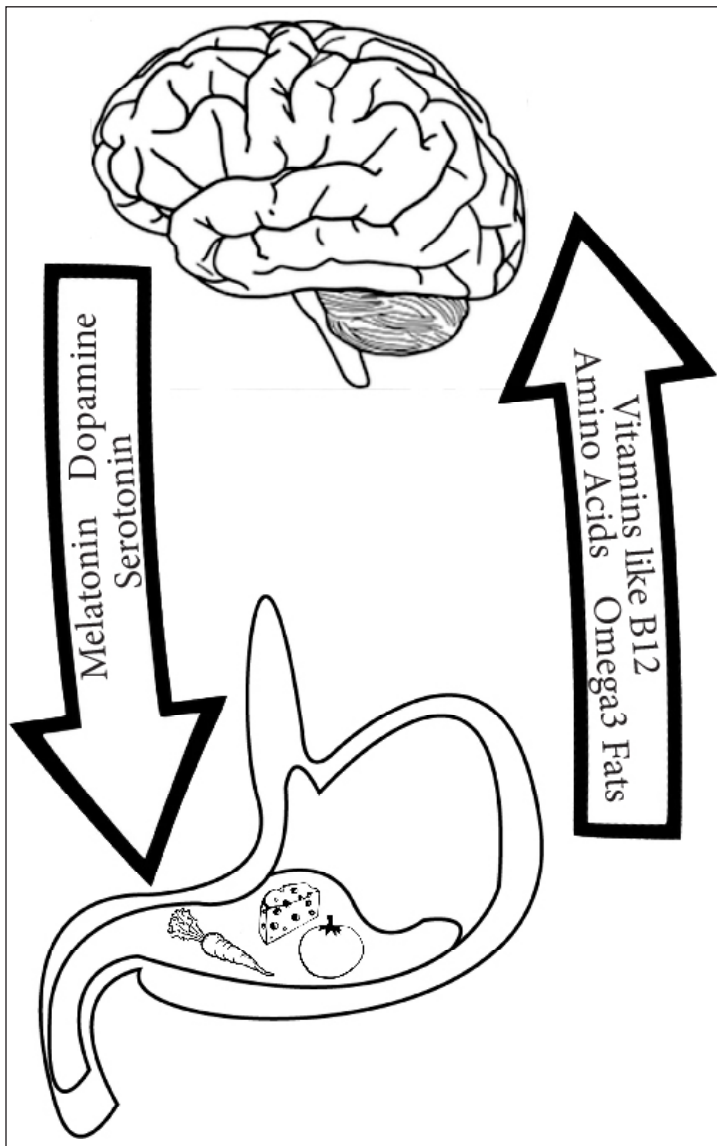
Other important aspects that can be added to someone’s diet are nootropics and adaptogens. Caffeine is a common nootropic, and in small amounts, can help with short-term memory and learning.

Adaptogens are plant compounds that can help with stress management, such as mushrooms and holy basil, which contain compounds that can help with thinking, learning and memory.

Jake Protivnak, professor and counseling program director, said there’s also a psychological component to dieting. Individuals can often imbue food with power in their mind, feeling guilty or as if they should punish themselves when they make unhealthy choices.

Self care and compassion are essential when it comes to diet and mental health, according to Protivnak.

“It’s important to try to commit each day to love and accept ourselves for who we are, for the body that we have and to provide healthy foods to nourish our unique brain and unique body,” Protivnak said.



ISO puts on first international festival

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

The International Student Organization held its first international festival at 5 p.m. March 31 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center.

Guests dressed in traditional cultural attire, gathered to dance, watch performances and eat foods from a variety of countries represented by the international students. Many cultural, religious and ethnic organizations and clubs set up tables around the Chestnut Room.

Tafadzwa Mapiki, a junior biology pre-medicine major, is the president of the ISO. She said the event was created to showcase the organizations and clubs.

“There are so many cultural organizations on campus that are not active. They don’t host any events, they probably don’t know how to go about funding ... We decided, as the International Student Organization, we should be able to help them go through that,” Mapiki said.

About 68 countries are represented by 465 international students at Youngstown State University. Mapiki said the event was also made to bridge the gap between international and domestic students.

“There’s nothing more special than making friends with people who are willing to embrace your culture with you, and I think events like this are necessary or they give an opportunity for people to meet in such a way,” Mapiki said.

Some foods offered at the festival were Turkish delight, Turkish tea, African jollof rice, egg rolls, vegetarian options and halal options. Dinner was extended later into the evening for those practicing Ramadan.

ISO advisor and coordinator for the International Programs Office Nicholas Dubos, said ISO collaborated with Chartwells Dining Service to make the food for the festival.

“We’ve gotten recipes that we’ve worked really close with Chartwells, and we’re going to go out and buy the spices, and we’ve been working with them to pick certain types of foods in our budget,” Dubos said.

Dubos said the festival was educational to everyone who came.

“We want our international students to love being at YSU ... We asked them, what can you do to make a difference? And so that’s part of this dinner, it’s starting something totally new,” Dubos said. “If you’re a domestic student or a faculty member and you don’t have

anything to do with our international population, you’re going to come and you’re going to learn something.”

Students who performed at the festival showcased their talents in dancing, singing and more. A group dance was presented by students from the Youngstown Rayen Early College High School.

Freshman biology pre-medicine major, Manav Ashnish Desai, hosted a table for the Pakistani-Indian Student Organization and performed a dance to pop music mixed with traditional Indian beats. Desai said he hopes people learn more about his culture.

“In this festival, I hope people take away the vivid diversity and cultural awareness. I want people to know more about my culture, how diverse it is, and how complexly vivid it is,” Desai said.

Karina Cummings, a senior Italian education major, set up a table for the Italian club at the festival. Cummings said the club wanted to showcase Italian culture.

“Even though we are a small cultural group, there are a lot of Italians in Youngstown, and I would just love to get people to know more about the culture, even if you are or are not Italian,” Cummings said.

For more information on upcoming ISO events, check out its Facebook page.

Students dig in to History Day

By Samantha Smith
The Jambar

Middle and high school students across northeast Ohio visited Youngstown State University April 1 for History Day.

Students created projects that were displayed in DeBartolo Hall, Kilcawley Center and the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor for the event.

National History Day originated in 1974. As stated by the National History Day organization, “National History Day is a nonprofit education organization improving the teaching and learning of history.”

David Simonelli, a history professor at YSU, explained some of the ways students can be involved with History Day.

“It is usually easiest described as sort of a science fair for history kids. It’s a sim-

ilar sort of competition where students do five different types of projects. They can do documentaries, online exhibits, papers, performances or websites on historical subjects related to that year’s theme,” Simonelli said.

Each year, the NHD organization decides a theme for History Day. This year’s theme was Frontiers in History.

“This year’s theme is Frontiers in History, so kids will do something like Marie Curie as a pioneer, as a woman scientist. Jackie Robinson as like the first modern black baseball player. The Pony Express traveling back and forth across the American Frontier, the 1860’s, those sorts of things,” Simonelli said.

Roughly 250 students participated in the event with 55 judges looking over each project.

Students from Saint Rose Catholic School, Hubbard High School, Notre

Dame Elementary School and Hawken Upper School visited YSU for the event.

Simonelli said the number of students has doubled in recent years. With the increase in attendance, preparation for the event is a year-long effort with January through March being the most intense.

“It’s really an all-year-long kind of thing, but it’s really most intense in January, February and March. There’s always something going on,” Simonelli said. “We sometimes get local politicians that’ll serve as judges. We try to recruit schools to join in the next year’s competition, stuff like that. So there’s always something going on as far as history goes.”

Graduate students in the history department have helped put together History Day throughout the years. With the history graduate program now being cut, Simonelli said more of the work will be

put on him.

“We’re going to lose that workforce for the future. I’m not as concerned about it as I was previously, but it means that a lot of the work is going to fall on my head,” Simonelli said. “Hopefully we’ll be able to get some volunteers in the community, like parents and stuff like that — that’ll help out with it. But we’re not at that stage yet.”

Simonelli said History Day is an event that is educational for everyone including the university and community.

“It’s good for YSU, it’s good for the local community, it’s good for history, in general, as a field to get kids interested and excited about doing these sorts of projects. I don’t think I’m just making it up that [the kids] are excited about it,” Simonelli said.

MAKING SPACE FOR TALLER WORK



The new addition will be open to the public April 16.

Photo by Jessica Stamp / The Jambar

Butler finishes \$2 million addition

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

The Butler Institute of American Art will reveal its new addition, the Vincent and Phyllis Bacon Grant Gallery, April 15 in a private opening.

Robert Buchanan, the additions architect, designed the new \$2 million section. The addition is 3,810 square feet with two stories and high ceilings.

Another gallery will be below the Vincent and Phyllis Bacon Grant's Gallery, which will display the Max and Seal Drain collection.

Susan Carfano, assistant director at the Butler Institute of American Art, said the new addition to Butler is to be used for taller pieces of art.

"We didn't have high walls to display really large scale works which Vincent and Phyllis Bacon Grant Gallery provides," Carfano said. "There's an additional gallery

below Grant's Gallery and it will house the Max and Seal Drain collection. It's a beautiful space and it's very usable."

Carfano also said the wall facing Wick Avenue will be lit up at night so bypassers get to see the mural displayed.

"We have a 14-by-20 foot ceramic mural by Pierre Soulages that was probably the main emphasis at the addition and is on the wall facing Wick Avenue," Carfano said. "It's lit at night so people going on Wick during the nighttime can see it and you can also see it during the day if you're walking through campus."

The opening exhibition will also include several paintings by Paul Jenkins, an American painter who focuses on abstract expressionism.

Louis Zona, executive director at the Butler Institute of American Art, said the Butler has 22,000 pieces and there isn't enough space to showcase them all.

"We have a storage issue. We have 22,000 artworks in our collection and so we can't display all the work all the time so we need to store away major works of art until they become of interest to us for a special exhibition," Zona said. "That's the key reason but also we have oversized works of art, some very large works of art with ceilings too low to accommodate these works on display."

Zona said the new space will allow for other works based on technology.

"We will be showing different kinds of art in there including art based on technology ... and now we're going to be able to display it because we have a lot more space," Zona said. "We have 100 pieces by artists who use technology and we're going to be able to display most of them."

The Butler will also have a public opening from 12-4 p.m. April 16.

Mural returns home to The Butler

By **Samantha Smith**
The Jambar

The Butler Institute of American Art will be presenting “14 May, 1968,” a mural created by French artist Pierre Soulages on April 15.

Louis Zona, executive director and chief curator for The Butler, explained why the mural was created.

“The mural was commissioned by a building in downtown Pittsburgh,” Zona said. “The architect, a French architect, contacted his favorite French artist, Pierre Soulages and put a mural in the lobby of this new building.”

Zona said once the company released the mural, there were complications getting the artwork off the building’s wall.

“I was ever hopeful that the piece would be released by the company and it happened,” Zona said. “We had to get it off the wall in two weeks. Because it was an act

of lobby, they didn’t want it to look like a construction site. They didn’t want any work done during the daylight hours, so we can only work at night to remove it. Removing the mural from that wall in downtown Pittsburgh, it was a miracle.”

Once The Butler received the mural, Zona said it was placed in a separate branch owned by the museum. In 2019, the separate branch, now known as The Medici Museum of Art in Howland, chose to keep the mural from The Butler.

The Butler eventually took The Medici to court over the mural’s ownership. The Medici said the mural became a permanent fixture for the museum, which allowed the artwork to stay with it.

The lawsuit reached the Ohio Supreme Court, who later ruled for The Butler to take back the mural in December 2022.

Zona said there was no doubt the mural was The Butler’s.

“The piece belonged to us, clearly. Nobody else had a right to it,” Zona said. “We could see why there would be an interest in having the piece. The artist and the people that own the [Pittsburgh] building came to [The Butler], so we have all the paperwork.”

To Zona, the mural is a prime example of what ceramics can do in art.

“It’s one of the great works of art,” Zona said. “It’s a wonderful example of what ceramics can do. This is a piece that was created out of ceramic squares.”

The mural will be unveiled after a private opening of The Butler’s new wing April 15, where it will permanently reside.

The new wing and ceramic mural will be open to the public April 16 during the museum’s business hours.

For more information about The Butler Institute of American Art, visit its website.



“14 May, 1968,” created by Pierre Soulages, on display in the Butler Institute of American Art.

Photo by Samantha Smith / The Jambar

Over 200 books collected by organizations

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

The Student Nonprofit Leadership Organization and American Sign Language Club worked together on a book drive to benefit the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley.

SNLO and the ASL Club collected 242 books in the Williamson College of Business Administration and Debartolo Hall from March 20 to 31.

Deborah Liptak, development director for the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley, said the books will be sold at the used bookstore in the Poland branch. The store is run by Friends of the Library, a nonprofit organization that raises funds for the Public Library.

“People will come in when our store is open and purchase our books, and then the [Friends of the Library] board allocates funding back to the library,” Liptak said. “In past years, the store would raise anywhere between 25 and 30 thousand dollars.”

Liptak said the funds will go toward building new spaces and developing reading programs for children at various library branches.

“At the Boardman branch, we’re going to have a sensory room and we wanted some sensory equipment for

the children with autism ... and so the [Friends of the Library] are donating money for that,” Liptak said.

Children’s books are some of the most sold books at the bookstore. Liptak said SNLO and ASL Club students have made a great impact with the drive.

“By the students collecting children’s books, and fiction books, and history books, for example — which are some of our best sellers, that just helps to keep the store going and for us to have good inventory and keep it fresh,” Liptak said.

Katelynn McBee, senior business administration major and president of SNLO, said she was happy to raise funds and collect books for children, especially those whose education was affected by the pandemic.

“I think with the pandemic, the younger school-aged students have really struggled, just missing that almost full year of education and a lot of the basics when it comes to education. Reading is one of those basics,” McBee said. “I think it’s just important when the public library is able to provide those services.”

Communications studies major Kylee Chrastina, is the ASL Club president and social media chair for SNLO. She said the ASL Club focused on collecting books about American sign language and the deaf community for the drive.

“We got involved because we wanted to incorporate

more of like raising awareness because a lot of children’s books help raise awareness about different causes,” Chrastina said. “We thought if we can find a couple different books to donate that have to do with deaf culture and ASL then we would be able to help make it a little more inclusive.”

Chrastina said she hopes children can learn more about deaf people from the books.

“It could be good for deaf children to see there are people like them in these books, or it could just be good for their peers to learn about them,” Chrastina said. “There’s so many aspects of sign language and deaf culture that people don’t know.”

Alexys Diamond, junior history major and ASL Club secretary, said deaf people aren’t represented enough in media.

“Deaf people don’t really get enough representation in the media and books or anything like that, especially for children,” Diamond said. “You can come across deaf people anywhere ... so knowing ASL or just having the slightest bit of knowledge on deaf culture is really important because then ... you’ll have more access to people in the community.”

For more information on SNLO, head to its Facebook page. For more information about the ASL Club, check out its Instagram.

Greek tragedy ‘Antigone’ reborn

By Elizabeth Coss and Christopher
Gillett
The Jambar

Spotlighting a theme that history repeats itself, University Theatre will be putting on its final production of the semester, “Antigone.”

Students will be performing the 1940’s Jean Anouilh’s translation of the play, which details the Nazi German occupation of France during World War II.

The Anouilh translation is based on the original Greek tragedy of “Antigone” and acts as a sequel to Sophocles’ “Oedipus Rex.”

Meganne Evans, a senior theatre major, will be playing the titular role of Antigone. Evans said the play features themes of politics and war, while also touching on the struggles of life.

“[The play] is actually very personal,” Evans said. “There’s two sides that be-

lieve so strongly in the ideologies and neither of them is willing to budge at all. It’s really an exploration of two people with such strong ideas and how big major political events can influence our own interpersonal relationships.”

Evans will be onstage alongside co-star Gunner Carwile, a senior theatre major, who will play King Creon.

Carwile said the play should encourage conversation among the audience about the dangers of history repeating itself.

“We’re trying to bring across to the audience and bring awareness to several different topics that are happening in today’s day and world and that have happened for centuries,” Carwile said. “[Including] the effects of war on not just people involved but the families.”

For the play, actors will have half their faces disguised by masks from the lips up. Actors will also be joined by an “uber chorus” of rod puppets.

The puppets were designed in-part by Mal Ehrhart, a sophomore musical theatre major, who designed the rod puppets to be carried by the main chorus and operated by a staff.

Ehrhart said the most exciting part will be seeing how the play comes together with the work they’ve put in.

“Just to see how everything comes together — a large part of what I have been doing with the ‘uber chorus’ has been getting the faces to match the chorus actors’ facial masks,” Ehrhart said.

Todd Dicken, the director and faculty member in the theater department, said the play has been challenging for students in a variety of ways such as memorization, physicality and writing style.

“It lends to a certain style of acting that I don’t think this group of students have had prior experience ... doing,” Dicken said. “There’s something in this play for everyone. I think there’s a lot of meaty

material for actors who are learning their craft.”

Dicken said he’s excited to see how the audience reacts not only because of the content, but because of the work the crew has put into the play.

“I personally am super jazzed about this — to watch what these actors are going to do, because I think they’re going to impress, surprise and even shock some of their family [and] their friends at what they’re doing in the show,” Dicken said.

Tickets can be purchased at the YSU section of the Tix website.

“Antigone” will be performed at the Ford Theater in Bliss Hall for several more showings. The remaining dates include: April 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m., and April 8 at 2 p.m.

The Jambar Awards

The Jambar, Youngstown State University's student newspaper, placed in five of 10 categories at the Ohio News Media Association Competition.

The annual awards were announced during the Ohio News Media and Collegiate Fellowship Day at the Quest Conference Center in Westerville, Ohio.

The Jambar competes in Division A, which includes universities of 10,000 students or more. Universities in this category include Miami University, University of Cincinnati and Ohio University. The Jambar staff took second place for Best Website. According to the judges, "The website is not cluttered. It's visually appealing, and well branded. It is also easy to navigate." The Jambar website can be viewed at thejambar.com.

Individual award winners include Abigail Cloutier, Yousof Hamza and Jessica Stamp who collected third place for In-Depth Reporting.

Jessica Stamp and Madison Fessler won third place for Design.

The work of Abigail Cloutier, Yousof Hamza and Samantha Smith placed third for Photojournalism. Aileen Blaine won third place for Arts and Entertainment reporting.

For the 2022 year, The Jambar and its staff received 11 awards from the Society of Collegiate Journalists.

Social Media Presence Overall Excellence:

1st place - The Jambar Staff, The Jambar Social Media

IW2 Writing Breaking News:

1st place - Elizabeth Coss; Tressel announces plans to step down

IW4 Beat Reporting:

1st place - Elizabeth Coss; YSU Board of Trustees

TV1 Television News Show Overall Excellence:

2nd place - Kyle Wills, The Jambar Staff and Jambar TV Crew

TV4 Television News Package:

2nd place - Elizabeth Coss; Students rally behind faculty
3rd place - Sydney Stalneckner; Catalytic Converter Package

TV5 Television Feature Package:

2nd place - Elizabeth Coss; Diwali lights up YSU

3rd place - Samantha Smith; East Liverpool get makeover

TV6 Television Sports Package:

2nd place - Kyle Wills; Magestro's career night helps end losing skid
3rd place - Kyle Wills; Women's Basketball Slays
Honorable Mention - Kyle Wills; YSU v. SIU on Senior Day

THE JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Press Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published weekly in the spring and fall semesters. The Jambar is free for YSU students and faculty.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editor, sports editor, arts and entertainment editor and head copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com. Letters should concern a campus issue, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for publication. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff has decided that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitted writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.

The Jambar Column

You're basic, and that's okay

We all have friends who listen to Taylor Swift, binge “The Office,” watch all the Marvel Cinematic Universe movies, or — God forbid — drink pumpkin spice lattes every fall. Honestly, we all do many of those things ourselves.

Some might call these preferences basic. They honestly are. But, like those cute-yet-profane puppets from “Avenue Q” almost sang, everyone’s a little bit basic sometimes.

What is basic taste? It means that someone’s preferences are primarily dictated by what is mainstream. What is considered basic varies — potentially daily — but most people know something is basic when they see it.

You’ve watched “Friends” all the way through 10 times? Basic. Your mom always read the latest Colleen Hoover book? I’m sorry, she’s basic. Your cousin listens to Taylor Swift while he scrolls TikTok and drinks out of his Stanley Cup? He’s so basic, you could clean your sink with him.

The truth is, things become basic because they are well-liked. Rarely does something start out as basic. Many popular TV shows like “Game of Thrones,” “Breaking Bad” and “The Office” were considered weird at first.

I had to convince people that “Game of Thrones” wasn’t just some high-fantasy schlock. When people realized it actually wasn’t, it became popular (and then bad, but that’s not the point of this column) and it wasn’t nerdy or weird to watch anymore.

Marvel movies also weren’t basic at the start. It was a very risky endeavor and people questioned many choices when the MCU first began. It wasn’t until there was an oversaturation that they started to slide into basic territory.

Basic things are inherently good, but certain people — to whom I will refer as contrarians from this point on — see that



Henry Shorr

popularity as dubious.

Some folks really have an attitude that implies, “if all the people I hate enjoy this thing, then I don’t like it.”

The issue is, if you don’t like stuff or people simply because they are basic, then guess what? Your preferences are still dictated by mainstream culture. I’m sorry, you tried too hard and you may actually be basic. Being contrarian is really hot these days.

Read your easy-to-digest books. Listen to Dua Lipa through your AirPods while you’re in line for your frappuccino. Do your thing and don’t let other people dictate what you can and can’t enjoy.

Also, for my contrarians out there: Maybe give some of this basic stuff a chance. You never know what you may end up liking.

Quote of the week

We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars

— Oscar Wilde,
Lady’s Windermere’s Fan

The Jambar Editorial

Greatest albums of all time?

What is the greatest album of all time? For decades, people have tossed around the question after countless musical releases of “great albums.”

Recently, The Rolling Stones released its “Top 500 Greatest Albums of All Time” which is released every year. The list receives disagreement almost every year as some albums don’t make the chart.

The criteria and how the albums are placed in this top-five list is dependent on how each of these albums performed on the charts, overall music production and influences on artists.

This is The Jambar’s list:

Placed fifth is Nirvana’s 1991 alternative-rock album “Nevermind,” which defined the ‘90s. The second album in the band’s discography is the first to feature Warren-based drummer Dave Grohl.

By 1992, the album reached number one on the “US Billboard 200 charts” while “Smells Like Teen Spirit” by itself, reached the top ten. “Nevermind” went on to be nominated for three Grammy Awards. Within two years, Nirvana brought grunge and alt-rock to mainstream popularity.

“Lithium,” “Come as You Are” and “In Bloom,” were popular tracks that prompted “Nevermind” to be placed in the Grammy Hall Of Fame as well as album of the year in 1992.

Fourth on the list is Fleetwoods Mac’s best selling 1977 album “Rumors”. The makings of a pop rock-based album, led to its commercial success with over 40 million copies sold world wide.

The 12th best-selling album of all time, relies heavily on accented rhythms and acoustic melodies. On the tracks, “The Chain” and “Never Going Back Again” it features lead guitarist Lindsey Buckingham’s unique fingerpicking style.

The four singles on the album all reached the “US Top Ten,” with “Dreams” holding the number one spot.

The top-five list is not complete without mentioning Michael Jackson’s top-gross-

ing album “Thriller.” At number three, Jackson’s 1982 album sold a total of 70 million times, making it the best selling non-compilation album of all time.

The “King of Pop” had seven singles featured on the “US Billboard Hot 100” with “Beat It” and “Billie Jean” reaching number one. “Beat It” features a solo from guitarist Eddie Van Halen on a pop record, showing Jackson’s influence.

Number two may be a surprise with Pink Floyd’s 1973 concept album, “Dark Side of the Moon.” The album sold over 45 million copies, making it the best-selling album of the 1970s.

What makes “Dark Side of the Moon” unique is the inclusion of themes throughout the songs in the album. Both “Time” and “Money” are top-featured tracks.

A claim can be made that the album is the greatest prog-rock album of all time. In 2012, the album was selected for preservation by the U.S. National Record Registry.

A list is not complete without mentioning albums that almost made the top spot.

At the forefront for an album more experimental than “Dark Side of the Moon”, Radiohead’s 1997 album “OK Computer”, leads the way.

Prince’s 1984 album “Purple Rain” and The Beach Boys’ 1966 “Pet Sounds” were heavily considered.

The number one spot belongs to The Beatles self-titled album the “White Album.” A claim could be made for either “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” or “Abbey Road,” but the “White Album” arguably features the band’s best work.

The 1968 record features 30 songs and a solo appearance from Eric Clapton on “While My Guitar Gently Weeps.”

The album has been certified platinum by the Record Industry Association of America, 24 times.

Although not everyone agrees with us or the Rolling Stone’s version, the effect music has had on culture and history is indisputable.

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Apply online at thejambar.com. Deadline for applications are **April 16**.
For questions, contact Mary Dota at mfdota@ysu.edu or call **330-941-3094**

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The coach who redefined a program

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

Over four years, head coach of the Youngstown State University bowling team, Doug Kuberski, has redefined the program.

In the 2022-23 season, Kuberski led the program to its best head-to-head record in school history. In the regular season, the Penguins went 78-39 over nine regular-season tournaments.

So far, the team is averaging a school record of 200.21 pins in Baker matches and are close to breaking the school record in traditional games at 199.34 pins.

Since arriving at Youngstown State in 2018, Kuberski has been named the Southland Bowling League Coach of the Year twice and the NCAA Division I Coach of the year by the National Tenpin Coaches Association in the 2019-20 season.

Beside the accolades, Kuberski has led the Penguins to three-straight NCAA Tournament appearances. He also helped the team earn its first spot in the National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship and competed in the final four.

Under Kuberski's coaching, the Penguins posted their sixth-best GPA in the country in 2019-20, the third best in 2020-21 and the second-best in 2021-22. In 2021, former Penguin Sarah Florence received the Elite 90 award which goes to the highest cumulative GPA of student-athletes.

Prior to Youngstown State, Kuberski grew up in Monroeville, Pennsylvania and attended The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

At Nebraska, he was a part of the men's bowling club and was coached by two-time Professional Bowling Association champion, Bill Straub.

During his span at Nebraska from 1999-2003, Kuberski helped lead the team to a third-place finish at the 2003 Intercollegiate Bowling Championships.

"It was a special season for us there and has really played a role in my coaching," Kuberski said. "The closer you got, the better you bowled."

After Kuberski graduated from Nebraska in 2003, he was the interim head coach of the men's bowling team at Texas A&M University in 2008. He led the squad to the Big 12 conference title.

Kuberski departed from Texas A&M after a semester of volunteer work for the team. He served as the interim head coach and the assistant head coach at Arkansas State during the 2017-18 season.

The Red Wolves went on to finish 27-12, won the 2018 Southland Bowling League Championship and finished fifth at the NCAA National Champion-

ship tournament.

After a brief tenure at Arkansas, Kuberski received a job offer from Iowa Western Community College in which he managed, coached and introduced the men and women's bowling program to the school.

Within a few weeks of taking over at Youngstown State during the 2018-19 season, Kuberski made an impact with three wins over top teams. In team play, the Penguins finished with a 14-6.

"We had a great spring [semester] in 2019 that set up our evolution as a program for the last three years," Kuberski said.

The following season, the team quickly gained national traction and was ranked 10th before the year was cut short because of the pandemic.

Despite the shortened season, former Penguin Nikki Mendez set a school record in season average, while former Penguin Emma Wrenn set a new school record with a 19.82 in Baker frame average and became YSU's first tournament's Most Valuable Player.

During the 2020-21 season, the team jumped over obstacles because of the pandemic but still earned a spot in the NCAA bowling tournament. At the time, freshman Madyson Marx led the country in Baker Double Match percentage and set a new school record.

In Kuberski's third full season, the Penguins advanced to the NCAA Regionals and had a runner-up finish at the Southland Bowling League Championship.

The team recorded 48 wins over top-25 teams during the season and 20 wins over opponents ranked in the top 10.

During the same season, Youngstown State broke eight school records as well as the programs first 300 game. Individually, Wrenn set nine of the 12 single-season records in the program's record book.

When the 2022-23 season concludes, Kuberski will start his fifth season with the program. Over that span, he has turned the bowling team into a top contender.

"It doesn't feel like it, it has gone by quickly in many respects," Kuberski said. "I'm proud of everything we've done and I'm just a small part of that."

This season alone, the bowling team has set several new records and is on pace to break three more at the NCAA Bowling Regionals.

The coach of the year will see his team return to the regionals for the third consecutive time this upcoming season.

To follow the bowling team and its journey, check out ysusports.com



Doug Kuberski coaching his team.

Photo courtesy of Robert Hayes

FINDING ITS GROOVE



Matt Thompson gets a walk-off single.

Photo courtesy of Robert Hayes

Baseball bites the dust

By Cameron Niemi
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University baseball started a seven-game homestand, as it hosted Purdue University Fort Wayne in a three-game series. The Mastodons won two of the three games.

Purdue Fort Wayne traveled to Eastwood Field on March 31 and defeated the Penguins by a final of 12-9.

Despite giving up four home runs in the loss, the Penguins pulled within two-runs heading into the eighth inning thanks to a homer by senior Braeden O'Shaughnessy. Youngstown State did not score the last two innings.

In the second game, April 1, the Penguins started off

the first of the month with a 15-14 victory against the Mastodons. They picked up their third conference win of the season. Youngstown State headed into the ninth inning leading 14-9.

In the ninth inning, Purdue Fort Wayne rallied off five runs and tied the game at 14. In the bottom of the ninth, freshman Matt Thompson hit a walk-off single, which gave the Penguins the win.

Purdue Fort Wayne took the last game April 2, by a final of 9-3. The Penguins held control of the game up until the eighth inning, as they gave up nine-straight runs.

The University of Pittsburgh came to town for one game April 4. The Penguins pulled within two points in the fourth inning. Pitt then outscored the 'Guins 4-0

the rest of the game. Youngstown State lost its second game in a row 13-7.

Youngstown State now has a 6-21 overall record and are 3-5 in the conference.

Despite a weak start to the season, the Penguins still have 21 conference games left and seven non-conference games. The team has plenty of time to make a run and rack up wins before the Horizon League Tournament in late May.

Youngstown State will remain at home and host three conference games at 5 p.m. on April 6, 3 p.m. April 7 and 1 p.m. April 8, against second place Northern Kentucky University. To listen to the game, go to YSNLive.com or view live stats on ysusports.com.

Penguins play back-to-back

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

Over a four-day span, the Youngstown State University softball team had a busy schedule. Six games were played, all of which were doubleheaders.

With a cancellation to the series April 1 because of inclement weather, the series was moved to a doubleheader, April 2.

The Penguins split the series against Oakland University inside the Covelli Sports Complex.

With an outdoor sport such as softball, cancellations are not uncommon. Head coach Brian Campbell said he adjusts accordingly to make sure it doesn't affect the players.

"It's one of those things where we deal with the weather and just go with the flow," Campbell said.

The first game of the doubleheader started out with a loss for Youngstown State, 2-1. Over eight innings, junior Sara Fessler and senior Conchetta Rinaldi recorded two hits.

Despite the loss, junior pitcher Sophie Howell had a standout performance as she struck out four batters.

Howell and senior Megan Turner have led the way for the team as they were named the Horizon League Pitcher and Player of the Week, respectively March 28. The Penguins were 6-1 overall and 4-1 in Horizon League play in part of the duo's performance.

Over the seven-game span, Howell went 3-0 with a 1.54 earned-run average and 23 strikeouts in 22.2 innings pitched. Turner batted .471 as she went 8-for-17 along with two runs scored, two doubles, five home runs and 11 RBIs.

Youngstown State has three players who lead in several different categories in the Horizon League. Turner leads the league with five home runs, while Howell leads the

league with seven wins as a pitcher.

In the nightcap, the Penguins bounced back with a 6-1 victory over the Golden Grizzlies. Junior Devan Ryan struck out five batters and held the final 10 batters scoreless.

The Penguins learned from the tough loss and brought that motivation into the game that followed. Rinaldi credits the team's grit and ability to rebound after a loss.

"Someone had to come short and in the second game we showed them who we were," Rinaldi said.

In the bottom of the third inning, Youngstown State scored three runs. Red-shirt sophomore Jillian Jakse added to the effort with a two-run single and a bases-loaded walk by senior Avery Schumacher.

Campbell said he was satisfied with the team's performance in the doubleheader.

"We played really well over 15 innings, and the mindset rolling into the next couple series," Campbell said.

The Penguins game against the University of Akron on April 5 was rained out in the first inning.

Youngstown State is back in action against Niagara University in a doubleheader at home, April 6. The series starts a five-game homestand for the Penguins, which ends April 12.

