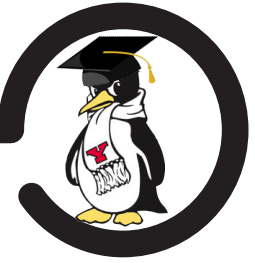


# THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

 YSU\_JAMBAR

Thursday, April 25, 2024

 THEJAMBAR.COM


## PRESIDENTIAL RECAP



Johnson reflects on spring 2024 and looks to the future.

Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

## Catching up with Johnson

By Dylan Lux  
The Jambar

Former U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson was named Youngstown State University's 10th president Nov. 21, 2023 and started his term Jan. 22. Now finishing his first semester on campus, Johnson is reflecting on his accomplishments and future goals.

Johnson told The Jambar in February a main goal is to work with the YSU Foundation to boost enrollment. He said he's been meeting with donors both inside and outside of Ohio and raised over \$3.5 million.

"I've made several trips to Florida already on sev-

eral fundraising trips," Johnson said. "I've met with donors here locally, and we're making progress."

Upon his appointment and arrival, Johnson's presidency was met with protests from the YSU community. Despite the pushback, Johnson said he's been successful in fundraising.

"We've still got donors who are investing in the future of our university," Johnson said. "A lot of the negative voices aren't coming from people who donate money. The people who care about the students at Youngstown State — they're still doing what they do to help us."

Johnson, Page 2

## 'Guins gear up to graduate

By Matthew Sotlar  
The Jambar

As the semester comes to an end, plans for spring 2024 graduation ceremonies are underway.

In previous years, graduation took place as one commencement encompassing all six colleges. According to Jackie LeViseur, director of University Events, each college will have its own commencement over two days.

"We actually have a totally new format this year," LeViseur said. "We're doing individual college ceremonies. So, there's actually going to be six ceremonies. They will take place over Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5. Each day will have a ceremony at 9 [a.m.], 1 [p.m.] and 5 [p.m]."

Five of the six ceremonies will be held in Beeghly Center. Cliffe College of Creative Arts will have its graduation in Ford Theater of Bliss Hall.

With the pandemic's social distancing guidelines, graduation was moved to Stambaugh Stadium in 2020. LeViseur said having the ceremony indoors at Beeghly is better with unpredictable weather.

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As one of his first actions as president, Johnson established the Government Affairs Office. He said the office is currently focused on overhauling the grant writing process.

“We’ve only got one official grant writer [at] the university — one person that oversees and goes through all of that,” Johnson said. “There are literally hundreds of grant opportunities throughout the year. So, we’re going to be setting up a grant process so that we can compete more favorably for those grants.”

According to Johnson, YSU is in a first-time process with the state legislature where the university will have to testify May 8 before the Ohio State Senate about the university’s capital budget.

“They’ve told us a few things they want to hear from us and we’re going to address those,” Johnson said. “We’re going to tell them why we need the money that we’re asking for.”

The testimonies will be used as the legislature decides on Senate Bill 83, which “would allow universities to fire tenured professors for a broad list of reasons” and targets indoctrination of “any social, political or religious point of view,” according to Ohio Capital Journal.

Johnson said he had no worries about testifying, as he’s been on the other side of the process as a representative, when others had to testify in front of him.

“I know what they’re thinking and I know how to prepare,” Johnson said. “I think that gives me a little bit of an advantage in knowing how to get ready for that.”

Most of the funding requested by YSU will go toward building a new student union to replace Kilcawley Center. Johnson said the building is almost 60 years old and is in need of a “facelift.”

“[The student center] is home away from home for 11,000 students and 1,600 faculty, not to mention the people from the community that want to come here,” Johnson said. “There are a lot of reasons why a comfortable, aesthetically pleasing [and] safe place for our students, faculty and staff ... is so vitally im-

“My number one goal is to create an environment where college students want to come [to YSU] to get their education, and to ‘Know Y’ this is such a special place.”

— **Bill Johnson**,  
YSU President

portant.”

Although his arrival sparked concerns about his past in politics, Johnson said his main goal is to bring students to YSU by making campus a welcoming environment for students.

“There’s always people that are going to be upset anytime a new boss comes in ... Once the dust settles and you figure out who that person is, you begin to see life from a very different perspective,” Johnson said. “My number one goal is to create an environment where college students want to come [to YSU] to get their education and to ‘Know Y’ this is such a special place.”

Johnson said he and first lady LeeAnn Johnson are enjoying life at YSU.

“We absolutely love it, the atmosphere on campus is contagious — the enthusiasm, the anticipation,” Johnson said. “We’ve had such a great time, still very excited about being here.”

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**7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

Thu. Fri. Sat. Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed.

High: 60°F	High: 71°F	High: 73°F	High: 81°F	High: 85°F	High: 75°F	High: 71°F
Low: 34°F	Low: 52°F	Low: 60°F	Low: 58°F	Low: 62°F	Low: 51°F	Low: 48°F
Chance of precip: 0%	Chance of precip: 6%	Chance of precip: 88%	Chance of precip: 44%	Chance of precip: 40%	Chance of precip: 25%	Chance of precip: 0%



A Few Clouds



Partly Cloudy



Thunderstorms



A Few Clouds



Mostly Cloudy



Mostly Cloudy



Fair

Information courtesy of [accuweather.com](#)

# Likely last opera for Dana School of Music

By **Gunnhildur Baldursdottir**  
The Jambar

Dana School of Music's upcoming spring opera, "Little Women," might be its last performance at Youngstown State University, as its program director has accepted Voluntary Separation and Retirement Packages and is leaving YSU after this semester.

Misook Yun has been a voice and opera professor at Dana for 25 years, and she took over the opera program in 2015. While she is soon starting a new chapter to focus on other personal projects, Yun said she expected to teach for at least five more years at YSU.

"At first, I wasn't sure whether I would be taking that buyout or not. I decided that — what if this is my last day, my last month or my last semester? What if this is my last chance to be with my students? I want to be proud, and I want [the students] to know there's no limit to what they can do because we have quite talented students," Yun said.

The university announced in January it would sunset six degrees and possibly cut retrench 13 faculty members. However, no faculty cuts were made as 12 faculty members accepted VSRPs and would be compensated 80% of their salary as severance for the following year.

Erika Walker, a vocal performance graduate student, plays the character Josephine in "Little Women." Walker said she believes the opera program might not continue

without Yun.

"We'll still do opera scenes, but it will not be anything of this scale, maybe ever again," Walker said. "That makes this opera more important, and it makes us all really motivated to do a great job thinking that it may be the last one that Dana School of Music will do. But it's also sort of heartbreaking to think that this may not continue."

This will be the first time in years the Dana School of Music performs an opera in Ford Theater of Bliss Hall and collaborates with an orchestra. "Little Women" will showcase 33 student performers and take place at 7:30 p.m on April 26, and 2 p.m. on April 28.

The opera, written by American composer Mark Adamo, is an adaptation of the novel "Little Women," which was written in 1868 by Luisa May Alcott. It follows the coming of age story of the four March sisters — Margaret, Josephine, Elizabeth and Amy.

Yun said what inspired the choice of "Little Women" was the high number of female students in the program and its opportunities of featuring a wide variety of voices.

"Most importantly we had to think about who we could feature. We thought Erica Walker would be perfect to perform Jo, and she kind of leads the whole opera, and with her, so many wonderful sopranos are featured," Yun said. "Even though it's quite challenging, it's a good opera for us."

Susan Foster, a part-time voice instructor and the opera's stage director, said the audience can expect an emotional experience and beautiful music.

"Anyone who has ever read the book 'Little Women' knows about the story they know about the four sisters," Foster said. "But this composer really focused on the conflict of change, and how time passes and things change. I think everyone can recognize something of themselves in this opera."

Walker said the preparation for the show was extensive for students.

"All of us work very hard. We have rehearsal for roughly 12 hours a week," Walker said. "We've been working on this since January. So, quite a lot of hours have been put into this by everyone — not to mention all the work that's done outside of just class time."

"Little Women" is the second opera Foster has directed. She said this piece is more complex because of the large cast and multiple story locations.

"Some of [the scenes] are in the United States like New York, but others in Paris or London. So, trying to set up all those locations all on one stage was challenging. We had to be really creative with the stage and how we were going to make all those things look separate, but all in one piece," Foster said.

Tickets for "Little Women" are free for students with a YSU ID and \$15 for non students. They can be purchased on [tix.com](http://tix.com)



Yun (left) and Walker (right) are preparing for the opera. (Right) Students rehearse in Bliss Hall.



Photos by Gunnhildur Baldursdottir / The Jambar

## Graduation

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“Weather is always a factor,” LaViseur said. “We did it [outdoors] for three years, and one year it was too hot, one year it was too cold, one year it actually kind of rained [and] snowed. So, that kind of makes it nerve-wracking. So, we went to six ceremonies. In fall, we do two ceremonies.”

The spring 2024 ceremonies were separated by college due to capacity issues. LeViseur said it would be hard to fit all graduates and their guests into Beeghly at once.

“The graduating class is getting so large that with capacity in Beeghly, we couldn’t have one ceremony for all of the graduates. Even doing two was too much. We were just running out of space. Beeghly is going to be undergoing renovations after

commencement, and we’re actually going to lose seating. So, we started to think ahead,” LeViseur said.

Each ceremony will begin with an opening speech from YSU President Bill Johnson, and Interim Provost Jennifer Pintar will attend. The commencements will also have a student speaker and a YSU alumni speaker.

LeViseur said she is hopeful for a large turnout at each ceremony.

“We’re hoping that people really take to this,” LeViseur said. “We get more faculty and staff participation because of this. It’s their college, you take pride in that. Another thing with smaller ceremonies, because the stands get packed — kids will bring eight to 10 people — we don’t limit how many people you can bring.”

The ceremonies are free and not ticketed. Parking will be free for the days of commencement.

## Commencement Ceremonies and Speakers

### College of Graduate Studies

- 9 a.m. May 4 at Beeghly Center
- Speaker: William Brown, former executive director of the National Registry of EMTs

### Bitonte College of Health and Human Services

- 1 p.m. May 4 at Beeghly Center
- Speaker: Joseph Mosca, former dean of BCHHS

### College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

- 5 p.m. May 4 at Beeghly Center
- Speaker: Christopher Allen, director of Talent Management at Vallourec USA

### Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and Education

- 9 a.m. May 5 at Beeghly Center
- Speaker: Ashley Anderson, United Nations communications officer

### Williamson College of Business Administration

- 1 p.m. May 5 at Beeghly Center
- Speaker: Dexter Caffrey, CEO and founder of Smart Eye Technology

### Cliffe College of Creative Arts

- 5 p.m. May 5 in Ford Theater of Bliss Hall
- Speaker: Larry Davis, former executive creative director at Walt Disney Imagineering

# Safely rollin’ into summer

By Madeline Hippeard  
The Jambar

With summer quickly approaching, many people have planned trips to amusement parks. Despite their popularity, some hesitate to visit because of safety concerns.

For Ohioans, Cedar Point in Sandusky is a popular amusement park, home to several award-winning roller coasters, such as Steel Vengeance and Millennium Force. According to Cedar Fair’s website, the coasters were ranked No. 2 and No. 4, respectively, in Amusement Today’s annual Golden Ticket Awards in 2023.

In 2021, one of the park’s most popular coasters, Top Thrill Dragster, was shut down after a woman was hospitalized after being struck in the head by a bracket on one of the ride’s trains. According to News 5 Cleveland, Cedar Point settled a lawsuit with the woman.

While the accident has caused concerns to rise over the safety amusement park rides, Tony Clark, Cedar Point’s director of Communications, said guest safety is every park’s number one priority.

“We take it very seriously. Each year, the state of Ohio’s Department of Agriculture also inspects our attractions and provides an official license to operate,” Clark said. “They return throughout the year for additional pop-up inspections and check-ups.”

Alongside annual state inspection, Clark said a main-

tenance team thoroughly inspects all rides each day. This inspection ensures that all wheels, seats, seatbelts and ride structures are safe and ready for guests to enjoy throughout the day.

Ride operators also perform daily tests and checks to ensure all ride safety systems are working properly.

Safety systems have sensors to monitor all aspects of a ride. Clark said if the system notices abnormalities in operations, it will safely stop the ride. Once the ride is stopped, maintenance teams will look at the system to diagnose and fix any issues they may find. After that, the ride will reopen for guests to enjoy.

At Cedar Point, Clark said all employees are trained to handle situations where rides may shut down.

“Our entire team goes through extensive training for all situations from minor ride shut-downs to ride evacuations, thunderstorms and more,” Clark said. “This training happens throughout the year, including comprehensive ‘tabletop’ exercises where we practice these types of scenarios.”

One way guests can take responsibility at theme parks is to read signs with rider safety information outside of any attraction they wish to ride. These signs tell riders what they should know before entering the wait queue, such as height requirements, loose article policies, intensity levels and who should not ride based on medical conditions.

Sophomore civil engineering technology major Xavier Comer, who has held a Cedar Point season pass for two years, said he believes amusement parks are safe.

“Roller coasters have been around for such a long time. The ride systems and the restraints have been engineered and tested and gone through so many changes over the years. There are so little incidents that are due to solely the ride and not because of the people riding it,” Comer said.

Comer also said it’s just as important for theme park visitors to follow ride safety guidelines as it is for the park to perform regular safety checks.

“The vast majority of ride incidences are because of the person riding it not following safety guidelines or not taking into consideration pre-existing medical conditions that may pose a risk — not because of poor engineering or poor safety measures,” Comer said.

Besides following theme park rules, visitors can keep themselves safe in such simple ways as wearing sunscreen, staying hydrated and making sure they eat throughout the day.

To make the most out of a day at an amusement park, Clark suggests visitors review that park’s website to familiarize themselves with what each has to offer. Many parks also have mobile apps visitors can download on their phones to view maps, wait times, dining options and live entertainment show times.

# Go green with Mill Creek

By Alex Sorrells  
The Jambar

Mill Creek MetroParks is hosting its Backyard Conservation Lecture Series throughout spring to teach community members about the benefits of native biodiversity.

The three-part lecture series at Kenneth F. McMahon Hall in Canfield is organized with Mahoning County Land Bank and the Mahoning County Soil & Water Conservation District. Two sessions have already taken place March 20 and April 17, with the last set for 6 to 7 p.m. on May 15.

Zachary Felger, district outreach and education coordinator for SWCD, said the series helps people learn how to incorporate biodiversity at home.

“We are discussing some of the ways residents here in Mahoning County can begin implementing some of these conservation practices like incorporating rain gardens or pollinator habitats into their residential landscapes,” Felger said.

Felger said native plants such as milkweed feed pollinator species and protect against flooding in the wet

season.

“The most beneficial way people at home can improve upon their habitats at their house is starting by incorporating native plants,” Felger said. “Even something as simple as common milkweed into their landscape because of how beneficial it is to various insects — such as that of the monarch butterfly — as well as how impactful they are to improving soil drainage here in our local environment.”

Gary Davenport, project coordinator for the Land Bank, said he hopes to inspire community members to take action and implement something beneficial into their lawns.

“I hope people take away that they are able to take steps in their landscaping this season using native plants,” Davenport said. “They can go home and make a decision to do something a little bit different. They can also take on longer-term projects, but if they would like to use native plants in their landscaping — and it’s a very real possibility for them to do that after they’ve been to these lectures and other programming that we have coming up.”

According to Davenport, many native plants are avail-

able for purchase at nurseries and garden centers that would be helpful for landscaping.

Operation Pollination is a partnership assembled by the Youngstown Rotary, the Land Bank, Mill Creek MetroParks and SWCD that utilizes native plants in projects around Mahoning County.

“We try to bring our imagination to some of the work that we do, and that involves greening too,” Davenport said. “We have used native plants in our greening projects, and that puts us in a partnership with Operation Pollination.”

While the Backyard Conservation Lecture Series ends in May, similar events and lectures will take place in the future, hosted by the partnership.

“We will have lectures at this point through fall and they will cover topics like seed preparation and sowing and how to de-lawn your yard in a given municipality like Youngstown or one of the townships,” Davenport said.

Felger said he looks to the future of these conservation efforts and how they may affect the community.

“I just look forward to seeing this conservation effort within our community members grow and seeing all the different projects and conservation projects that people begin to implement here in Mahoning County,” Felger said.

Those who are interested in the final part of the lecture series can register for \$5 on Mill Creek MetroParks’s website until May 13.

## News Brief

### Provost search update

The search for a permanent provost and vice president of Academic Affairs for Youngstown State University is narrowing down, as three finalists have been selected for the position, according to YSU News Center.

The candidates are Jennifer Pintar, the current interim YSU provost; Alyson Gill, a former provost of Lees-McRae College; and Carolyn Smith Keller, the associate provost of University of Wisconsin, Platteville.

The university community will have a chance to meet the candidates at open forums from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Schwebel Auditorium of Moser Hall. Pintar’s forum is scheduled for April 26, Gill’s will take place April 29, and Keller’s is set for April 30.

The candidates’ cover letters and CVs are available to read on the YSU App under the This Week @ YSU tab. Those who attend the forums will have the opportunity to complete a candidate feedback form.



Hundreds of students gather for Midnight Breakfast at the end of every semester.

Photos courtesy of Stacy Rubinic

# Breakfast for dinner

**By Daniel Shapiro**  
Jambar Contributor

All students at Youngstown State University are invited to Midnight Breakfast from 10 p.m. to midnight April 29 in KC Food Court of Kilcawley Center.

Hosted by the Division of Student Affairs, the event takes place at the end of each semester during finals week.

Joy Polkabila Byers, associate vice president for Student Activities, said Midnight Breakfast is a great way to end the year and celebrate the success of the semester.

“We love to host this event for students. It’s just to celebrate the end of their hard work, semester — last chance to maybe say goodbye to some students before everybody leaves for the end of the year,” Byers said. “This year, we’re going to have a DJ. So, there’s always dancing.”

Carrie Anderson, associate director of Student Activities, said the theme for this year’s Midnight Breakfast is Cinco De Mayo. Along with serving traditional breakfast items, such as ham, eggs, bacon, pastries, oatmeal and bagels, the event will have Mexican food.

“Beyond the breakfast buffet, we will also have a pancake taco station,” Anderson said.

The breakfast is also an opportunity for students to take a break from studying during finals week.

“We host the event each semester to offer a stress reducer during finals week. We know students are up late studying and getting ready for their finals and, at times, probably not taking a break to get something to eat,” Anderson said. “It’s a chance for our staff to serve our students and show them support during this busy week.”

Byers said Student Activities encourages students to take care of themselves while preparing for success in

the classroom.

“We encourage them that we know the importance of taking breaks when you’re studying, whether it’s going for a walk, or in this case, going to get some extra food and be with some friends. [That] actually can help you be more productive when you’re studying,” Byers said.

According to Byers, Midnight Breakfast started as an event for students living on campus, but now all are welcome.

“We originally started in housing and [resident] life and over in the dining hall, and slowly as we built up more off campus housing, we brought it to the center. So now, it’s open to all students, not just residents who live on campus,” Byers said.

Anderson said students should enter Kilcawley Center at the Chick-fil-A entrance with their YSU IDs. There is no cost to attend.

EVERY COLOR OF THE RAINBOW

# YSUUnity's enchanted night

By Sydney Fairbanks  
Jambar Contributor

For LGBTQ students at Youngstown State University, it's important to unite as a community. YSUUnity, a club for LGBTQ students and allies, hosted an enchanted forest-themed Gayla on April 19 in The Cove of Kilcawley Center.

It may look like a spelling mistake, but the Gayla is YSUUnity's spin on a traditional gala. This year was the organization's second time hosting the event.

Senior Jenna Knowles, YSUUnity secretary and treasurer, said the event provides a safe space for LGBTQ students to celebrate or participate in a formal event.

"It's just for us to get together, have an event that we can feel comfortable at and really express ourselves," Knowles said.

The event was open to all students, whether they identify as part of the LGBTQ community or not. To achieve the enchanted-forest theme, YSUUnity adorned The Cove with green table runners, balloons and leafy decor.

Attendees could enjoy refreshments and dance to music. Near the end of the night, a best-dressed contest took place, and the top-two winners walked the red carpet.

Guests could also use The Cove's air hockey and pool tables and play hopscotch to win goodie bags with stickers, pins, crocheted items and decorative rocks.

According to Knowles, YSUUnity took inspiration from other similar events on campus, such as the International Student Organization's annual prom and the YSU Enrichment Summer Scholastic Institute's Gala.

"[On campus] you see a lot of different demographics coming together and having a dance just because it's a way to let loose, have fun and not have to worry about judgment. That's what the Gayla is," Knowles said.

Unlike other traditional galas, the Gayla is much less formal and focuses on comfort rather than looks.

Knowles said it's important for current and future students to know they'll be accepted for who they are, and events like the Gayla help to display that message.

"It does a good thing to the YSU community for the community in general to know that there is an active gay organization on campus — even for prospective students," Knowles said. "With everything going around, you don't really know if you're going to walk into a university and it's going to be accepting of you, but when you have events like this, it shows that you are."

Knowles added events such as the Gayla are important for uplifting LGBTQ voices.

Adrian Nelson, a senior social work major, has attended both Gaylas hosted by YSUUnity. Nelson said YSUUnity events are important for making new connections and helping students feel safe.

"We need a place where you feel comfortable and safe, and so this is some place where you can meet new people, feel comfortable, feel safe, talk to people and maybe get ideas," Nelson said.

The YSUUnity will also host a Lavender Graduation from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on April 26. The event will celebrate graduating LGBTQ students.



Gayla attendees (left) voted in the best-dressed competition by clapping for their favorite outfits of the night (right).

Photos courtesy of Ely Vuksanovich

# 10 years of Federal Frenzy

## Dave Buker celebrates milestone

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

Dave Buker, frontman and founding member of Dave Buker and the Historians, will perform solo from 4:50 to 5:20 p.m. on April 27 at Federal Frenzy Music and Arts Festival on The Jambar Student Media stage.

Buker grew up in Youngstown and graduated from Youngstown State University with a bachelor's degree in music education in 2010.

After graduation, Buker moved to Brooklyn, New York and then Columbus after he was asked to write a music score for an independent film.

In the same year, he formed Dave Buker and the Historians. Since then, the band has accumulated thousands of streams across Spotify and Apple Music.

Most recently, Buker celebrated the 10 year anniversary of the band's debut full-length album, "What Can Bring You Back To Me?" The band released a re-recording of the album April 12. With the milestone, Buker said it was fun to revisit an album that was released a decade ago.

"As much as things change, they stay the same. It's very different looking back but so many of the things that we do and what makes us who we are is represented there," Buker said.

The re-release of the band's album is now available to stream on Spotify, Apple Music and SoundCloud.

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

The Youngstown community will gather for music, food and fun at the annual Federal Frenzy Music and Arts Festival from 2 to 11 p.m. on April 27 in downtown Youngstown. This year, the festival will celebrate its 10 year anniversary.

Hosted by Youngstown State University's Penguin Productions, the event will be held on East Federal Street in collaboration with Penguin City Brewing Company and Youngstown Flea for the second consecutive year.

The festival will host over 40 vendors and 26 bands will perform across four stages — two indoor and two outdoor. The bands range from local to national acts featuring YSU alumni and current students. Some groups and artists from the Youngstown area include Madame Marlowe, Riley Burke Band, Dave Buker and JD Eicher.

Nashville-based indie rock band Bully will headline the YSU Penguin Productions main stage on East Federal Street. With over 5.6 million streams on its song "Lose You" featuring Soccer Mommy on Spotify, the band's performance will pay homage to the inaugural Federal Frenzy in 2015.

Eicher will headline the 90.7 The Summit FM stage. In 2022, he performed at Federal Frenzy on West Federal Street. With his return to the event, Eicher said he is excited to come back to Youngstown.

### YSU PENGUIN PRODUCTIONS MAIN STAGE EAST FEDERAL STREET

2:15 - 2:45PM	THE KNOCKOUTS
3:20 - 3:50PM	HYWATER
4:20 - 4:50PM	WINE & SPIRIT
5:25 - 5:55PM	YACOBUCCI
6:25 - 6:55PM	MADAME MARLOWE
7:30 - 8:00PM	KATY ROBINSON & THE WANDERERS
8:55 - 9:40PM	GONERS.
10:00 - 11:00 PM	BULLY

### THE PLATT! STAGE PENGUIN CITY TAPROOM

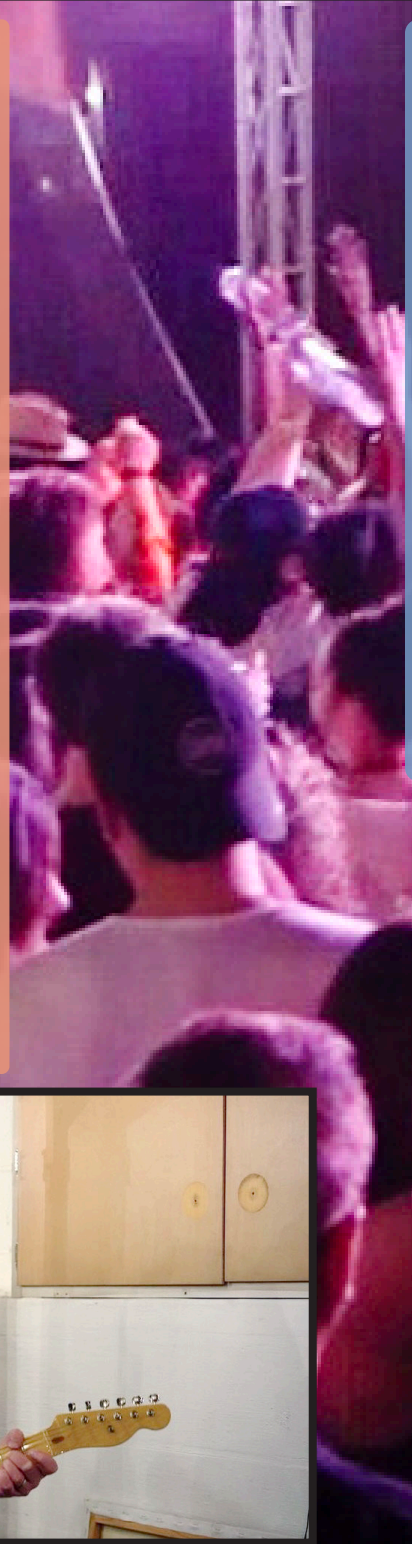
2:15 - 2:45PM	WEDNESDAY DEMONSTRATION
3:20 - 3:50PM	PHATZ ELLIOTT
4:20 - 4:50PM	THE CRXSSING
5:25 - 5:55PM	CHRIS LOMBARDII
6:25 - 6:55PM	FRANKLIN DEAD ROSE
7:30 - 8:00PM	THE BERRYS

### THE JAMBAR STUDENT MEDIA STAGE PCB POLLOCK BALLROOM

2:45 - 3:15PM	OHAYO
3:50 - 4:20PM	DRAKE MORRIS
4:50 - 5:20PM	DAVE BUKER
5:55 - 6:25PM	LAUREN BRABSON
7:00 - 7:30PM	ANDREW SLATER & THE WICKIES
8:05 - 8:35PM	NICK ADUCCI

### THE SUMMIT FM STAGE PENGUIN CITY PARKING LOT

2:45 - 3:15PM	EASTON UNION
3:50 - 4:20PM	ANGIE HAZE
4:50 - 5:20PM	RILEY BURKE BAND
5:55 - 6:25PM	BLACK WOLF & THE THIEF
7:00 - 7:30PM	BIG POP
8:05 - 8:50PM	JD EICHER



Hundreds gathered at Federal Frenzy 2022. INSETS: (Left) Dave Buker will perform solo on the Student Media stage. (Right) The 2024 lineup for music acts.

Photo courtesy of @youngstownplaylist on Instagram  
INSETS: (Left) Photo courtesy of @dbukerhistorians on Instagram  
(Right) Photo courtesy of @ysupenpro on Instagram



"I always appreciate the opportunity to play at Federal Frenzy. It will be nice to be back and playing in Youngstown, I get back a bit but I'm not playing as much in town as I would like so this will be great," Eicher said.

Besides live music, Federal Frenzy will also include a local vender marketplace from 2 to 8 p.m. on East Federal Street in collaboration with Youngstown Flea. Attendees can buy food from various food trucks and a full-service bar at Penguin City and Dope Cider House and Winery.

The Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor will display a portion of the William B. Pollock Exhibit in the space which leads up to the Penguin City Brewery Pollock Ballroom.

Erin Driscoll, YSU's executive director of Student Experience and Residence Life, was a member of the team that introduced the idea of Federal Frenzy to the city of Youngstown. Driscoll said that the partnership led to the creation of the annual event.

"[Federal Frenzy] started as a conversation with the city of Youngstown about creating an event that gave an opportunity to the campus and the city for YSU students and community members to all come together," Driscoll said. "[Penguin Productions] wanted to get students downtown to see all of the businesses, restaurants and venues that are down there."

Senior anthropology major and event lead for Penguin Productions, Ally Wright said she credits Penguin City for its help with Federal Frenzy and hosting the event.

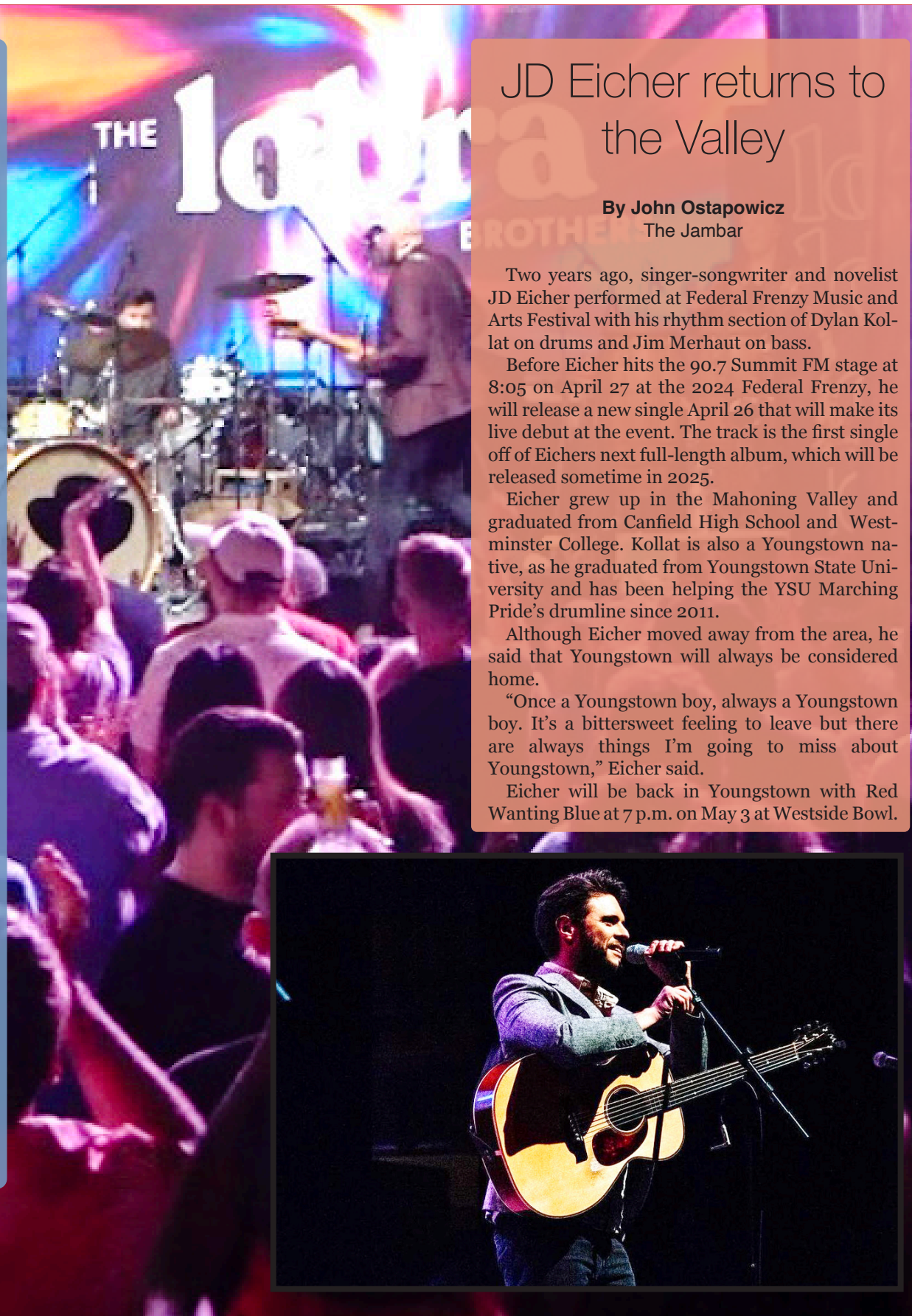
"Penguin City has been incredible, they are letting [Penguin Productions] use their entire facility. They have gone out of their way to get more permits and sponsored the event. [Penguin City] has done an incredible amount of work and support," Wright said.

Federal Frenzy is free and open to the public, but parking will likely be impacted by other popular music events downtown. The Vindys will perform with Youngstown Symphony Orchestra at the DeYor Performing Arts Center, and Judas Priest will perform at Covelli Center.

Students and event attendees are encouraged to park at the Wick Avenue Parking Deck on campus, which is free with a YSU parking pass. Those without a permit will have to pay \$5.

Penguin Productions will also run a shuttle service from 1 p.m. to midnight in front of the McDonough Museum of Art on Wick Ave to the event site.

For the event, East Federal Street from Andrews Ave to Wilson Ave will close at 8 a.m. April 26 and re-open at 2 a.m. April 28.



## JD Eicher returns to the Valley

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

Two years ago, singer-songwriter and novelist JD Eicher performed at Federal Frenzy Music and Arts Festival with his rhythm section of Dylan Kollat on drums and Jim Merhaut on bass.

Before Eicher hits the 90.7 Summit FM stage at 8:05 on April 27 at the 2024 Federal Frenzy, he will release a new single April 26 that will make its live debut at the event. The track is the first single off of Eicher's next full-length album, which will be released sometime in 2025.

Eicher grew up in the Mahoning Valley and graduated from Canfield High School and Westminster College. Kollat is also a Youngstown native, as he graduated from Youngstown State University and has been helping the YSU Marching Pride's drumline since 2011.

Although Eicher moved away from the area, he said that Youngstown will always be considered home.

"Once a Youngstown boy, always a Youngstown boy. It's a bittersweet feeling to leave but there are always things I'm going to miss about Youngstown," Eicher said.

Eicher will be back in Youngstown with Red Wanting Blue at 7 p.m. on May 3 at Westside Bowl.

HONEY, I SHRUNK PETE

# Hidden treasures in the locality



Simon has 3D printed numerous items, including miniatures of YSU Pete the Penguin fire hydrants.

**By Christopher Gillett**  
Jambar Contributor

Zachary Simon has turned his childhood love of toys into a profitable business as an adult.

The former Youngstown State University student operates LocallyPrint3D, which produces 3D-printed knickknacks.

“Growing up, there was nothing to make your own toys. I was always super into Legos and that kind of deal,” Simon said. “When 3D printing came out, people were able to make their own plastic toys [and] parts. That kind of sparked something in me, and from then, on I became a hobbyist 3D printer.”

Simon has promoted his business through social media stunts, such as hiding 3D-printed items around Youngstown. These include miniatures of YSU Pete the Penguin fire hydrants found across campus.

The stunts have worked, increasing LocallyPrint3D’s social media presence on apps such as its Instagram, @locallyprint3D.

Simon said he also credits his love of science fiction for his fascination with 3D printing.

“3D printing has always been kind of like a futuristic science fiction type manufacturing process, and I always was interested in ‘Star Wars,’” Simon said. “Not so much as ‘Star Trek,’ but ‘Star Trek’ has the fabricators, and they press a button and something pops out of nothing.”

Being raised in the Mahoning Valley, Simon said he wants to give back to



Photos by Christopher Gillett / Jambar Contributor

Youngstown through his business, regardless of profits.

“In Youngstown, a popular thing you hear is ‘Oh, there’s nothing to do. It’s very boring,’” Simon said. “I’m not really trying to make a whole bunch of money on these. I’m just trying to get a very even amount back. I just want to charge people what I’m making for it.”

Simon’s father is Jeff Simon, a prominent property owner and operator of Simco Management. Simon said his father and his reputation in the business community are inspirations.

“I’ve always tried to live up to his shoes — and the fact that this is taking off and this business of my own is kind of taking into effect now — it makes me happy because it makes me feel like I’m proving myself worthy to him,” Simon said.

3D printing is done using filaments, which often produce waste. Simon said when he started, he had to learn to deal with more waste through print failures.

“[I] would get 75% of a print done and then it would fail or fall off the plate or warp, and when that happens, the part is basically trashed, and you would use 75% of the materials for a full part,” Simon said. “It’s almost a complete waste.”

While 3D printing produces waste, Simon said he hopes to recycle it.

“Instead of putting it in our landfills, I would like to start collaborating with companies. There’s a couple overseas where you’re able to send this waste in, and they will take it, melt it down and make it into new filament,” Simon said. “That’s a great sustainable way to keep plastic out of our landfills, and continue to print with waste.”

Simon is currently working on a website to sell his products and said he hopes to have it up soon.

# Countdown hits zero

I came to The Jambar with an interest in going into reporting but a novice in creating print and broadcast journalism. Alongside that, I was a history major, whereas everyone else was a journalism major. Oh, also, I came to YSU all the way from Arizona. Despite all of that, The Jambar became a place I could call home, and there have been many individuals who have defined my experience here, who I'd like to name.

To the departing editor-in-chief, Molly Burke, I enjoyed interviewing Bill Johnson with you. I'll keep you in mind as I progress through my future endeavors.

To the one and only, John Ostapowicz, the incoming EIC, I believe in you! I've loved working with you since I started, and I've loved your quips, fashion sense, sports knowledge and deep enthusiasm for music, which I know you'll continue through next year. While I won't be here anymore, I'll keep an eye out for how incredible I know you'll be.

To Dylan Lux, I've loved your humor and your wit, and you've done an incredible job as executive producer. It's been great to work with you. Without you, I may have not learned the creative potential broadcast holds and the fun and beauty I can create with it. I also loved the reels you produced with Gavin Blacksher. I know you'll do great wherever you go!

To Maddie Fessler, you've always been there to encourage my photography skills and my understanding of how much collaboration goes into journalism. Your

design work was neat and well done, and your awards for it are well-deserved. I'll miss you and the convos we had about life, and I'm happy you'll continue your exemplary designing for The Jambar next year.

And of course, I can't forget Elizabeth Coss, aka Betty. You've been an inspiration. I've shared more bylines with you than anybody else here, whether that be covering the Simeon Booker Award together, or that time I caught COVID, and you had to finish up my story for me. You've always been there for me through ups and downs as we've dealt with the stresses of juggling reporting with college and life, and I'll never forget what you've taught me — whether that be with my work or bringing me out of my shell.

So many others too have brought me joy here, whether that be Jambar alumnus Kyle Wills, whose goodbye letter title I poached; or Sydney Fairbanks, whose time and creativity in editing my unorthodox broadcasts I will always cherish; or Hannah Werle, whose thoroughness and humor I will always appreciate; or Shianna Gibbons, who always encouraged my story ideas; or Cameron Niemi, who I know is also going places in sports journalism; or Mohammad Haram Kafil, who I know will do amazing with the website next year.

As I move onto the next chapter of my life, I remember you all.

Signing off of The Jambar,  
I'm Christopher Gillett!

## Quote of the Week

“When you come to a fork in the road, take it.”

— Yogi Berra,  
Professional baseball player

# For the last time

This is the last piece I'll publish in The Jambar as editor-in-chief. It may be my last as a staff writer. Regardless of what my future holds, I'm taking a chance to look back on my past two years with The Jambar.

I applied for The Jambar at the end of my senior year of high school. I was attending orientation at Youngstown State University with my mother, who picked up a Jambar sitting on a trash can. It was opened to the classifieds page advertising open positions for fall 2022.

Little did I know the impact that trash can Jambar would have on my life.

I had decided to pursue a degree in journalism only about a week before. So of course, my mother pushed me to apply for a position. Knowing next to nothing about the field, I applied to be a columnist.

A couple weeks later, I walked over from Ursuline High School — still in my school uniform — and interviewed. I was hired as a reporter.

Immediately, I fell in love with journalism and sought out to learn as much as I could. I gained a hunger for chasing the truth — that hunger every journalist talks about. Telling people's stories became my passion.

Over winter break in 2023, I became editor-in-chief after an amazing reporter, Shianna Gibbons, stepped down from the position. She now reports for 27 WKBN First News. After I finish this semester, I'll be following in her footsteps, joining WKBN as a multimedia content producer.

Becoming editor-in-chief was far more difficult than I expected. It pushed me to problem solve and navigate chasing the truth through a more nuanced and balanced perspective.

This semester also challenged me in ways I didn't know were possible. I experienced some of the hardest and lowest points in my life. If I'm being honest — if I want to tell my truth — there were many

times I felt like giving up on journalism and on The Jambar.

But I didn't. I kept going, I was resilient, and I built a portfolio of reporting I'm incredibly proud of.

This experience forced me to learn more about myself. I discovered I love being a leader but I need to set more boundaries. I realized it takes a tough skin to work in the news industry and I have to be okay with constantly receiving criticism from others.

I also learned it's okay to trust myself. While it was one of the biggest challenges I overcame, I filtered out negative self-talk and went with my gut — not because I wanted to, but because I had to.

I couldn't have gotten through it, though, without my amazing mentors. While there are many I can list, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Michele Ristich Gatts and Mary Beth Earnhardt. Your guidance has made me a better journalist and a better person. Thank you for everything. I hope I can make you proud.

I also want to thank all the staff members who gave their all during this hectic semester. I might've been tough, and we started the semester putting the paper to bed at 11 p.m., but we published some amazing work. I can't wait to see everyone continue to grow, whether they're returning, moving on to new journalistic endeavors or finding new passions.

Finally, to incoming editor-in-chief John Ostapowicz and incoming executive producer, Raeghan Hilton, I know you'll be amazing. Stick to your gut, be there for each other and always believe in yourselves. I'm here if you ever need anything.

While my time as a staff writer may be up, you'll still see my name in the paper as a contributor. I will continue serving the YSU community, and I look forward to keeping you informed, educated and aware.

— Molly Burke

# One last time, goodbye J-Bar

Over the last two years, I have served The Jambar as a multimedia journalist and the assistant sports editor. When I first applied, I was honestly not sure what to expect. I had minimal journalism experience, but I wanted to get out of my comfort zone and try something different. I was new to the whole “AP Style” of writing, but I knew I had the sports part figured out. So, I said to myself, “Why not give it a shot?”

Two years later, I can confidently say joining The Jambar was one of the best decisions I have made while in college. At first, it was challenging, but shortly after my first few stories, I knew I enjoyed covering the various sports teams at Youngstown State University.

I have experienced so many great sports moments while working for The Jambar, such as the women’s basketball team winning the Horizon League regular season title, Dwayne Cohill’s game winner in double overtime at the buzzer, The Shoe as OSU hosted YSU (once in a lifetime experience), football hosting and winning its first play-off game since 2016 and so much more.

The friendships and connections I have made throughout this journey will always stick with me, and I am forever blessed. I want to thank all of my EIC’s over the past two years, Elizabeth Coss, Shianna Gibbons and Molly Burke. Also a big shout out to all of the editors who made me a better writer and anybody who gave me advice along the way. I want to also thank Mary Beth Earnhardt for giving me advice to apply for the job.

Last but not least, I want to give a thank you to Dylan Lux and John Ostapowicz, two guys I could not have done it without! It has been an amazing ride and you two have always been there since day one. The editing nights will never be the same without “The Big 3.”

I appreciate all the support over the last two years. I am forever grateful for all the memories I have made with The Jambar.

Thank you, J-bar, much love always,

— Cameron Niemi



Niemi cuts a cake for The Jambar’s departing seniors.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

# ‘Goodbye Stranger’

I can be a very sappy person, I think. I try to appreciate all things in my life, big and small. I often hold onto memories, even if they seem insignificant to others. For the last two and a half years, The Jambar has been a large source of those memories I hold so close.

In 2022, I joined as an assistant video editor for JambarTV under executive producer at the time, Elizabeth Coss. Now in 2024, I myself stepped into those shoes and have seen what it’s like to be EP.

I may be young, but I have still seen my fair share of people come and go from The Jambar. The goodbyes never became easier, especially since it’s my turn now.

From following in the footsteps of those in front of me, to rebranding the YouTube channel, to having JambarTV’s first ever live broadcast — I’ve done my part.

Since I stepped foot in this position, I have put my best effort forward and given everything I can to this organization, even when it didn’t give back.

As much as I wish there was more time for me, there’s one feeling that stands above the rest after a year, and that’s burnt out.

My hard work is not always appreciated, and I’ve accepted that. It’s time to give someone else the chance to make this show (and paper) great — and it’s in good hands.

Raeghan Hilton, it’s been amazing getting to know you. Your fun-loving personality coupled with your desire to get things done the right way is exactly why I can’t wait to see what you can do in your new position. I’m rooting for you all the way.

The same goes for John Ostapowicz — a man who has backed me up anytime I needed him and will do anything to help anyone. You’ve been an incredible friend, let alone coworker, and I learned a lot from you, John. I just hope I could influence you in a positive light as much as you did me. Go kick butt as editor-in-chief.

Couldn’t mention one of the boys without the other, Cameron Niemi! I wish we could’ve worked together longer, man. Genuinely one of the most likable people I’ve ever met. Some of my best memories from The Jambar came with you there, and I hope we get to make some more outside of it too.

Betty, photography has become a passion of mine and that’s because you put a camera in my hand, so thank you. We had our ups and downs, but I learned so much from you and laughed so much with you. I can’t thank you enough for all the work you did for this organization.

Christopher Gillett, I’m glad I got to really know you, and I’m certain when you get your foot in the door somewhere, you’re going to bust it wide open. Anywhere would be lucky to have an intelligent, funny and hard-working person such as yourself.

To Shianna Gibbons — you’ve not only shaped me into the journalist I am today, but the man. I wouldn’t be anywhere close to where I am today without you by my side. Thank you for being my shoulder to lean on, being someone to look up to and being my rock. Our journey in life and career has only just started, but I couldn’t see myself on it with anyone else, Love.

There are many that influenced my journey throughout my time at The Jambar: Molly Burke, who I was lucky to work alongside, and who I will be hearing about for years to come for her successes; Maddie Fessler, our peanut gallery and Lego hands will always live rent free in my head; Hannah Werle, who never failed to make me laugh (at myself); Kyle Wills, who I credit with teaching me much of what I know about sports reporting; with many others I am proud to have worked with.

And to The Jambar, I say “Goodbye stranger, it’s been nice.”

Thank you, Supertramp. Thank you, Jambar.

— Dylan Lux

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# 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

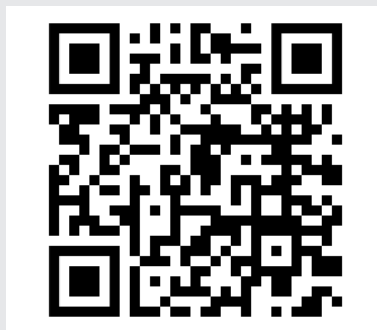
The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editor, sports editor, arts and entertainment editor and head copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's advisor, business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute or have final approval in editorial content. Editorials published by The Jambar do not necessarily represent the views of faculty, staff or administration at YSU.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com. Letters should concern issues related to Youngstown State University, but may encompass outside topics. Letters must be typed and not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators for publication. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity and will not be rejected based on expressed views. The editorial board reserves the right to reject letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinions with facts from reliable sources or have been adequately covered in The Jambar. The editorial board may request rewrites from a guest writer based on any of these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and guest commentaries do not reflect those of The Jambar.



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# Step into the shoes of athletes on the road



YSU softball prepares for postseason play as the regular season winds down.

Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

**By Teziah Howard**  
Jambar Contributor

Frequently traveling can be challenging for students on collegiate sports teams. Sitting atop the Horizon League, the Youngstown State University's softball team is consistently on the road for competition.

The team has tallied over 25 wins this season with more than 15 on the road. The schedule has included traveling to states such as Virginia, New York, Indiana, North Carolina and Michigan.

Sophomore catcher Kennedy Dean said recovery is a priority on the road.

"One thing that we make sure we do is recover well. Our trainer, [Sierra Besser-Paul], does a great job taking care of us," Dean said. "She does treatments at the hotel, before games and after games."

Dean also said she is grateful to have a staff that cares about recovery as much as she does.

"I am just really happy that our coaches, trainers and strength and conditioning coach really prioritize the way we feel and recover," Dean said.

Playing on the road means entering enemy territory. Dean said the team soaks up the atmosphere when playing against Horizon League opponents.

"The toughest atmosphere so far I would say has been [Oakland University]. The fans were right on top of the

field, in the outfield and yelling at us the whole time," Dean said. "We enjoyed playing in that atmosphere."

"If you look in the future and past, I don't think you are approaching it right. By taking it one game at a time, it's important."

— **Brian Campell**,  
Softball head coach

With traveling, tournaments and multiple double-headers in a season, the team's itinerary can be loaded. Senior pitcher Sophie Howell said energy is imperative. "I would say that energy is one of the things we've

preached on the team," Howell said. "It's easy to start losing energy in the middle of the season when you're on the road constantly."

Howell also said mindset is important for a successful game experience.

"Be confident, don't put pressure on yourself when you're out there, and energy will come from those things," Howell said. "The more confidence you have, the more energy you'll have, and the more successful you'll be."

The team has stayed in many places this season, including first place in the conference. Head coach Brian Campell, who's been at the helm over 15 years, said team development has been a standout this year.

"We have a good mixture of upperclassmen and underclassmen, and I think that is the learning process," Campell said. "The upperclassmen teach and the underclassmen learn what's being taught."

Campell said he encourages the players to focus on the season one day at a time.

"If you look in the future and past, I don't think you are approaching it right. By taking it one game at a time, it's important," Campell said. "That's been the mindset all season and it has helped us stand where we are now."

The team will close out April on the road but will be back at YSU's Covelli Sports Complex to start the month of May.

## PENGUINS IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

# Golf goes out swinging

By Marissa Masano  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's and women's golf teams wrapped up their 2023-2024 seasons at the Horizon League Golf Championships from April 20 to 22 in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida.

The men's team finished third, which marked the second time over a three-year span the team finished in the top three. Individually, the Penguins had three finishers in the top 10.

The team finished with a three-round team total of 880 and scored 291 in the final round.

Wright State University held on to its lead to win the men's championships with a three-round team total of 856.

For men's golf assistant coach Bryan Kordupel, the team's finish exemplified its growth throughout the season.

"This was by far the most complete performance by our team this year. They set out for a goal to put all the adversity behind them this week and just focus on being present and playing the best golf they could," Kordupel said.

Fifth-year Cole Christman tied for fifth to lead the Penguins. This marks his second top-five Horizon League Championship finish. Christman finished with a three-round total of 218 with a final-round score of 71.

The veteran climbed 27 spots from his Day One performance to lead his team. For Kordupel, the performance showed Christman has the right attitude.

"Cole showed resiliency and determination the whole year, and his fifth-place finish after his slow start is another prime example of how he never gives up. You can definitely sense that our whole team fed off of Cole's and Justin [Atkinson's] great play this week," Kordupel said.

The next highest finisher was Atkinson. The senior tied for seventh with a three-round total of 219. Following him was sophomore Ryan Sam, who tied for 10th place with a three-round total of 221.

Junior Jake Sylak, whose tournament was highlighted by multiple eagles, placed 14th with a three-round total of 223.

The team finished fifth place on Day One for the men's side, scoring 295.

Individually, Atkinson led the team, finishing the opening round in fifth with a score of 70.

Next to pace the Penguins was Sylak, who scored 72 in a tie for eighth place. Sylak closed out the Opening Day even to par.

In the second round, the Penguins moved up two spots into third place. The team's second round score was 294, and the two-round total was 589.

Atkinson remained in the top 10 on the second day. The senior tied for sixth with a two-round total of 146 and a second-round total of 76.

Christman scored the best individually on the second day. Christman scored a two-under-par 70 to move up the individual leaderboard 20 spots into a tie for 12th.

The women's team finished second for the seventh time in program history, with a three-round team total of 954. Two Penguins placed in the top 10 individually.

Oakland University won the women's championships with a three-round team total of 930.

Freshman Neeranuch Prajunpanich led the women with her second-place finish. In her Horizon League Championship debut, she had a three-round total of 231. In her final round, the freshman carded a 79.

Junior Lizzie Saur placed eighth to best her previous Horizon League Champion-

ship finish of 34th. Saur tallied a three-round total of 237 and closed out her efforts with an even-par 36.

Placing 14th overall with a three-round total 242, senior Titita Loudtragulngam had a personal best finish.

The women closed Opening Day in second place with a score of 318. Prajunpanich led the team individually. In her Horizon League Championships debut, she tied for third place with a score of 76.

After Opening Day, Saur tied for ninth place on the individual leaderboard with a score of 79.

On Day Two, the Penguins had a two-round total of 630, and individually, all of the Penguins reached the top 20.



YSU golfer Chaela Bernett putts a home invitational.

Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

# Keeping up with the transfer portal



Dena Jarrells

By Cameron Niemi  
The Jambar

The NCAA transfer portal gives student-athletes an opportunity to move on to another university and consider their options. This includes Division I, II and III schools across the country.

Since the NCAA approved student-athletes profiting off their name, image and likeness in 2021, the transfer portal has seen an abundance of athletes entering the portal and transferring.

Youngstown State University and thousands of other universities have felt the effects of the portal, both positively and negatively.

Ron Strollo, executive director of Intercollegiate Athletics, stated YSU has both gained new athletes and lost others who have transferred to other schools. He also stated he believes the portal rules should change.

“The portal has had a significant impact in both students transferring in and out of YSU,” Strollo stated. “I believe there should be a limit to how many times a student can transfer.”

Melissa Jackson, newly hired head coach for the women’s basketball team, has already used the portal for searching and recruiting.

Former player at Cleveland State University Faith Burch has signed with YSU basketball from the portal. Transferring from the University of Akron. Dacia Lewandowski is also joining YSU from the portal.

Anthony Romo, a senior telecommunications sports broadcasting major, has served as the play-by-play broadcaster for YSU women’s basketball, softball and volleyball for the past two years. Throughout his time at Youngstown State, he’s seen several players come in and out through the portal.

Romo said he believes coach Jackson’s previous winning pedigree at Akron and Cleveland State will bring in new players to the team.

“Players are also going to be able to see the other aspects of YSU, like our great fan turnout. Our home crowd is one of the best home atmospheres in the Horizon League on the women’s side,” Romo said. “There’s a lot of different factors, but I think coach Jackson will be able to recruit well, and it seems like she’s doing a great job thus far.”

The YSU men’s basketball team lost five graduating players. The team also lost two key players from the 2023-2024 season to the portal: fifth-year senior DJ Burns, who finished fourth in all of the NCAA in double doubles with 22; and sophomore John Lovelace Jr., who came off the bench and averaged 6.6 points and 2.8 rebounds.

First-year head coach Ethan Faulkner has been busy with recruits on campus, giving tours over the past few weeks.

Faulkner picked up his first athlete from the portal April 23 — graduate transfer guard Nico Galette from Sacred Heart University. Galette averaged 13.5 points last season and 7.3 rebounds.

Romo said he believes Faulkner will have no problem bringing in players for the 2024-2025 season.

“He has seen what it takes to make your school marketable for these transfers to try to come in, and I know Youngstown State has a great staff behind the scenes,”



Tyshon King



DJ Burns

Romo said. “It’ll be interesting to see as well if coach Faulkner wants to go back to more of a high school recruiting aspect side of things, or if he wants to attack the portal like coach [Jerrod] Calhoun did and try to build these new rosters year after year.”

The Youngstown State football team lost several defensive players after the 2023 season to the portal, but the program has been very active bringing in transfers, including a few players from the University of Cincinnati, where head coach Doug Phillips worked from 2017 to 2019.

More than five players have decided to enter the portal and leave YSU since the Red vs. White Spring Game on April 12.

However, the team has brought back defensive back Isaiah Hackett, who is transferring in from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Hackett was a graduate from Youngstown East High School. Another transfer, Mason Ludwig, is coming in from the University of Toledo.

Over the past few years, many players have left Youngstown State to go to bigger universities. Romo said the transfer portal has helped YSU but has also hurt the school in a way.

“Youngstown State has created a good platform to get these girls or boys to a different level,” Romo said. “It’s unfortunate when you see these players leave, but you kind of expect it with the day and age we have with the NIL and the transfer portal.”

Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Portal players from men and women’s basketball and football.