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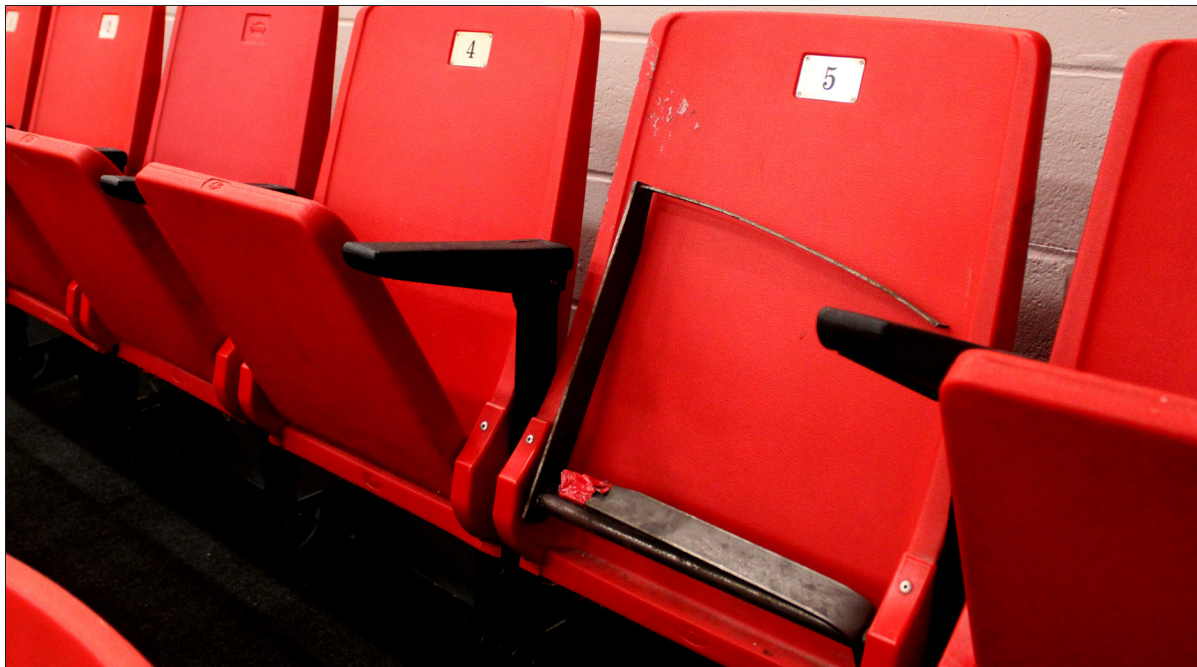
 YSU_JAMBAR

Thursday, February 29, 2024

 THEJAMBAR.COM



BREAKING IT DOWN



One seat in Beeghly Center is completely missing its bottom half.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

Reviving Beeghly Center — one step at a time

By Elizabeth Coss and John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

While Youngstown State University has been focused on a new student center, the Athletic Department has been externally fundraising to begin renovating Beeghly Center.

The \$1.8 million-phased project begins with replacing seats on the east and west side of the center, which have not been renovated since it was built in 1972. The renovation project is expected to begin May 6.

Ron Stollo, the executive director of Intercolle-

giate Athletics, said the department has been dreaming of these upgrades for almost six years.

“We’ve had a lot of success recently in men’s basketball and women’s basketball, and it felt like this was the right time to go out and fundraise,” Stollo said. “There’s a wide range of things we would love to do to Beeghly Center — a building that’s of that age — but the first thing is that seating project that we’re hoping to move forward with right at the end of spring graduation.”

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Getting to know government affairs

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

When Bill Johnson became the 10th president of Youngstown State University, he created an Office of Government Affairs. The office’s purpose is to conduct government relations and lobby for YSU on local, state and federal levels.

YSU has not had a department with this purpose since 2018.

The office is run by Sarah Keeler, special assistant for government affairs, and Maria Bova, associate director of government affairs. Keeler and Bova were Johnson’s staff members while he served in Congress.

Many students, faculty and alumni criticized YSU’s decision to invest in a government affairs department while the administration has made academic, faculty and program cuts over the last few years.

Despite the pushback, Keeler said the office is needed for the university to gain additional funding.

“I’ve been told there has been funding opportunities through the state government, and because there was nobody there at the capital, at the state house trying to get that money for YSU, it has been given to the universities who do have a presence there,” Keeler said.

Bova works with local and county governments, while Keeler focuses on working with the state and federal governments.

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Renovations

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The seating project will cost nearly \$2 million. Strollo said Athletics has received around \$1 million in cash, and roughly \$3 million has been promised to the department in commitments from private donors.

As part of the renovation, bleachers on the east and west sides will be completely ripped out and replaced with chair-backed seats. The center will also be repainted and electrical work will be redone.

The upper bowl of the center will still be able to retract into the walls and open courts as needed for extra gym space. The lower bowl's new seats will have armrests and cup holders.

The student section and pep band bleachers behind the hoops on the center's north and south sides will not undergo changes.

In addition to the new features, the

center will be more accessible with new guardrails on the stairs and more space added between seats.

"Some of those seats are cracked — they're ripping people's clothes — and safety-wise, it's really difficult to get around for some of our fans without the handrails and things like that," Strollo said. "These new seats and the safety pieces are probably the top priority ... it's going to feel a lot less like a high school gym and lot more like an arena."

In preparation for the project, Tim Stuart, senior associate director of Athletics, said communication between Athletics and student-athletes will be necessary as the project's end date isn't set in stone.

"There are a lot of working parts and different teams, programs and departments that use the Beeghly, so it's important that everyone is on the same page," Stuart stated. "The project's overall timeline for completion is mid-September ... we will certainly push to get

it done sooner, but we're at the mercy of material availability and lead times."

During the summer, construction will prevent any activities or sports from taking place at Beeghly Center. Summer camps for training student-athletes will take place at Stambaugh Stadium instead.

Volleyball, the sport most affected by the renovations, will practice in Stambaugh Stadium gyms and will not host a preseason tournament.

Strollo said it's humbling to be at the halfway point and to know the community is invested in Beeghly Center's future.

"It's exciting in the sense that our community is really engaged with our basketball programs and volleyball programs, but more importantly, our university," Strollo said. "A lot of people's perception of our campus is seen through that building and it's just an opportunity with the success we're having to kind of leave a legacy for the next 30, 40 or 50 years."



The Beeghly Center will undergo seating renovations on its east and west sides in May.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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

High: 37°F	High: 54°F	High: 54°F	High: 67°F	High: 72°F	High: 66°F	High: 65°F
Low: 23°F	Low: 41°F	Low: 43°F	Low: 46°F	Low: 46°F	Low: 40°F	Low: 43°F
Chance of precip: 0%	Chance of precip: 6%	Chance of precip: 15%	Chance of precip: 7%	Chance of precip: 19%	Chance of precip: 22%	Chance of precip: 1%



A Few Clouds



A Few Clouds



Mostly Cloudy



A Few Clouds



A Few Clouds



Mostly Cloudy



A Few Clouds

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

ATHLETICS IN ACTION

Sitting down with Strollo

By Elizabeth Coss and John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

With renovations to Beeghly Center around the corner, The Jambar sat down with Ron Strollo, executive director of Intercollegiate Athletics, to talk about what comes next for the department.

Where will extra money go?

Plans for additional renovations are in consideration for Beeghly Center, according to Strollo.

He explained additional funds collected from the current project will likely go into follow-up phases, with restroom and locker room upgrades and a club room at Beeghly Center's north entrance.

"There's a concession stand that we don't utilize on the north end that we'd like to take that space and create a little bit of a club room," Strollo said. "We've just probably started the process of talking about what we want

to do in those areas."

Strollo said he would like to see the club room's space sell YSU merchandise to raise extra revenue for the department.

The future is female

In a few years, YSU may have more opportunities for female athletes.

Strollo explained Athletics may add a new women's program to keep up with Title IX gender equity provisions.

"I'm guessing within the next three or four years, we might be adding the women another program. I'm not sure what that program is," Strollo said. "Because of the number of student-athletes we have and the amount of money we invest on the men's side compared to the women, we need to continue to invest in the women's programs."

Chill-Can catch up

In 2022, The Jambar reported West Coast Chill, the owner company of the Chill-Can, owe the Athletic Department \$185,000 after its sponsorship deal fell through.

Strollo confirmed the company still owes Athletics the same amount and said he hopes the money will be returned soon.

"We've been in discussion with the Chill-Can company in hopes that we will still obtain those dollars," Strollo said.

Strollo said he does not know when the Athletic Department will receive the funds.



Photo by John Ostapowicz / The Jambar

Ron Strollo in his office inside Stambaugh Stadium.

Before waddling off, promotions say 'game on'

By Teziah Howard
Jambar Contributor

When students and fans picture themselves in Beeghly Center for a showdown during a basketball game, spirits extend from Youngstown State University's athletes to game-day promotions.

With free merchandise, food and halftime activities, promotions allow students, fans and the community to get involved with games. Although the matchup between two teams ceases for the moment, there is still action that takes place on the court.

Emily Wilaj, a sophomore majoring in sports journalism, works as a marketing specialist for Athletics. Wilaj said game-day promotions bring students and spectators to games.

"Promotions definitely bring students in, and by giving out free T-shirts, they come in to initially get the shirt and end up staying and having a good time, and it brings them to more games," Wilaj said. "They're coming to see the athletes play, and they get a feel for how fun the games actually are."

Promotions take place before and throughout the game, during TV timeouts and in between halves. Before tip-off, members of the promotions staff begin the first wave of promotions, handing out merchandise to the arriving YSU students.

As a student employee, Wilaj sees the game through the eye of promotional benefits. Wilaj said she recognized the evolution of growth in the audience.

"Our main goal is to bring people in and it definitely works," Wilaj said. "Our fans have definitely built over time as the season grows, our fan base grows as well."

Beeghly Center is home to a variety of sports, including volleyball and swimming and diving. According to ysusports.com, the facility has been a home to YSU sports since 1972.

When the 'Guins host basketball games, Wilaj said the environment in Beeghly is electric.

"When we played the University of Milwaukee-Green Bay, I think we had about 6,000 people here," Wilaj said. "Beeghly is starting to be known for the electric

feel and electric vibe that the building has during the games."

The promotion squad focuses on involving the community in every game. Wilaj said finding ways for children to have fun separates YSU from other universities.

"A lot of kids love coming when they can be involved. It just gets them excited to come here," Wilaj said. "It separates us from the rest. We want them to be a part of gameday."

Patrick Donofrio is a YSU graduate student who hypes up the crowd during breaks. Donofrio said kids' involvement adds promotional value.

"What we do in promotions is really all about the kids. We want to enhance their experience. We want to make them remember coming to these games," Donofrio said. "Seeing kids smiling, that's truly what makes you feel accomplished about doing your job."

The audience impacts how often the promotions squad appears during the game. Donofrio makes an appearance multiple times during timeouts to ensure the crowd keeps the energy.

"When we can get the crowd really into the game, I think it has an impact on the outcome," Donofrio said.

Basketball season will come to a close, but game-day promotions will continue. As the Horizon League Championships approach, YSU's promotion squad will be looking to piggy-back off last year, as it sold out tickets for a showdown with the University of Detroit Mercy.



Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Ziggy Reid attempts a layup against Milwaukee at home.

Government

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When outlining her work with local government, Bova said she will rely on former connections.

“We have [had] good relationships with the [county] commissioners previously. So, I plan to continue those relationships, go to commissioner’s meetings that they have, and also keep relationships with the mayors,” Bova said.

According to Keeler, it’s important to have a voice in both state and federal government affairs. However, she said she currently doesn’t have many plans to travel to Washington D.C.

“Important decisions are made in our nation’s capital and our state’s capital. We don’t want to be left behind in those policy decisions in either place. There are also

appropriations decisions that go through Washington D.C. and Columbus,” Keeler said.

In addition to working with governments, Keeler also attends meetings of the Inter-University Council of Ohio, where she meets with other Ohio universities’ government representatives and discusses state legislation.

Keeler said she is responsible for changes to an amendment of Ohio Senate Bill 104, a bill that aims to improve enrollment for Ohio’s College Credit Plus program by requiring schools to inform students on CCP.

“They added a 50/50 cost share for textbooks that the university would be responsible for,” Keeler said. “I was able to flag that change early, work with our staff at Youngstown State — get those concerns on paper, relay those to both the IUC and [Republican State Sen. Jerry Cirino’s] office, and because of that, the language has

been removed.”

Throughout pushback toward Johnson’s hiring, many have expressed concern toward Ohio Senate Bill 83. According to the Ohio Capital Journal, the bill “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.”

Johnson addressed the concerns in an interview with The Jambar and said his appointment is not connected to SB 83.

Keeler said she is keeping an eye on SB 83.

“I know SB 83 is a pretty hot issue, and it just kind of reworks the inner workings of a university. We would be interested in that when it comes to a vote,” Keeler said.

Cirino, a sponsor of SB 83, wants all Ohio university presidents to testify at the state capital on their spending. Johnson will present May 8.



Maria Bova (left) and Sarah Keeler (right) run the Office of Government Affairs located in Tod Hall.



Photos by Christopher Gillett / The Jambar

Volleyball head coach resigns

By Dylan Lux and John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

Aline Scott stepped down as the women’s volleyball head coach Feb. 21 after six seasons with Youngstown State University.

In a press release from YSU Athletics, Scott stated she wants to pursue career opportunities outside of coaching, prompting her resignation from the team. Scott added she is grateful for the

chance to have coached at Youngstown State.

“I want to thank Ron Strollo for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime to coach this team ... It has been my honor to lead the volleyball program, and I will be forever grateful for the people I have met and the opportunities presented to me during my six years here,” Scott stated. “I will miss everyone at YSU immensely.”

Strollo, the executive director of Intercollegiate Athletics, thanked Scott for her

time and success at the university.

“I want to thank Aline for successfully leading our volleyball program over the last six seasons,” Strollo stated in the press release. “She worked very diligently to move our program forward by increasing our talent on the floor and helping us to improve our support areas off the court. We wish her all the best as she moves into the next phase of her professional career.”

Among Scott’s accomplishments are 47

total wins at Youngstown State, including 21 conference victories. She also led the 2022 Penguins to their first Horizon League tournament appearance since 2014, with an 8-10 conference record.

Scott coached the first Honorable Mention All-American in YSU volleyball history, two all-conference players, two members of the Horizon League All-Freshman Team and a Horizon League Player of the Year.

Keeping up with the community

By Madeline Hippeard
Jambar Contributor

Civic organizations promote community wellbeing through organized projects focused on charitable, recreational or educational goals.

Youngstown is home to several civic organizations, such as the Rotary Club of Youngstown, lodges of the Freemasons of Ohio, the Kiwanis of Youngstown, the Lions Clubs and the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Although civic organizations focus on serving a community, members often find personal benefit, said Deana Rossi, president of the Rotary Club of Youngstown.

“One of the main themes of Rotary is service above self. So, anyone who is involved in the Rotary — be it an adult or a student — what they’re going to find is that there is so much more to life when you’re serving others,” Rossi said.

The Rotary Club works in the community through service projects such as Operation Warm, which provides winter coats to children in need, and Operation Pollination, which restores and maintains pollinator habitats in Mahoning County.

The Rotary also holds social events such as its Groundhog Day Craft Beerfest, which raises money for service projects and community grants.

William Clark, a graduate student in Youngstown State University’s counseling program, has been a Free-

mason for seven years. Clark, who was born with cerebral palsy, said he joined the Freemasons after the organization funded a life-changing surgery that allowed him to walk.

“When I first joined, I joined out of a sense of honor and obligation to give back to my fellow disabled individuals. I have cerebral palsy, and they gave me the surgery that allowed me to walk,” Clark said.

The Freemasons have many sub-branches within the organization, each with a unique charitable focus.

Two sub-branches are the Shriners, which provides medical help to children and families in need, and the Scottish Rite, which focuses on education-related goals.

Civic organizations can provide connections between members on professional and personal levels.

Clark said the connections and family atmosphere are his favorite part about being a Freemason.

“I can vehemently say that I would not have had the experiences and I would not be the person that I am today should I not have had contact with the Freemasons,” Clark said.

Alongside personal growth, civic organizations also offer educational experiences, increased cultural awareness, compassion and citizenship both in their communities and the world.

Both the Rotary and Freemasons offer scholarship opportunities to members and others in the community.

Since 1989, the Rotary has awarded scholarships to

high school seniors. In 2021, the Rotary began awarding the Rotary Club of Youngstown Scholarship to one YSU student a year.

Similar to the Rotary, the Masonic Scholarship is available to high school seniors regardless of their membership status.



Photo courtesy of Rotary Club of Youngstown on Facebook
The Rotary Club works with Operation Warm.

Talking about stalking on campus

By Daniel Shapiro
Jambar Contributor

Stalking is a threat to students at Youngstown State University, as 21 stalking cases were reported from 2022 to 2023.

YSU defines stalking as “any repeated behaviors or activities whether in-person, online or through any other means which threaten or endanger safety, danger or mental health, life or property of another, or creates a reasonable fear of such a threat or action.”

Shawn Varso, YSU police chief, said knowing the signs of stalking is key to preventing it.

“First of all, you are having an encounter with someone you are familiar with.

You may be friends [with], having a class with them or they may be a coworker. These individuals start showing up to your house, to where you live. They start showing up to your class. You start getting [direct messages] from them,” Varso said.

Varso said students should look for patterns of stalking and contact the police if they experience signs or know someone who may be a victim.

“Be aware of your surroundings, be aware if someone is following you,” Varso said. “The more you can document with the law enforcement, the better.”

Varso said he believes the 21 reported cases aren’t the only stalking cases, as many go unreported.

“You have to understand that’s not

the actual total number of stalking cases, that’s what has been reported to us,” Varso said. “There are people who don’t report being stalked that could be being stalked on campus.”

Madison Jerome, deputy Title IX coordinator, said students should also contact the office of Title IX and file a Penguin of Concern form if anyone experiences stalking or feels threatened about being stalked.

“You can submit a form for either yourself, a roommate, friend, teammate, and you would just list all their information, your [information], and it asks you a series of questions of what is taking place,” Jerome said. “Being vigilant of what’s taking place either online or in person, and I always tell everyone to go with your

gut feeling.”

Title IX also handles sexual violence cases such as sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and dating domestic violence.

According to Varso, a student security service is available 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday for those who feel unsafe walking across campus alone.

“[The security service will] walk you to your class, walk you back and forth to your car,” Varso said. “They are somebody that can walk with you to those areas that you don’t have to walk alone.”

Students can register for the service online then call (330) 941-1515 anytime they need service.

Q: What are you doing for spring break?



Brian Shrum,
YSU women's soccer
head coach

"I'm going to probably head home, spend a little time with my wife and family and work around the farm I live on."



Alexis Swain,
Professor in Bitonte College of
Health and Human Services

"For spring break, my fiancé is coming up and I have my bridal shower. So, [I'm] looking forward to that."



Faith Marscio,
Graduate student in the
counseling program

"I am going to Tennessee and Alabama to visit family."



Henry Paschke,
Freshman computer science major

"[I'm] probably just going to head home, hang out with my family [and] just take a break from homework. It's going to be so nice to relax and not have to think about it."

A bit of theatrics

By **Sydney Fairbanks**
The Jambar

The Music Theater Student Organization brings the dramatics to Youngstown State University's campus.

Mal Ehrhart, a junior musical theater major and president of the MTSO, said the organization supports theater students by hosting events.

"We are promoting student theater life on campus through supporting students, hosting receptions, having theater-based events on campus and celebrating what theater can be here at YSU," Ehrhart said.

MTSO has been at YSU since December 2023 and the club meets at 4:15 p.m. every Thursday in the Green Room of Bliss Hall.

Adam Howard, the musical theater faculty coordinator at YSU, brought the idea to Ehrhart to start a chapter at YSU. The first chapter of MTSO was initiated by his wife, Lisa Howard, at Kent State University.

Ehrhart said the Theater Department has a low faculty count and needs the support that the MTSO offers.

"We're not necessarily receiving the direct support that we used to on campus, and I think it's important that there's a group of people within the department that understands what is going on in the department, what we currently need and that we can supply that to the students," Ehrhart said.

Chloe Downey, a junior musical theater major and MTSO producing director, said the organization hopes to bring more opportunities to both theater and non-theater majors.

"We're not just promoting musical theater, too. It's all types of theater, all types of acting, directing, playwriting — could be anything. We'll have a bunch of different workshops together, even resume building," Downey said. "We would provide events for not only theater majors but for anyone around campus."

The organization hosted Improv at The Hub in Kilcawley Center on Feb. 9, where anyone was welcome to participate in improv acting games and challenges. Downey said the event helped students go outside of their comfort zones.

"[Improv at The Hub] was really cool. We had multiple [non-theater] majors, some people who had never done any theater before just come up and do something for fun," Downey said.

MTSO also promotes University Theatre events. During the opening night of "It's a Small World (Or the Robot Play)" on Feb. 16, MTSO hosted a Keurig raffle and an after-show reception for the cast and crew.

The club plans to host an opening night reception for University Theatre's April show, "Once Upon A Mattress."

According to Ehrhart, the club hopes to host a Theatre Department trip for students to experience theater outside of YSU. Ehrhart said the trip would be paid for partly or fully by the organization.

"[A trip] to a regional city nearby that has a good theater network so that our department could directly network with professional performers and be exposed to different kinds of performances," Ehrhart said.

The MTSO has received its funding through hosting bake sales, raffles and a GoFundMe. Downey said most of the organization's funds go into its events.

"We had a couple generous donors that were able to help us and that money went into getting the supplies for the bake sale," Downey said. "It's kinda a constant loop of just making money to put on more events."

While it's not official, Ehrhart said the club has discussed putting on student written plays, musicals and cabarets.

"There's talks about ... us hosting a 10 minute play festival in late April or early May," Ehrhart said. "Students that have written short plays, we can host them, they can put them on in a space, and then we will provide food, lighting, potentially costumes, potentially scenery for them to put on their plays."

Ehrhart said the club is looking to implement more officers.

"I know that there's a lot of people that want to be more directly involved in what we do, which is exciting," Ehrhart said.

To get involved in MTSO, students can attend events, which are posted on the club's Instagram @mtso_ysu_theatre.

Students celebrate press freedom

By Hannah Werle
The Jambar

In coordination with the Youngstown Press Club, The Jambar hosted an event celebrating Student Press Freedom Day on Feb. 23.

The Student Press Law Center created Student Press Freedom Day six years ago to bring awareness to student journalists and the challenges of protecting free press in schools. Student Press Freedom Day was Feb. 22, with this year's theme being Powerfully Persistent.

The event featured presentations from several members of The Jambar and Jambar TV, including Editor-in-Chief Molly Burke, Head Copy Editor Elizabeth Coss, News Editor Christopher Gillett, Line Producer Shianna Gibbons, and Managing Editor and Executive Producer Dylan Lux.

Diane Fitzpatrick, executive director of the Youngstown Press Club, worked with The Jambar to organize the event.

"The press club is always looking for ways to serve our student members. Mary Beth Earnhardt, [chair of the Department of Communications], came to us a few months ago and said, 'Would [you] be interested in supporting this kind of a program?'" Fitzpatrick said.

"I went to The Jambar students and they jumped in and planned the whole program."

Fitzpatrick said student journalism is important because it's the stepping stone to creating a strong press.

"It's really important that everyone is aware that student journalists are journalists and they have the same rights and same responsibilities as professional journalists," Fitzpatrick said. "It's important that everyone realize that you're doing the same job. You're holding public officials accountable, you're informing your public and you're serving your community."

Another sponsor for the event was Youngstown State University's chapter of Society for Collegiate Journalists. Adam Earnhardt, a communications professor and the faculty advisor for SCJ, said it's important to celebrate press freedom in public universities.

"Student Press Freedom Day is a day set aside to help us celebrate the privilege of producing student media. We say press, but it's not just press, there's different

forms of student media that we celebrate," Earnhardt said. "It's about honoring the extension of those first amendment protections that we get on a college campus [or] on a university campus."

Earnhardt said many of the faculty in the Department of Communications encouraged their students to attend the event.

"In our department, we have a lot of faculty who — whether they're teaching in journalism or not — celebrate these First Amendment protections because they're not just for press, they're also for speech, which we teach a lot of," Earnhardt said.

Other sponsors included WKBN-TV, The Business Journal and The Anderson program in Journalism at YSU.

Those interested can read part of Burke's speech in the editorial on page 12.

Editor's note: Several presenters at the Student Press Freedom Day event are on The Jambar's editorial staff.



Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Shianna Gibbons presenting at the Student Press Freedom Day event.

A faithful IMPACT on campus

By Molly Burke
Jambar Contributor

Nearly a dozen religious organizations are active at Youngstown State University, including IMPACT Campus Ministry International, a Christian club that hosts weekly Bible studies.

IMPACT is a national organization of the United Pentecostal Church International. YSU's chapter meets at 4 p.m. every Thursday in the Bresnahan Room of Kilcawley Center.

President Ryan Cline, a senior business administration major, is the organization's president. Cline said IMPACT allows students to be supported by a loving community.

"We want to be a group that welcomes people in and gives people an opportunity to see the love that we have one for another and to have a community-based experience here at YSU," Cline said.

While IMPACT practices Oneness

Pentecostalism, Cline said anyone is welcome to join, regardless of faith.

"We want to have an impact on the lives of the students here. Obviously, we open the Word, we open the Bible, that's what we're based off of — but not just through that — by creating a community that can exist here at YSU that gives people the chance to connect with people from all different backgrounds," Cline said.

Every meeting, members can give a lesson to the club. Cline said anyone can give a presentation with approval from the club's officers.

"We have whoever's teaching that day ask for prayer requests. We go into a guided season of prayer — just a few moments. Then, we have a Bible lesson. We open it up for discussion afterward, and then we just talk about whatever is going on in our personal lives," Cline said.

IMPACT was active on campus prior to the pandemic, but membership declined until Cline reformed the club with some

of its members in August 2023. Cassandra Williams, a senior communications major and the club's secretary, was part of the group that refounded IMPACT.

For its first semester back on campus, the club hosted its YSU Campus Revival service in the Recital Hall of Bliss Hall in November 2023. Williams said the event will take place again in April.

"The revival was basically a way that we could introduce going to church to people on campus," Williams said. "We had about 200 people that came. We had singing and preaching and fun things like that. We're looking forward to doing that again this semester."

The organization will host a flag football tournament in March. Williams said the event will be open to all.

"We're just going to have some flag football, some food, some drinks and just fellowship with people, have fun — maybe introduce them to the idea of coming to our group or the revival service," Wil-

liams said.

Dates for the revival and tournament have not been determined.

Williams said her favorite part of IMPACT is practicing her faith with others at YSU.

"My favorite part is just honestly getting to hang out with people and talk about Jesus," Williams said. "That's a very big part of my life is church and my relationship with Jesus Christ, and it's cool to come to a group where everybody has the same goal as you."

Senior math education major Dustin Lane is a member of the club. Lane said he encourages students to join, as the club has helped him grow closer to his faith.

"I know everything that God has done in my life and changed for me. So, I feel like I could share my story," Lane said. "A lot of us in this group are seniors. After this semester, a lot of us aren't going to be here. We're trying to get the word out, spread the Gospel before we leave."

Those who want to join IMPACT can attend any of its weekly meetings.

ACROSTICS AND AMERICANOS

Non-anonymous with Poets Anonymous

By Nicole Barber and Elizabeth Coss
The Jambar

At Youngstown State University, the Poetry Club hosts monthly events to connect with students interested in poetry and grow its membership.

The club has hosted a variety of events, including poetry in Mill Creek MetroParks, a Halloween party, poetry-related movie nights at William F. Maag Jr. Library, open-mic nights at Westside Bowl and a Valentine's Day fundraiser.

Most recently, the club hosted a Poetry Club Coffee Date at Pressed Coffee Bar and Eatery on Feb. 27 for a poetry workshop and open-mic poetry reading. The event was open to all and visitors came throughout the event to listen in.

Sara Khan, president of the Poetry Club and a senior biology pre-med major, said the club was struggling to keep members a year ago, but it has since built a strong, lasting community.

"We would welcome anyone who wants to know anything about poetry or the Poetry Club and what we do," Khan said. "In order to be seen as an active organization is to be active — really make sure that people know about your events and to keep doing them no matter how small your group may be because it will grow."

Nicarlyle Hanchard, a sophomore journalism major and secretary for the club, has read his poetry at open-mic nights. Hanchard said sharing poetry is a heartfelt, personal experience.

"When you write poetry or when you write any piece of work, you know the feelings that go into it because it's not always the same emotion," Hanchard said. "A lot of poems that I've heard from

our members and officers as of late, it's always the last line that ties in the whole thing ... it's not a conclusion because it's how you feel and it's not resolved. It's just on the paper now."

The club also holds a poetry workshop, Poets Anonymous, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. every Thursday in the Training Room of Kilcawley Center.

"[Poets Anonymous] can be poems you made in the eighth grade. It can be poems you made the day before [and] anything that you feel comfortable sharing," Khan said. "If you wanna feel validated about your writing and if you wanna hear people's perspectives about the content that you are writing about — or you wanna hear the different perspectives about what you use, like the literary elements — then, you're going to find it at Poets Anonymous."

Zayda Stormer, a sophomore biology pre-med major, uses poetry to express emotion. Stormer said poetry acts as a form of activism for topics not always highlighted.

"When it comes to activism for me, [poetry] is a form of screaming," Stormer said. "I write a lot of my poetry about the Black experience, the Black experience as a fem-presenting person and being queer. So, I talk about a lot of my queer relationships, but I also talk about straight relationships, and just saying this is my life and this is something I'm going to represent, and if me existing is a form of activism, then that's what it is."

Anyone interested in becoming a member can message the Poetry Club through Instagram @ysupoetryclub or contact Khan at sbkhan@student.ysu.edu.



Sara Khan (top) participated in the open-mic event held in Pressed Coffee Bar and Eatery on Feb. 27.

Photos by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

Talkin' stars in bars

By **Matthew Sotlar**
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Society of Physics Students held its first Astronomy On Tap event Feb. 23 at Republic Pizzeria. The event was free and open to the public.

Astronomy on Tap is an event hosted worldwide that allows communities to learn from presentations by professional astronomers. It is often held at restaurants or bars to promote research and provide a meeting place for like-minded individuals.

YSU's Astronomy On Tap was coordinated by SPS President Alexa Beyer and Vice President Amanda Keating. Keating, who is a senior physics and astronomy major, said SPS wanted to bring the event to YSU.

"Astronomy On Tap is something that has been going the entire country with different astronomy departments, and Alexa went down to New Orleans for the American Astronomical Society meeting this past January," Keating said. "She really enjoyed it, and she wanted to make sure we could do one of our own here."

The Society of Physics Students is a national university-based organization that helps students interested in physics connect. YSU's chapter has around 40 members. Beyer said Astronomy On Tap allows not only students to learn more about space, but also the YSU community.

"Not a lot of people are exposed to formal talks, and they don't really know where to find them, except online. But it's a really easy opportunity for students and community members to all gather in one place to talk about space and what research is currently happening," Beyer said.

Both Keating and Beyer gave presentations at the event. Keating's presentation focused on exoplanets, while Beyer's

discussed the evolution of stars. In between each presentation was a round of physics and astronomy-themed trivia.

YSU astronomy professor Patrick Durrell gave the final presentation on star collisions. Each presenter answered questions from the audience.

A final round of Star Wars-themed trivia was held before the event concluded. SPS also sold stickers and eclipse glasses for the upcoming April 8 eclipse.

Beyer said she hopes to see SPS holding more events before the end of the semester, including another Astronomy On Tap.

"As of right now, I'm hoping to do one more [Astronomy On Tap] before the semester ends and I graduate. So, we're hoping to do one more in April or early May around graduation time just so when I leave, the next SPS members can build off of that," Beyer said.

Beyer said SPF aims to bring students interested in astronomy and physics together, regardless of students' majors.

"We just try and combine all the students that are either physics or physics and astronomy majors or just people who really like physics or like to talk about space, and we try and get some different events to get students to interact with each other," Beyer said.

There is no set meeting times for SPS. Keating said the organization works around members' schedules.

"We don't have specific meeting times," Keating said. "Usually, if we do meet, it'll be Fridays at 4 p.m. in the [Ward Beecher] Planetarium, but whenever we do meet it's kind of whenever we have the time, because our classes get pretty piled up, so we try to make it work with everyone's schedule."

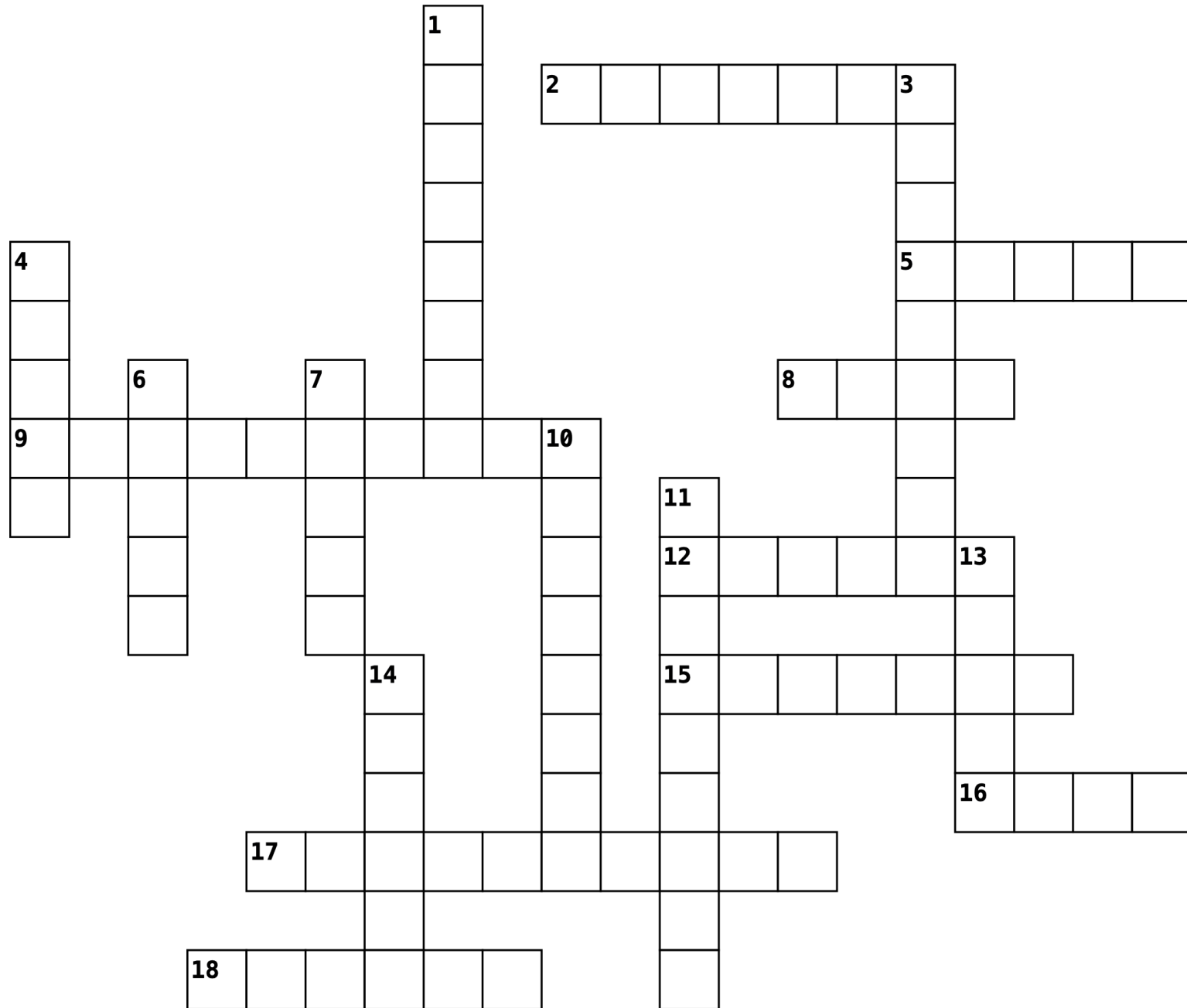
SPS will host an eclipse viewing event April 8 at Geneva-on-the-Lake. Interested members can reach out to Beyer via email at acbeyer@student.yzu.edu.



Students and professors present at Astronomy On Tap.

Photos courtesy of Jill Mogg

Spring Break Crossword



Across

2. April showers bring May ____
 5. Brian ____ said he was spending Spring Break on his farm with his family
 8. Place to visit full of nature and walking trails
 9. Band that sings "Here Comes the Sun"

12. Popular website to rent vacation homes

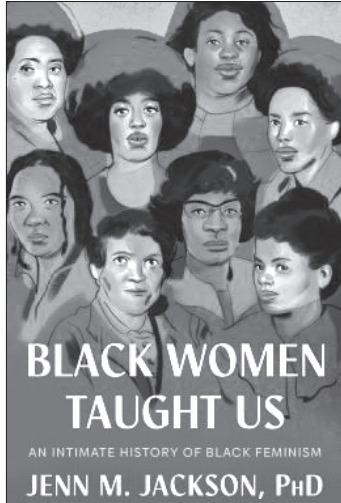
15. The most popular way to travel
 16. Mill Creek MetroParks hosts this type of relaxing exercise in the park
 17. Activity of laying in the sun
 18. According to Time Magazine this is the most popular Spring Break destination

Down

1. The March birth flower
 3. Skincare item to put on before being in the sun
 4. The Horizon League Tournament starts March ____
 6. Popular landform to visit on vacation
 7. Spring is considered the ____ season

10. Article of clothing to wear while in water
 11. The act of planting flowers, fruits or vegetables
 13. This animal brings eggs and candy to children on Easter
 14. An activity that involves packing a meal to eat outdoors

Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library



Nonfiction review

Black Women Taught Us: An Intimate History of Black Feminism

by Jenn M. Jackson

This collection of essays explores the immense, and often overlooked, contributions of Black women to the progression of modern feminism, including racial, gender and sexual justice.



Fiction review

Crook Manifesto

by Colson Whitehead

Ex-criminal Ray Carney is set against the backdrop of New York City's Civil Rights Movement in the 1970s. While he's trying his best to stay out of trouble, the chaos of the city around him continuously pulls him in.

Upcoming programs

Thursday, March 7

6 to 7 p.m.

Anime & Manga Club

Registration required

Wednesday, March 13

6 to 7 p.m.

Upcycled Book Toadstool

Registration required

Thursday, March 14

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Stormwater Pollution

Management

No registration required

Visit libraryvisit.org to register, get more information or find other programs

To find more information or to place a hold on a title, visit libraryvisit.org, meet us at 305 Wick Ave. or call us at (330) 744-8636.

Have something to say to The Jambar?

Write a Letter to the Editor!

Email The Jambar at

thejambar@gmail.com

The Jambar Column

‘Patrick SmartPants’

Growing up, I always enjoyed watching my early morning and late afternoon cartoons. My all time favorite when I was young was “Spongebob Squarepants.” The show’s early seasons had the best humor, but the show has gone downhill since the sixth season debuted in 2008.

“Spongebob Squarepants” follows the story of a sponge working at the Krusty Krab. A plankton who owns the Chum Bucket attempts to steal the Krabby Patty secret formula throughout the show.

The plot of the show is oftentimes muddled with filler episodes. However, there are many episodes where Spongebob and his best friend Patrick are just hanging out. These were my favorite because it set expectations for what I wanted in my friendships.

Granted — after maturing and realizing that Spongebob and Patrick were not at all great friends to each other — they always somehow ended up back as friends, which is heartwarming.

Ultimately, I believe Patrick is hands down one of the smartest characters on the show. There are many cases in the show where he has some great ideas. While he literally lives under a rock, he is often smarter than he — and the audience — thinks.

There is a great example that lies in the episode “The Secret Box” where Patrick tricks Spongebob into believing that the



Alison Butz

box did not contain anything embarrassing, but it did after all. In that same episode, it is revealed that Patrick had gone to community college. So really, how dumb is Patrick?

Patrick also said one critical sentence in this episode. “The inner machinations of my mind are an enigma,” he said. You’re telling me that Patrick — the character that is supposed to be the dumbest — is able to understand big words like that, no less putting them in a sentence?

This makes me believe that Patrick truly just acts dumb to get free things all the time. There are countless occasions where Spongebob ends up paying for Patrick’s food.

While Patrick may not be book smart, he obviously has to be smart enough to be able to get his boating license. Unlike Spongebob, Patrick was able to attend boating school and pass on the first try in the episode “Driven to Tears.”

This again goes to show that you don’t always have to be the smartest in the room to be able to live your life. Patrick always knows how to get by in life, and I love that for him.

Quote of the Week

“Speech is human, silence is divine, yet also brutish and dead: therefore we must learn both arts.”

— Thomas Carlyle
Scottish essayist and historian

The Jambar Editorial

Asserting the rights of the fourth estate

Editor’s note: Student Press Freedom Day was Feb. 22, and The Jambar celebrated with an event hosted by the Youngstown Press Club on Feb. 23. In honor of Student Press Freedom Day, The Jambar is publishing an excerpt from a speech given by Editor-in-Chief Molly Burke at the event.

The Student Press Law Center began Student Press Freedom Day six years ago with the purpose of celebrating student journalists and asserting our need for independent press on school campuses.

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right to a free press. Nevertheless, this right has been challenged and often denied throughout American history, especially for student journalists.

According to the SPLC, over 60 state and federal court cases have ruled it is unconstitutional to censor student press on college campuses.

At Youngstown State University, we enjoy this ability to report openly and honestly. However, we are lucky compared to many school campuses, as student media in public universities are common victims of censorship.

A 2021 study by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression surveyed editors from newspapers at public universities and found that 63.8% percent of editors experienced at least one instance of censorship in the previous year.

Censorship often involved administrative requests to not publish certain content, with some students and advisors experiencing threats of job loss. Editors said the most censored topics involved administrative decisions, college personnel issues, college finances and crime, especially sexual assault.

Student press freedoms are even more limited for high school students. In the 1988 case *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that high

school administrations can censor student publications as long as they propose a “legitimate pedagogical concern.”

The SPLC explains that this broad definition has led to some muddled waters for high school journalists, and some administrations have taken advantage of its vagueness to censor students when their words don’t fit the administrations’ agendas.

Rulings like *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* led the SPLC to advocate for students with its New Voices campaign, a student-led bipartisan effort to solidify the rights of student journalists.

In 1977, California became the first state to adopt New Voices Laws, which guarantee public school students freedoms of speech and press. As of 2024, 17 states have adopted New Voices Laws, but Ohio is unfortunately not one of those states.

While we’ve been fortunate to have an uncensored press at YSU, it’s important to continue bringing awareness to these issues. We must continue asserting our freedom and advocating for our importance.

Since the fall 2023, YSU’s campus has seen political unrest. With administrative changes and program cuts, we’ve seen protests, petitions, rallies and walk-outs.

Through every policy, every outcry and every new change, The Jambar has been on the ground, reporting and digging deeper.

Thanks to the freedoms we are guaranteed in our Constitution, we have been at the forefront of keeping this community informed.

Not only do we deserve to carry out our passions unbothered and respected, but the public has a right to a free press.

YSU needs a free press — a messenger, a watchdog, a lifeline.

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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 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.

NOW HIRING FOR FALL 2024

The student media committee is accepting applications for YSU Student Media leadership positions.

Application deadline is **March 11**.

Available leadership positions include:

Jambar Editor in Chief*

Jambar TV Executive Producer/Jambar Managing Editor*

Jambar News Editor**

Jambar Student Life Editor**

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* Must be available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons

** Must be available Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons

Apply online at thejambar.com

For questions, contact Mary Dota at **MFDOTA@YSU.EDU** or call **330-941-3094**

SWINDLING SPHENISCIDAE



Hailey Thierry (left), Abby Liber (middle left), Malia Magestro (middle right) and Emily Saunders (right) facing off against Cleveland State on Feb. 27.

Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Skol! Penguins steal win from Norse

By Dylan Lux
The Jambar

At the 7:13 mark of the second quarter, Northern Kentucky University held a 25-7 lead over the Youngstown State University women's basketball team in their Feb. 24 matchup. At the final buzzer, YSU had defeated the Norse, 68-64.

Heading into the game, the Penguins were 8-9 in Horizon League play, while the Norse sat at 7-10.

The Penguins played without senior guard Malia Magestro in the matchup because of an illness. Magestro averages 10 points per game for the 'Guins.

The first quarter saw a slow start for both teams, as only seven total field goals were made in the period. NKU led, 13-7.

The Penguins shot 21% from the field in the first while holding the Norse to 22% shooting.

To start the second quarter, the Norse sailed out to a 15-0 run en route to a 25-7 lead with less than three minutes into the period.

A layup by fifth-year senior Emily Saunders broke the Penguins' scoreless streak at 7:39. YSU was 0-8 in shooting during the drought.

The Penguins went on a 17-7 run after the Norse's 25-7 lead. YSU went into the locker room down, 32-24.

With 1:38 left in the third quarter, Youngstown State cut the lead to 47-43 after a 3-pointer by fifth-year senior Dena Jarrells.

After outscoring the Norse in the third quarter, 19-16, the score was 48-43 heading to the final 10 minutes of play.

The Norse held a six-point lead with 5:02 left in the game. Youngstown State had not led or tied the game to this point.

After a jump shot from fifth-year senior Shay-Lee Kirby, the Penguins tied the matchup for the first time, 58-58, with 3:57 remaining.

Kirby and Northern Kentucky junior Macey Blevins traded threes, making the score 61 apiece

After a Blevins layup, Jarrells sank a 3-pointer to give the Penguins their first lead in the game, 64-63, with 1:04 remaining.

A free throw from the Norse once again tied the score, 64-64, but a layup by junior Hailey Thierry put the 'Guins up by two with 31 seconds remaining.

The Penguins forced a turnover on NKU's following possession, leading them to their fifth straight road win, 68-64.

As the Horizon League Basketball Championships approach, wins close to the tournament can be crucial, as the top five seeds in the tournament receive a bye into

the second round — the top four seeds play at home.

Interim head coach John Nicolais said the pressure down the stretch has helped the Penguins handle adversity.

"Coming down the stretch here, they all feel a sense of finality," Nicolais said. "They want to finish things on a positive note, given the circumstances [and] obstacles they've been through. It's hardened us a little bit, so we don't get as phased on the road."

YSU's final home game of the season came Feb. 27 at home against Cleveland State University.

The Vikings were victorious in the matchup, 56-53. Kirby led the Penguins in points with 14, and Magestro had 10 points and led the game with 6 assists.

YSU held Cleveland State to 29% shooting, and its 56 points tied the team's lowest point total in a game this season.

Youngstown State fell to 9-10 in Horizon League play, placing them sixth in the standings.

To round out the regular season, Youngstown State will head to Fort Wayne, Indiana on March 2 for a matchup against Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Tipoff is scheduled for 3 p.m. and can be viewed live on ESPN+ or listened to live on 570 WKBN.

Men's basketball conquers Wisconsin

By **Marissa Masano**
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team traveled to Cleveland State University, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay for the team's final regular season road games.

The Penguins fell to Cleveland State, 81-73, at the Wolstein Center on Feb. 17. Fifth-year senior Ziggy Reid led in scoring with 19 points, and fifth-year senior DJ Burns tallied his 10th straight double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Junior EJ Farmer and fifth-year senior Brett Thompson scored 12 points each, while fifth-year senior Brandon Rush added 10.

The Vikings had 27 points off 18 turnovers and regained the lead with nine minutes left in the second half.

The Penguins traveled to Wisconsin on Feb. 23 as they defeated the Panthers in overtime, 84-80. The win marks the first time in its Division I history the team has won 20 games in consecutive seasons.

Reid and Burns led the team with 16 points. Additionally, Burns posted his 19th double-double of the season. Freshman Gabe Dynes recorded his first career

double-double with 10 points and a season-high 11 rebounds.

YSU and Milwaukee went through six lead changes down the stretch, but a Milwaukee layup with 14 seconds remaining tied the score to 67-67, forcing overtime.

The Penguins led throughout overtime, with the largest lead at seven points. Burns sealed the win with two free throws.

Youngstown State stayed in Wisconsin to defeat the Green Bay Phoenix on Feb. 25 by a final score of 71-59.

For head coach Jerrod Calhoun, Youngstown's game plan was strategically better during the game against the Phoenix.

"I really wanted to speed that game up. We didn't score that many points, but I think we kind of took them out of rhythm, and that was why we put a lot of pressure on those guys," Calhoun said.

Reid and Thompson led the Penguins with 16 points, and Burns scored his 12th straight double-double with 12 points and 14 rebounds. Burns is currently third in double-doubles with 21.

In the first half, the Penguins grasped their first lead at the 10-minute mark and held it to take a seven-point advantage into halftime.

The Phoenix opened up scoring in the

second half, but the Penguins responded over the next 10 minutes to extend their lead to 12.

In the final four minutes, Thompson went on his own scoring run, tallying eight straight points and pushing the Penguins' lead to 14.

A basket by fifth-year senior Bryson Langdon gave the Penguins their largest lead of 17 to close out the Phoenix and collect their 13th conference win.

After the games, Dynes was named the Horizon League Men's Basketball Freshman Of The Week. The center got his first career start against the Panthers and was named to the starting lineup once again against the Phoenix.

Youngstown State will return home Feb. 28 to close out its regular season against the University of Detroit Mercy.

Rush said the game is important for the team, as YSU wants to avoid falling to a team that is 1-17 in conference play.

"Honestly, people might not think so, but this is one of the most important games of the year just because of the fact you're playing a team that has nothing to lose. That's the

most dangerous team to play," Rush said.

The Penguins will start preparing for the Horizon League Basketball Championships. The first round is slated for a 7 p.m. tipoff on March 5. The game can be watched on ESPN+.

A win against Detroit Mercy would solidify Youngstown State as the number two seed and grant the team an immediate bid into the quarterfinals. The quarterfinals are scheduled for March 7 and are hosted by the highest seed.



Photo by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

DJ Burns celebrates after a home win over Milwaukee.

Women's tennis struggles early in season

By **Cameron Niemi**
The Jambar

Throughout the first eleven games of the spring 2024 season, the Youngstown State University women's tennis team has two wins and nine losses.

The Penguins hosted Western Michigan University on Feb. 23. The Broncos defeated YSU, 5-2.

Youngstown State took an early 1-0 lead as it won two of the three doubles matches. Seniors Eliska Masarikova and Maria Oliveira picked up a 6-4 victory in the No. 2 doubles matchup.

Junior Julia Marko and freshman Lorena Cedeno had a 6-3 win in the No. 3 doubles match. With the win, the duo moved to 3-0 in their doubles matches for the spring season.

WMU went on to win five of the six singles matches against the Penguins. Cedeno had the only singles win for the Penguins, as she won in three sets, 3-6, 6-1 and

6-2. Three other singles matches went into a third set, where the Broncos came out on top.

YSU traveled to the University of Toledo on Feb. 25. The Penguins lost their third straight match, 6-1.

The Rockets took the No. 1 and No. 3 doubles matches 6-1, 6-4, and the No. 2 match went unfinished as Toledo took the doubles point winning two of the three matches.

Toledo won five of its singles matches over the Penguins. YSU had three matches go into a third set, winning just one.

Marko had the only win for the team in No. 2 singles, scoring 7-5, 4-6, 1-0.

YSU currently is 0-6 on the road this season, but holds a 2-3 record at home. Its two wins are against Niagara University and the University at Buffalo.

Despite a tough non-conference schedule, Youngstown State still has three matches remaining before Horizon League Play begins at the end of March.

The team will take on six conference teams leading into the Horizon League Women's Tennis Championship on April 26 in West Lafayette, Indiana. Only six of the seven teams will advance into the championship bracket.

The defending 2022 and 2023 Horizon League Champions have hopes of becoming back-to-back Horizon League champions.

The Penguins will have a short break before hitting the road for two straight games. The team will travel to take on California State University, Northridge at 5 p.m. on March 7.

YSU will end its west coast trip against California State University, Fullerton at 4:30 p.m. on March 8.

The team will finish its last non-conference match against Duquesne University at 4 p.m. on March 15 inside the YSU Indoor Tennis Center.

Winners, losers and out-right record breakers

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University track and field teams hosted the Horizon League Indoor Championships on Feb. 24 and Feb. 25 inside the Watson and Tressel Training Site.

To round out the championship, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's women's team snapped the Penguins seven-title win streak, while the men's team earned its ninth straight indoor title — a streak that started in 2016.

Youngstown State's men earned 275 points to set the all-time Horizon League points record, which was last set by the University of Notre Dame in 1985.

For the Penguins, the men's squad garnered 91 points on Day One, leading by 65.5 points over Oakland University and 67.5 points over Milwaukee.

The team earned four event victories to conclude the championship opener. Senior Hunter Christopher won his second consecutive 5,000-meter title, while fifth-year senior Dominic Perry earned his first weight throw title since 2021.

The majority of the women's team points came on Day One. In the women's pentathlon, senior Emily Bee won the event with three individual title wins in the 60-meter hurdles, high jump and 800-meter events to combine for a career best 3,712 points.

With five events in the pentathlon, Bee said confidence allowed her to win the event while battling an injury.

"To come back, feel strong and confident and to get the top spot, I was proud of myself. I haven't had that much confidence and I feel that I finally got it back," Bee said.

To round out the first day of competition, Purdue University Fort Wayne's sophomore Harrison Niswander bested Youngstown State's sophomore Owen Brady on the final leg of the distance medley relay by .14 of a second to set a new program record time of 10:04.1.

The Mastodons have had a career year, as Niswander became the first Purdue Fort Wayne athlete to be named the Alfreda Goff

Indoor Track and Field Men's Athlete of the Year.

In response to the award, Niswander said that he is grateful to be recognized for his achievements this season and credits his performance on the track.

"I was not expecting this at all. I started running fast and I even started to surprise myself out there," Niswander said.

Milwaukee's women's team earned several event wins to claim its first women's indoor title since 2015 with 171 points. The championship squad was led by junior Natalie Block, a three-time Alfreda Goff Indoor Track and Field Women's Athlete of the Year.

Block had a career day inside the WATTS, as she broke the facility record in the women's 60-meter hurdles and won the women's 400-meter event.

The men's team for the Penguins showed out on Day Two, as senior Ryan Meadows had a record breaking time of 8:16.17 in the men's 3,000-meter to set a new facility and Horizon League record.

Fifth-year senior Jakari Lomax secured his fifth-consecutive triple jump title and joined Penguin graduate Sean Peterson as the only Horizon League athletes to complete this feat.

In the 60-meter hurdles, junior Luke Laubacher won for the second consecutive year with a time of 7.74 seconds.

Of the 17 events in the championship meet, the men's team won 11 and placed second in eight.

Although the women's team placed second in the championships, Youngstown State only had one event winner on Day Two, as senior Nia Williams-Matthews won the triple jump.

After the meet, Youngstown State won four 2024 Indoor Horizon League Track & Field Championships Speciality Awards. Brian Gorbey, head coach of the track and field and cross country teams, was named Coach of the Year for the 11th time in his career.

With the completion of the indoor season, individual qualifiers will be back in action March 8 and 9 at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Boston.

