

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

VOL. 94, ISSUE 43

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Super Tuesday vote

How the Republican presidential candidates fared in Tuesday's 10-state array of primaries and caucuses:

Results as of 8:30 a.m. ET Wednesday

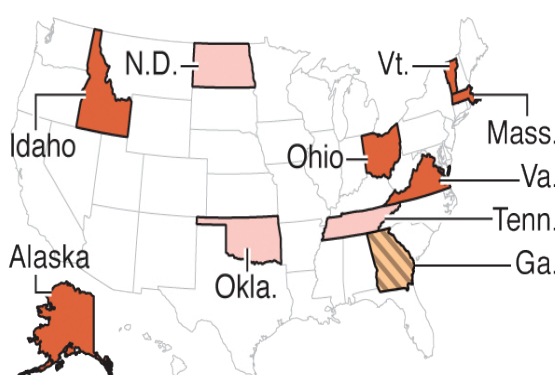
✓ Projected winner

	Newt Gingrich	Ron Paul	Mitt Romney	Rick Santorum
Alaska	14%	24%	✓ 33%	29%
Ga.	✓ 47	6	26	20
Idaho	2	18	✓ 62	18
Mass.	5	10	✓ 72	12
N.D.	8	28	24	✓ 40
Ohio	15	9	✓ 38	37
Okla.	27	10	28	✓ 34
Tenn.	24	9	28	✓ 37
Va.	—	40	✓ 60	—
Vt.	8	25	✓ 40	24

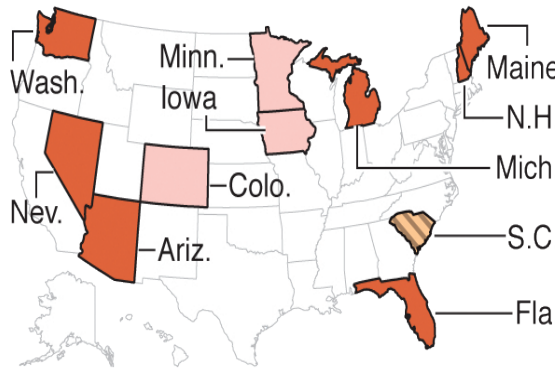
Source: AP Graphic: Robert Dorrell NOTE: Wyoming holds its GOP county conventions from March 6 through March 10 © 2012 MCT

States won Tuesday

Legend: Gingrich (orange), Romney (red), Santorum (pink)



States won before Tuesday



NOTE: Alaska and Hawaii are not to scale

Table and maps show results of GOP presidential balloting in 10 Super Tuesday states as of 8:30 a.m. ET., Wednesday. Photo courtesy of MCT.

Super Tuesday went down to the wire in Ohio

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

The results of Ohio's primary were finalized Wednesday after hours of uncertainty during Super Tuesday.

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney edged past Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum by 10,508 votes. Romney gained 38 percent of the votes; Santorum claimed 37

percent.

Newt Gingrich, whose only victory on Tuesday was in his home state of Georgia, earned nearly 15 percent of the Ohio vote, and Texas Rep. Ron Paul earned a little more than 9 percent.

"I was not really surprised at the results," said Paul Sracic, chairman of the political science department at Youngstown State University. "I expected Romney to win

narrowly."

In Mahoning County, Romney snuck past Santorum by 374 votes, taking the county 5,545 to 5,171.

The night was undoubtedly long for Romney and Santorum, who watched their respective performances rise and fall well into the evening. Major media outlets were hesitant to call Ohio, with a consensus reached at roughly 12:30 a.m. Wednesday.

President Barack Obama's campaign was quick to pounce.

"Mitt squeaks by in Ohio behind a blizzard of negative ads, once again persuading a bare plurality that he is not as bad as the other guy," David Axelrod, communications director for the president's reelection campaign, tweeted Wednesday morning.

TUESDAY PAGE 4

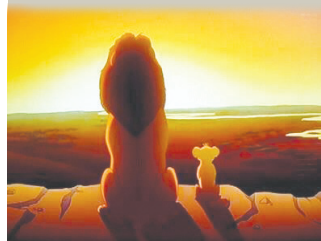
NEWS 2
FEATURES 6
SPORTS 8
ONLINE

Student group gives back



NEWS 2

Community weighs in on meme



FEATURES 6

Rugby club shows signs of improvement

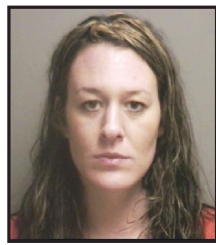


SPORTS 8
MORE STORIES ONLINE

WWW.THEJAMBAR.COM

Former YSU softball coach jailed for probation violation

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR



RANGO

Gina Rango, former Youngstown State University assistant softball coach, was taken into custody by the Adult Parole Authority and charged with violating probation on Monday.

In February, Rango, 28, of Woodworth Road in North Lima, pleaded guilty to four counts of felony drug trafficking charges.

As part of her sentencing agreement, Rango was ordered to counsel children about the dangers of drugs and to complete 100 hours of community service.

On Wednesday, Judge Jim Evans of the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas granted a continuance.

No additional hearings are scheduled yet.

YSU struggles to graduate black students

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Deandre Radcliffe, a junior at Youngstown State University, admits that his family isn't like the majority of African-American households.

The son of two working professionals, his father holds a Master of Business Administration degree, and his mother is a certified public accountant. Radcliffe, too, aims high. His parents weren't pushy when it came to college, but they were supportive.

"It helps," said Radcliffe, president of the Black Student Union.

Although he comes from Cleveland, Radcliffe said he's fully aware of the imbalance between Caucasians and minorities at YSU.

YSU's minority student population doesn't reflect Youngstown's, which has a near equal split between Caucasians and African-Americans.

Only 15 percent of the total student population enrolled this spring is African-American, down from 16 percent last spring. However, YSU has seen a 34 percent increase in minority enrollees over the past five years.

Since 2001, the number of minority students on campus has doubled.

Yet, many black students aren't earning degrees.

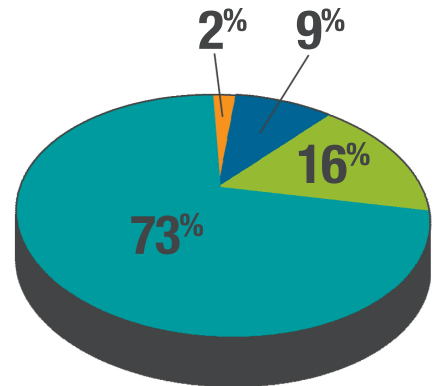
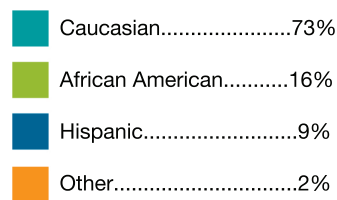
Out of 293 public and 163 private non-profit colleges, YSU ranked 20th from the bottom in graduating black students as a percentage of all graduates, according to a 2010 report by the Education Trust.

According to the report, YSU had the second highest percentage of black students, but the university graduated only 15.4 percent of blacks, while graduating 38.6 percent of white students between 2006 and 2008.

"One of the things that has to be done is give more attention to students of color," said William Blake, student diversity coordinator. He said more support should be available for social needs.

A study conducted by the Office of In-

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN over the past three spring semesters



GRAPHIC BY KEVIN BUCK/THE JAMBAR

stitutional Research at YSU revealed the five-year graduation rate for black first-time, full-time freshmen enrolling in fall 2005 to be 3.6 percent. Of those black students, 12.5 percent graduated in six years.

Yulanda McCarty-Harris, director of YSU's office of equal opportunity and diversity, said gaps in achievement aren't out of the ordinary in urban institutions.

"It's an ongoing issue," she said.

The Ohio Board of Regents has already put forth initiatives to speed up all students' tenure, coordinating curriculums and removing remedial courses, which pushes the responsibility back on high schools.

Because 76 percent of current YSU students are from Mahoning and Trumbull counties, the local school system plays an integral part in collegiate success.

However, Youngstown City Schools ranked 807th in performance out of Ohio's 936 school districts, according to the Ohio Department of Education.

Both city high schools are on academic watch or are in academic emergency. All other city schools indicated a need for improvement, at best.

Where YSU struggles is in the retention and graduation of minority students.

"People that are underprepared typically don't go into their sophomore or

junior years," said Sue Davis, director of undergraduate admissions. "[Our] biggest problem is there are students coming here unprepared."

Only the Youngstown Early College stood out as a secondary institution that succeeded in meeting academic standards.

Michele Dotson, YEC dean, attributes this to an increased drive among her students and a sense of awareness of the requirements needed to attain a degree.

"Students come in and want ACT prep," Dotson said.

Radcliffe said he believes that greater interaction between YSU and the city school system would foster better-prepared high school graduates.

"We're not doing enough for local schools," he said.

Radcliffe and the nearly 30 other members of the Black Student Union have plans to bring students from the city high schools to campus to familiarize them with the university system.

Radcliffe said the student union wants to start a scholarship that would give five or six students money to pay for application fees.

Jack Fahey, vice president for student affairs, said he is proud of the YEC and

MINORITIES PAGE 4



Members of FANS, a food and nutrition group at YSU, man an informational table at the Relay for Life Youngstown 2011. (Left to right) Dorian Monroe, Elizabeth Widomski, Miranda Monroe, Anna Converse and Hanna Koscinski. Photo courtesy of Anna Brezinski.

Food and nutrition student group gives back

Alina Rios
REPORTER

While most groups meet in structured classrooms, Youngstown State University's food and nutrition student group meets in a more relaxed environment — the Inner Circle Pizza on campus.

Food and Nutrition Students, more commonly known as FANS, is a student group made up of human ecology majors and others with similar dietetic focuses.

Group members meet once a month to discuss changes and advances in the American Dietetic Association, help one other with classes pertaining to

their major and give back to their community.

"It really helps you to get to know the people in your field and to discuss things going on in the department," YSU alumna Brooke Campana said. "I graduated with an associate [degree] in applied sciences to be a dietetic technician, so it was useful to be a part of FANS."

FANS has approximately 25 active members. They donate time and money to different causes, including Relay for Life and Second Harvest Food Bank. The students also visit local schools to speak about nutrition and promote good health.

This year, they are planning a candy fundraiser to help finance a trip to the

Ohio Dietetic Association conference, held in Cincinnati in May. The individual members take it upon themselves to sell as many boxes of candy they can to support their trip.

"We are supporting a local small business, and we know candy sells. Hopefully, no one eats the whole box," said FANS President Anna Converse. "We are also selling nuts and cashews for a more healthy option."

The Ohio Dietetic Association conference is a two-day event where various companies, such as the American Dairy Association and the Ohio Beef Council, give presentations. Dietitians from Ohio discuss information on current dietetic topics, such as new

products on the market in their field. Doctors also educate conference-goers about new medical issues in dietetics.

"It's a really informative conference, but then they also have fun events. It's a good way for people to network on a local and state level within the nutrition community," Converse said.

In addition to educating students about the nutrition field and giving back to the community, FANS also helps students in their major narrow which career they would like to pursue.

"We want to help the students become more involved in their major and their field and to stimulate their interests," Converse said.

Students gather recipes for charity

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Student Social Work Association at Youngstown State University is compiling a cookbook with personal recipes from students, faculty and friends to sell on Social Work Day.

"The idea is to raise more money for charity organizations," said Shirley Keller, associate professor and the group's mentor.

Senior Krista Brawley, president of the SSWA, has been busy working on the cookbook since last year.

"The idea was to get students and faculty involved with the fundraising," Brawley said.

This is the first year the SSWA has decided to pursue a cookbook, which will be sold for \$10 on Social Work Day in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room on March 23. Around 100 books will be printed.

Brawley and Brittany Yeager, the SSWA's secretary, have been working closely.

"We had recipes coming in for months," Yeager said. "We had a December cutoff, but recipes were coming in well into January."

The paperback cookbook consists of nearly 150 recipes, including entrees, side dishes, desserts and drinks.

Brawley said they received recipes from family, friends, students, faculty and alumni.

"I wanted it to be social-work themed," Brawley said. "There are a lot of cultural recipes and family recipes."

Brawley said they accepted any recipe, but encouraged anything out of the box. They received recipes from Liberian, German and Hungarian cultures, which are included in the book.

"I am really proud of this project," Brawley said. "I was happy we were able to keep the price down. ... Hopefully, more students will be able to afford it this way."

Brawley formatted the

book, and Yeager typed the recipes, some of which were handwritten.

Yeager said deciphering the handwritten recipes, particularly the abbreviations, was a challenge.

Brawley and Yeager were surprised at the outcome.

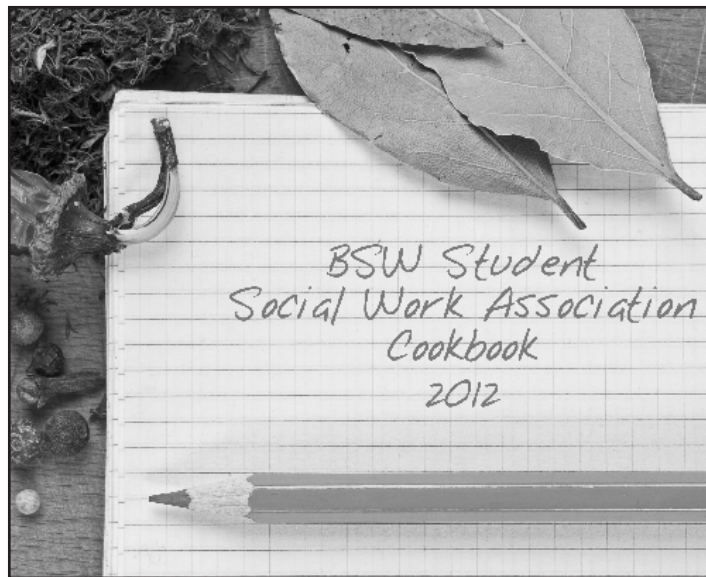
"We got a lot of recipes from other departments," Yeager said.

Yeager said Brawley was determined to get people involved.

"I made everyone in my family donate at least one recipe," Brawley said. "We also reached out through public announcements, and I brought it up in my classes."

Brawley said some social work instructors offered extra credit to students who donated a recipe.

"I enjoyed working with Krista on this," Yeager said. "This also made my experience here better by connecting with students and faculty."



The Student Social Work Association presents its first cookbook. The cookbook, featuring 150 recipes, will be available for \$10 on Social Work Day, March 23. Photo courtesy of Krista Brawley.

During the SSWA's next meeting, members will decide which organization will receive the funds, Brawley said.

Brawley and Yeager both said they are hoping to see a nice turnout on Social Work Day, where T-shirts will be available.

Victoria Marion, president of the National Association of

Social Workers, is speaking at the event.

Keller said the group has had a lot of success raising money for various community charities this past year.

"I've been doing this for 15 years, and it's a joy mentoring the future leaders of social work," Keller said.

Popcorn, peanuts and a protest

Local organizations rally against circus

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus is coming to the Covelli Centre on March 30, and members of the Youngstown State University Environmental and Animal Rights Coalition aren't the least bit amused.

Through the use of compelling images, members of the YSEARC and a Mahoning County vegetarian group will protest animal abuse outside of the Covelli Centre.

"These animals have chains on their legs, and how would you feel if you were chained, caged and taken from your family?" YSEARC President Julie Plesich said. "A lot of these elephants are taken out of their natural environment."

Plesich said the YSEARC believes animals should not be eaten, worn or used for experimentation, exploitation or, in the case of the circus, entertainment.

Ringling Bros. has an animal care policy that states the animal routines showcase their physical abilities, beauty and distinctive behavior.

"Verbal or physical abuse and the withholding of food or water are strictly prohibited," their website reads.

But Plesich said Ringling Bros. has been fined multiple times by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Ringling paid \$20,000 to settle USDA charges of failing to provide veterinary care to a dying baby elephant," People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals reported.

"I have pages and pages of infractions that have been brought against Ringling Bros. and other companies that date back to 1993," Plesich said.

Attempts to reach Ringling Bros. on Tuesday by phone and email were unsuccessful.

Plesich said the problem lies with the people who continue to attend the circus.

She said Ringling Bros. has hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines from the USDA, but when people attend the circus, it allows them to pay their fines and continue selling tickets.

"It's very disturbing," Plesich said. YSU freshman Stefani Stubbs worked at the Covelli Centre last year when the circus was in town, and said

she enjoyed the show.

"The circus doesn't bother me," she said. "The animals don't seem like they're being hurt."

Kelsey Rupert, Covelli Centre director of marketing and sales, said that, although the circus brings in record numbers for Youngstown, the Covelli Centre anticipates the protests and will have 24-hour security because of the animal compound.

"They are entitled to a peaceful protest, and most years it's been peaceful," Rupert said. "It's never gotten out of hand."

Lisa Pirock, a member of a Mahoning County vegetarian group, will join the protest.

"We just want to educate people to stop going to the circus," Pirock said. "Elephants are supposed to walk 30 miles a day in a normal habitat."

Plesich, who met Pirock at last year's circus protest, said they plan to use images and signs without scaring children who attend. She said they hand out coloring books and stickers to kids and give out adult-friendly information to others.

According to the Ringling Bros. website, they welcome regulation be-

cause it protects the well-being of animals, but don't believe that banning animal performances is the answer.

"We believe that these bans are unnecessary and take away a treasured part of the circus experience that patrons tell us they support and love. By banning performing animals, the town is effectively saying that our experts are not fit to handle the animals they have devoted their lives to caring for. We can't say it enough: Ringling Bros. loves animals as much as you do," the website reads.

Plesich said alternatives to using animals in performance, like Cirque du Soleil, exist.

"They do fabulous tricks, and it's entertaining without the use of animals," she said. "They could do everything that they normally do, but just leave the animals alone."

She said the opposition and animosity the protesters face sometimes bothers YSEARC members, but they remain adamant about the situation.

"To be honest, it's something I feel strongly about, and all I'm trying to do is share information," Plesich said. "People want to turn a blind eye, and it's often very discouraging."

Florida universities face \$300 million budget cut

Orlando Sentinel
MCT

Florida's public universities would lose \$300 million under a budget proposal agreed upon by House and Senate negotiators — a plan that likely will spur further tuition increases.

The University of Central Florida, the state's largest university, would lose \$52.6 million — the second-largest cut after Florida State University's.

The budget compromise also approves funding for a Polk County branch of the University of South Florida to become a stand-alone university.

Officials at UCF and some other universities already had planned to hike their tuition. But budget cuts next school year likely mean that most schools will pursue the 15 percent maximum increase to help make up the loss.

FSU would lose \$65.8 million, an amount determined by a formula that legislators devised this year based partly on the size of each school's budget reserve.

The theory was that schools could use their reserves to help absorb financial losses in a year when the Legislature needed to carve out more than \$1 billion to balance a \$70 billion state budget. UCF expects to have \$125 million in its reserve fund by July 1, UCF spokesman Grant Heston said.

Some university officials argued that the method penalizes institutions that have been more frugal in previous years. Still, universities prefer that option because it avoids permanent cuts to their base funding.

Heston said raising tuition will help but will not cover the loss entirely, partly because a chunk of the money must go toward financial aid for needy students.

Heston also stressed that the proposed cut comes on top of about \$100 million that UCF has lost in state funding during the past several years.

UCF would not say how it might deal with cuts next school year, although Heston said that a cut "of this magnitude will, of course, impact our mission."

"There are many factors

involved, and we are committed to a thoughtful and thorough review," he said. "Once that is complete, we will have recommendations about how to move forward."

Meanwhile, the presidents of USF and Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton expressed relief that the cuts were not greater. FAU President Mary Jane Saunders warned last month that an earlier budget proposal could have led to layoffs and the closing of academic programs and campuses at FAU.

Under the legislative proposal, FAU would lose \$24.8 million — about half of what Saunders had feared losing.

USF President Judy Genshaft said the latest proposed cuts are more fairly distributed. She had argued that her school was disproportionately hurt under an earlier spending plan.

The newest plan is expected to go before the full House and Senate for a vote by Friday. Gov. Rick Scott also needs to sign off on it.

"We pushed for equitable funding, and while there will

be significant cuts to all of Florida's universities, those cuts will be made equitably," Genshaft said in a letter she sent to faculty and staff Monday night, after legislators reached the last-minute budget deal.

Included in the budget is money that would help a USF branch campus break away and become an independent university — a contentious issue that had pitted Genshaft against the Senate's budget chairman, JD Alexander, a Republican from Polk County.

Under the proposal, USF Polytechnic, located in Polk, would become Florida Polytechnic University. Polk community leaders had pushed for the change, for which officials with the State University System had already voiced support, provided the campus meet certain goals in coming years.

Scott is not yet saying whether he would support the new university.

"Governor Scott has said he will keep an open mind about creating a 12th university but he will have to look at the details before making any decision," said Lane

Wright, a Scott spokesman.

Although Scott has spoken out against tuition increases, Wright said he also has not yet taken a position on bills that would give FSU and the University of Florida in Gainesville the authority to raise their tuition higher than those of the other public universities.

The House version of the bill was approved last week and the Senate is expected to take up the issue this week.

Though an FSU faculty leader said employees hope the measure is approved so the school has more money to deal with funding cuts, state Rep. Bill Proctor, one of the bills' sponsors, said the new tuition would be earmarked specifically for program improvements.

"It's not a bill that is trying to replace reduced funding," said Proctor, a Republican who is chancellor at the private Flagler College in St. Augustine. "What it's trying to do is ... give the universities an opportunity to propose certain types of programs and then propose whatever tuition might be necessary to carry out those programs."



JAMBAR STAFF

- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:**
Josh Stipanovich330-941-1991
- MANAGING EDITOR:**
Doug Livingston.....330-941-1807
- NEWS EDITOR:**
Jordan D. Uhl.....330-941-1989
- SENIOR COPY EDITOR:**
Emmalee C. Torisk330-941-3758
- ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR:**
Chelsea Telega.....330-941-1913
- FEATURES EDITOR:**
Kacy Standohar330-941-1913
- SPORTS EDITOR:**
Joe Catullo Jr.....330-941-1913
- ONLINE EDITOR:**
Chris Cotelesse.....330-941-1913
- DESIGN EDITORS:**
Sam Marhulik.....330-941-1807
Kevin Buck330-941-1807
Bonnie Siembieda.....330-941-1807
- ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR:**
Marissa McIntyre330-941-1989
- ASSISTANT COPY EDITORS:**
Lacey Arnold.....330-941-1913
Mitchell Thornton330-941-1913
Cassy Twoey.....330-941-1913
- ASSISTANT ONLINE EDITORS:**
Chelsea Carbonell.....330-941-1913
Gary Brode330-941-1913
- NEWS REPORTERS:**
Kevin Alquist.....330-941-1913
Sarah Perrine330-941-1913
- ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER:**
Chad Travers330-941-1913
- SPORTS REPORTER:**
Nick Mancini.....330-941-1913
- COLUMNIST:**
Jared Buker330-941-1913
- GRAPHIC DESIGNERS:**
Keeley Black.....330-941-1807
Paris Chrisopoulos.....330-941-1807
- SALES MANAGER:**
Jeff Mamounis330-941-1990
- RECEPTIONIST:**
Alyssa Italiano.....330-941-3095
- BUSINESS MANAGER:**
Mary Dota.....330-941-3094
- ADVISER:**
Mary Beth Earnheardt.330-941-3095

CONTACT THE JAMBAR
E-MAIL..... editor@thejambar.com
FAX330-941-2322

advertise with the jambar
call us at: (330) 941-1990

iFIX-IT SCREENS

"call us when you need a FIX!"

- Broken Screens
- Water Damage
- LCD Repair
- Home Button
- Power Button
- Battery Replacement

iphone,ipad, ipod, laptop, led, led tv, touch screen repair

JOE KHOURY
ifixscreens@yahoo.com
330-506-2294

visit us online

www.thejambar.com

FOR BREAKING NEWS!
AND UPDATES
visit us online
www.thejambar.com

Excellence in Journalism since 1931

WIN A FREE IPAD!

Sign a lease between March 1st -31st, 2012 & your name will be entered into a drawing to win an Apple® iPad! Call or visit today!

*To verify residency, prize will be awarded after 8/20/12.

- Fully furnished
- 1-, 2- & 4-bedroom floor plans
- Study desk in bedrooms
- Ceiling fans in bedrooms & living rooms
- Private or shared bathrooms
- Refrigerator w/ice maker, microwave & dishwasher
- Convenient laundry facilities
- 24-hr computer lab
- Private & group study areas
- Hi-speed internet & printer
- 24-hr fitness center
- All-inclusive rent
- Resident matching system
- Planned resident activities
- Card-swipe lock on entries
- Free campus shuttle
- 24-hour emergency maintenance
- Rent deferralment with financial aid
- Individual leases
- Basketball & sand volleyball
- Outdoor picnic area w/grills
- Gated parking

University Courtyard

888.239.9375
www.ucyoungstown.com 91 Wick Oval | Youngstown, OH 44502

NEWS BRIEFS

Medical museum offers contraception exhibit

A new exhibit devoted to contraception items, prototypes and manufacturing devices is on display through the end of the month at the Rose Melnick Medical Museum, located on the YSU campus. The exhibit, which is part of the university's celebration of Women's History Month, illustrates the social and cultural climate that affected birth control decisions in the U.S. It features objects that are part of the Percy Skuy Contraceptive Collection from Case Western Reserve University's Dittrick Medical History Center. Additionally, James Edmonson, chief curator at the Dittrick, will give a free lecture, "Virtue, Vice, and Contraband: A History of Contraception in America," at 10 a.m. on March 26 at the Melnick Museum. The museum is open to the public by appointment Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. To schedule an appointment, call Cassandra Nesper at 330-941-4661.

Maag hosts 'Women of the World'

At 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, "Women of the World: A Photographic Journey of New Americans in the Mahoning Valley" will open on the fifth floor of Maag Library. In April, the exhibit will travel to the Trumbull Art Gallery. The event is part of YSU's celebration of Women's History Month, and it will also feature a panel discussion, "Immigrant Women, International Perspectives," in honor of International Women's Day. G. Mehera Gerardo, director of YSU's women's studies program, will moderate the discussion, and light refreshments will be served.

POLICE BRIEFS

Cafaro House guest found with alcohol poisoning

In the early hours of Sunday, YSU Police reported to Cafaro House, after receiving a 911 call regarding a 22-year-old man with alcohol poisoning. At the time of the officers' arrival, the man was vomiting into the toilet in a first floor restroom stall. The reportee said he and the man, his Cafaro House guest, had attended a party on Crandall Avenue, and added that the man had been drinking jungle juice. The reportee said he didn't have anything to drink. An ambulance brought the man to St. Elizabeth Health Center.

Underage students found with alcohol

Early Sunday, YSU Police noticed three men walking from Inner Circle Pizza on Lincoln Avenue. One of the men was carrying a silver can — which, according to the police report, looked like Coors Light. Once he noticed the police cruiser, which was running and had the headlights on, he said, "Oh, shit! The cops!" and quickly turned around. The other two men followed, despite an officer's requesting of them to stop. YSU Police followed the men and again told them to stop. The man holding the can passed it off to someone else, who disappeared with it in the crowd of people leaving Inner Circle Pizza. YSU Police stopped another man who was holding a mostly full pint glass of what appeared to be beer. The man — whose eyes were red and glossy — said he was 18, and that he was just holding the glass for someone. He was wobbly and unsteady on his feet, and smelled of alcohol. YSU Police arrested the man, citing him for an open container and underage possession of alcohol. While at the police station, several calls were made to the man's phone. Police found out that the two men that had been with him earlier were making the calls, and officers radioed for another officer to locate them.

CLASSIFIEDS

HOUSING

CONDO FULLY furnished. \$60k.2br, dining room, eat in kitchen. Private garage with large storage. Eisenhower Dr area, Boardman. Perfect for working/professionals, teachers profs. Easy Turnpike & 680 access. 1st floor in sixplex. 330-727-9887.

LICENSED AND INSPECTED BIG HOUSES, SMALL PRICES

Nice 4-bedroom homes or your group. Includes all utilities, appliances, ADT, cable & internet. From \$415.00 per person. Call Chris 330-743-7368

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SEND US AN E-MAIL

THEJAMBAR@GMAIL.COM

VISIT US ONLINE

the jambar

WWW.THEJAMBAR.COM

Send letters to: thejambar@gmail.com

got an opinion?

TUESDAY PAGE 1

Along with Ohio's 66 delegates, Romney tallied Super Tuesday wins in Vermont, Virginia, Alaska, Idaho and his home state of Massachusetts.

Santorum won Tennessee, Oklahoma and North Dakota.

Paul is still chasing his elusive first win.

"Romney will remain the front-runner, although Santorum is showing that he can take this to the convention," Sracic said.

Needing 1,144 delegates to seize the nomination, Romney stands at 415.

Santorum's recent surge has bumped his total to 176. Gingrich has earned 105, and Paul ranks last with 47. Possibilities for one of the bottom three to gain the



Poll worker Glenda Watson, left, helps voter Ron Dean submit his ballot on Tuesday at St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown. Photo by Jordan D. Uhl/The Jambar.

nomination are a long shot, but all three refuse to forfeit.

"Gingrich won't drop out, but Santorum's win in Tennessee begins to neutralize Gingrich's argument that he

is the only candidate who can win in the South," Sracic said, adding that he expects Romney to gain the nomination, but said it will be a "damaging struggle."

MINORITIES PAGE 1

Upward Bound, a program that helps high school students assimilate to YSU's campus.

"These are great partnerships," Fahey said. "But we can always do more to get people onto campus."

Fahey said he believes further involvement with the Eastern Gateway Community College would produce more-prepared and able college students, but the EGCC's growth was a large contributor to the enrollment decline in fall 2011.

Should ill-prepared students be required to attend the EGCC for remediation, Fahey said YSU would no-

tice a decline in enrollment in freshman and sophomore classes.

"I'd be surprised if we don't [raise tuition]," Fahey said about compensating for lost revenues.

Fahey said it's hard to estimate the total effect because even the students coming out of the EGCC could attend regional schools that compete with YSU.

"Every university will increase their tuition to the cap that they're allowed," he said.

"We're always going to compete with Kent [State University] and [the University of] Akron," he added.

Blake said he feels Youngstown State University is doing a fantastic job at making enrolled minority students feel welcome.

"Indeed there is always room for improvement, and we need to focus on [centralizing] advisement," Blake said.

"Diversity is what truly enhances the learning environment," McCarty-Harris said.

"Now, this is not to say that we're satisfied with where we are. Adding more students from across the world will help us grow as a university and produce better students."

twitter

BREAKING NEWS
BLOGS
VIDEO

twitter.com/TheJambar

FOLLOW THE JAMBAR

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

Applications for 2012-2013 Jambar staff

Deadlines:
March 23 for Editor-in-Chief
March 30 for all other staff

Positions are now online at
www.thejambar.com

Let's stop sugarcoating the problem

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

MINORITIES
PAGE 1

YSU has been deemed an urban research university, but that's obviously not because of the amount of black students enrolled.

Of the 13,698 students enrolled this spring, 2,084 are black. That's 15 percent, down from nearly 17 percent in the fall when only 7 percent of graduate students were black.

However, according to a 2010 report by the Education Trust, YSU had the second highest amount of black students enrolled.

An obvious dilemma exists. Why aren't universities nationwide able to attract and graduate black students?

Yulanda McCarty-Harris, director of YSU's office of equal opportunity and diversity, said it's not unusual to see this gap in urban institutions.

"It's an ongoing issue," she said.

But what constitutes an urban institution?

It's certainly not a name or catchphrase.

Yes, the number of minority students at YSU has doubled since 2001, but this university is in the center of a city with roughly 30,000 black residents, or 45.2 percent of Youngstown's population.

What's worse is that the black students who do enroll aren't graduating. According to the Education Trust report, YSU ranks 20th from the bottom in the nation in graduating black students.

YSU is graduating only 15.4 percent of blacks, compared to 38.6 percent of white students from 2006 to 2008.

That's compared to 293 public and 163 private nonprofit colleges nationwide.

"One of the things that has to be done is give more attention to students of color," said William Blake, student diversity coordinator.

We couldn't agree more. The university should provide these students with more resources to ensure their success.

That's not to say that the students shouldn't help themselves. The student should always be proactive in measuring his or her academic success.

The university should consider the circumstances associated with being raised in an urban neighborhood.

The Ohio Board of Regents has acted swiftly in enacting initiatives to assist students' tenure by cutting remedial courses and managing curriculums.

That leads to another issue: What are local high schools doing to ensure student success and graduation?

"Diversity is what truly enhances the learning environment," McCarty-Harris said.

If officials at the university would just open their eyes, recognize the problem and be proactive, then we can quit the charade.

Because let's face it ... YSU isn't as diverse as it seems.



The views of this artist do not necessarily reflect the views of The Jambar.

We need to make affordable college a reality

MCT Forum
(MCT)

For Mexican-Americans and others trying to get ahead, education had been the stairway to the middle class. Education meant security and basics such as health insurance. This heaven meant better jobs and a small house for old age.

But now this stairway has fallen into disrepair. One rung after another has been destroyed.

The first rung was financial assistance. Many Latino students and poor blacks and whites could afford college only through grants and subsidies. But over the last two decades, colleges have diluted financial aid while shrinking fund-

ing.

The second rung was inexpensive tuition, which is now a thing of the past. At the California state universities, tuition will rise to more than \$10,000 a year, which will put education out of the reach of students from barrio schools. Putting this in perspective, I paid about \$10 a year when I attended a California state university in the late 1950s, and in 1969 fees amounted to about \$50 a semester.

Among 16 developed nations, the United States ranks 13th in affordability. Repairing this stairway should be our first priority. Education is a basic right, and we who are active with youth know the consequences of having a population that is not able to educate it-

self. Latinos and others need to come together to establish a non-profit university that would keep the costs under \$1,000 a year. We have the human resources to do this, with all the retired teachers and professors who would be more than willing to lend their talents to such an endeavor. We can utilize the Internet. And we can make use of public places, like parks and community centers, where we can hold classes.

It is simply unacceptable that so many Mexican-Americans and other young people can't afford to go to college. Since our public colleges won't address this problem, we'll have to do it ourselves.

Frida Ghitis: How would U.S. respond to another terrorist attack?

McClatchy Newspapers
(MCT)

How would America respond to another terrorist attack on its soil?

We never thought very much about that before 9/11, back when the subject of terrorism only came up in discussions about other countries.

The topic is still one we avoid, but it's not too soon to consider it, because U.S. government officials have been making increasingly louder noises about the possibility of an Iran-backed attack in America.

Obviously, the country should do all it can to "dissuade" anyone from attempting to attack America or its people and, in fact, we have seen several examples of foiled or failed terrorist plots. But what if a plan succeeds — what then?

Recent statements by top Homeland Security and National Intelligence officials bring back memories of that infamous national security briefing given to President George W. Bush back in August 2001. Remember the title? "Al Qaeda Determined to Strike in U.S."

The government didn't take it seriously enough, and Americans were not told of the danger. When the attacks happened, a pained and angered nation threw its support behind the president as he launched a war in Afghanistan and later in Iraq. If they had known the repercussions of 9/11, would the attacks have happened?

What would we do now if terrorists struck again?

After reviewing the many things that what went wrong in 2001, one of the decisions the government

made was to keep the public better informed of the risks. In the past, officials feared that publicizing threats would cause panic. It turns out those who worried about widespread anxiety if we heard about the danger really were wrong. The latest warnings have stirred barely a ripple. Maybe that's a sign of a nation maturing about the risks of our turbulent world. Or, perhaps its evidence that Americans trust those in charge to keep us safe. Or, maybe it's just denial, refusing to consider unpleasantness once again.

A few days ago, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said she's worried that Hezbollah — a group based in Lebanon but created, funded, and closely allied with Iran — will attempt a terrorist attack on American soil. Hezbollah and Iran are the prime suspects in a series of mostly-bungled attempts on the lives of Israeli officials in Thailand, India, Georgia, Azerbaijan and elsewhere in recent days.

Napolitano's statements to the House Homeland Security Committee echoed the testimony of James Clapper, director of National Intelligence. Speaking before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence a couple of weeks ago, Clapper said the Iranians "have changed their calculus and are now more willing to conduct an attack in the United States."

Napolitano said she has been in contact with Jewish organizations, assuming that they would be the principal targets of a terrorist attack. Hezbollah, which is classified as a terrorist organization by a number of Western governments, has a history that includes catastrophically successful attacks on foreign soil.

Argentinean investigators say Hezbollah agents, acting on orders from Iran, carried out the worst terrorist attacks in Argentina's history in the 1990s. Bombing of the Jewish community center and the Israeli embassy killed more than 100 and injured almost 600 people, many of them maimed for life. The Interpol issued arrest warrants for half a dozen Iranian officials and Hezbollah members in 2007, acting on the work of Argentinean investigators.

Anyone who thinks the current threats only concern Jews should consider that shrapnel does not discriminate. Hundreds of victims in the Buenos Aires bombings were not Jewish.

In any event, the targets may not be Jewish. Last October, the FBI said it uncovered an Iranian plot to kill the Saudi ambassador in Washington in a plan that openly expected large numbers of casualties.

Napolitano says she doesn't know of a specific plot against Jewish groups, but obviously the authorities are worried. Security has been noticeably increased.

One of the ways to discourage anyone, particularly Iran, from daring to order a hit against Americans is to openly consider not just the risk but also the repercussions. If the risk is real, as top officials obviously think, we should discuss whether or not the American people would opt to respond with full force.

And speaking openly about the threat, and about what price it would incur, could make Tehran and its allies think a little longer before they risk taking on America.

JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

OUR SIDE POLICY

The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor and the news 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 and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Email submissions are welcome at editor@thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification and the writer's city of residence for printing. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries that are libelous or that don't defend opinion with facts from reliable sources. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements.

Letters will not be rejected based on the view expressed in them. Letters may be rejected if they are not relevant to Jambar readers, seek free publicity or if the editorial staff decides the subject has been sufficiently aired. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The Jambar does not withhold the names of writers of letters or guest commentaries.

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 Youngstown State University.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SEND US AN E-MAIL

THEJAMBAR@GMAIL.COM

‘That is Youngstown. You must never go there.’

LOOK SIMBA, EVERYWHERE THE LIGHT TOUCHES IS YSU.



Campus community weighs in on meme

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

In the classic Walt Disney Pictures film “The Lion King,” the wise king Mufasa advises his son Simba about the dangers that lurk where the light does not touch. An increasingly popular image on Facebook has adapted Mufasa’s warning to include Youngstown.

The image, found on the Meme Humor website, reads, “Look Simba, everywhere the light touches is YSU. But, what about that shadowy place? That is Youngstown. You must never go there, Simba.”

The image, a template used to poke fun at other cities, has spread throughout Facebook and other social networking sites.

While some merely laugh at the cartoon’s explicit meaning, others have exhausted countless words in an attempt to decipher the cartoon’s implicit meaning, which some say suggests a negative image of Youngstown and racial undertones.

Youngstown State University graduate student Christopher Lettera was outraged by the disregard of a larger message behind the picture, posting that he is “at a loss as to how Facebookers can only laugh at this.”

Lettera questioned whether the perspective of parents warning their kids about an unsavory urban environment was funny or heartbreaking.

He said that as an undergrad, he began a better life when he ventured outside of his dorm and into the city.

“Cartoon lions are funny, but I don’t understand how folks can laugh at this image without asking deeper questions and exploring what can be read as a depiction of classism and even racism,” Lettera said.

His post received 23 “likes” and 89 comments that discussed whether

the photo was insulting.

One commenter, Katie O’Neil, admitted that the city needs work and that abandoned buildings, wasted money and a dirty environment are only some issues plaguing the area.

However, O’Neil said area conditions are improving.

The high amount of crime in the city is the message she got from the image.

“None of us want to walk at night alone down an abandoned street corner far from campus. Black, white, green,” O’Neil wrote. “Guns are guns, drugs are drugs, and there are the people in possession or lack thereof of both who may see some gullible, nice looking college kid as an opportunity.”

Another commenter, Sarah Lowry, said the portrayal of the image is dependent on whether the creator had firsthand experience in Youngstown.

Overall, she said she doesn’t take offense to it.

“I see this cartoon in much the same way that I’ve seen similar cartoons where women are often the butt of the joke, existing in the kitchen to dote on their men and make them sandwiches,” Lowry said. “It’s a harmless joke.”

Lowry wrote that a thread of truth exists in even the darkest humor, and it is worthwhile for the public to talk about it.

Lettera said he is not sure whether the creator of the meme understands the complexities of his or her creation, and agrees with Lowry that much of the content depends on intent.

He said he questions whether the creator was parodying people who believe that Youngstown is a place students should avoid, or if he or she was agreeing with those who hold a limited worldview of the topic.

“My aim is not sensitivity or polit-

ical correctness. I’m very concerned with whatever the dominant visual is in my city at the given moment,” Lettera said. “When an image cultivates a false truth, that Youngstown is a place young people should not go, someone has to create a dialogue.”

English instructor Christopher Barzak said the image represents a certain perspective some people have of Youngstown. He said it is a subjective matter, but one that’s worth analyzing beyond the initial humor.

Barzak said jokes and humor can reveal a lot about a person, group or culture that take part in disseminating a piece of humor to others. He said he thinks the best jokes are universal, and that jokes relying on “in-group knowledge” are catty and cliquish.

Despite efforts to restore the city’s image, Barzak said there will always be skeptics that instigate pessimism to those looking to do good.

“They’re defeatists, and they tend to think they’re more intelligent than activists, who they seem to think are stupidly fighting a losing battle,” Barzak said.

Barzak said he doesn’t think the image is necessarily discriminating. Rather, it publicizes the negativity of the area. Although the reputation is merited, it is not thoroughly represented in the photo.

“Youngstown’s history of decline and crime weighs it down in a way that makes perpetuating its negative aspects a bit, well, easy,” Barzak said. “Like shooting fish in a barrel.”

The city does not receive nearly as much positive attention as Barzak and others hope. He said people don’t take the time to talk about the beauty and goodness in the city as much as they take time to repeat bad news.

He said these actions show a lack of ability to see in more than one dimension, and this is the message that the meme has illuminated.

What ‘The Lion King’ is really saying ... again

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR



PITTMAN

At the time of the 1994 original theater release of “The Lion King,” characters and scenes from the film flooded the merchandise market.

What some viewers missed, however, were the less-than-subtle references to racism and community segregation.

During his time as entertainment editor of The Jambar, Tom Pittman, an English instructor at Youngstown State University, wrote a column that pointed out the film’s discriminatory references. It appeared in the Nov. 15, 1994, issue.

“It was in theaters, and it was all the rage, just the same when any animated film comes out, and I had taken my daughter to see it,” Pittman said. “It offended me. It was the feel like, ‘Where goes the neighborhood?’ A child is not going to realize that, but as we grow up, I think that we retain what we learned as a kid.”

In the film, young Simba, prince of the Pride Lands, is falsely accused of killing his father, Mufasa. In shame, Simba runs away, and his uncle, Scar, takes over the land.

Scar allows his minions, the hyenas, to come along with the lions, something that was not previously permitted. The “minority” groups, represented by the hyenas, swiftly gain power.

Whoopi Goldberg, an African-American woman, and Cheech Marin, a Hispanic man, voiced the parts of two of the hyenas.

In his column, Pittman suggested that parents rent the film before allowing their children to watch it.

“I was an adult and a parent, and I’m sure my daughter didn’t realize at all that the characters were voiced by minorities,” Pittman said. “I can look at this more objectively now.”

Pittman said he feels that people reacted a bit too seriously to the meme circulating on Facebook, and he thinks it was created in good humor. He said that as Youngstown residents, we are allowed to laugh at ourselves.

“At the end of the day, we’re still on our feet, and we’re still going to fight. Every now and then it’s OK to poke fun at ourselves, and this is one of those times,” Pittman said. “Really, you could change the name to Cleveland or Los Angeles, and people that live there will think it’s funny.”

Pittman said that although humor is involved with the photo, it also has some truth to it, and can demonstrate good, proactive parenting.

He said the university acts similarly to what the photo says, emphasizing lighting on campus and the “Oz” effect of the university’s entrance.

When groups, such as the Chinese journalism students that Pittman advised over the summer, visit campus, police often tell them not to wander off campus.

“Ultimately, I think that the cartoon sends a really great message — just that the parents are taking the time to warn their child. We need more of that, really. Ultimately, I think it’s good parenting,” Pittman said.



Graphic design brings a family’s war experiences to life

Chad Travers
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

Charmaine Banach’s artistic work draws from the deep well of her family’s experiences during the occupation of Poland by foreign powers during World War II and the years following.

Banach is an assistant professor of graphic design, and a recent addition to Youngstown

State University’s department of art. Her art is on display at the McDonough Museum of Art’s biennial faculty art exhibit.

Banach received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Iowa in 1999. She earned her Master of Arts degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design, where she attended as a fellow. She also holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Iowa, where she

taught introduction to graphic design.

Most of her work can be considered graphic design. Drawings and pictures, which she calls “analog animations,” dot the walls of the McDonough.

Banach said she grew up listening to stories about the hardships her parents and grandparents saw during the war.

“I feel like I have all these memories of war that are not

my memories,” Banach said.

German and Russian forces occupied the area in Poland where her grandparents lived during the war, she said. Her grandparents were often forced to work essentially as slaves for whichever invading army happened to be coming through at any given time.

Banach said she spends so much time thinking about the stories her parents and grandparents have passed down to her that she feels they occupy

her mind in a similar way an invading force can occupy a territory.

The title of her exhibition’s interactive website, <http://stateofoccupation.org>, reflects her occupied mind.

“All the opportunities I’ve had, all the things I’ve done, all the things I get to complain about. Maybe I didn’t like my lunch, but my parents went without food for days.”

DESIGN PAGE 6

Banach said.

One particular piece, titled "Bullet in Suitcase," tells the story of the day Soviet forces attacked the farm on which Banach's grandparents lived.

Her father, who was around 2 years old at the time, was unable to run, so his mother simply shoved him into a suitcase, closed it and headed for the woods with the few things she could carry.

The Russian troops began to fire at Banach's grandparents as they were escaping. One of the bullets penetrated the suitcase while Banach's father was still inside.

"It must have been an intense moment. She couldn't even stop running to check on her child," Banach said. "She knew that, if she stopped, they would all die. She had to turn off her emotions, which is what humans always have to do in war."

When Banach's grandmother reached the safety of the woods, she was finally able to open the suitcase. Banach's father wasn't moving and was curled up in the fetal position.

The bullet had passed through the suitcase, and had even grazed her father's shirt, but he was unharmed.

"There are so many stories

in which my dad should have died. There are so many stories in which my mom should have died. It's incredible that either of them survived," Banach said.

Banach considers herself to be a storykeeper for her family. As time goes by, and events begin to pass out of living memory, she said it's important to remember these stories and to think about them from a modern perspective in order to fully appreciate the things we often take for granted.

Another piece called "Broke," which can be seen at the McDonough, tells the story of Banach's maternal grandmother, who worked at a Campbell's Soup factory when she first immigrated to America from Poland.

"She was lucky enough to have a job during the Depression, but she was making soup that she would never have been able to afford. She couldn't buy Campbell's Soup, and they certainly wouldn't have given her any," Banach said.

One day, while working on the canning line, a large piece of machinery fell on Banach's grandmother's wrist and broke it so severely that evidence of the injury remained for the rest of her life. When she was in her 80s, she still had a lump on her wrist

the size of a golf ball.

"Her supervisor came up to her after it happened and told her that if she left the factory to go to the hospital, she wouldn't have a job when she came back," Banach said. "That's the way people were treated then, and I complain about my chair at work being uncomfortable. Look at everything I have that I can't even appreciate."

Banach said she considers the work she has on display, which is only a portion of a much larger body of work, to be a good example of how design can merge with art.

The exhibit also includes interactive pieces displayed on a computer at the gallery. Viewers can explore Ban-

ach's work, read the stories behind the pieces and interact with them. Viewers can also visit the project's website for the same experience.

"Design is a process of thought; it's an attempt to solve a visual problem," Banach said.

One of the interactive pieces Banach designed is a game in which the viewer has to help her grandfather make his way safely through a minefield to a truck. The viewers learn the significance of the story only after they have completed the task.

In 1947, the Polish government issued a statement that allowed any citizen to take ownership of any discarded mail vehicle that had

been abandoned in a minefield.

With the Polish economy in shambles, and no jobs available, Banach's grandfather saw a truck as a way to help transport and feed his family. He walked through a field of mines and then drove the truck back out of it.

"That story always reminds me that I come from very strong people," Banach said.

Banach's digital designs have reached millions. In 2011, she designed an iPod app that was ranked the as the No. 4 top seller for several months. She said she is pleased that so many people have been able to see and interact with her work.

Heading to Panama City Beach for Spring Break?

Count on a fellow YSU graduate for your *Florida* Legal Needs!

Albert J. Sauline, III
Attorney at Law

YSU Class of 2000

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Class 2004

Born and raised in nearby Hubbard, Ohio

Licensed to practice in Florida,

* Also licensed Ohio (inactive), and Washington, D.C. (inactive)

Florida Criminal Defense & Traffic Citations

509 Harrison Ave., Suite #206
Panama, City, Florida 32401

(850) 215-0628
al@saulinelaw.com
www.saulinelaw.com



where you belong!



Visit us on the YSU Campus . We are located in the basement level of Tod Hall.

At ASECU you'll get great rates, lower fees, and an experience that makes you feel good about your financial decisions. Make the **switch to your local Credit Union.**

When you join you'll belong to a secure, convenient Credit Union where people matter. **You belong at ASECU!**

Proudly serving Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana Counties...and "YSU Penguins!"



330-792-4000 • www.asecu.com • On YSU Campus, Dial x3204

A NEW WAY TO *Live* Arrives June 2012.

FIRST FLOOR RETAIL. COFFEE SHOP. REC ROOM. FITNESS CENTER RESTAURANT. OUTDOOR GRILLING AND MOVIE AREA. ON-SITE PARKING. UNLIMITED WIFI. ON-SITE SECURITY.

Call 330-743-5287 for Leasing Information



ERIE TERMINAL PLACE

www.facebook.com/ErieTerminalPlace



Rugby club shows signs of improvement

The Youngstown Steel Valley Rugby club battles Pitt City in a match on Sept. 24. Steel Valley Rugby is preparing for its upcoming spring season. Photo by Dustin Livesay/Contributor.

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

A group of Youngstown State University Police Department officers have joined the Youngstown Steel Valley Rugby Club, and the club's vice president, Brett Grabman, is excited to see what they can bring to the team this spring.

"It is kind of a natural thing in a way, I guess. Their jobs demand them to be very physical. They may not like to run an hour on a treadmill, but they don't mind running 20 yards on a field to tackle somebody," Grabman said.

Last fall, the club played in its first men's season, after playing the previous few at the collegiate level at Youngstown State University.

The transition was rough. "When we were still playing as YSU, we had one of the biggest teams in the league when it came to our size," Grabman said. "Now, we still have a pretty big team, but the other teams have guys the same size, but with 10 to 12 years of experience on us."

The team finished 1-8 last fall. Club President Shawn McClelland said he likes what he sees going into the spring.

"Everyone smashed on us," McClelland said about the fall season. "Some of [the games] were close, though. I think those close ones, we are going to be able to get this time around."

But Grabman said he sees a natural progression that will hopefully translate into success for the team this spring season. The team's goal is a winning season.

"Our first fall season at YSU, we struggled, and then in the spring, we had an over .500 record," Grabman said. "That is what

we are looking for this spring. We struggled in our first fall season as a men's team, so hopefully the timeline falls into place."

With 10 new players joining, the team is now working toward the spring season.

Forward Matt Ruse said he hopes the team's offseason work will translate to success.

"This has been probably our most productive offseason we ever had," Ruse said. "We have had a lot of new guys come in, and it has really been great for the team."

Grabman said they have been much more organized with practice this season, and the new additions to the team should benefit them.

"The influx of new guys we have had has been awesome," Grabman said. "We almost started from scratch, going over the fundamentals. Passing, tackling, scrumming, things like that."

McClelland said the team has benefited from team workouts. Members train at the Ironman Gym in downtown Youngstown on Saturdays, along with their other practices.

"We have an involuntary workout Sunday mornings, and then a practice after that," McClelland said. "Half of the guys are still burnt out from the workout, but still make it to practice."

Steel Valley will open its spring season in the Highlanders tournament on March 31. But before that, Ruse said they would have an intrasquad scrimmage.

"It will be good for some of the new guys to be able to see some type of game action instead of just having a regular practice," Ruse said.

Grabman said they are familiar with the Highlanders, as they have formed a friendly rivalry with Steel Valley.

"We support each other whenever we

are playing," Grabman said. "We will open [the tournament] against the Huntington Men's Club from West Virginia. It won't be a very long tournament, maybe two or three games, but it will be a good tournament for us to start in."

The team has been getting great feedback from the Youngstown community, which Grabman said is important when recruiting new players.

"One of the news stations came out to one of our games, and that got us a lot of really good feedback," he said.

Though they are now a men's club, the team still has a deep connection to YSU. Twenty-one guys make up the team, and all have either graduated from or still attend YSU.

"There are some guys who weren't students when they joined, and now they are students," McClelland said. "It's going back and forth. Some guys are graduating, and some guys are just getting there."

The team is also working on a few charity games to play in.

Grabman said they are working toward a game that would benefit the Michael T. Hartzell Memorial Scholarship fund. McClelland also mentioned a few others they hope to secure.

"We are trying to set up a charity game with the Westmoreland Highlanders and us for the Youngstown Boys and Girls Club," McClelland said. "There is a tournament we are going to try to go to on May 5 at Fairmont University, and that is to benefit a state trooper that was shot and killed."

As the season nears its starting point, Grabman said the team is always looking for new members.

"Anyone can join," Grabman said. "Everyone plays, and it is a lot of fun to be a part of."

Sports Briefs

Women's basketball bounces from HL tournament

The women's basketball team lost a heartbreaker, 59-56, at Cleveland State University on Monday in the first round of the Horizon League tournament. The Penguins tried three times to force overtime in the final 8.9 seconds, but they came up short. The loss dropped the Penguins' record to 10-20. Kelsea Fickiesen led the team with 11 points.

Brown named to second-team All-HL

Junior Brandi Brown earned second-team All-Horizon League honors for the second consecutive season. She averaged 16.3 points and 9.1 rebounds per game, ranking her sixth in both categories in the HL.

Penguin Spotlight



Jeremy Banks

Year: Senior
Weight: 200 pounds
Height: 6' 1"
Hometown: Steubenville
High School: Steubenville
Position: 1B

Senior first baseman Jeremy Banks won the Horizon League Batter of the Week award after hitting .462 and being named to the all-tournament team at Austin Peay State University over the weekend. On Sunday, he reached base seven times, hit one home run, drove in six runs and scored three times in a 16-15, 10-inning loss to the University of Iowa.

Upcoming Schedule

March 8-9
Swimming & Diving
NCAA Zone diving
Bloomington, Ind.

March 9-10
Track & Field
NCAA Championships
Boise, Idaho

March 12
Men's & Women's Tennis
Bethune-Cookman
3 p.m.

Emotional endings

Basketball wraps up another season

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University basketball teams concluded their seasons after being eliminated in the early portion of the Horizon League tournament.

The men's team began its tournament at Beeghly Center on Feb. 28, defeating the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay 77-60.

It traveled to Valparaiso University and faced the University of Detroit Mercy on Friday, falling 93-76.

The Penguins trailed by 16 at halftime and fought their way back in the early part of the second half. They trailed by 10 at one point, but were unable to break the threshold.

"By the time we could play, it just got out of control," said junior forward Damian Eargle after the game. "We just didn't want to embarrass our fans and our organization. We just gave it our all."

Head coach Jerry Slocum said the bond the team members shared goes beyond the scoreboard.

"They had a tremendous year in terms of effort — in terms of caring for each other," Slocum said. "That's as close of a group that I've been around in a long, long, long time. I enjoyed being with them."

The Penguins finished 16-15 overall and 10-8 in the confer-

ence. It was their first winning season since the 2000-2001 season under John Robic (19-11), one year before joining the HL.

It was also Slocum's first winning season since his start in 2005. His previous best was 14-17 in the 2006-2007 season.

"I'm very proud of this group in terms of what they accomplished," Slocum said. "Getting 10 wins in the Horizon League is something that they can kind of hang their hat on."

Sophomore Kendrick Perry was named to the HL first team, and Eargle received all-defense honors.

Eargle said the leadership from seniors Ashen Ward and DuShawn Brooks drove the team.

"We did so much this year," Eargle said. "If it wasn't for them, we would probably not be in the position that we are right now."

As for the women, they lost at Cleveland State University on Monday, 59-56, in the first round of the HL tourna-

ment.

The Penguins had three opportunities to tie the game with 8.9 seconds remaining. Sophomore Monica TouVelle, junior Brandi Brown and freshman Heidi Schlegel missed 3-point shots to end the season.

After the game, head coach Bob Boldon said it was a bittersweet ending.

"There's one side of me that's very frustrated," Boldon said. "There's another side of me that's very proud. These kids hung in there. They're resilient kids, they've been through a lot, they've been through coaching changes and philosophy changes."

The Penguins finished the season 10-20 overall and 4-14 in the HL. They had the same HL record last season, but four more wins overall. The team is two years removed from a 0-30 overall record.

"Things went pretty well overall this season," said senior guard Kenya Middlebrooks.

"I'm proud to be on the team, I'm proud to have [Boldon] as my coach for two years."

Middlebrooks was one of three seniors on the team alongside Macey Nortey and Tieara Jones.

"I think they were good examples to our younger kids, and I thought they handled change incredibly well," Boldon said.

Boldon added that Middlebrooks' transition from her junior to senior year has been remarkable.

"It's something that we will continue to use," he said. "She doesn't know this, but it's something we'll be able to use for recruiting for years to come. Ken's ability to get to the rim this year was fantastic."

Boldon also talked about Nortey and Jones.

"Macey went from a negative assists to turnover ratio to leading the conference in assists to turnover ratio," Boldon said. "I thought Tieara was the epitome of a team player."

One player Boldon is excited to see return next year is Brown, even though he said she finished the season on a bad note.

"Brandi's done so much for us since I got here, and I think it got to her," Boldon said. "I think as the season wore down she just started to get fatigued. She'll never tell you that. For the last two weeks, she's been a little bit less explosive than she's been all year."

