

Engineers right on par

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First-year Youngstown State University engineering students put their skills on display by demoing their projects to Creekside Golf Dome representatives in Moser Hall on Nov. 21.

Kerry Meyers, director of the first-year engineering program at YSU, said Creekside Golf Dome tasked groups of four to five students with designing mini-golf holes.

"[Creekside is] creating an indoor mini-golf course," Meyers said. "There [are] maybe 50 or 60 teams and they collected nine designs that [Creekside] will build."

Jeremiah Kibler, a first-year YSU engineering student, said that groups had to build both a digital model and a full-sized prototype for representatives from Creekside to judge.

"We had to go on the computer and do a computer-aided design of our hole and then, on presentation days, we had to go out and build a full-sized prototype," Kibler said. "We did a YSU themed design. ... We used brick and sheets of turf they put on mini-golf holes."

At the demonstration, each student group had a member putt the ball six different times to showcase the workings of the course to on-looking judges.

Creekside also gave students a list of criteria, such as size limitations and pathway requirements, to meet in their designs.

"The perimeters were that it had to fit on a six foot by 25 foot sheet of mini golf Astro-Turf, there had to be at least two different approaches to get to the hole, there had to be some sort of elevation, and some sort of blockage in the course that required you to bank the shot off a wall or a penguin as the case may be," Kibler said.



Corey Runyan, Kevin Sergeff, Michael Sammarco and Dylan Marketich pose with their miniature golf course in Moser Hall. Photo courtesy of Kerry Meyers.

Josh Durig, a YSU chemical engineering student and a designer in one of the nine winning groups, said Creekside chose his team based off their more straightforward design and the diversity of its two pathways.

"Our hole had a bank on the right side, and the people from Creekside said it was probably one of the best they had seen because it kept the balls away from the bricks,

which is crucial for what they are looking for. They said most holes were too complicated and ours was a little more simple. They liked that one side was better for less experienced players and the other side was more for players that have a little bit of experience," Durig said.

Student groups will have another chance to take part in the construction of the course. On Thursday, Creekside will return to see student ideas for the overall layout of their indoor course.

"We are working on a layout now of the nine winning teams. All of the teams in the honor section are coming up with their idea of how Creekside should layout the course," Kibler said. "Even if you didn't make the best hole design, you still have the chance to make the best golf course layout."

Pep band bigger and better than ever



The Youngstown State University pep band performs for the crowd at a basketball game in Beeghly Center. Photo courtesy of Scott Miller.

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The pep band performs at every men and women's basketball game, and this year's group has expanded greatly.

Just three years ago, the band only contained 25 members. This year's band consists of 40 musicians.

The athletic department

pays for a certain number of players for each game. When the interest and audience response to the pep band grew, they expanded the number of students in the band.

Brandt Payne, pep band director and assistant professor in the Dana School of Music, said he appreciates the athletic department's support.

"They have been ex-

remely supportive of the pep band, whether it's been in the form of tournament travel, or resources, and I know for them they look to and count on us to generate spirit and enthusiasm at the basketball games," Payne said.

Scott Miller, a member of the pep band, expressed pride in the band's success.

"We've been doing really well," he said. "We are the

glue that holds the audience together during the game."

The band plays a wide variety of music, from Lady Gaga to Bob Dylan to jazz.

Sophomore Jordan Mastangelo attributes the band's success to its diverse selection of music.

"There's a broad spectrum of music. We play things my

PEP BAND
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The light at the end of the tunnel

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From Nov. 18-22, students were given the opportunity to journey through the Tunnel of Oppression exhibit to learn about various forms of oppression and discrimination.

Sponsored by Youngstown State University's Housing and Residence Life for the seventh consecutive year, the "tunnel" was made up of the Presidents Suites in Kilcawley Center. The rooms were filled with information and imagery to invoke a powerful learning experience.

Macey Nortery, graduate assistant in Housing and Residence Life, explained a few of the different things the tunnel represents.

"The tunnel of oppression highlights discrimination, the different hardships that we face in our society today that have come about along the years and the many adversities that different cultures and people face, whether its race or gender," Nortery said.

The images shown at the start of the tunnel were graphic. Foul messages were displayed to show how people have to face oppression before they can reach the "light at the end of the tunnel."

"Once they walk through the different rooms, they'll reach the room of hope at the end to simulate the light at the end of the tunnel," Nortery said.

Nortery explained that the tunnel sends a powerful message to everyone who participates.

"It hits home for everyone, and it's empowering to walk through. It's nice because it

THE LIGHT
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Firefall comes to YSU



A painting by Joe Tucciarone depicting meteorites falling on the surface of the early earth. Tucciarone, a ysu alumnus, made artistic contributions to the planetarium show "firefall."

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On November 22, 23, and 30, Youngstown State University presented the program "Firefall" in the Ward Beecher Planetarium, a show that included contributions from two YSU alumni.

Artists Joe Tucciarone — who was primarily responsible for the show's visuals — and Troy McClellan — who composed music for the show — both attended YSU.

Tucciarone, grew up in Hubbard Ohio, graduated from Ursuline High School, and took classes at the Butler Institute of American Art as a child. As an adult, he attended YSU and graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in physics and a minor in astronomy.

Tucciarone works as the planetarium producer at Eastern Florida State College, and has worked on shows similar to "Firefall" in the past.

"["Firefall"] is basically about comets and asteroids, which are my favorite topics when it comes to animation and used to be my favorite topics when I was painting," Tucciarone said.

Curt Spivey, YSU's planetarium engineer, said that Tucciarone is an established and respected artist in the field of space visualization.

"Joe Tucciarone is one of the foremost space artists in the nation for planetariums, and even NASA uses some of the stuff that he does," Spivey said.

In recognition of Tuc-

ciarone's success, the Board of Trustees at YSU awarded him an honorary doctorate in science in 2000.

Overall, Tucciarone was pleased with the way "Firefall" turned out.

"I'm very satisfied with ["Firefall"]. We have produced a handful of shows at [EFSC], and I've been producing clips for other shows for about the last five or six years, and for me this has been the best show I've ever worked on," Tucciarone said.

McClellan was also quite pleased with the show, and said it was an honor to score the music for it.

"There is a lot of good science content in ["Firefall"] about comets and asteroids and solar system formation as well as the real threat we face that there are objects out there headed toward us," McClellan said.

McClellan, who grew up in Cortland Ohio and attended YSU's Dana School of Music, serves as the owner, artist, composer and producer of Full Dome FX, his own audio and visual production company.

Spivey said YSU was lucky to be able to show a program like "Firefall" as planetarium shows can be quite expensive and can cost between \$2,000 and \$15,000. Spivey also commented on YSU's high caliber planetarium.

"This is a terrific planetarium for a campus this size. It is one of the top planetariums in the state, and it is a fantastic resource for YSU," Spivey said.

YSU's planetarium is free and open to the public with shows airing on most Friday and Saturday nights.

has a direct effect on people, and it opens their eyes to things that they might not see every day. Our message is to not be naïve or ignorant to the things that surround us every day," Nortey said.

This year's tunnel has incorporated new content that deals with cancer awareness and relief for the Colorado disaster fund.

"We wanted to highlight the Colorado Relief Benefit and pass out balloons to students. They can donate if they choose to, and we're also giving out ribbons to anyone that walks through in support of pancreatic cancer since it is cancer awareness month," she said.

Nortey said she hopes that the Tunnel of

Oppression left a lasting impact on participating students.

"There is hope for change. It takes just one step at a time," she said.

Nortey said that students had a mixture of emotions when they walked through the tunnel. Jerrilyn Guy, accounting major, called the tunnel a good idea that promotes equality.

"I didn't think it had a direct effect on me, but it does send out a message of social equality to every student that walks through. It shows how we can overcome hate in our society and just be content with those around us," Guy said.



Graduate assistants in Housing and Residence Life who helped work YSU's Tunnel of Oppression. Photo by Alyssa Pawluk/The Jambar.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Student exhibit, "Italian Americans of the Mahoning Valley," opens on Thursday

An exhibit created by Paula Schaefer, a senior at Youngstown State University, will open at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor on Thursday. "Italian Americans of the Mahoning Valley" is funded by a grant from the Ohio Humanities Council and features different aspects of Italian immigration to the Mahoning Valley from 1890 to 1924. A reception will take place at the Historical Center — also known as The Steel Museum — from 5-7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

"Holiday Cabaret" in YSU's Spotlight Theater

On Friday, Penguin Playhouse and Alpha Psi Omega will present "Holiday Cabaret" — a family-oriented performance featuring seasonal favorites to get the audience in the holiday spirit — at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in Youngstown State University's Spotlight Theater. The 45-minute show will feature songs and scenes from holiday-inspired shows, sing-alongs and storytelling, and several holiday-themed skits. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens, students and children. It is advised that tickets be purchased as early as possible due to the theater's limited seating. Call ext. 3105 for more information.

grandparents know, and things the players hear on the radio," she said.

She mentioned that they appeal to everyone in the audience by not only focusing on oldies or contemporary pop music, but a little bit of everything.

Miller and Mastrangelo both spoke enthusiastically about the students' enjoyment of the pep band.

"I like everything about it," Miller said. "We get to play really awesome music with some of the best people. We

have a blast being the energy for the game. ... If anybody hasn't been to a game and seen the teams play and heard the bands, they should come out, because it's a blast!"

Mastrangelo agreed with Miller.

"I like that I get to be involved and represent YSU doing what I love — playing my instrument," Mastrangelo said.

Payne said that he has been very impressed by the students' commitment to the band. He said that the students

are very reliable, showing up on time ready to play their parts.

"For me personally it's gone from a group where I was nervous to go to the games and hear the performances to something I really look forward to," he said.

Payne was adamant that so much of the group's success comes from the students' dedication to the group.

"Honestly, it just comes so much from the actual success of the student members in the group," he said.

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Obama spends \$600 million on rail projects that benefit private companies

**Curtis Tate
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(MCT)

WASHINGTON — The railroad industry brags in its national publicity campaign that it spends billions of dollars improving its infrastructure “so taxpayers don’t have to.”

But the ads don’t tell everything. The nation’s freight rail network has been the quiet recipient of more than \$600 million in federal investment during the Obama administration.

According to Federal Railroad Administration numbers, at least half that amount has gone to projects that benefit the nation’s four largest railroads, the same companies at the heart of the industry’s ubiquitous “Freight Rail Works” campaign.

That doesn’t even include tens of millions more that states have contributed for additional investment in ports and high-speed passenger trains that has boosted the nation’s freight railroads.

The public dollars have built new overpasses to separate trains from one another, as well as cars and trucks. They’ve replaced aging bridges, laid new track and upgraded signal systems. They’ve paid to enlarge tunnels and raise bridges so that shipping containers may be double-stacked. They’ve built new facilities where cargo containers can be transferred from trucks to trains, or vice versa.

Supporters say these public investments, combined with private capital, are model infrastructure partnerships that will help take trucks off crowded highways, reduce pollution and improve the flow of goods to and from the nation’s seaports.

“The majority of dollars that benefit freight rail are well spent,” said Chuck Clowdis, the managing director of North American markets at economic forecaster IHS Global Insight.

But others wonder whether an industry that boasts about how little it depends on taxpayers really needs the extra help.

“We don’t run (ad) campaigns like that, and we move 70 percent of all the tonnage in America at some point every day,” said Bill Graves, the president and CEO of the American Trucking Associations and a former Republican governor of Kansas.

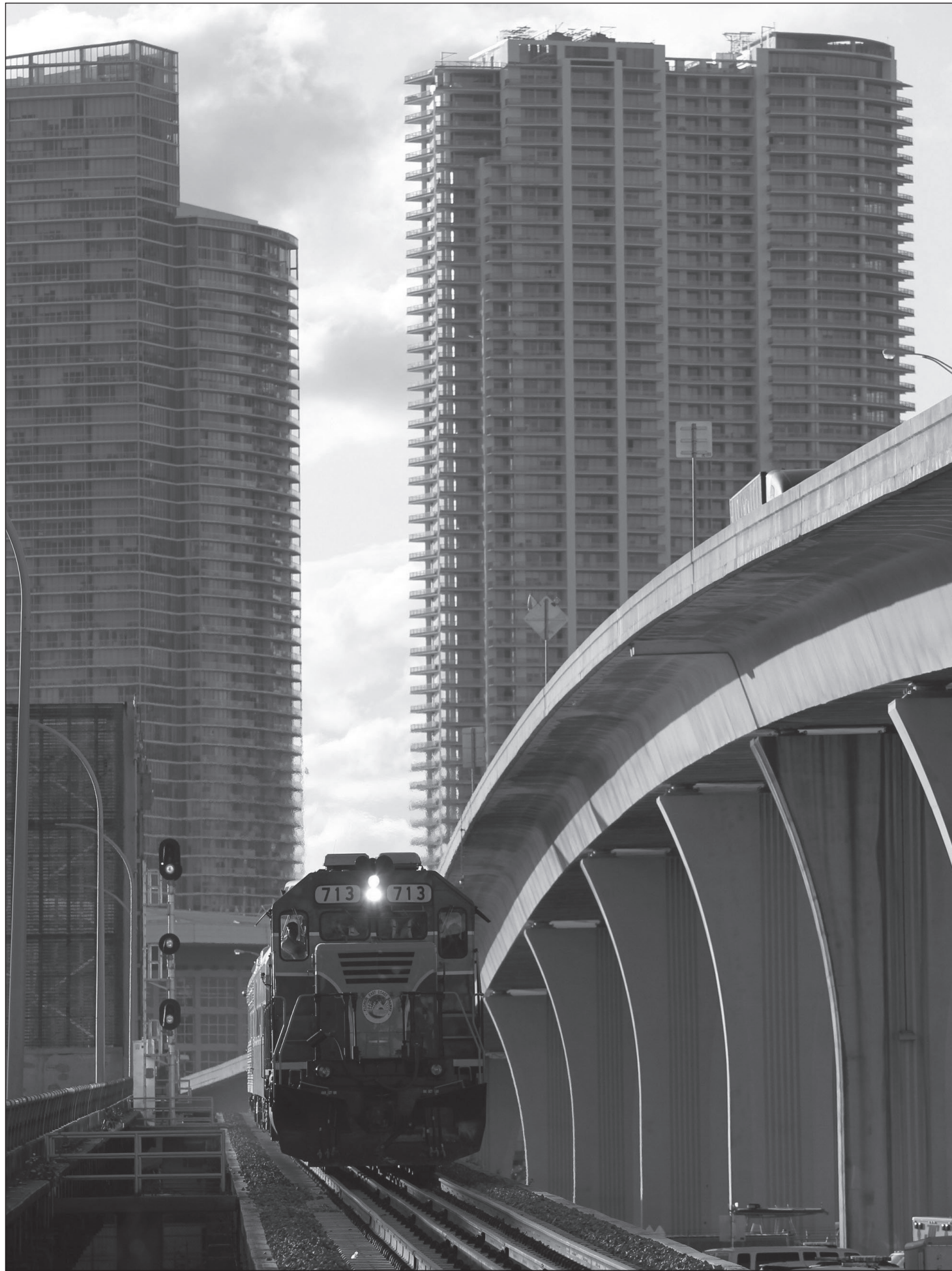
The trucking industry isn’t bashful about pressing for more highway funding, Graves said, while railroads “probably overstate their independence from public investment.”

The Obama administration’s high-speed passenger rail initiatives have overshadowed its freight push.

While its passenger rail improvements have been mired in controversy and delays, many of the freight rail investments begun under the economic stimulus of 2009 are at or near completion. The White House is eager to show the results.

“This is the inland version of the widening of the Panama Canal,” Vice President Joe Biden said last month, not at a seaport but at a CSX freight terminal in the middle of a cornfield in North Baltimore, Ohio.

North Baltimore anchors the National Gateway, a project partially funded with a \$98 million grant from the Department of Transportation. CSX paid for the Ohio facility, while the federal money helped raise overhead clearances on its route to East Coast ports, to allow double-



The Port of Miami restored its rail connection, severed by a hurricane in 2005, with the first set of trains arriving back at the port October 1, 2013. A Department of Transportation grant paid for \$22 million of the \$49 million project. The Miami port is undertaking a massive expansion to accommodate bigger ships. It’s scheduled to be ready when a widened Panama Canal opens in 2015. (Carl Juste/Miami Herald/MCT)

stacked container trains.

Last week in Missouri, Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph Szabo cut the ribbon on a new bridge that added a second track over the Osage River, eliminating a bottleneck between St. Louis and Kansas City. Though the Obama administration paid for \$22 million of the \$28 million project through its High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program, the bridge will benefit the nation’s largest freight railroad, Union Pacific, which operates as many as 60 trains a day on the line.

In November, the Port of Miami restored its rail connection, which Hurricane Wilma had severed in 2005. A Department of Transportation grant paid for \$22 million of the \$49 million project. Port Director Bill Johnson said the grant was essential and that the project wouldn’t have happened without it. The Miami port is undertaking a massive expansion to accommodate bigger ships. It’s scheduled to be ready when a widened Panama Canal opens in 2015.

“We need a rail system to serve Florida and also the heartland of America,” Johnson said. “It’s all about connecting.” In Charlotte, N.C., \$129 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money will separate the Norfolk Southern and CSX mainlines where they cross in the city. The grant is part of \$520 million in stimulus funds awarded to North Carolina to improve passenger and freight service in the corridor from

Raleigh to Charlotte.

For all the public money that freight railroads have received, they haven’t talked much about it. The industry spent years trying to free itself from government regulation, and it doesn’t want federal money with too many strings attached.

“I think the industry is concerned about maintaining its independence,” said David Clarke, the director of the Center for Transportation Research at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

The worst recession since the Great Depression offered an opportunity few railroads could refuse. The Obama stimulus gave birth to a discretionary program called TIGER, for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery.

The competitive program has proved popular with governors and mayors because it’s helped them start, and in some cases finish, infrastructure projects they’d long desired. Many of them involved freight railroads.

TIGER helped pay for two projects that involve the heavily congested intersections of two of the nation’s largest railroads, Union Pacific and BNSF Railway.

Until August, Colton Crossing in Southern California was a chokepoint for cargo moving out of the ports at Los Angeles and Long Beach. A \$34 million TIGER grant helped build an overpass. The California Department of Transportation contributed

another \$41 million, while the railroads paid for the balance of the \$91 million project.

A similar number of trains compete for a green signal at Tower 55 near downtown Fort Worth, Texas. A \$34 million TIGER grant will cover about a third of the cost of fixing the junction, with the railroads sharing most of the rest. The work should be finished next year.

Freight rail investment might relieve congested roads, as well.

When it comes to moving smaller quantities of consumer goods faster over shorter distances, trucks have the advantage. But railroads excel at moving large quantities of freight over long distances at a lower cost.

“Our growth is driven by taking trucks off the highways,” said Jeff Heller, the vice president for intermodal at Norfolk Southern.

Norfolk Southern would like to skim some new business from one of the country’s busiest trucking lanes with what it calls its Crescent Corridor, stretching from the Northeast to the Mississippi River and the Gulf Coast.

In a \$2.5 billion partnership that involves the railroad, DOT and several states, Norfolk Southern has upgraded track and signals and has opened several new intermodal facilities, where trailers and containers can be loaded on trains. The latest such facility will open in Charlotte early this month.

The railroad hopes to di-

vert 1.3 million trucks a year, while the federal and state transportation departments hope to improve traffic congestion and safety on interstate highways.

Meanwhile, Chicago hopes that a state, federal and local partnership will relieve congestion at the nation’s busiest rail hub.

A \$2 billion, decade-long project is building lots of new overpasses to ease the delays caused when more than 1,300 passenger and freight trains converge on Chicago every day, creating headaches for shippers and commuters. Some trains arrive from the East Coast in a day only to get stuck in the city for two days.

But the success of both projects might be limited by decisions made in the 19th century that would take billions of dollars more to fix.

Chicago’s congestion stems from the fact that major railroads were built into the city without making efficient connections. They still don’t connect seamlessly, and there are few options to bypass Chicago.

Portions of the Crescent Corridor were laid out before the Civil War, with an abundance of hills and curves that slow the trains. That makes it hard for the railroad to be an effective competitor with trucks on parallel interstate highways.

“The railroads are still hamstrung to a certain extent by how their routes run,” said Clowdis of IHS Global Insight.

DePoy's passion for the arts

GABRIELLE FELLOWS

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It is said one can tell a lot about a person by his or her environment. With one look at Bryan DePoy's office — at the streamlined walls arranged with carefully selected pieces of art and the organized desk nestled in the corner — it is clear that he is a man of authority. But it is clear that DePoy is also a man who loves the arts, for as soon as they were mentioned, his eyes lit up. He began talking not only about his career in the creative field, but the emotions that went with them in great detail.

DePoy, the dean of the College of Creative Arts and Communication, is an avid trumpeter who grew up in a small rural town outside of Chicago. It was a place where "most people were farmers, and most people never left." He said that growing up in this environment helped morph him into the person he is today.

"Growing up in that little farm town gives you a different kind of work ethic," DePoy said. "It's where you wake up, you work and you don't stop working until you get the job done. Even though I'm nowhere close to a farmer, that set of values has always stuck with me."

DePoy said his country work ethic kicked into high gear the first time he ever picked up a trumpet.

"I remember joining band ... and we had to choose our instrument. I grabbed the trumpet and made the loudest, most God awful sound ... and I loved it," DePoy said. "After that day, I'd go home and practice for hours on end. I couldn't get enough. There was something about it, and to this day, I can't put my finger on it. ... It's just how the music makes me feel."

DePoy took his passion for



Brian DePoy, dean of the College of Creative Arts and Communication, taught at Southern Louisiana University before he came to YSU. While there, he helped students cope with Hurricane Katrina as well as teaching them the essentials of music education. **Photo courtesy of Bruce Palmer.**

trumpet further after finishing high school. DePoy said that he knew he wanted to pursue trumpet through college and that his family and community were extremely supportive of his goals.

With a college degree in hand for trumpet performance, DePoy set off across the country in pursuit of spreading the love of music. After hopping from school to school, he found a love for

teaching at Southern Louisiana University, right outside of New Orleans.

"I was there when Hurricane Katrina hit and so were my students. I was teaching quite a few then, and most of them lost everything," DePoy said. "Not one single student stopped coming to my classes. They channeled all their emotion into their music. Seeing that kind of passion ignites something within

you. It was remarkable."

DePoy's dream of advancing the arts and fueling the creative dreams of others led him to administrative careers. He accepted his first administrative position at Southern Louisiana University and decided that moving higher up in ranks would increase his chances of being able to change the lives of students in the arts for the better.

DePoy chose to come to

Youngstown State University and become the dean of the College of Creative Arts and Administration because he felt that there was a lot of promise in the university.

"YSU was a community on the rise, one that could be greatly impacted by the arts," he said. "This city is on the rise. There are so many talented students here in our program. If Youngstown continues to grow, it could be a potential hub for arts and entertainment."

DePoy also said he came to YSU because it is a city of unlimited potential and unbelievable talent. He said that coming to YSU was one of the best decisions he has made, for he has been able to directly fund students' personal passions from his dean position.

"In this position, I can make things happen," he said. "I can take the ideas that myself and others think up and try to place them into action. It's a difficult process sometimes, but it all pays off when an idea turns into a plan."

DePoy also said he has a strong feeling that Youngstown is a blossoming city filled with the potential to be a hub bustling with arts and entertainment of all kinds. He said he wished to pursue the promotion and awareness of the arts, and Youngstown was the perfect place to do so. He compared it to the up and coming bustle of New Orleans.

"What many people don't understand is that the arts play an important role in the life of a city. Youngstown, to my knowledge, is on the rise. It will continue to rise, too, if the right kind of influence is put in, good things will come out," DePoy said. "The arts are vital in a place like this. The talent is here, the funding is here — Youngstown is on its way. I have faith that the city is becoming a more cultured place every day."

Carols & Cocoa

TAYLOR PHILLIPS

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Wednesday night, the Youngstown State University Dana School of Music hopes to get students in the Christmas spirit with its annual "Carols and Cocoa" holiday concert in Stambaugh Auditorium.

For the past 30 years, "Carols and Cocoa" has invited the campus and community to participate in holiday sing-alongs, eat cookies and get ready to celebrate the upcoming holidays.

Mike Crist, Dana School of Music director, said that the concert has become a holiday tradition on the YSU campus and also in the community.

"It started in the lobby of Bliss Hall, and we'd bring in about 1,500 people," Crist said. "We draw a huge crowd every year. People come up to me after the program is over and tell me that they already are looking forward to next year."

Crist also said he considers the concert very kaleidoscopic in terms of the different types of music, performers and the atmosphere the program has.

"Carols and Cocoa" begins at 7 p.m. in the downstairs ballroom of Stambaugh Auditorium. Small student vocal and music ensembles will perform classic holiday tunes and invite the community to sing

along with the songs. To add a more casual setting, Dana School of Music students bake various types of cookies that are later served to the public with hot chocolate and coffee provided by Sheetz.

Students who are involved with one of the many performance groups in the Dana School of Music have the chance to perform in the program with their ensemble or group.

DJ Collella, senior music performance major, has performed in the past two "Carols and Cocoa" and said that he enjoys the atmosphere during the small ensemble portion of the program the most.

"This is truly a community-based concert. Not only do you sit there and listen to prepared music by various ensembles, but you get to participate in the music at some points," Collella said. "After all, what good are Christmas carols if not everyone gets to sing along?"

Collella also said ensembles such as Jazz Ensembles I and II and the Dana Chorale are just two of many different types of ensembles that will be performing this year.

After "Carols and Cocoa," the program will then move upstairs to the Concert Hall of Stambaugh and conclude with the "Dana Holiday Concert." The Dana Symphony Orchestra, Dana Chamber Orchestra and Dana Chorale will be featured, along with guest artists



On Monday, the Youngstown State University Chamber Choir rehearses for the Dana School of Music Carols and Cocoa holiday concert that will be held Wednesday night at 7 p.m. in Stambaugh Auditorium. **Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.**

Mishook Yun, the Wilmington Area High School Choral Ensembles and the Stambaugh Chorus. This portion of the night features classical pieces as well as some holiday favorites.

Luke Politsky, a graduate student at the Williamson College of Business Administration, said "Carols and Cocoa" is a great way to bring the community together.

"In keeping with the sentiments of the holiday season, the concert brings a sense of togetherness to combine to lure in the members of the community," Politsky said. "It is an event that not only offers great music, but also interaction with many members of the Youngstown and YSU communities."

Laura Eskola, an exchange student from Finland, plays trumpet in the Dana Symphony

Orchestra and said she has enjoyed practicing for the performance.

"I've played music like this before; I've played [and] sang in different kinds of Christmas concerts every Christmas since I was a kid, and I think it's kind of always part of every musician's every-year Christmas schedule," Eskola said. "We would definitely have a concert similar to this in Finland because our culture is very Western, so it's not overly different from American culture."

Eskola also said that ever since the orchestra began to prepare for the performance, she has gotten into the holiday spirit more and more each day. She said this year, the choruses will join the orchestra in their performance of John Rutter's "Magnificat."

"Even though we haven't practiced together yet, I'm re-

ally excited to see how it all comes together," she said. "It's always exciting to collaborate with another group."

Students and faculty of the Dana School of Music hope that with the concert, they can get the community and the campus prepared for the holidays.

Eskola said even though Christmas may be a little different in her country, the concert brings everyone together and prepares him or her for the holiday season.

"In my point of view, the whole idea of the holidays, like Christmas, is being together with your family, your neighbors and your friends," Eskola said. "We are so busy the rest of the year we might not have as much time for that. The holidays give us an opportunity to stop and value the things that are also important."

EDITORIAL

One night in Youngstown...

"I can never tell anyone about what happened in Youngstown, Ohio, one January night," said fictional anchorman Ron Burgundy in his latest book. "Let me off at the top!"

Knowing Burgundy, whose exploits are featured in the 2004 movie "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy" and its sequel set to release on Dec. 20, the events are most likely highly entertaining, highly illegal and highly sexual in some nature.

However, we can only speculate. We don't know what time period these alleged events took place. We don't know how many people were involved. We don't know where in the city Burgundy went. We just know it happened here.

Normally, we like to deal with facts, but sometimes guessing can be fun. Here are some of our favorite theories as to Ron Burgundy's escapade in Youngstown.

—Burgundy met up with "Modern Family" actor Ed O'Neil and barhopped through downtown, ending with an embarrassing round of "Lemoneoke" at The Lemon Grove.

—He met up with the late WKBN anchor Tom Holden in the 1980s to discuss the emerging 24-hour news network featured in "Anchor-

man 2," women's rights in the office and, of course, scotch.

—While drunk one night, he wandered into an abandoned steel mill and got into a fight with a raccoon. He lost.

—After seeing Brick Tamlan kill a man with a trident, he met with Youngstown mob bosses and introduced them to a new way to get rid of problems. The "Youngstown trident" quickly replaced the much more famous and effective "Youngstown tune-up".

—Former Flint Tropics owner Jackie Moon met with Burgundy in Youngstown to talk about the American Basketball Association's merger with the National Basketball Association. Things went south and Moon is now serving time in federal prison for attempted murder and illegally operating a garbage truck.

The world will most likely never know what Ron Burgundy was up to in Youngstown that one cold January night. Speculation is always fun, but knowing the real story is just so much better. And when the day finally comes when we know when, where and what happened, there will be celebration in the streets, mothers will name their sons after him and the day will be known as Ron

Dance of the GOP governors

Doyle McManus
Los Angeles Times

(MCT)

Don't look now, but auditions for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination are already under way in Washington. And the flavor of the moment is — governors.

First came Chris Christie, the pugnacious governor of New Jersey, who won re-election by a landslide last month and almost immediately headed to the nation's capital for a burst of speeches and television appearances.

Days later, a less pyrotechnic (but equally combative) chief executive arrived to do the Washington media rounds: Scott Walker of Wisconsin. His message was the same: "If we can do it in Wisconsin, we can do it anywhere, even in the nation's capital."

The point wasn't subtle. As broken as Washington is, the next president should be an outsider, a hardworking governor, say, who has managed to tame a rebellious legislature and balance his budget.

It's a message likely to play well with American voters (and not only Republicans) who have long believed that executive experience is a better qualification for aspiring presidents than time in the windy halls of Congress.

Barack Obama was the first legislator elected to the White House in almost half a century, and his wobbly performance managing the launch of his own Affordable Care Act could affect other senators' chances for years.

Neither Christie nor Walker has announced that he's running for president, but — refreshingly — neither pretends to be uninterested either.

To many Republicans, yearning for a primary contest less chaotic than the messy epic that produced Mitt Romney in 2012, that field looks decent already: two successful governors — a relatively moderate conservative from the Northeast and a more orthodox conservative from the Midwest.

Christie's already nationally famous, if only for his battles with his weight (tamed last year by bariatric surgery) and his penchant for dressing down reporters (and occasionally voters) with words like "idiot." And a CNN/ORC International poll released Friday declared Christie the early front-runner in the Republican race.

But who is Scott Walker?

At a breakfast with reporters in Washington last month — one of the obligatory stops for any politician thinking about running for president — the taciturn, understated Walker joked that he's just like Christie but "with a Midwestern filter."

"I'm willing to speak out, but I'm not going to call you an idiot," he said.

Marc Thiessen, a former speechwriter for President George W. Bush who collaborated with Walker on a recent book (another requisite pre-campaign step), described him this way: "Moderate in temperament but immoderate in policy."

Walker, 46, was elected governor of Wis-

consin in 2010 and, when confronting a budget deficit, made an audacious decision: Instead of raising taxes or cutting state services, he went to war with public employee unions over their contracts. The new governor initially proposed to eliminate collective bargaining, but he bowed to advisers who urged him to focus instead on cutting employees' generous benefits, which exceeded what most private-sector workers enjoyed.

The ensuing battles included a virtual occupation of the state Capitol by protesters, the flight of 14 Democratic state senators across the state line to Illinois in a failed attempt to prevent a vote and a 2012 recall election that Walker won by a convincing margin.

Along the way, he also cut taxes, turned the state's budget deficit into a surplus — and became a hero to fiscal conservatives across the country.

Now, Walker says, he'd like to bring the lessons of his experience in Wisconsin to Washington, even if only in advising his party's next presidential nominee, who he thinks (surprise!) should be a governor.

His message is that rugged fiscal conservatism can win support from voters in the center, as long as it's consistent, unwavering and focused on increasing economic opportunity for all. As evidence, he points to polls that show that 11 percent of Wisconsin voters supported both him and Obama last year.

"We need to do more than simply say no," he writes in his book. "The way to win the center is to champion bold, positive reforms that make people's lives better."

That means focusing on the economy and jobs and the size of government, not on the arid federal budget issues that have captured Congress ("debt limits are not relevant to people's lives") or even the social issues that have dominated Republican primary races in years past.

"I'm pro-life," Walker said. "I don't apologize for that. But I don't focus on it; I don't obsess with it."

Above all, capturing the center means reaching out to minorities and low-income people, he says, and avoiding the trap Romney fell into of dismissing the bottom 47 percent as unreachable for Republicans.

"Republicans need to reclaim their position as the party of upward mobility and opportunity for all," Walker writes, citing Ronald Reagan as a conservative who appealed to blue-collar workers as well as business owners.

Which is a fine idea, so fine that almost every GOP candidate in memory, including Romney, has said it more than once.

The challenge none of the potential candidates has met is to show how they'd do it. For all the critiques Walker and Christie have been willing to sling at Washington, they've been shy on specific remedies.

And Republicans in Congress, including Wisconsin Rep. Paul D. Ryan and Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Rand Paul of Kentucky, aren't likely to concede that a governor would make a better president. But at this early stage, the momentum in the GOP race belongs to governors.

Grisly news coming out of the Hermit Kingdom

Frida Ghitis
The Miami Herald

(MCT)

According to one of South Korea's largest newspapers, JoongAng Ilbo, the Pyongyang regime executed 80 North Korean citizens in one day, for crimes including watching smuggled videos or owning a Bible.

The report is shocking, and nearly impossible to verify. Some experts are skeptical, but a number of North Korea watchers tell me it is completely consistent with other information and quite credible.

If true, the multiple executions by squads of machine gun firing soldiers — reportedly carried out before large crowds of frightened spectators — were likely meant to send a strong message to the population: Anyone thinking of breaking the rules, any rules, will pay a heavy price. And it is a sign of the triple-threat faced by the regime of the young Kim Jong Un: the infiltration of information from abroad, the growth of religious groups, and the expansion of underground free markets.

The newspaper says it heard the story from someone knowledgeable about North Korean internal affairs, who just returned from the North. That individual, the report said, spoke with multiple witnesses who say the events took place on Nov. 3, simultaneously in seven different cities.

The details of the event are even more horrifying. In one case, according to the paper, witnesses said authorities ushered about 10,000 residents, including children, into Shinpoong Stadium in the city of Wosan, in Kangwon province. Kangwon lies right on the border with South Korea, the area most susceptible to receiving contraband and information from the outside.

There, the crowds watched eight men tied to stakes with their heads covered by white sacks, falling to the ground after the soldiers opened fire. The method of execution is consistent with other occurrences that have been documented by activists secretly armed with cameras.

Relatives of those allegedly killed earlier this month were reportedly sent to prison camps, a practice that is also well documented.

Harsh penalties, including executions, are not exactly rare in North Korea, but executing 80 people in one day, in public, is a noteworthy change of pace even for brutal regime.

Kim Jong Un is about to mark two years since he came to power following the death of his father. Since then, he has moved to strengthen his position.

Any hopes that the Western-educated Kim would start moving away from the practices of his father and his grandfather — which have brought starvation, poverty and despair to the North Korean people — faded quickly

after he became the country's supreme leader.

Instead, the younger Kim has sought to consolidate power by threatening South Korea, threatening the United States, and intensifying repression at home.

The new leader has walked so close to the edge of war that he has created worries about triggering an accidental conflict. Last April, the regime issued a warning to foreigners in South Korea, telling them they should leave the peninsula because it was on the brink of nuclear war.

According to the U.S.-Korea Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, there is strong evidence that North Korea has restarted its Yongbyon nuclear reactor, which can produce plutonium for nuclear weapons.

Human rights groups say tens of thousands may have died in one of the largest prisons. By some estimates, at least 130,000 North Koreans, perhaps many more considered disloyal are held in the system of penal colonies.

And reports of executions, which are extremely difficult to verify, keep coming from the secretive state.

Whatever the truth about happened on Nov. 3 — whether the North Korean government publicly executed 80 people that day — there is no question that Kim Jong Un's rule remains unpredictable dangerous to the world, and unspeakably cruel to its own people.



JAMBAR POLICY

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Their own worst enemy

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Media timeouts during collegiate basketball games could be used for many different purposes.

It allows the media to update on Twitter and Facebook. It's the time when television ads are used the most. The list goes on.

But what many people may not realize is that the final media timeout — which is normally around the 4:00 mark in a game — determines if a team will win or not. That's what happened to the Youngstown State University men's basketball team.

"It's just like our conference," coach Jerry Slocum said. "We had won two of those [game this season], and didn't make enough plays in the last two [games] to win those. You're going to need that kind of effort against a team that we have struggled with."

During the Thanksgiving break, the Penguins fell at Kent State University, 83-79, on Wednesday. Then, they shockingly lost to Austin Peay State University, 88-86, on Saturday.

The funny thing is that YSU (6-3) defeated itself, or so senior Kamren Belin thinks.

"I feel like the last two games weren't exactly losses," he said. "That's a good thing and a bad thing. We shouldn't beat ourselves, but the good thing about that is we did beat ourselves. The other team didn't do it."

One player they were without was junior DJ Cole. He left in the second half on Wednesday, favoring his left

ankle. Slocum said Cole is day-to-day.

"He did not practice [on Monday]," Slocum said. "We definitely missed him last week. He keys us defensively."

Cole is averaging 6.1 points per game and has 31 assists. Freshman Marcus Keene filled the void and started his first collegiate game on Saturday.

"The thing that really throws us off is timing around our point guard," Belin said. "Marcus is getting used to us, and we're getting used to him. As the game goes on, the speed picks up, and I feel like if he progresses throughout the game, then everything will be fine."

Keene is averaging 10.2 points per contest and is shooting 39 percent from beyond the 3-point line. The main difference between Keene and Cole is defense, which Keene has not fully developed in his game.

"He is getting better every day, but his basketball IQ at the defensive end just needs to be better," Slocum said. "[He] might be one of the [most gifted] guards I've ever had as a freshman at the offensive end. We're encouraged of his development."

The Penguins' next game is on Wednesday against Robert Morris University. The Colonials (3-5) defeated YSU, 59-56, on Dec. 22, 2011 at Beeghly Center. YSU is 4-9 all time versus the Colonials and is on a seven-game losing streak against them.

"This is a veteran, scrappy, back to the wall type of game," Slocum said. "I anticipate a tremendous effort from them. This is a good basketball team. I'm sure



Kendrick Perry (3) drives to the hole and attempts a layup over Austin Peay State University on Saturday at Beeghly Center. Perry, who scored 32 points over APSU, looks to help the Penguins end their two-game losing streak on Wednesday. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

their coming in desperate. We'll get their best effort."

During this two-game losing streak and a tough schedule before conference play begins, a victory on Wednesday

would be huge. Slocum doesn't look at it as a must win scenario, though.

"For me, it's about having a really good practice today," he said. "We've got

to take care of business in terms of working hard and getting better. If we do that, things will always take care of themselves."



Heidi Schlegel (15) attempts a shot over West Virginia University during Saturday's contest at Beeghly Center. Schlegel and the Penguins will look to end their losing streak on Wednesday. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

YSU women's basketball team looking to end two-game skid

ALAN RODGES
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The Youngstown State University women's basketball team is looking to earn their second win of the season — and to put an end to a two game losing streak while they're at it — during their game against Miami University.

The Penguins have been shooting poorly over the last two games, hitting only 23 percent from the field against Bucknell University and 30 percent in the loss to West Virginia University.

"It's a challenge," said first year head coach John Barnes. "The ball wasn't going in the hoop, so it's hard to keep it close."

Senior guard Liz Hornberger said that her teammates shoot fine at practice and then when game time situation comes around they can't make their shots.

"People are frustrated," Hornberger said. "When it comes down to game time you just have to step up and make shots."

Hornberger said that the team has been working hard at shooting in practice and Barnes has made it a priority.

"We're going to keep shooting a lot in practice and keep plugging away," Barnes said.

The only win the Penguins have this year is against Northern Kentucky, where YSU shot 57 percent from three-point range and 39 percent from the field.

Barnes said he is trying to get his team better everyday, and he feels they've worked hard and have fought to the end of each game.

"I look at the shots we're getting and I feel like we're getting quality open shots — they just are not going in right now," Barnes said.

In the last two losses, the Penguins have been digging themselves a pretty big hole to get out of. In the first half against Bucknell they were down 31-16, and against West Vir-

ginia they went into halftime trailing 45-24.

Hornberger isn't too fond of losing. She doesn't like talking to people after a loss, but she said that every loss is a learning experience.

"Everyone of these losses here we have to learn from," Hornberger said. "So when it comes to conference play we are a better team."

Hornberger sees that this team isn't flawless or perfect, but she expects everyone to step up.

"Everyone has to step up," Hornberger said. "We have to find out these flaws and fix them by conference play."

Even though the Penguins have lost four of their first five games, Hornberger is still confident that this team can still turn the season around. She said she feels the confidence and attitude in the locker room improving.

"I think we could've won all the games, but we're in a major change right now and no ones going to be perfect," Hornberger said.

The Penguins are 0-3 all time against the Miami Redhawks at home, but will look to notch their first win against them at Beeghly Center, Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. The game will broadcast live on 1390 WNIO, iHeartRadio and the Horizon League Network.

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