

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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Mining YSU

What lurks below campus could be worth millions

Sarah Perrine & Doug Livingston
THE JAMBAR

There's a hole 60 feet beneath Kilcawley House that runs southward, snaking under the campus core.

In the 1850s, coal was extracted from that mine owned by Henry Wick, a Youngstown

homesteader. It was the last time that the land Youngstown State University rests on was mined for minerals.

Wick sold the property and mineral rights, stripped of coal. The property was sold and sold again, until the university purchased the plot of land.

Nearly a mile below the coal beds is an intersection

of two layers of organic rich shale rock, explains Jeffrey Dick, chairman of the geological and environmental sciences department at YSU.

That layer of shale, estimated to hold trillions of cubic feet of natural gas, has triggered a drilling bonanza in eastern Ohio.

And, according to YSU officials, mineral rights for the

university's 151 acres of public land remain intact.

The Utica shale play, as oil and gas drillers call it, has drawn national attention for its concentration of lucrative natural gas liquids, like propane, butane and ethylenes.

"They're much more valuable, particularly the ethane,

MINING PAGE 4



GRAPHIC BY KEVIN BUCK/THE JAMBAR

- Completed well site - Permitted well site

YSU's role in growth of area business



Youngstown Mayor Chuck Sammarone, left, applauds while Gil Goldberg, district director for the U.S. Small Business Administration, presents the Excellence and Innovation Award to Betty Jo Licata, dean of the Williamson College of Business Administration. Photo by Jordan D. Uhl/The Jambar.

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

The Williamson College of Business Administration at Youngstown State University set the stage for two major announcements on Tuesday, with the potential for small business growth as its focus.

First, Gil Goldberg, district director for the U.S. Small Business Administration, awarded the Excellence and Innovation Award for YSU's Small Business Development Center to Betty Jo Licata, WCBA dean.

"I'm very proud of the accomplishments of our SBDC. It's really a pleasure, and I'm proud to accept the award on

BUSINESS PAGE 4

Professor shines through disease

Nicole Novotny
REPORTER

For more than a year, Melissa Smith has caught the bus on the corner of Granada and Colorado avenues. She takes the bus to Youngstown State University on Tuesdays and Thursdays around 10 a.m.

At the university, she makes her way to her office, where the YSU foreign language professor prepares for her two classes.

It's a daily routine for most college educators, but not for Smith.

She's made the trip for the past 18 years with multiple sclerosis, a disease that causes her immune system to attack her nervous system.

"It has been a very humanizing experience for me," Smith said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that, like other autoimmune diseases, MS is three times more likely to occur in women.

According to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society,

400,000 Americans live with MS. An additional 200 are diagnosed weekly.

The disease can lead to loss of muscle coordination, spasms, vision problems, fatigue, pain, depression, immobility and death.

No cure exists.

For many people living with MS, a numbness or tingling sensation marks the disease's onslaught. But the symptoms and signs vary for each person.

Smith first noticed the disease in Boston in 1994, after returning from a sabbatical in Russia.

She was visiting her parents when she began seeing double.

In response, Smith went to an eye doctor in Boston, but the doctor couldn't find the cause of her double vision.

After speaking to her cousin, Smith learned that the issue might be neurological.

She said a diagnosis, which can sometimes drag on, came rather quickly for her. She knew her parents were scared, so Smith included them in the

PROFESSOR PAGE 6



YSU professor Melissa Smith sits at her home in front of one of the many paintings her mother finished. It's of Smith at 22 years old. Smith, who has MS, has made the trip to YSU every Tuesday and Thursday for the past 18 years. Photo by Nicole Novotny/The Jambar.

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SPORTS 10

ONLINE

Local man uses bikes as canvas



FEATURES 6

YSU alum makes Red Sox debut



SPORTS 10

YSU celebrates Earth Day



ONLINE

MORE STORIES ONLINE

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Hard works pays off

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Deanna Hardy and Crystal Stanton are juniors at Youngstown State University. Although they've chosen different career paths, both volunteer, hold multiple jobs, maintain high GPAs and somehow find time to sleep every night.

Hardy and Stanton are recipients of the Women Retirees of YSU scholarship, awarded for meeting criteria of the scholarship and exemplifying excellence.

The Women Retirees of YSU started the scholarship in November 2009. They started it as a way to give back to the future female innovators attending YSU.

Scholarship applicants must be female YSU students of at least a junior ranking, have a 3.0 GPA and write an essay describing how they will use the scholarship.

Hardy and Stanton were chosen out of six applicants. They were each awarded \$1,000. Traditionally, the organization awards only one scholarship, but Marlene Dailey, a member of the Women Retirees of YSU, said both ladies were equally qualified and deserving.

"They are two young ladies who looked good on paper and are just wonderful in person," Dailey said.

SCHOLARSHIP PAGE 4

Eurozone debt crisis forum attracts, educates students

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

To inform the campus community, Youngstown State University faculty members held a forum on the eurozone debt crisis on Tuesday.

Keith Lepak, associate professor of political science; Tomi Ovaska, associate professor of economics; and David Simonelli, associate professor of history, led the forum in the Presidential Suites of Kilcawley Center.

Lepak cited an impact on trade that could dampen job prospects and weaken the U.S. economy as students prepare to enter the workforce.

More than 50 students attended, though some were compelled to do so by their instructors.

Others, like senior Sean Knaub, attended out of their own interest. He said his curiosity in foreign affairs drew him there.

"It was definitely informative," Knaub said. "Especially to someone who might not understand the current economic crisis."

Each professor offered an analysis of the problem through the lens of his respective field of study.

Lepak said he fears too many Americans don't take it seriously.

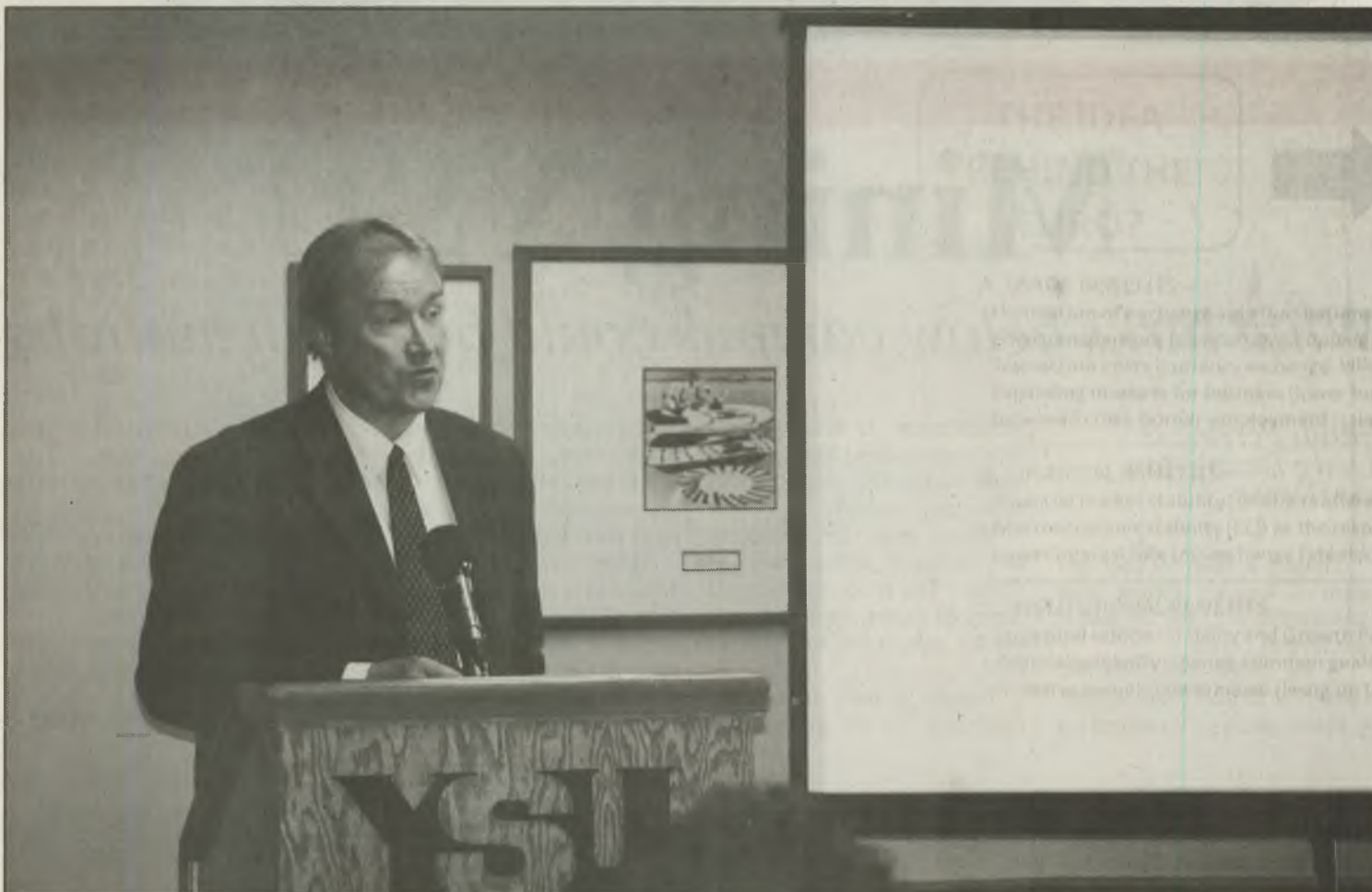
"Americans don't tend to pay attention to European elections," he said.

Lepak, who planned the event, provided insight from a political standpoint.

Europe's elected leaders have been changing rapidly by way of angry voters, whose ballots symbolize a modern-day guillotine.

In countries facing severe budget issues, austerity measures imposed by newly elected or appointed financial leaders have been met with public outrage.

To put the animosity in perspective, Ovaska said that if he were to call his father, who still resides in Finland, and bring up the issue, despite the language barrier, "you'd still get the gist of his argument."



Tomi Ovaska, associate professor of economics, explains the economic benefits and consequences experienced by the 17 European nations that use the euro as their currency. Ovaska and two other professors provided a three-pronged approach to the crisis at a forum in the Presidential Suites of Kilcawley Center on Tuesday. Photo by Jordan D. Uhl/The Jambar.

"People are mad," Ovaska said. "That is very obvious in [European Union] discussion."

The anger is fueled by a democratic deficit, meaning many leaders aren't elected, but rather appointed. These executives then make unpopular, and debatably necessary, decisions on behalf of their constituents, yet the people have no mechanism to remove them from power.

An international lesson It all began with peace, Simonelli said.

He gave a brief history lesson on the European unification efforts and how a peaceful continent was a desired result. Political and economic factors played a part, but with a long history of feuding states in close proximity to one another, tranquility was priority number one.

Smaller economic and governmental unions coalesced throughout the second half of

the 20th century, but it was the Maastricht Treaty, signed in 1992, that established the European Union.

To bring the countries even closer, they sought a monetary union as well.

In 1999, the euro was first introduced as a form of credit. The actual currency was implemented in 2002. Seventeen European countries now accept the euro as their official currency.

The benefits, Ovaska said, are great.

It brought more financial innovation and trade benefits, leveled the playing field for smaller markets and kept other countries accountable when dealing with their neighbors.

However, sinking ships soon chained themselves to more stable European economies.

Greece has proven incapable of managing the responsibilities. Uncontrolled government spending has resulted in

the worst public debt to gross domestic product ratio in the continent.

Investors demanded higher interest rates on struggling countries that continued to borrow. By December, Greek bonds brought a 30 percent return.

Similar domestic interest rates on U.S. Treasury bonds would require 80 percent of all federal spending to pay off just the interest, Ovaska said.

"Although there are several states which could adversely tip the eurozone scale, Greece's irresponsible and failing economic policies make it the most likely candidate," Knaub said.

This has left European leaders scrambling to find an amicable resolution.

Bailout funds and stability mechanisms injecting trillions of euros into weak economies have yet to solve the problem, but Ovaska remains optimistic.

"Forgoing its benefits is just too costly," Ovaska said.

There are two schools of thought. First, they could drastically cut spending and increase taxes, a process which is commonly referred to as an austerity measure. Or, as the weaker countries prefer, interest on their debt could be cut, and other countries and financial institutions can come to the rescue with a stimulus or more bailout packages.

None of the panelists proposed a solution; however, Lepak and Ovaska said upcoming political and financial sector action would play a role in decision-making.

As a political science major, Knaub wasn't surprised by the lack of progress in assuaging European financial instability that panelists say will undoubtedly affect America.

"For me, it simply drove home what I have understood for quite some time now," Knaub said.

'Young leaders are critical in moving forward'

NEOSCC shares ideas to sustain, build NE Ohio

Kevin Alquist
NEWS REPORTER

To collect and distribute ideas while building a sense of community, the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium, or NEOSCC, invited young people from the Mahoning Valley to gather at the Overture restaurant on Tuesday evening.

NEOSCC focuses on increasing the quality of life within the 12-county region that makes up northeast Ohio and includes Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

Anthony Kobak, NEOSCC project manager for housing and communities, was in attendance, and he stressed diversity and fresh ideas.

"What do we need to do to make this area vibrant and find out what's missing?" Kobak, who worked as a Youngstown city planner for eight years, asked the crowd of nearly 100.

Attendees were asked at the door to write on a nametag what they believe "vibrant" looks like and encouraged to talk with people they didn't already know.

Tuesday's event was the second in a series of four that is part of the Vibrant Northeast Ohio initiative. NEOSCC held a similar gathering in Canton



Stephe Kamykowski (right) talks at the Overture restaurant about what he wants to see done in the Mahoning Valley at the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium's Vibrant Northeast Ohio initiative. Photo by Kevin Alquist/The Jambar.

on April 17 and will also meet in Cleveland and in Elyria in the coming weeks.

"The only way our region will become more sustainable is if it's inclusive of everyone's ideas," Kobak said in a press release. "Young people look at our region's challenges with fresh eyes and new ideas."

The tables were covered

in paper, and Dan Moulthrop, curator of conversation and co-founder of the Civic Commons, asked those sitting down to write positive or negative things about the area.

Stephe Kamykowski, an industrial designer for the Youngstown Business Incubator, wanted a continued increase in job opportunities and for citizens and politicians to

learn from previous mistakes.

Other issues listed on the tables included lack of city parking, low voter turnout and few young elected officials.

"Young leaders are critical in moving forward," said Jeff Anderle, manager of communications for NEOSCC.

Mike Ray, a 35-year-old Youngstown city councilman, said he represents the area's

younger demographic. He told members of the crowd to support local shops and restaurants, and to rely on themselves.

"We must manufacture our own opportunities," Ray said.

Many at the event were Youngstown State University students or alumni.

"It's refreshing to see a deliberate attempt to take a step forward with the ideas that we've talked about informally," said Andrew Emig, who is working toward a master's degree in chemistry.

Sean Satterlee, a biology graduate student, said he wants Youngstown to learn from the past and not be a one-trick pony.

"We need to harness new ideas from young people who care," Satterlee said.

Zach Brown, a University of Akron law student and YSU alumnus, helped organize Tuesday's event.

"We want to see dialogue about what's great about the region and talk about what can be improved," Brown said.

NEOSCC is largely funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of a new federal initiative.

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NEWS BRIEFS

WYSU begins spring pledge drive

WYSU FM 88.5 continues its spring pledge drive this week with a goal of \$115,000. Each individual who pledges to WYSU will be entered to win a pair of tickets for the Go Ahead Tours 11-day tour of Vienna, Budapest and Prague. Contributions can be made at 330-941-1481 or online at <http://wysu.org>.

POLICE BRIEFS

Raccoon blocks building

On Saturday, YSU Police responded to a call about a raccoon outside of Williamson Hall. The raccoon was walking back and forth in front of the doorway, keeping people from entering or exiting. Police contacted YSU Health and Human Safety and adjacent police agencies for a snare. An officer was able to capture the raccoon and get him away from the building, but it escaped, becoming dangerous to all in the area. The raccoon was caught again and disposed of.

Man falls, hears voices

On Sunday, a university police officer on patrol was flagged down and told that a man had fallen to the ground while walking on Pennsylvania Avenue. The officer recognized the man and asked him if he was OK. The man asked, "Who's talking to me? I hear voices." The officer then asked the man if he was heading home, and the man responded that he was already home. The officer noticed a bump on the man's forehead and called for an ambulance.

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BUSINESS PAGE 1

[the coordinator's] behalf," Licata said.

Licata, Goldberg and Youngstown Mayor Chuck Sammarone addressed a few dozen of the community's bankers and business professionals about their excitement for a revival of the Youngstown Economic Revitalization Initiative.

Support from WBCA, the Small Business Incubator and the SBA will create perfect conditions for business growth in the Youngstown area, they said.

"As you sit here in the middle of the college of business, and you see all the students coming and going, it's an investment in their future as well and creates great role models for them to see all the great opportunities for them when they graduate," Licata said.

Goldberg also took the opportunity to introduce the next class of SBA's e200 Emerging Leaders, which is a "program [used to] identify business that show a high potential for growth — and to provide them the network, resources and motivation required to build a sustainable business of size and scale," a statement issued by the SBA said.

The program is designed for owners and executives of small businesses who have shown steady growth over the past few years, but need the extra push, Goldberg said.

Participants, through attending class sessions at WCBA, are given the opportunity to "graduate" with an "executive MBA." Through the process, they network with other leaders and share experiences and insight, which leads to innovative strategies they take back to their companies, Goldberg said.

MINING PAGE 1

because that's the raw material for polyethylene plastic, the most common plastic around, as far as I know," Dick said.

With increasing amounts of natural gas in storage and declining natural gas prices, drillers and energy companies from Texas and Oklahoma look to Ohio's Utica shale for these wet gases.

But the process used to extract gas and oil from dense shale has also drawn the ire of the public, especially when done in densely populated areas.

YSU owns approximately 151 acres of mineral-rich shale. The land surrounding campus, however, is urban, which Dick said could create problems for oil and gas companies.

Dick said energy companies would first deplete and explore rural claims that are easier to develop.

Since May, there have been eight Utica gas wells permitted in Mahoning County and one completed well, which entered the production phase in October. Gas production numbers have not been released for this well, which produced nearly 10 barrels of oil a day during the completion phase.

All nine wells have been or will be drilled 12 to 19 miles to the south and west of YSU.

According to a land deed, YSU owns the mineral rights under Kilcawley House, which was mined for coal more than 150 years ago.

"To the best of my knowledge, every piece of land the university owns, we also own the mineral rights," said Greg

Morgione, YSU associate general counsel.

The land is owned by the state. And negotiating the leasing of mineral rights would be handled by the Ohio Oil and Gas Commission under the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Morgione said.

In the event that the state would lease university land, YSU could still have a voice in the operation.

"YSU still has the right to say we do not wish for there to be any oil and gas exploration," Morgione said.

But while the shale gas below YSU remains undisturbed, universities in north Texas have harnessed the minerals below their campuses.

"Since wells on campus started production in 2008, the University of Texas at Arlington has received nearly \$10 million in royalty payments," said Kristin Sullivan, assistant vice president for media relations at UTA.

Sullivan explained that UTA was approached by multiple oil and gas companies in 2007 when energy companies realized that the urban centers of Fort Worth and Arlington sat atop the "sweet spot," an area that has yielded trillions of cubic feet of natural gas in the past decade.

In 2008, the first six wells went into production on the north Texas campus.

No wells have been drilled on any of Ohio's 13 public universities, and Morgione said no company has approached YSU for its minerals.

The 420-acre UTA campus has 22 natural gas wells and one pad site. The site is locat-

ed on the southeast corner of campus in downtown Arlington, less than a mile from the Dallas Cowboys Stadium.

The university receives 27 percent of all natural gas produced. The funds support undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships, as well as the retention and recruitment of faculty and staff.

"It really enables our community to accomplish things we wouldn't have been able to accomplish before," Sullivan said.

While industry and businesses have touted the economic benefits for universities and publicly owned land in Texas, estimates on total gas reserves in Ohio's Utica shale vary widely, between 2 trillion cubic feet and 69 trillion cubic feet.

A Chesapeake Energy Corporation production report released by ODNR in early April shows that the company's first five Utica wells produced 2.6 billion cubic feet of natural gas in 2011.

The wells are a new breed in Ohio, which houses 49,000 vertical gas and oil wells. These wells are considered conventional because they do not extend 6,000 to 8,000 feet into shale formations.

Production has increased, as much as 300 times over by some state estimates, as companies employ a horizontal drilling technique that allows energy companies to open up to a mile of shale rock then inject chemicals mixed with sand and water in a process known as horizontal fracturing, or fracking.

SCHOLARSHIP PAGE 1

Dailey said their essays stood out above all others, which was a deciding factor in awarding them the scholarship.

"It was heartwarming that they put so much thought behind planning their education," Dailey said.

Stanton, an integrated language arts major, is a non-traditional student who has been attending YSU periodically for seven years.

She said her federal student loans are close to running out, and she worried about how she was going to pay for her last three semesters before graduation.

When she started at YSU in the fall of 2005, she took out extra money to pay for her living expenses, not realizing there was a lifetime limit. To date, she's taken out \$47,000.

"This is actually the first scholarship I've received," Stanton said. "It was nice to finally be recognized for all my hard work."

Hardy is a human resources major. She primarily works to pay her way through college and said she was thankful to receive the scholarship.

"I was very excited," Hardy said. "I work very hard to pay for college, and it's nice to have that relief."

Outside of the classroom, she works as a peer mentor at YSU and at a tanning salon. She also interns at Dental Express.

"I had to learn how to study when I came to college. In high school, I was an OK student, but when you come to college, it's such a different level, and they expect more," Hardy said.

Prioritizing and reminding herself that she's in college to receive an education keeps her motivated to achieve, Hardy said.

"There's not a lot of time for other stuff. You really have to stay focused," Hardy said.

Stanton works at the Department of Health Professions at

YSU, and she volunteers at the Youngstown Metro Church and a pregnancy help center. She's also a member of the YSU Women's Club.

She said balancing volunteering with work and school is a juggling act.

"It's a lot about sometimes you have to juggle things and make choices and prioritize," Stanton said. "Sometimes things do fall through the cracks. Some days, you can't go to the gym, go to church and get all your homework done."

To celebrate their scholarship recipients, the Women Retirees of YSU treated Hardy and Scranton to a luncheon.

"It was cool to actually sit down and talk with them. They were actually interested in us and where we are going," Hardy said.

Hardy and Scranton said they're thankful to receive the scholarship.

"Our goal is to give back as best we can," Dailey said.

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If hope floats, Youngstown would be heaven

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EDITORIAL BOARD

In the past three years, Youngstown has garnered considerable national attention as a great city for entrepreneurs and a wonderful place to live.

A tour of the city of Youngstown's website lists 12 articles since August 2009 that swathe the city in a blanket of hope and prosperity.

But the claims miss the mark when these outsiders carelessly use employment and housing statistics to paint a rosy picture of a blighted and jobless city.

In the most recent article, Forbes magazine sports writer Tom Van Riper took a stab at the best cities to raise a family. He must have had a great hot dog while attending a local sporting event because what he found tastes more like baloney to us.

In his article, he writes, "Other metros making the grade: Youngstown, Ohio, where incomes are still depressed but where cost of living is low and schools are good."

Schools are good? Youngstown schools? I guess last year's academic watch rating is better than the academic emergency rating the school system received the prior two years.

The Brookings Institution is another organization choking on statistics. They reported in an article last month that Youngstown is one of the 20 strongest-performing metros. They also reported Allentown, Pa., as one of the 20 weakest-performing metros.

If you're a local, then you know that Allentown and Youngstown are post-industrial cities that ride the Rust Belt. The only difference between the two: Allentown survived.

Youngstown unemployment peaked at nearly 20 percent in 1994, then again in 2010 at 15.3 percent — only to settle at 10.9 percent in February. Allentown's unemployment rate has never exceeded 12.5 percent in the past 30 years and was actually lower than Youngstown in February.

Lastly, and perhaps most laughable, the National Association of Home Builders reported in February that the Youngstown metro area was "the most affordable major housing market in the country during the fourth quarter" of 2011.

It's easy to pick a city off a list of low housing prices. It's not so easy to live in that city where blighted and vacant homes depreciate the housing market like worms in an apple orchard.

So, before you swallow the next round of irresponsible statistics, make sure the person who is doing the research spends a little time here.

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

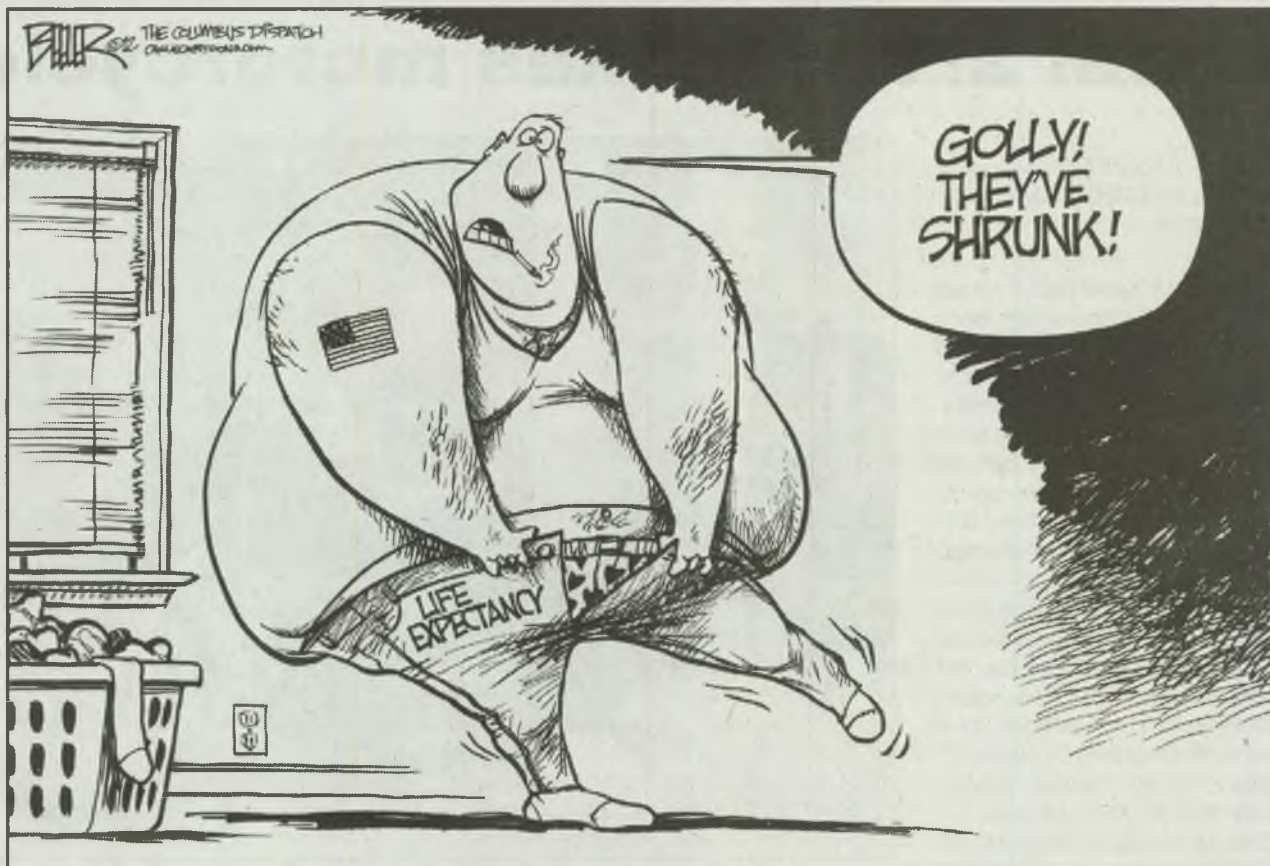
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The most haunting number

Secretary of Labor
(MCT)

Every day, 12 workers die on the job across America. As the nation's secretary of labor, I am surrounded by numbers about jobs, the labor market and about the economy more broadly. But the number 12 stays with me. It is a haunting reminder of the hard-working Americans we lose every day, often in the prime of their life, filled with the energy that we need to build a better world.

Sheri Sangji was one of these Americans, so full of promise. She was a 23-year-old research assistant in a lab at the University of California at Los Angeles, looking forward to a career that would allow her to pursue her interests in chemistry, law and the rights of women and immigrants. One day, while performing an experiment with highly reactive chemicals, a flash fire ignited her clothes and skin, causing fatal burns. Sheri had not been properly trained in the handling of the chemical that set off the blaze. I later met her family, a loving and tight-knit group of people. The weight of their loss was nearly unbearable. I think about them every day.

To remember Sheri Sangji and all others who die on the job across our country, we observe Work-

ers Memorial Day every April 28. Today, we remember families who have lost a loved one because of workplace injuries, and we pledge to continue fighting tirelessly to make sure that no worker trades a life for a livelihood.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is the agency in my department that sets and enforces standards that ensure every American comes home at the end of a shift. In 1970, when President Richard Nixon created the agency, 38 workers died every day.

Forty years later, we have gone from 38 to 12. This decline is the result of people working together, marshalling the combined efforts of private industry, government, trade unions and academia to create safe and healthful workplaces for every worker in America. It shows that it's possible to save lives through common sense safety and health standards and strong enforcement of the law.

I believe that we can keep doing better. I will not let up until we do.

That's why this week I announced our new public outreach campaign to educate workers and employers about what they must do to prevent deadly falls in construction. Falls are the leading cause of worker fatalities in the construction industry — a sector that accounts for almost one in every five worker deaths in the country.

No matter how many times I meet with families like the Sangjis, it never gets easier. No words can ever adequately express my sorrow.

Yet the strength of character I witness in almost every one of these meetings inspires me. It renews my passion for standing up for workers every day by leading this department in their honor. Almost universally, the single most important need that these bereaved families express is the goal of preventing another family from going through the same unspeakable suffering.

We are never prepared to say goodbye to the people we love, but we are even less so when we send our loved ones off for a day's work. It is our duty to ensure that all workers and employers recognize the need to make safety a priority and to stand behind our firm conviction that workplace injuries and fatalities are entirely preventable.

Today, I appeal to everyone to carry that message to your families and communities. Speak up about your support for the fundamental right to a safe and healthful workplace. Share your stories.

Finally, take a moment to remember the workers who have been taken from us too soon.

Making a living shouldn't include dying.

Lane Filler: Don't bet on Clinton or Biden in 2016

Newsday
(MCT)

It's become clear that the Republican nomination will go to Mitt Romney this year, and that can only mean one thing: time to kick off the 2016 race. Out this week was a poll showing Hillary Clinton with a huge lead among possible Democratic candidates in 2016, with 57 percent. Vice President Joe Biden was second (14 percent).

In fact, neither of these stalwarts stands a chance of being elected, and both are extremely unlikely to be nominated — just as Rick Santorum had no shot at the Republican nod this time.

If you want to know who liberals and conservatives will nominate, you have to understand what they really want.

When people say "Republicans always pick the next guy in line," they're not just whistling Dixie (although Southern support does help). That's what "conservative" means.

True conservatives remember the virtues of 1954, but not the inequities, and crave a return to that era. If they can't reverse time, they'll try to make it stop. Their ideal candidates (Dwight Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan, Robert Young in "Father Knows Best") are dead, so they support ones who remind them of those guys, and with whom they're comfortable.

Mitt Romney lost in 2008 to John McCain, who lost in 2000

to George W. Bush, who had governed Texas for eight years and was the son of a president. Before Junior, the Republicans had Bob Dole in 1996, who lost the nomination in 1980 and '88; George Bush the Elder, who lost to Reagan in 1980 and was his vice president for eight years; and Reagan, who lost to Ford on the convention floor in 1976.

Democrats support the glistening newbie because that's what "progressive" means. Liberals acknowledge the inequities of 1954, but not the virtues. They want the world of 2112, with flying cars run on hemp, total social and financial equality, and groovy new dance moves even the middle-aged can master.

Their ideal candidates are so open-minded, multicultural and gender-blind we haven't evolved enough to produce them yet, so Dems seek the next best thing: fresh, young candidates without any significant track record.

Democrats rarely pick the next in line, and when they do, they lose. Their winners in the last 45 years are Barack Obama, whose political profile before his nomination was built on an awesome speech at the 2004 Democratic convention; Bill Clinton, who was unknown nationally until his speeches at the 1980 and 1988 Democratic conventions; and Jimmy Carter, who could have been chosen "governor least likely to be president" just months before his nomination.

They had Walter Mondale, who had been vice president, but got

crushed. Mike Dukakis and John Kerry never sought national office before being nominated. The Dems' best recent shot at running the next pol in line was Al Gore, who had been vice president, and had run for president, but again, he didn't win.

Really. He didn't. Get over it.

There's a reason Democrats mostly support societal changes good and bad, like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Obamacare, civil and women's rights, the welfare state, urban renewal and gay marriage, while Republicans mostly stymie them. As William F. Buckley Jr. declared: "A conservative is someone who stands athwart history, yelling 'Stop.'"

A liberal stands behind history, shoving it, screaming, "Hurry up." It's the compromise between the two — the recognition of the value of our traditions and the value of improving upon them — that's made this nation great. But when prognosticating, we must remember who is who.

Hillary Clinton will be 69 when the primaries begin in 2016, and will have been a part of our national political landscape for 25 years. Joe Biden will be 73, a former VP first elected to the Senate 44 years before.

At that point, they'll be no match for the shiny young Democrats and their promises of fission-powered air conditioners to end global warming, much less the re-animated cadaver of Robert Young they might have to face in the general election.

Local artist makes motorcycles his medium

Chad Travers

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
REPORTER

Steve Chaszeyka, owner of Wizard Graphics, has been hand pinstriping and custom painting vehicles in his New Middletown shop for 40 years.

Chaszeyka has exhibited his custom painting at car and bike shows all over the country and has seen his work displayed in the pages of international publications.

He said he never imagined that an art museum would be interested in showing his work. He knew his talent qualified him, but he assumed that the self-described "lowbrow" nature of his chosen profession would prevent any acclaimed museums from showing his art.

"I never got the nerve. I'd do something that I knew was really good, but I'd end up talking myself out of showing it," Chaszeyka said.

Louis Zona, executive director and chief curator at the Butler Institute of American Art, cut through the class and acceptability questions and immediately accepted Chaszeyka's work as a valid form of American art.

After getting to know Chaszeyka at a book signing, Zona said he began to learn about Chaszeyka's special brand of art.

"No one can paint flames like Steve can. That's his calling card and his specialty. The depth and realism is just amazing," Zona said. "His steady hands are impressive, and his patience is incredible."

Zona approached Chaszeyka last year and asked him



Steve Chaszeyka sits on one of his custom painted motorcycles, which will be on display at the Butler Institute of American Art through Sunday. Photo by Chad Travers/The Jambar.

whether he wanted to display his work at the Butler. Chaszeyka said he was astonished, but jumped at the chance to show his work in an artistic setting.

"It's not highbrow art. It's sort of a subculture," Chaszeyka said. "It's a lot like tattoo artists. If I wasn't doing this, I'd probably be painting graffiti under bridges."

The two-week exhibition, titled "Moto-Graphics: Art of the Motorcycle/Hot Rod Generation Since the 1950s," runs through Sunday and showcases Chaszeyka's work. Admission is free.

The show includes six privately owned motorcycles that Chaszeyka has airbrushed for customers and several that he painted specifically with the Butler exhibition in mind.

The display also includes motorcycle gas tanks that Chaszeyka pinstriped, as well as metal cabinets he builds and paints as a hobby. Some of these cabinets resemble art deco refrigerators from the 1940s — complete with wild flames and tribal designs.

"I just started doing them over the winter when I didn't have much work and I was looking for something to do. I just use them in the shop to store things in. If I have anything in my shop, it's got to look cool," Chaszeyka said.

Chaszeyka said he customizes the cabinets by modifying the sheet metal for a more "retro" look and then airbrushes the designs freehand. The cabinets are not for sale, but several of them are displayed at local motorcycle shops, like

Harley-Davidson Bike Town in Youngstown.

Zona and Chaszeyka said they encourage people in the area who own motorcycles or hot rods that have been painted by Chaszeyka to bring them to the museum for the opening ceremony.

Chaszeyka is a modest artist who accepts recognition with a humble demeanor.

"While everyone was singing his praises at the opening ceremony, he was praising other artists. He's a very gracious and humble man, and, once you've met him, you've made a friend for life," Zona said.

Chaszeyka, a self-taught artist, said he was drawn to the hot rod and custom car culture when he was a kid in the 1950s. His father and uncle

were "car guys," and the custom paint schemes of their vehicles left an impression.

"I remember a huge crudely painted bat hanging from the headliner of my uncle's hot rod Chrysler station wagon. It used to terrify my brother and me. When we rode in the car, neither of us wanted to look up at it because it was so scary," Chaszeyka said.

When Chaszeyka saw Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper in the seminal 1960s movie "Easy Rider," he said he finally connected motorcycles with art.

"When I saw the way those bikes were painted, it just clicked. I never knew you could do that. I never intended to paint motorcycles, but the movie really resonated with me," Chaszeyka said.

As he grew older, he discovered his talent for painting and pinstriping and began to refine his craft. His first paid job was painting a chopper on the back of a denim jacket when he was 16.

Unlike traditional artists who can throw away a canvas and start again or paint over mistakes, Chaszeyka has essentially no margin for error when working on vehicles.

"You're painting on a metal canvas and you have one person that's your boss: the customer. Imagine a job where you get a paycheck every day. Every day your boss tells you how amazing you are and how great your work is. They come back for more; they tell their friends. Every day you get all these accolades," Chaszeyka said. "Why would I want to work anywhere else?"

Class project takes to the streets

Kacy Standohar

FEATURES EDITOR

After a string of local animal abuse news in February, a group of Youngstown State University students began organizing a parade to raise awareness about animal cruelty.

The Dog-A-Thon: Walk for Animal Cruelty was created by Adrian Watson and his classmates — group name: KatDog — for communication instructor Dorian Mermer's class.

Watson said he and his fellow group members feel strongly about rescuing stray animals and protecting them from cruelty.

"We heard about the dogs that were viciously thrown over the highway bridge and felt this fundraiser would be a great way to bring the animal cruelty to people's attentions," Watson said.

Mermer asked her students to create a sustainable organization. Watson and his group decided to organize an awareness event for Animal Charity, Mahoning County's humane agency.

On Saturday, the group will host a parade at the corner of Schenley Avenue and Rosewae Drive. It will have live music and a social mixer for animal lovers.

Registration begins at 2:30 p.m.,

and the parade begins at 4:30 p.m. Anyone willing to support the cause is welcome to walk in the parade.

Watson said this fundraiser is different from most because participants are not simply asking people for donations.

"We're offering them perks to be a part of this animal cruelty awareness movement," he said. "For example, we offer givers the opportunity to sign the 'We Love Our Animals' banner, which will be donated to the [Animal Charity] office."

Last week, KatDog hosted a 50/50 raffle and silent gift auction. The group has raised nearly \$600. Additional donations included \$80 in season tickets for YSU's department of theater and dance, a \$45 gift basket from Jazzman's Cafe and \$50 in dance lessons from Fred Astaire Dance Studio.

Rhonda Owens, Watson's classmate, said that although the group faced planning difficulties, she was motivated to raise the most money for extra credit in the class.

Talia Musolino, general manager of Animal Charity, spoke to Mermer's class before the project was initiated.

"The students asked a lot of fundraising questions, and I told them not to worry about how much money is involved or how much they raise," Mu-



KatDog members Rhonda Owens and Adrian Watson work at the Animal Charity donation table to raise money for animal care. Photo courtesy of Rhonda Owens.

solino said. "Any event that benefits our facility, not just financially, but just to get the word out there that these animals are here and need adopted is great."

Mermer said she has been teaching the class for six years and finds this

hands-on experience worthwhile.

"It gets small businesses involved and helps the students make connections," she said. "They have experienced a lot of curveballs, but they are still learning how to form a small micro-organization."

PROFESSOR PAGE 1

doctor visits at Emerson Hospital in Massachusetts.

After the diagnosis, she said she recalled her father having "visions of his daughter in a wheelchair."

But Smith said she was never scared.

The first year after her diagnosis, her friends and family told her they couldn't believe it.

"When the doctor showed me the sheet of paper that said 'multiple sclerosis' on it and asked me how I felt about it, I didn't know enough about it to feel anything," Smith said.

To learn more, Smith said she began researching MS. She subscribed to magazines to learn more about what her life would be like.

Smith's family has no history of MS, but it is connected to other autoimmune diseases, such as Crohn's disease, which

a few of her cousins have.

Smith said that MS is gradually debilitating and that it affects everyone differently.

She continued teaching and traveled to Russia for the next 10 years. Traveling is one of her favorite things, Smith said.

In 1999, she began using a cane and then a walker. She said the most difficult moment she faced was in 2005, when she realized she could no longer travel independently.

"I spent most of my adult life learning to be independent, and now I had to learn how to depend on people," Smith said.

In 2006, she was fitted for a power chair in case she lost mobility. Later that year, she fell and broke her leg. Being fitted for the power chair was a "godsend," she said.

"[MS is the] fun disease. They don't know what causes

it, they don't have a cure for it and they don't know exactly what the symptoms are," Smith said, adding that she and the disease share initials.

Smith has been certified to use hand controls in her car, but said she makes sure someone can still go with her. Getting out of the house is one of the hardest things for her to do. Smith said she tries to think of things to do, like going to the movies with her friends, so she can just get out.

While traveling, Smith fell in love with the "cafe sort of life." She said she loves the idea of people sitting around a table, drinking wine and talking about life.

It's a place where she can get away.

"You're divorced from the everyday distractions. The distractions are the worst part

of being at home," Smith said.

She said she wants to learn more about her disease. She continues to read articles and attends a support group twice monthly at the Jewish Community Center on Gypsy Lane in Youngstown.

She also takes an online survey every six months that keeps track of her progress. The survey provides long-term tracking for a research group.

Being a teacher with specific needs has become difficult for her. Smith said she understands that disability services focuses mainly on students, but finds it difficult sometimes to get help.

She takes advantage of the escort service offered on campus and is always pleased with the workers who help her.

She said she is upfront with people because she thinks it

makes them more comfortable. She knows that her look affects people and wants them to know she is no different. She just can't do everything the same way.

Smith also said she has come across many female students, faculty and employees who have graciously helped her.

Smith offers room and board to a nursing student in exchange for help around the house. She said she is pleased with the arrangement and that she is lucky that the student accepted her offer.

Smith said she plans to retire in July.

Over the years, she said she has tried to reinvent herself, as she has become accustomed to the many aspects of her disease.

"We'll see what happens," she said.

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Political wrangling continues on student loan interest rates

McClatchy Newspapers
(MCT)

WASHINGTON — Hoping for a federal student loan to help pay for college?

Beware, because the interest rates are set to double July 1 unless Congress and the White House find a way to avoid another looming political standoff.

The White House is pushing for an extension of the current interest rate of 3.4 percent. Without it, the rate will climb to 6.8 percent for more than 7 million students across the country, and the average loan recipient would be another \$1,000 in debt, according to White House spokesman Matt Lehigh.

"We must keep rates low

so more Americans get a fair shot, a more affordable education and a clear path to the middle class," Cecilia Munoz, director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, said Monday in a conference call with reporters.

The Obama administration also released a state-by-state list of how many students would be affected by the interest rate change, which would apply to federal Stafford loans for undergraduates. In Missouri, for example, the impact would be felt by more than 161,000 students who take out federal college loans each year; in Kansas, about 78,000 students.

President Barack Obama will take his student loan campaign on the road with stops Tuesday at the University of North Carolina at Cha-

pel Hill and the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Wednesday at the University of Iowa.

The issue also fits into the president's re-election strategy of emphasizing opportunity and addressing the economic concerns of everyday Americans.

The presumptive Republican nominee, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, issued a statement Monday expressing support for maintaining the current interest rate.

"Given the bleak job prospects that young Americans coming out of college face today, I encourage Congress to temporarily extend the current low rate on subsidized undergraduate Stafford loans," Romney said. "I also hope the president and Con-

gress can pass the extension responsibly, that offsets its cost in a way that doesn't harm the job prospects of young Americans."

Munoz said that keeping the current interest rate on student loans would cost taxpayers \$6 billion because the lower the rate, the higher the government's costs.

A bill to maintain the current rate, sponsored by Democratic Rep. Joe Courtney of Connecticut, has 126 Democratic co-sponsors but no Republicans.

Republican Rep. John Kline, chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, said in a statement: "We must now choose between allowing interest rates to rise or piling billions of dollars on the backs of taxpayers. I have serious con-

cerns about any proposal that simply kicks the can down the road. ... My colleagues and I are exploring options in hopes of finding a responsible solution that serves borrowers and taxpayers equally well."

The current rates resulted from a 2007 law that reduced the interest rate on Stafford loans over four years, dropping them to 6.0 percent in the first year and gradually down to the current 3.4 percent rate.

If Congress allows the rates to reset to 6.8 percent, "it's going to be an expensive freeze," said Nancy Merz, director of financial aid and scholarships at the University Missouri-Kansas City. "The problem is students are getting further into debt all the time."

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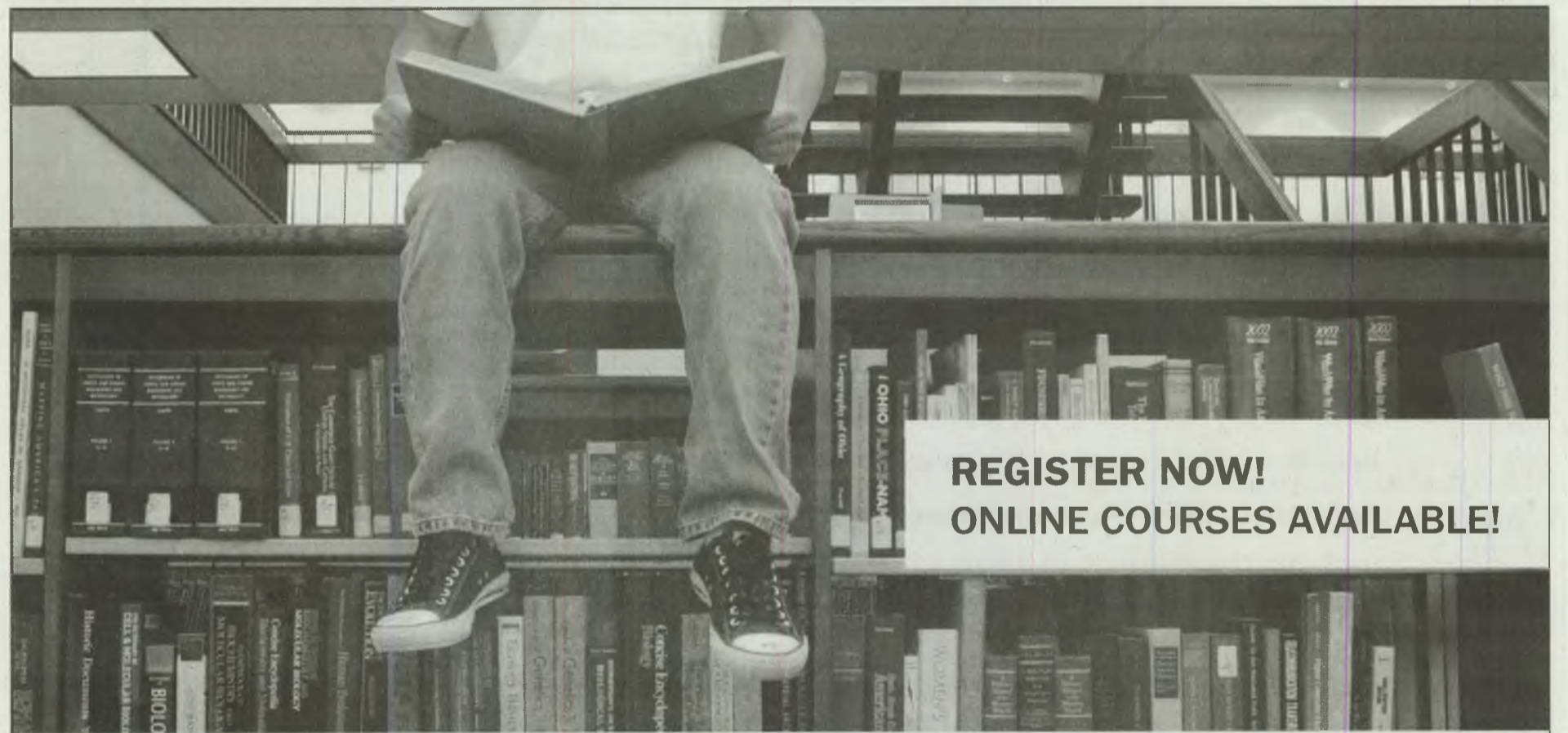
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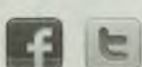
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Opportunity on the 'Horizon' for men's tennis

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University men's tennis team accomplished a few firsts over the weekend that each player hopes to incorporate at the Horizon League Championship.

The Penguins' victory over Butler University on Sunday was the first in school history. The win also gave the Penguins a third-place finish in the HL, the highest finish in school history.

Head tennis coach Mark Klysner said the team is in a great spot heading into Friday's tournament in Indianapolis.

"I feel like there are matches we have maybe let slip we could have won," Klysner said. "But, I think the most promising aspect of the team is we have yet to play to the ability that we can play at. If anything, this is the time we are going to peak and play our best tennis because we haven't shown it collectively as a team yet."

The Penguins ended the season with a 9-10 record; 4-3 in the HL.

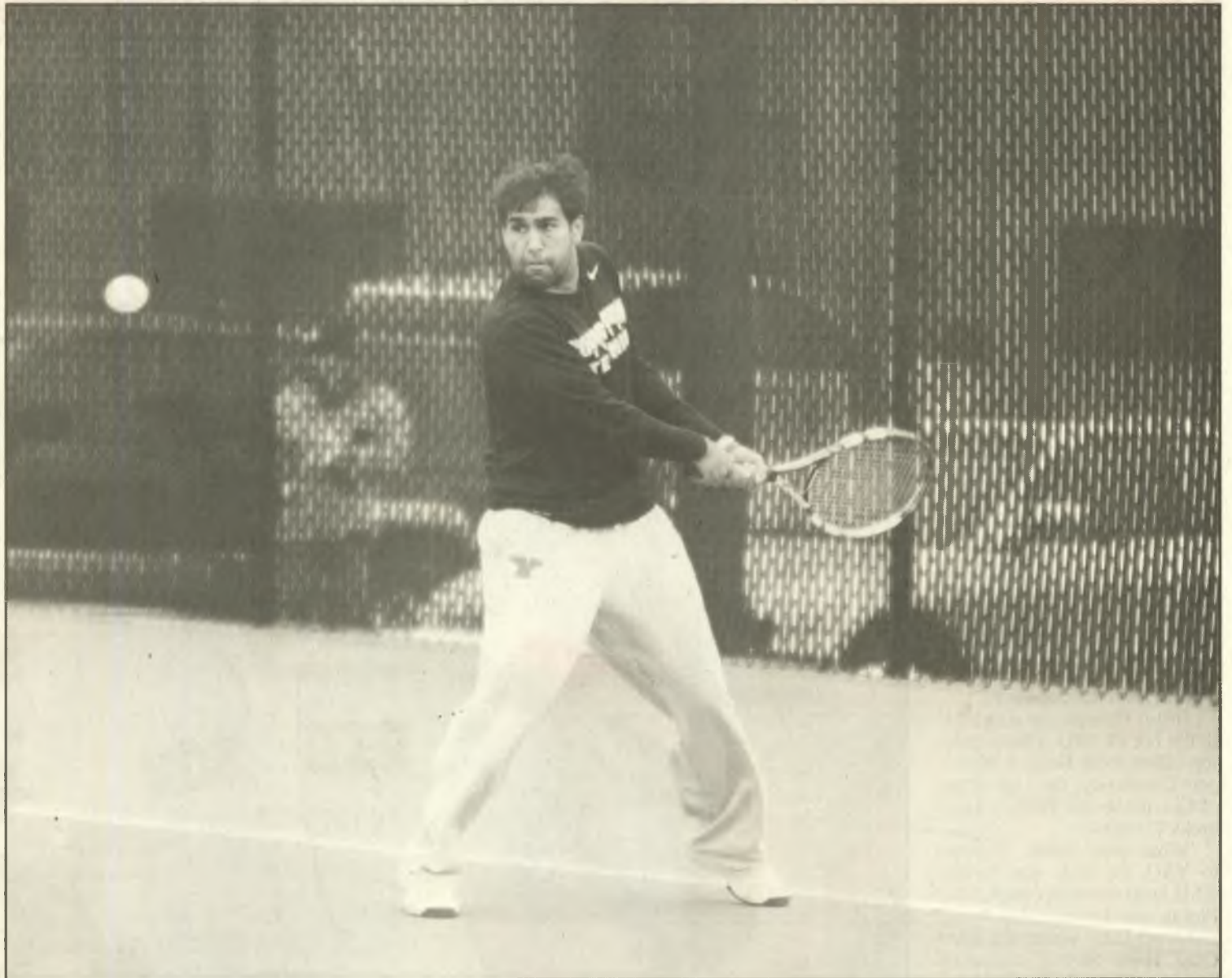
"The other teams in the conference, they realize we are a dangerous team in the conference because, on any given day, we can beat anybody," Klysner said. "It is just a matter of the guys' putting it together for three days."

Sophomore Max Schmerin said the team has played well over the spring, but has yet to do it consistently.

"Our whole team hasn't played well for one match," Schmerin said. "Anyone can really win the Horizon League. It's pretty much a toss-up."

Klysner said he is looking for Schmerin, who did not compete on Sunday, to play a vital role.

"He just took a day off to just kind of rest up and clear his head and get himself



Senior Tariq Ismail returns a shot against Butler University on Sunday. The Penguins begin their run at a conference title against Butler on Friday. Photo by Nick Mancini/The Jambar.

ready," Klysner said. "He had a tough stretch in the league. We need him to play well. We need him to step up in the singles."

Klysner also expects freshman Dawoud Kabli to continue his solid play. Kabli said that having some experience against the opponents would be a nice advantage.

"We played some Horizon League opponents in the fall in some tournaments," Kabli said. "We got to scope them out a little bit in the fall, so that helps us prepare for dual matches leading into the Horizon League tournament."

Schmerin agrees with Kabli when it comes to experience.

"When I was a freshman last year, it is easier to play someone who doesn't have as much experience this year for me," Schmerin said. "You kind of have that edge mentally against them, and that is big."

The Penguins open the tournament with Butler on Friday, just five days removed from playing them. A victory over the Bulldogs could establish potential matchups against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and Wright State University.

Klysner said the team would love to have a chance at those rematches.

"When we lost to Green Bay, we really came out flat in that match," Klysner said. "As a team, we should have had a better showing when we played them. Wright State is another match where the guys came out flat and didn't play well."

Kabli said the team just has to stay focused in the tournament.

"We just need to prepare our doubles game more," Kabli said. "We got the doubles point [against Butler],

so that was great. Hopefully, we will be able to get another win, learn from that match and move on."

Klysner said this team has the potential to make some noise in the tournament. He said the team is excited and ready to get going.

"It's a huge opportunity," Klysner said. "Last year was nice to get in the conference tournament, but we didn't feel like we necessarily had the team that could win it. These guys know that if they play well for three days, we have the team that could walk away with the title."

Meet YSU's finest

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

This year, 26 YSU professors have been named as Distinguished Professor Award winners. The Jambar will be profiling them in a series in the final two issues of the spring.

Christopher Barzak, instructor of English

Patrick Bateman, assistant professor of management

Ray Beiersdorfer, professor of geological and environmental sciences

Steven Brown, professor of English

Michael Butcher, assistant professor of biological sciences

Michael Crescimanno, associate professor of physics and astronomy

Rebecca Curnalia, assistant professor of communication

Patrick Durrell, associate professor of physics and astronomy

Rangamohan Eunni, associate professor of management

Karen Giorgetti, associate professor and chairwoman of psychology

Priscilla Gitimu, assistant professor of human ecology

Qi Jiang, professor and chairwoman of sociology and anthropology

Diane Kandray, associate professor of health professions

Brian Leskiw, associate professor of chemistry

Hazel Marie, assistant professor of mechanical engineering

Marcia Matanin, professor of human performance and exercise science

Donna McNierney, professor of educational foundations, research, technology and leadership

Jeanine Mincher, assistant professor of human ecology

Peter Norris, professor of chemistry

Yogendra Panta, assistant professor of mechanical engineering

Nathan Ritchey, professor and chairman of mathematics and statistics

Gary Salvner, professor and chairman of English

Albert Sumell, associate professor of economics

Michael Theall, professor of teacher education

Richard VanVoorhis, assistant professor of counseling and special education

Mark Womble, associate professor of biological sciences

From Penguin to pro

YSU alum makes Red Sox debut

Josh Medore
REPORTER

Since Major League Baseball's inception in 1869, 17,769 men have been deemed good enough to play baseball at the highest level.

One of those men is Youngstown State University alumnus Justin Thomas, who will don the same Boston Red Sox uniform worn by all-time greats Ted Williams and Carl Yastrzemski this season.

Justin Thomas came to YSU in the fall of 2003, after receiving offers from Eastern Michigan University, the University of Cincinnati and Western Kentucky University.

What drew Justin Thomas to YSU, he said, was former YSU head baseball coach Mike Florak and the team that would surround him, which included Clay High School teammate and friend Jim Phillips.

"It was totally his decision," said Justin Thomas' father, Steven Thomas. "And it turned out to be a great decision."

Another contributing factor, Steven Thomas said, was YSU's mid-major status.

"Choosing a mid-major gave him the chance to start his freshman year and mature quicker," Steven Thomas said.

Florak recruited Justin Thomas.

"We've always tried to have a family-type atmosphere here, and I think Justin gravitated toward that," Florak said.

Florak said he immediately knew that Justin Thomas had potential.

"When we were recruiting him, I looked at his body type, looked at his left arm, how loose and how well it worked, looked at his competitiveness ... then I started thinking, you know, 'I think we're sitting on a major leaguer here,'" Florak said.

Florak recalled the exact moment he knew that Justin Thomas had the potential to pitch professionally.

It was during the first game of the 2004 season at the University of Missouri.

"So, he's going up against the Big 12. He's going against that caliber competition and really just, you know, beat them soundly," Florak said.

Justin Thomas said that game against Missouri is one of YSU's best wins and most memorable moments — other than winning the Horizon League tournament in 2004.

"[It was] the best win we had as a team as long as I was at [YSU]," Justin Thomas said.

During his three years of coaching Justin Thomas, Florak said times came when he had to discipline him, but that he was always a complete team guy.

Following his junior year, Justin Thomas left to enter the 2005 MLB draft. The Seattle Mariners took him in the fifth round with the 113th pick.

"I was totally elated for him," his father said. "It's always the dream, but, along the



Justin Thomas pitches in his home debut at Fenway Park on April 16 against the Tampa Bay Rays. Thomas played baseball for three seasons at YSU and made the Red Sox Opening Day roster. Photo courtesy of Michael Ivins/The Boston Red Sox.

way, it's hard to critique your own [son]."

Florak said he had no doubt in his mind that Justin Thomas would one day make it to the major leagues.

Justin Thomas, however, was a little more wary of his trip to the professional stage.

"When I played high school, I knew I was good enough to play at college, but you never really know where that's gonna take you," Justin Thomas said. "I didn't really realize that I had a chance to play professionally until probably the end of my sophomore year to the start of my junior year."

After he was drafted in June 2005, Justin Thomas spent the remainder of the season with the Everett AquaSox, the Class A short season affiliate of the Mariners.

The following year, Justin Thomas spent time with two of the Mariners' Low A affiliate Wisconsin Timber Rattlers before being called up to play with the High A Inland Empire 66ers.

In 2007 and 2008, Justin Thomas played for the Mariners

AAA affiliate West Tennessee Diamond Jaxx before making his major league debut against the Texas Rangers, where he didn't allow a hit or walk and struck out Marlon Byrd in one inning of work.

In 2009, Justin Thomas signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates as a free agent and spent time alternating between the AAA Indianapolis Indians and the Pirates.

The latest leg of Justin Thomas' career has brought him to one of MLB's most historic franchises: the Boston Red Sox.

"He was certainly a long shot at best going into spring training," Steven Thomas said.

"But injuries to some of Boston's major relievers landed Justin a spot on the opening day roster."

"He's a great guy. You could always count on him," said Justin Banks, who played with Justin Thomas for three years. "That's just awesome. ... I'm just proud of him."

"I just hope the Red Sox give him a legitimate chance because he was always at his

best in clutch situations," Florak said.

On April 16, the Boston Red Sox played their home opener against the Tampa Bay Rays, and Justin Thomas played his first game at Fenway Park.

"The Green Monster was covered in an American flag for the national anthem; we had a flyover. I mean, it's just everything you can imagine," Justin Thomas said.

While no one knows what the future holds for Justin Thomas, his father said that at the least it's been a fun ride.

"It's a unique career — you never what'll happen next. As a parent, you can't sit back and relax. ... You just have to stay in the moment," Steven Thomas said.

Justin Thomas said his goal is to keep playing baseball.

"Hopefully, I find a home in the major leagues, and I pitch well enough to stay and accumulate some service time and become somebody who is a mainstay in the major leagues," Justin Thomas said.

As with any career, rough patches always occur, and it's

no different for Justin Thomas.

When the going gets tough, he turns to his wife and YSU alumna, Theresa. The couple married during the 2008 off-season in Massillon and have a 6-month-old daughter, Ella Marie.

"My wife has always been by my side. She keeps me humble, and that's been something that I've been able to use throughout my career to help me take my mind off the game. ... No matter what I did on the field, she was always there for me," he said.

Whatever the future holds for Justin Thomas, those who have spent time around him already consider him to be a success.

"He's a hard-nosed kid who always worked hard to get where he is now," Banks said.

"As a parent, I couldn't be prouder. He's a good player and a better kid," Steven Thomas said.

"He's never changed one bit. He's the kind of guy that could win five Cy Young [Awards] and still be the same. He's a hell of a good person," Florak said.

Women's golf preps for final tournament

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

When members of the women's golf team go to bed the night before a tournament, they each follow a particular routine.

Freshman Sana Khan said she listens to either Drake or Rihanna, depending on how she feels; sophomore Angela Molasky said she reads books.

Freshman Aislynn Merling said she has read Dr. Bob Rotella's "Golf is Not a Game of Perfect" multiple times to help her prepare.

Merling said Chapter 11 is her favorite.

"The chapter itself is 'Golf is Not a Perfect Game,' and it's more about keeping calm,

keeping your focus and accepting a shot, because that's my biggest issue," Merling said. "I expect every shot to be good, and that helps me get mentally ready."

Merling has yet to break any clubs, but said she becomes easily angered. She added, with a laugh, that her parents would "kill" her if she ruined a club.

"I used to get really angry, but within the past few years, because of the book, it just helped me keep a clear mind, helped me move on, take a deep breath and go up to the next shot with a clear mind," Merling said.

Merling said she will read the book at least three more times this season on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights in Orlando, Fla., as the Penguins mentally prepare for this sea-

son's Horizon League Championship.

Merling said traveling to Florida first hit her during her legal environment class around 9 a.m. Friday. She looked over at Khan, and both girls began to smile.

"In one week, we'll be on a flight to Orlando," they said to each other.

Junior Sarah Heimlich, last week's HL Player of the Week, said she is excited, too.

"I can't wait to go to Orlando," she said. "[I] played well last year, and [I'm] hoping to play better this year."

Heimlich, who placed first with Merling at the Niagara Purple Eagles Invitational on April 10, finished second on the team at the HL Championship last year with a score of 244 (82-83-79).

She said one of her main focuses for this season's tournament is leading the team, which consists of three freshmen, one sophomore and one junior.

"With college golf, everyone has played in highly competitive tournaments before, so everyone knows that pressure and stress of being in a tournament like that," Heimlich said. "The Horizon League Championship is definitely that feel — times five."

Freshman Allison Mitzel said the freshmen are nervous but eager at the same time.

"All three of the freshmen are experienced and seasoned," Mitzel said. "The nerves are going to be there, but I think we'll be fine. Golf's a big mental sport. If you're not mentally prepared, you can really screw up your game easily."

Khan said Molasky has been helping the team alongside Heimlich.

"We don't know a lot of things, so, obviously, Sarah and Angela have helped us understand the surroundings and stuff like that," Khan said.

To prepare for the conference tournament, Heimlich said she tries to keep the team even-tempered.

"If you stay even-tempered, keeping that mind a little quiet, it really helps," Heimlich said.

The Penguins head into the tournament with three victories this season, opening it with a win at the YSU Invitational in early September. They also won the Robert Morris Holiday Inn Golf Classic, held in October, and the Niagara Purple Eagles Invitational on April 9 and 10.