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SECOND OPIOID SUMMIT BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Photo by MORGAN PETRONELLI/THE JAMBAR

MORGAN PETRONELLI

“Help for today, hope for tomorrow.” These words echoed in the minds of community members last Wednesday.

The Mahoning County Juvenile Court Advisory Board and the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board held the second Community Opioid Summit at the Covelli Centre on Feb. 21.

Community members were jam-packed into the event room ready to hear a panel discussion about the prevention, education and fight against opioid drug-related abuse in the Mahoning Valley.

The panel consisted of Guy Burney of the Youngstown Community Initiative to Remove Violence (CIRV) Commission; Lt. Jerard Sutton of the Ohio State Highway Patrol; Dr. David Kennedy of the Mahoning County Coroner’s Office; Dr. Joseph Sitarik of the Neil Kennedy Recovery Center; Darryl Alexander of the Youngstown Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (YUMADAOP); Dr. Daniel Brown of Meridian HealthCare and Angie Bergefurd of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS).

Panelists were also joined by guest

speakers Nikki Campana of Struthers and Donald Slocum of Youngstown, who have previously struggled with addiction and are on the road to recovery. The community summit was moderated by channel 21 WFMJ news anchor Derek Steyer.

Opening statements from panel members included talks of prevention opportunities and outreach programs available to those struggling with addiction in the area.

During the event, Bergefurd said the state of Ohio has spent \$23.7 million in prevention activities and \$4.5 million on grant opportunities to help battle addiction.

Lt. Sutton said Mahoning County is tenth in the state for overdose deaths with over 1,200 deaths in 2017.

Meanwhile, Burney brought some laughter to the event with inspirational stories to showcase there is hope of a tomorrow for those struggling with addiction.

“We lack togetherness, not resources,” Burney said.

With him, he brought Slocum, who spoke of his journey down the dark path of addiction starting at the age of 18. He is currently on the road to recovery and getting his life back on track.

“When I decided to change myself and my ways, that’s when I realized there are resources, as well as helping hands, that are willing to help me up, but they aren’t going to pull me up by themselves, I have to pull with them,” Slocum said.

Another recovering addict also spoke during the summit. Campana discussed how she felt isolated during her fight with addiction. During her time in detox, she said she wasn’t permitted to see her kids or her family. She said it was when she felt like she had no one that she then flipped the switch and decided to change her ways for herself and not just others.

Reps. Tim Ryan of Howland, D-13th, and Bill Johnson of Marietta, R-16th also joined in via pre-recorded video messages.

After opening statements from the panel, the event transitioned to an anonymous question and answer session. One attendee in the crowd asked Dr. Kennedy when was the best time to introduce drug abuse education and prevention into schools.

Dr. Kennedy suggested first grade.

Dr. Sitarik said he was once an addict himself and is currently in recovery.

“The diseased brain has a need to medicate. It may start as trauma, but I have a

brain that is predisposed to it,” Dr. Sitarik said.

He said it does not matter how much trauma he had or if he has it or not.

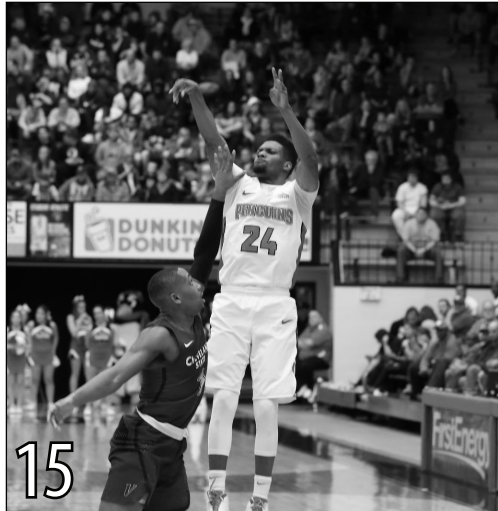
“It doesn’t matter because I can’t stop despite that. It’s a primary disease of the brain. So, you can eliminate all of the trauma from the patient’s world and they would still have the need to self-medicate,” Dr. Sitarik said.

Another topic introduced was the Protecting Rights of Those Exploited by Coercive Trafficking (PROTECT) Act of 2018. The piece of legislation was introduced by Senators Rob Portman, Sherrod Brown, John Cornyn, Dianne Feinstein, Amy Klobuchar, Bill Nelson and Thom Tillis.

The bill aims to specify the utilization of prescription and illegal drugs as a way of coercion for victims to participate in human trafficking. The bill is also set up to hold traffickers accountable for aiding in the victim’s addiction for the purpose of trafficking.

If you or anyone you know is struggling with addiction please contact the Neil Kennedy Recovery Center at (330) 744-1181, YUMADAOP at (330) 743-2772 and MHAS at mha.ohio.gov.

FEATURES



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEWS

- 3 | Keynote Speaker
- 4 | Mental Health Advocacy Training
- 5 | Pi Sigma Alpha
- 6 | '90s Party

A&E ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

- 7 | Demos Papadimas
- 8 | Disappearance of Arthur Weston
- 9 | The Amenities of the Rec and the Y

OPINION

- 12 | Editorial/Hocking Hills
- 13 | Merit Pages/Student Business Owners

SPORTS

- 14 | Horizon League Championships
- 15 | YSU Men's Basketball
- 16 | Pressbox/YSU Women's Basketball

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER DISCUSSES INCLUSION AND BLACK STUDENT RETENTION RATE

JORDAN UNGER

Motivational speaker, author and educator Emma Fraser-Pendleton discussed retention rates of black college students and the need for inclusion at Youngstown State University on Feb. 22.

YSU students, alumni and faculty gathered in the Ohio Room in Kilcawley Center to hear Pendleton's story.

Pendleton said the color of her skin has made it difficult to identify with her African-American heritage, since people would commonly mistake her for being white, Hispanic or Jewish. She said people would treat her as if she was from their group, so they would talk to her differently.

"I've gotten accused of being neglectful to so many different races," Pendleton said.

She learned to use this to her advantage when trying to promote inclusion, such as leading the black students' union while attending Harvard University, which had a predominately white faculty at the time.

William Blake, director of student inclusion and enrichment, introduced Pendleton at the lecture. He said she came to YSU for the first time as the Martin Luther King Day breakfast speaker in 2016. He said it piqued Pendleton's interest when YSU President Jim Tressel ended his opening remarks by saying, "Go Penguins."

"It sparked in her at the time to explore what it really meant in terms of inclusion, what it really meant in terms of diversity and what it really meant in terms of [retention at universities]," Blake said.

Pendleton is currently finishing a book on the subject, "Finding Your Inner Penguin." She said the book is about finding who you are not based on the color of your skin, but on your humanity.

"As I wrote it, I realized it was becoming more than just my journey," Pendleton said. "I thought it would be easy when I had the epiphany, but it wasn't because then I had to look at my own prejudice. I had to interview other people to see what they thought and then I begin to see the world entirely different."

Blake said questions and input during the lecture are going to be used as material for the book.

Tiffany Anderson, director of Africana Studies and English professor at YSU, organized the events for Black History Month. Anderson said she was pleased to conclude the month with Pendleton's lecture.

"We were really focused on dedicating this month to black student retention because it's been a problem at our university," Anderson said. "Here we have our keynote speaker who I think inspires [the students] to stay in our university system."

According to an article published by The Jambar, the 2010 six-year cohort graduation rate for black students was nine percent. Pendleton said the statistics are against minorities, but students don't need to be identified by this.

"If you think of yourself as an army of one, that you will pass, that you will get through, you can. You're not representing your race, you're representing you and when you make it, your race advances," Pendleton said.

All of the black YSU alumni were asked to stand at the

event, which was followed by applause. Anderson said she wanted to honor those who attended for their accomplishments.

"I wanted to make sure that all of our students saw that there are black people who have graduated from Youngstown State University who are doing wonderful things in our community and beyond. It exists, it happens and it will happen with you all too," Anderson said.

Pendleton said retention issues come from poor preparation in middle schools and high schools. These issues also arise from a disconnection between groups on college campuses.

She said it is up to the students and student organizations themselves to increase inclusion of other groups. Pendleton also said one person can come along and change someone else's perspective on race regardless of their title.

"You are college students. You are at the height of everything that you can do and the fact that this is a university that prizes diversity, even if the numbers are small, it doesn't matter. One person can change a place," Pendleton said.

She said young people need to plan events to discuss diversity and racial differences. She said a college campus is the safest place to have these discussions, so it is unacceptable to stay in your comfort zone.

"You have to open up the dialogue," Pendleton said. "If you sit next to a person of another culture and you never have a conversation and you never share and you never break bread and you never discuss race, you haven't done anything. You've occupied a seat."

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

TO HOST MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING DAY

RACHEL GOBEP

The Youngstown State University Student Government Association and partners will present the third annual Mental Health Advocacy Training professional development experience in April.

It is an opportunity to educate students, faculty and staff on present mental health concerns and the importance of talking about mental health and suicide at YSU. The training day is also a professional development opportunity, according to an SGA press release on Feb. 26.

Anne Lally, the assistant director of counseling services, said YSU students, faculty and staff should be involved in the training day because the campus is a community.

"This training will provide each individual with an understanding of a person in crisis," she said. "Whether your friend, coworker, roommate, classmate, peer, family member, etc. approaches you with

a crisis we will have learned skills to listen, support and refer from this day."

Lally said those who attend the training day will also learn tools to show "genuine empathy" because there will be a "clearer understanding of others' issues."

"[They] will feel comfortable encouraging the individual to see a trained professional who can provide the appropriate intervention."

Ernie Barkett, vice president of SGA, also said it is important for the YSU community to participate in this event because mental health can sometimes be overlooked.

"Education is a key step in preventing and improving the mental health, and we hope this program can enlighten as many YSU community members as possible," he said.

Barkett said due to the stressful environment in college, mental health issues can arise and be prevalent.

"With the diverse community of students, faculty and staff it is important to

educate as many individuals as possible, so that we can advocate for the mental health together to better the campus community as a whole," he said.

Rayann Atway, president of SGA, said an array of people will be presenting at the event. She said in the morning, graduate students will present various topics such as eating disorders, anxiety/depression, bipolar disorder, trauma related disorders and the overlap between physical and mental health.

"In the afternoon, there will be a luncheon, presentations from different campus departments [and] a presentation on mental health policies at the state level from Representative Marlene Anielski," Atway said.

She said the afternoon suicide prevention and training portion of the event will be led by YSU's Mental Health Counselors, Dr. Ann Jaronski and Lally.

Lally said the training will be to help the community to identify warning signs and risk factors of those in crisis.

"Our goal is to provide 'gatekeeper' training so that individuals feel comfortable listening to an individual in crisis in a supportive manner and comfortably refer them to the appropriate source," she said.

Certificates of participation will be given to all attendees.

The SGA encourages all students, faculty and staff to attend the event in order to help SGA continue the movement toward speaking up on behalf of others and breaking the stigmas associated with mental health disorders, according to the press release.

The event will take place April 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center at YSU.

Admission is free and open to the campus community. Pre-registration is required for participation in the lunch portion of the day, from noon to 1 p.m.

Atway said attendance during the entire duration of the event is not required.

NEWS BRIEFS

STATE CAPITAL PROPOSAL CONSISTS OF \$4M FOR YSU INNOVATION CENTER

The Ohio General Assembly's proposed 2019-2020 state capital bill includes \$4 million to Youngstown State University to help fund the Mahoning Valley Innovation and Commercialization Center in downtown Youngstown, according to a YSU press release on Feb. 27.

The press release stated that if the proposal is approved it will be the second consecutive biennial budget bill that includes a special allocation for the MVICC. YSU received \$3 million for the project in the 2017-18 capital budget

STRATEGIC FUNDING PROCESS UPDATE

According to an email from Neal McNally speaking on behalf of the Youngstown State University Budget Advisory Council, 30 proposals were submitted for strategic investment funding, totaling in more than \$4 million in requests.

Up to \$1 million in strategic funds are available for allocation in the 2018 fiscal year.

McNally stated the Budget Advisory Council is reviewing each proposal. It will then develop recommendations for YSU President Jim Tressel for final consideration.

A list of the proposals is available at ysu.edu.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF KATHY KUGL

Kathy Kougl, professor emeritus in the Department of Communication, died in Baltimore, Maryland, on Feb. 11.

She began her career at YSU in 1975 and after 31 years, she retired in 2006. She was the director of Communication Education.

When Kougl retired, she established the Kathleen Kougl Student Scholarship for Communication Department majors. Those who wish to make a donation in her memory may donate to her scholarship fund.

WOMEN RETIREES OF YSU TO OFFER SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship committee of the Women Retirees of Youngstown State University is accepting applications through April 1.

The scholarship is awarded to a full-time, junior female student who maintains a minimum 3.0 GPA. The recipient must be a U.S. citizen and enrolled in a degree-seeking program.

Information about the scholarship is available at www.ysu.edu/financial/scholarships. Application forms may be printed from the website or picked up at the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships located on the second floor of Meshel Hall at YSU.



PI SIGMA ALPHA MEMBERS PRESENT AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Photo Courtesy of JEREMY COLER

MORGAN PETRONELLI

Youngstown State University's Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter Alpha Alpha Rho members traveled to Washington D.C. to present their research papers at the Pi Sigma Alpha 2018 National Student Research Conference held at George Washington University on Feb. 16.

Three members of the political science honors society were chosen to present their work: Marissa Snyder, Dylan Edwards and Tabitha Richmond. Two other members Jeremy Coler and Maggie Stanko accompanied them.

Every year the conference invites undergraduate Pi Sigma Alpha members to present their work, such as an honors thesis or senior capstones, in front of other members and political science-oriented professionals.

Adam Fuller, Pi Sigma Alpha advisor and assistant professor of politics and international relations, said the selection process for presenters at the conference was "highly competitive."

"I was told by the selection committee in the national office that it was very difficult to choose which students were selected, so it makes YSU, and particularly our department of politics and international relations, look great nationally to have three of our students chosen to participate," Fuller said.

He said the conference is a great opportunity for the members to support one another, and students have the

opportunity to support engage with each other for support and get suggestions on their work from qualified professionals.

Tabitha Richmond, Pi Sigma Alpha member, presented her paper about the impact that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have on the Israeli and Palestinian Peace Process.

"I became passionate about this topic by working for an NGO where I was able to meet people from the Middle East and hear firsthand of the hardships of growing up in the middle of a conflict zone," Richmond said.

Richmond explained how she has never previously presented at a national conference, but experiencing the nervousness was worthwhile in order to hear suggestions and advice from professionals about her research.

"Not only was presenting an invaluable experience, the weekend was full of learning from other students on a variety of topics as well as gaining a handful of new networking experiences," Richmond said. "It was such a motivating and stimulating weekend that I can truly say has helped to reaffirm my career goals."

Jeremy Coler, fellow Pi Sigma Alpha member, attended the conference in support of his colleagues.

"The opportunity to present research papers like this enables our members to represent [YSU] and our Alpha Alpha Rho chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha on the national stage," Coler said.

Marissa Snyder, Pi Sigma Alpha president, said the paper she presented at the conference was her political sci-

ence capstone. It discussed the development of privilege against self-incrimination and how the Supreme Court has reduced the right to remain silent during police interrogation.

"These presentations really showcase the quality of our students and our department. If nothing else, they're a reflection of the caliber of our organization, since we can hold our own against other undergraduate institutions from all over the country," Snyder said.

Dylan Edwards, Pi Sigma Alpha member and presenter, said he has spent the last year researching his political science capstone revolving around how populism and extremism have become more common in today's political discourse.

"I posit in my paper that in times of economic crisis and cultural upheaval, economic populist movements rise in popularity and begin taking on the rhetoric of extreme cultural movements on their respective sides of the political spectrum," Edwards said.

He said that presenting in the national conference is an enormous honor. YSU's chapter of the political science honors society has won best chapter in the nation two years in a row.

"Having three YSU students pursuing research at this conference puts us closer to possibly taking [best chapter award] three years in a row. The award also carries a monetary prize for the club, allowing our organization to do more work here in our community," Edwards said.

YSU STUDENTS INTRODUCE "PAINTED: A HORROR SHORT FILM"

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
ALYSSA WESTON

Youngstown State University students produced "Painted: A Horror Short Film," which is about a young painter who buys a canvas that brings out her self-doubt and suicidal thoughts.

Miles Garrett, junior theater major, is the writer and director of the short film. Garrett said he created "Painted" to externalize the insecurities an artist might have.

He said the only way he felt he could show the true emotion behind the uncertainties is by making the short film a horror piece.

"You are literally being haunted by those insecurities and your inner demons," Garrett said.

Although Garrett said he has experience directing a few web series episodes, "Painted" is the first short film he has released.

Garrett said his target audience is anyone in the creative field and he wants viewers to reflect on the idea that what they do carries baggage.

"Ultimately it is about entertainment,

but hopefully they take it for a little bit more than just a horror piece about a haunted painting," he said.

Leah Tekac, sophomore musical theater major, portrayed the artist in "Painted."

Tekac said Garrett proposed the idea to her a few months ago and together they created the storyline.

"[Garrett] was definitely the mastermind of the film," she said. "He always has such great ideas and he's wonderful to work with. I was honored he asked me to be a part of it."

"Painted" has no dialogue and Tekac said it was intimidating to tell a story just through physical movement and facial expressions. She said Garrett helped her through each scene to make sure it was what he wanted.

Tekac said she enjoyed playing the painter because many people have struggled with self-doubt and it made the character easier to empathize with.

"Thankfully, I've never been in as dire of a situation as my character, but the frustration and devastation she feels is sadly quite relatable," she said.

Marcella Sinclair, senior fine art major at Westminster College, is the artist be-

hind all of the artwork in "Painted."

Sinclair, who is Tekac's brother's fiancée, got involved in this project when Tekac asked her to help with the short film.

She said her artwork has never been in a short film before.

"It's really cool, especially since I know it was posted on YouTube, which will allow for a lot of people to see my artwork," she said.

Sinclair said she does a lot of portrait work, and she tries to go above and beyond to make people feel like they know the person in her portraits just by seeing the painting.

In "Painted" Sinclair said she tried to give the audience an uneasy feeling about the woman in the portrait by exaggerating her features and using no color except for her blood red lips.

"This woman in the portrait was a ghostly woman. [The audience] thinks whoever painted her didn't do so to capture her beauty, they did it because it was an image burned into their brain that they needed to get out of it in a fit of insanity," she said.

Sinclair said although she cannot relate to being driven insane by a possessed



Photo by JORDAN UNGER/THE JAMBAR

painting, there is truth behind getting to that point.

"Being an artist isn't simply sitting down and throwing something at a canvas," she said. "It is a lot of time and work, and if done right it can be emotionally draining because you put so much of yourself into everything you do as an artist."

"Painted: A Horror Short Film" is on YouTube.com.

BLACK STUDENT UNION '90S PARTY BRINGING DIVERSITY TOGETHER

NAMI NAGAOKA

Students donning '90s attire such as ripped jeans, headbands and bandanas celebrated the end of Black History Month at the Black Student Union's second annual '90s themed dance party on Friday.

Jaylin Archie, chair of the BSU, said the union fundraises throughout Black History Month.

"We always do our annual Flint, Michigan water drive," he said. "We help the Africana Studies Department put on events and speaking engagements that are centered around the importance of history of Black History Month and what it means to be black in America."

Archie said the party was for all YSU students to come together and have fun.

He said the '90s theme was chosen be-

cause it was a decade that many Millennials relate to and remember fondly.

"It is a central time period where all ages, all cultures can relate to with clothing, music and expression," Archie said. "It is a relevant time that everyone still remembers."

He said the theme was a "common medium" for students and he said he hopes something like the party could help to spark new relationships.

Archie pointed out the importance of having an opportunity to connect people from different backgrounds.

"It is my duty as a student organization leader to provide inclusive events for students," he said. "No single race has done anything on their own," he said.

He said civilization is the accumulation of many cultures, and advancement and progress is made on the contribution of



Photo by ALYSSA KOSIS/THE JAMBAR

many races and societies coming together and contributing their "skill-sets."

"The Black Student Union is here to serve everyone by spreading diversity, embracing diversity, but more importantly, we are here to advance African-Americans on campus," Archie said.

Sylvia Arias, sophomore childhood education major, said she loves to dance and felt comfortable dancing at the party.

"[Dancing] is a way to express yourself through music," she said.

She also said that there was a lot of diversity at the party.

"It is very important that as a minority they're representing themselves," she said. "I feel like they are my people ... they

are my friends."

Serina Pipkin, sophomore nursing major, came to the party wearing a bandana. She said she likes to dance and every person dances differently.

"I don't discriminate," she said. "Everyone has a different form of dancing ... and I have my different form of dancing," she said.

Tipkin said that there few opportunities for minority students to express themselves.

"[This event] will just bring us together," she said.

She said her birthday was in February and she was born in the '90s, so the evening was like a birthday party for her.



DEMOS PAPADIMAS BRINGS HIS FOLK TO THE SOAP GALLERY

Photo Courtesy of DEMOS PAPADIMAS

JOHN STRAN

The SOAP Gallery is set to change its artistic approach from sight to sound as they welcome folk musician Demos Papadimas on March 3. Before Papadimas steps on the stage, local guitarist Jeremy Heavener will start the show at 7:30 p.m., followed by Kentuckian Charles Walker.

"It's going to be a good night of music in Youngstown," Papadimas said.

Owners of the SOAP Gallery Stephen Poullas and Daniel Rauschenbach have always been for using the gallery in any artistic way possible.

"We think of SOAP as a culture gallery," Poullas said. "Anything artistic, we love to host and promote, and because we are a venue devoted to just that, there tends to be more contemplation on the amazing artistic effort put into all compositions, both musical and visual."

This will be Papadimas's first time being incorporated into the revolving art scene. He said it's important to experience different venues because it helps branch out

to a different audience and these audiences can be introduced to different creative arts.

Papadimas said people normally describe his music as Americana or folk, but since starting in the genre he's gone further away from the bluegrass influence of the genre.

"I used to use strictly acoustic instruments, but I've gradually incorporated electric bass and guitar," Papadimas said.

Folk driven music has surrounded Papadimas since he was a child, which is what he attributes to his reason for exploring the genre.

"I've always been interested in roots music and I grew up surrounded by it as well as Greek influenced music," Papadimas said. "I decided to go deeper in the genre when I started playing."

One attribute of this music is its simplicity. Papadimas compared this characteristic to punk music where most of the genre revolves around three or four chords, so it comes down to the musicians and their different intentions.

"There's a real emotion behind it," Papadimas said. "Playing folk or blues music makes for good expression, but it takes a real honesty out of you."

No matter how the music changes, Papadimas said his music is for all ages and appropriately enough, Saturday's show is for all ages.

"It's a timeless sound," Papadimas said. "If it's an older age group listening, it may remind them of music they've heard while a younger age group may be hearing and enjoying it for the first time."

Papadimas encourages people to attend the show because it supports the growing music scene of Youngstown-something he believes has grown even in the last year. Rauschenbach has been glad to be a part of the spike in music in the area.

"We are happy to participate in the cultural beautification of the city," Rauschenbach said. "If we could choose a color, it would be the one that would grab your eye the most, and we hope to be that support with everything we do for a long time."

The show has a \$5 admission fee. Doors open at 7 p.m.

HELP NEEDED

THE MYSTERIOUSLY UNSOLVABLE DISAPPEARANCE OF ARTHUR WESTON

Week 4/8

Quinn Weston

Welcome to the halfway point, amateur sleuths. Quinn Weston here. If you have made it this far I extend my gratitude to you. Your assistance has been second to none. This eight-part mystery mill is to find my missing uncle, Arthur Weston. If you missed the last three issues and would like to join in, stop by The Jambar office. Now is the last week to join in without falling too far behind. Once all the clues are released by the end of the semester, further instructions on where to email your answers will be unveiled. Successful entrants will have their names entered into a drawing for a prize of \$150.

This past week has been odd. Not sure if it's paranoia or if there is actual cause for concern. I'm pretty sure an unmarked van was tailing me last week as I drove home from the library. I lost the tail, but then saw a similar vehicle two different times on my street as the week went on. Not to mention the 12 grain bread I purchased at the grocery store went missing from out of my cart when I turned to load the car. But then again, why did I buy bread if I only went to the store for milk and eggs? I am starting to consider not drinking my tap water.

Perhaps Uncle Arthur's erratic nature was more well founded than the family had initially thought. How long had he been working on this Project Rennie? Was constantly watching his back really what changed him? Anyway, here is the latest clue. I sat next to my mailbox all week after the bread incident waiting for it. See what you can make of it:

Come one come all for the love of heck

Listen to this story fresh from the discotheque

Five little Monkeys drew their dancing boots up high.

~Monkey number one leaped most high

Taking two steps to the right side

~Monkey number two guided by the star's trends

Took his step at the end

~Monkey number three watchful evermore

Jumped right in the middle of the dance floor

~Monkey number four drawn in by the glare

Only took one step to the right strutting like a mare

~Monkey number five hanging out in the dark scene

Making sure she circled up the letter E

Knowing in her heart she was the real dancing queen

Resolving to be your own person

Always yields the best pay for your workin'

THE AMENITIES OF THE REC AND THE Y

MARAH J. MORRISON

If the need to enhance a healthy body, mind and spirit arises, the YMCA downtown or the John S. and Doris M. Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center, may be the places to go. Whichever someone may consider, the Y and the Rec have a variety of things to offer to the Youngstown State University community.

Mike Shaffer, the executive director of the YMCA in Youngstown, said people come to the Y to get healthier in spirit, mind and body. He said typically this starts with some type of exercise program, but then they will find out the Y means a lot more.

"They may have an emotional component developed that they may have not even been seeking but now are enjoying, and then there's the spiritual side of it too for folks that want to pursue that," Shaffer said.

Shaffer said because the Y in Youngstown is one of the biggest and the best equipped YMCA's in the country, there are endless choices of activities for people to choose from. He said some of the things the Y offers include a fitness center, weight rooms, two different designated class areas for fitness classes, two pools, swim lessons and aqua aerobics.



Photo by MARAH J. MORRISON/THE JAMBAR

Maxwell Brooke, an employee at the Rec and student at YSU, said everyone is very close and friendly with one another at the recreation center. He said when people come to the Rec, they mostly enjoy lifting, playing basketball on the courts or using the cardio equipment.

"One of the big things that we have is a spinning studio where we have spinning classes, normally one to two every single day," Brooke said. "They're always packed."

Brooke said the Rec has a lot of great equipment for students to use. He said they also have an aerobics studio where various amounts of aerobic activities are done such as yoga and kickboxing. He said the rock wall at the Rec is also another enjoyable activity to do and one of the tallest in Ohio.

Brooke said hundreds of students come in and out of the Rec every day. He said if someone is looking to have fun, improve their fitness, hang out with friends or play games, the Rec is a great environment to be in.

Shaffer said the Y still gets a fair number of YSU students. He said students should come and see the Y because it is the birthplace of YSU.

"We're going to work hard at learning your name, and making sure that you make friends and get connected because that's what we're about here," Shaffer said.

Kyle Hillman, the senior membership director at the YMCA in Youngstown, said a membership at the Y is a

lifestyle change. He said the Y can meet people where they are needed, whether it's in their health, emotional or spiritual well-being.

"Our target market is people at home on the couch not in any facility," Hillman said. "We just want to have you in the doors and let us show you what we can do."

Hillman said YSU students fall under the Y's student rate, which has the lowest membership rate the Y has to offer. He said it is \$29.50 per month, which includes all of the Y's amenities from pools to classes and includes access to the Boardman location as well.

Brooke said it is free for YSU students to come into the Rec at any time they want to. He said the Rec also offers personal training with a cost of about \$25 per student.

Meri Fetkovich, the director of health and wellness at the YMCA in Youngstown, said the Y has a ton to offer especially in terms of athletic training. She said there is a cool plethora of activities students can do, and they also have the option to just come down and enjoy relaxing at the pool or working out on their own.

"Whatever it is, there's something for everybody," Fetkovich said.

Fetkovich said she likes to be able to have the ability to help people. She said everybody at the Y loves their community and wants to get people in their doors so they can help them achieve any goals they may have.

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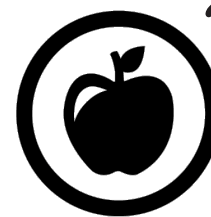
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Photo by JORDAN UNGER/THE JAMBAR

Rich Center Receives Renovation Grant

The Paula and Anthony Rich Center for Autism received a \$500,000 donation from Hine Memorial Fund of The Youngstown Foundation on Wednesday. The donation benefits the Building for Tomorrow 2020 Capital Campaign, an initiative to raise money for service enhancements and renovations at the school.

The Rich Center's executive director Melanie Carfolo said in a press release that the rate of autism impacting children is on the rise, so this donation is crucial for the facility.

"We truly appreciate The Youngstown Foundation's support and generosity and look forward to working together to provide the necessary resources for children with autism," Carfolo said.

According to the press release, the center launched the campaign last fall, hoping to raise \$6 million by 2020. The most recent contribution brings the funds to \$3 million raised.



Photo by TANNER MONDOK/THE JAMBAR

Sarah Ketchum, a freshman fashion merchandising major, enjoys the nice weather while listening to music and sitting outside on a hill in front of Kilcawley Center on Tuesday.



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A JAMBAR

EDITORIAL:

LOCAL THREATS ARISE AFTER FLORIDA SCHOOL SHOOTING: WILL IT EVER END?

Seventeen students and faculty were tragically killed by a gunman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on Feb. 14.

Some high school students nationwide and locally do not understand the seriousness of these circumstances and copycat threats have been on the rise.

The Educators' School Safety Network, an Ohio-based network that tracks media reports on school threats and incidents, has tracked about 624 incidents as of Feb. 28 at 5 p.m.

This network has found the average number of threats since the shooting in Parkland to be 89.1 per day with 492 schools across the United States impacted. There was a daily average of 11 before

the shooting.

There have been threats locally at Cardinal Mooney High School, Liberty High School, Niles McKinley High School and the list goes on.

Threats like these are not funny and local high school administrators and resource officers are not taking this lightly — having lockdowns or closing the school all together.

According to a report by The Vindicator on Feb. 22, Niles McKinley High School will no longer allow students to bring book bags to school — small purses and lunch boxes will be permitted.

The report states that this is an effort by the Niles school district to make students feel safe.

There has been a significant increase of the number of actual incidents of violence from fall 2016 to fall 2017, according to an analysis titled, "Threats and Incidents of Violence in Schools: Mid-Year Analysis of the 2017-2018," researched and written by Amy Klinger and Amanda Klinger of The Educators' School Safety Network.

Per the analysis, there were 64 incidents in fall 2016, while there were 100 in fall 2017. This is a 59 percent increase.

The analysis showed there was a 9.5 percent increase in threats of violence between fall 2016 and 2017 with 878 and 961 threats, respectively.

Ohio was ranked #1 in the United States for the fall 2016 "Top Ten States

of Concern," but it is now ranked #7, with a 39.7 percent decrease in threats and of incidents in the first half of the 2017-2018 school year, according to the network.

Although numbers have declined, the real question is if Ohio's rank will increase due to the numerous threats in Ohio city schools in February.

Some parents are on-edge and near terrified to send their children to school, with some even considering homeschooling because of threats of violence.

Something needs to be done — not tomorrow, but today. Too many lives have been lost and with copycat threats, we may lose more.

A GREAT SPRINGTIME HIKE

SAMANTHA ALLAN

While it may not feel like it quite yet, spring is almost upon us. The promise of sunshine and higher temperatures is enough to get anyone excited for the snow to be over. Once the snow and ice finally disappears, many people will venture outside for various kinds of activities and exercise.

Our area is lucky enough to have many different parks for children and adults to spend time outdoors. However, many of our trails are relatively short and do not offer a lot for the more avid hikers. If you are one to venture out into more challenging hikes, Hocking Hills is a great nearby location.

Located about three hours from Youngstown, Hocking Hills is a large section of trails with surrounding views like caves, waterfalls and other naturally formed rock landscapes. Hocking Hills State Park is located in

Logan, Ohio, a short distance from Columbus. This state park stretches across numerous parks and natural landscapes and boasts of trails that range over 20 miles.

The trails' level of difficulty varies by location and a few even offer wheelchair accessible travel. Sites like Old Man's Cave are great for any age and include shortcuts for younger hikers. All of the trails offer a great view and a relaxed setting to enjoy the changing weather.

Each trail offers something different to see and experience as you enjoy the outdoors. In my opinion, the best trail to take in Hocking Hills is the six mile stretch between Old Man's Cave, Ash Cave and Cedar Falls. This trail includes sandstone carved by water, multiple small waterfalls and the view of rocks cascading around you.

In the springtime weather, the smell of rain enters the cave and offers a more earthy feel than you might get in the summer. This particular trail is one of the most popular because of the large caves and waterfalls. The trail includes carved rock steps as well as man-made spots to make travel much easier. The hike follows

through the woods before opening up into the various scenic attractions.

While a three hour drive might seem far, Hocking Hills has many campgrounds and cabins to rent at affordable prices. You can easily spend a weekend checking out the many trails and surrounding outdoor attractions. From my experience, the cabins are roomy and comfortable. Many of the cabins offer private spaces, functioning kitchens and bathrooms and other homey qualities.

While the cold and rain may have you feeling a bit down now, it will not last forever. The area will start to become green again and offer weather comfortable enough to leave the jacket at home.

Instead of focusing on the negative weather, plan out a nice trip for the spring. Hocking Hills is a great spot that is not far from home. It offers plenty of attractions and outdoor activities to keep a whole family busy for days. If you are looking for a new spot or more of a challenge than our area offers, it is definitely worth checking out.

STUDENTS, FACULTY SEE POSITIVES WITH MERIT PAGES

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
IAN FRANTZ

With the release of the Merit Pages phone application for Youngstown State University, students have been given the opportunity to market themselves.

Merit Pages was created by Colin Mathews in 2007 to help schools build websites that allow them to announce accomplishments earned by students. The students' pages and all their accomplishments can be accessed by anyone in the public with ease.

Ron Cole, director of university communications, said YSU started using Merit Pages four years ago and said he believes it to be one of the more successful means of acknowledging a student's work and effort.

"We were looking for a way to circulate the dean's list to local newspapers and it has grown into one of YSU's greatest tools," Cole said.

Cole said when a person becomes a YSU student, the university creates a page for them on the Merit Page website, which can then be edited by YSU faculty or by the

student themselves.

"We purchased the service and have our own page that we control. We get all the information about the student from the information they give us upon entering YSU and any news of an achievement they earn comes from the faculty," Cole said.

Cole said YSU, one of the earliest adopters of Merit Pages, has benefited from its growth as a service.

"It started out only with announcing the dean's list but now we have given out over 100 different merits to over 6,000 students, and I know we only scratched the surface," Cole said.

Katie Biller, sophomore pre-business major, said she has used her page in the past and said it's convenient.

"I have it attached to my LinkedIn account and [it] helps me organize my activities while in school," Biller said.

Biller said she was surprised by the amount of her information on Merit Pages, but she figured all of it was already posted on the internet before.

Craig Deering, a freshman mechanical engineering major, said he could see if someone would be nervous

about having their information being open to the public, but he was not concerned about his information being used.

Joel Perry, a junior business major, echoed Deering's thoughts about YSU using his information.

"It's not asking for my credit card information or my social security number so as long as it doesn't negatively affect my career, it's fine," Perry said.

Cole said new students should get an email once they have been accepted as a student at YSU explaining the details of Merit Pages.

"The students can edit their Merit page if they like and when they do something that earns them a merit, they get their own personalized news release that they can take with them in their career," Cole said.

Cole said a student can decline the service if they choose, but he said he believes Merit Pages can help students achieve great things.

"One of the biggest things it has going for it is its potential and seeing it continue to grow can only help students in the long term," Cole said.

STUDENT BUSINESS OWNERS

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
ALYSSA WESTON

Between juggling everyday life, some Youngstown State University students have taken on the challenging task of running their own small businesses.

Daniel Bancroft, sophomore environmental science major, owns Dan Good Jam. He creates a variety of jams, jellies and baked goods and sells them to local vendors and restaurants.

Bancroft said his late grandmother inspired him to start making jams.

"She was always into canning. The best thing she ever made was canned pears in the summer, so one summer I made pears with her and blueberry jam," he said. "Unfortunately, the year after, she passed away. But since then I've taught myself how to do a lot of the jams and jellies."

Bancroft said he manages to make time for school and operating his business with mostly small-scale consumer needs and a majority of sales occurring in the summer.

Bancroft said he regularly sells his products at Cultivate: A Co-Op Cafe in Youngstown, the Village Pump in Canfield and the Howland Farmers Market.

In addition, he has produced goods for large inventory needs like fundraisers and weddings.

Lydia Tarleton, junior graphic and interactive design major, owns LydiaJoStudios, an Etsy shop where she sells original artwork ranging from stoic charcoal portraits to bright watercolor florals.

Tarleton said all of the pieces listed are readily available originals, but customers can request custom pieces.

"Considering their reasonable price, custom pieces are the biggest attraction of my shop and the easiest way for customers to get exactly what their heart desires," she said.

Tarleton said she decided to start an Etsy store when she noticed a growing demand for her artwork.

"I always intend for my work to be appreciated and purchased by all, but my target customer is undeniably women, typically ages 16 to 40," she said.

Tarleton said she wants buyers to feel glad when they buy her artwork.

"Art is funny thing, in that it can make one feel all kinds of emotions. But I want my clients to feel joyful when staring into one of my works, because I know that I feel only joy when creating them," she

said.

John Rossi, director of the Williamson College of Business Administration professional sales center and a marketing instructor, said students can benefit from joining such business organizations as Pi Sigma Epsilon, Enactus and the American Marketing Association.

Students can also go to the small business development center in the Williamson College of Business Administration, said Rossi, or receive free advice from local experts of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE).

Rossi said students should take advantage of all of the resources offered as freshman or underclassmen of career projects offered at that level.

"Oftentimes students, particularly freshman and maybe early sophomores, don't have coursework that gets them into their major or their interests and they often, sometimes, get bored. So, they can get that kind of opportunity if they join the student organizations," he said.

Rossi said the Williamson College of Business Administration is unique for students who want to start a business because of the intellectual properties it has to offer and the faculty's nationwide pres-

ence in terms of management.

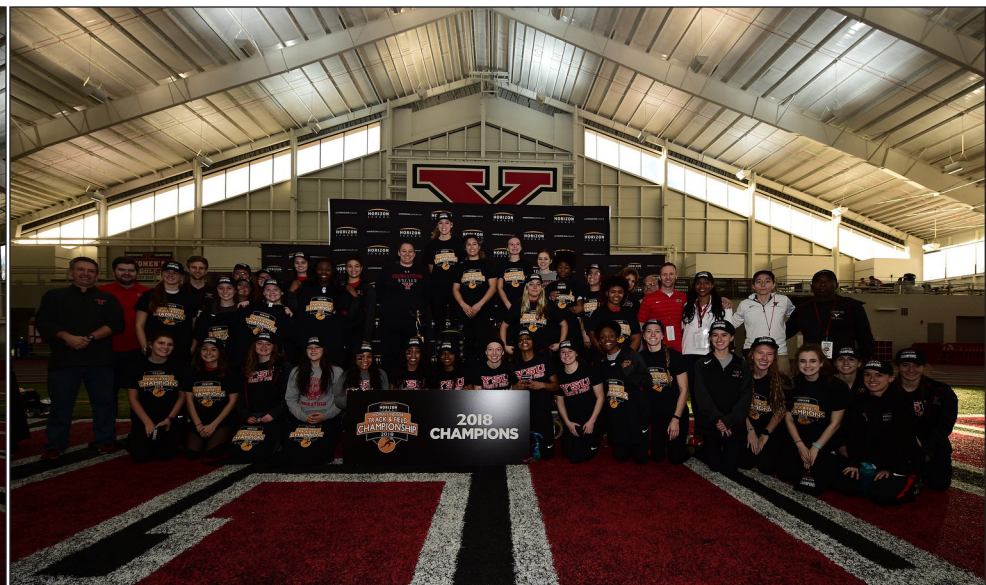
Rossi said students who want faculty advice can contact Peter Woodlock, chair of accounting and finance, who has significant presence in the accounting field, and Bruce Keillor, chair of marketing, who has great experience in international business.

"If they take advantage of faculty, they have tremendous amounts of resources free, effectively, as a student that they can take advantage of," he said.

Caleb Anderson, senior marketing and sales major, is president of Pi Sigma Epsilon, an organization that helps students develop professional skills through hands on experiences.

Anderson said the advice he would offer a college student wanting to start a business is to be a master at their craft. He also stressed the importance of real life experiences.

"You can do all this research and all these wonderful things. In school, they can teach you all of these competencies and strategies, but unless the strategies become execution, then you will never reach success," he said.



Both the Men's and Women's Track and Field teams won the Horizon league Championships on Sunday at the WATTS.

Photo Courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

YSU SWEEPS HORIZON LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARC WEEMS

For the second consecutive year, the Youngstown State University men's and women's track and field teams won the Horizon League championships.

This was the second-straight year that both team won the HL Championship.

On the men's side, YSU won with a score of 201. The next closest was the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at 162.50 points.

On the women's side, YSU cruised to victory with a score of 203.83 while the second-place team, Oakland University, scored 121 points.

For the women, Jaynee Corbett, Amber Eles, Jaliyah Elliott, Keishawanna Burts and Abby Jones all won their specialty events to give the Penguins a huge boost in the team standings.

The Penguins started the day with a nail-biting win by Jones in the high jump. Jones and University of Illinois-Chicago's Janeka Stokes had to go to a jump-off to determine the winner where Jones won

with a 1.68m.

Corbett added to the Penguins' win total with a meet-record throw in the shot put while claiming her third consecutive title in the event. On her final attempt, she threw a mark of 15.81m. Behind Corbett were freshman Kaitlyn Merwin in second (13.64m) and Nicolette Kreatsoulas in third (12.85m).

Eles lowered her school mark in the 60m hurdles with a time of 8.40 seconds to win the event. It was the second straight year in which she won the event.

Elliott raced to a meet-final-record in the 60m dash. Elliott, who set the school record in the event on Saturday with a time of 7.36 seconds, posted a time of 7.40 seconds on Sunday. It was the first Horizon League title for Elliott who was second in the event last year.

In the 200m, it was Burts' turn to take the top of the podium for the first time in her career. Burts won the 200m dash with a time of 24.10 seconds. The time broke the school mark that Burts had set on Saturday and eclipsed the previous Horizon

League Championship top performance.

In the 800m, Nicole Squatrito tied for third with a time of 2:17.24.

YSU capped off the day with a win in the 4x400m relay. The Penguins posted a time of 3:49.17 as Iva Domitrovich and Teneisha Myers along with Elliott and Burts added another trophy to their impressive haul.

On the men's side, Chad Zallow won three events and the Youngstown State men's track and field team picked up wins from Collin Harden and Sean Peterson as the Penguins were able to win their third consecutive championship.

For the third straight year, Chad Zallow won the 60m dash and the 60m hurdles and he took first in the 200m dash for the second straight year. He is the first runner in Horizon League history to win three 60m dash crowns.

Chad Zallow's first win of the afternoon came in the 60m hurdles. Chad Zallow blazed a time of 7.73 seconds to win the event by 0.36 seconds. Placing third was Caleb Lloyd (8.19) and Myron Anderson

was sixth (8.42).

Harden became the first Penguin to win the men's 400m dash with an impressive effort. Harden ran a time of 47.64 — just 0.02 seconds off the school mark — to be victorious by 0.56 over Oakland's Jimmie Williams.

Chad Zallow earned the title in the 60m dash with a time of 6.80 seconds as the Penguins had five of the top eight runners. He became the first Penguin since Kurt Michaelis in 2002 to win the event.

Peterson ran a time of 1:55.05 to hold off Milwaukee's Drew Dueck. C.J. Schumacher was fourth with a time of 1:55.80.

In the 200m dash, Chad Zallow capped off a three-win day with a time of 21.55 seconds. The performance was a season-best for Chad Zallow. Placing third was Carl Zallow with a time of 21.89 seconds while Brendon Lucas came in fourth with a time of 21.98 seconds.

Ryan Booth placed second in the shot put with a season-best throw of 17.12m.



YOUNGSTOWN STATE EYES A FRESH START IN TOURNEY

Cameron Morse (#24) shoots the ball over Kenny Carpenter (#4) in his last game at the Beeghly Center.

Photo Courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

CHRIS MCBRIDE

Twenty-five lead changes, 20 ties and no lead beyond five points made Senior Night one with plenty excitement. Despite a hearty effort from the Youngstown State Men's Basketball team with five players in double figures, it failed to secure the win.

The Penguins dropped to 8-23 with a 6-12 record in the Horizon League.

Cleveland State University improved to 9-22 and 6-12 in the Horizon league sneaking away with a 99-94 win in double overtime. The performance of the Vikings' Bobby Ward, who scored the team-high 25 points, was leading the way for CSU.

"That loss was tough, tough on the players, the fans. It's a game you sit there and think how did we lose?" YSU Head Coach Jerrod Calhoun said. "The reason we lost was because Cleveland State made more winning plays."

Jaylen Benton led the scoring charge for YSU with 21 points. Cameron Morse with 20 points adjusted to initial pressure from the Vikings' defense, doing most his scoring in the second half.

Morse went on to hit several key shots to keep YSU in the game.

"I had to keep working, cut hard and find a way to get

shots up," said Morse about his struggles in the first half. "They were keying in on me so I had to find a way to get shots up, get out in transition and get easy ones."

Capping off his time with Youngstown, Morse ends his climb up the all-time ladder becoming the sixth player in school history to score 1,900 career points.

The game also capped a regular season filled with many struggles as the team never fully lived up to what Calhoun had envisioned.

A constant struggle for this team made one last damning appearance for YSU: free throw shooting.

Against the Vikings, the Penguins went 12-27 from the charity stripe averaging 44.4 percent shooting, below their average on the season. Within those misses was an opportunity for YSU to sway the game in their favor, leaving 15 points on the board.

Youngstown State finished off the year ranked at the bottom half of the NCAA in free throw shooting.

Where YSU struggled, Cleveland State thrived as it shot the ball well in every aspect of the game. The Vikings shot over 50 percent from the field, from three and at the free throw line.

Whether the Penguins will make a run akin to last year's remains to be seen.

In order to do so there are holes the team will need to fill fast. Though by now this is a Penguins team that

knows where they struggle.

"There's less stuff to go over as a coach. You're not going over tons of things because you're familiar with what they're gonna do," said Calhoun. "Hopefully our guys understand why we lost that game and make the adjustments to be successful."

With two games split between the two teams, YSU and CSU will look to settle the difference in round one of the tourney. Heading into tournament play, Calhoun sees it as a hard reset on the regular season.

"Everybody in the conference is zero and zero, there's not a team right now that's won a game in the tournament. It's a tournament that's to be determined who will get that right to play on Tuesday night," Calhoun said.

For a young team, there's been quite a learning curve this year. The time for learning is still there but translating that into wins in the tournament will be instrumental.

Calhoun insists this is a team that has grown and understands their roles.

"You grow through the struggles," Calhoun said. "You grow through the progress of the season. If you're gonna go win a championship you really have to grow up on a big stage because that's what the good teams do."

The Penguins will head to Detroit, MI to participate in the Little Caesar's Horizon League Championship, March 2-6. YSU plays CSU on Friday at 8 p.m.



YSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM EXCITED FOR TOURNAMENT CHANCE

Chelsea Olson (#12) drives in on Jessica Lindstrom (#21) back on Feb. 17 in game the Penguins lost.

Photo Courtesy of YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

MARC WEEMS

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team goes into the Horizon League tournament on quite the roll.

"Getting picked eighth in the league and then not having Alison (Smolinski) for most of the conference schedule really hurt. I was pretty excited with the way that we finished the season with nine wins in our last 11 games," Youngstown State University head coach John Barnes said.

YSU (15-14, 11-7) has won nine of its last 11 games with wins over Northern Kentucky University and Cleveland State University in the last two games of the regular season.

The Penguins will be facing the fourth-seeded University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the tournament, a team they have played twice already.

"We got the fifth seed and face Milwaukee. We had overtime and a buzzer-beater. We played two really good games against them so I expect another good one," Barnes said about their opponent.

YSU and Milwaukee are dead even in the two games they have played.

In the first game back on Jan. 14 in Milwaukee, Milwaukee defeated the Penguins on Jan. 13, 62-61, behind a Jamie Reit game-winning shot.

The Penguins got their revenge at home as YSU beat the Panthers, 86-85, in overtime. Eight free throws and two layups made by Sarah Cash got them the win.

"We are definitely getting to our peak in the season. The second half of conference play has been really good for us," guard Chelsea Olson said. "We are going in with a lot of confidence and we just have to keep playing that way."

In both games against the Panthers, YSU was severely outrebounded, 84-56, in two games. In YSU's win at home, the Penguins outscored Milwaukee, 38-18, off the bench which will be a major key in getting the win and advancing.

"They are very well coached. We know that we are going to have to play our best basketball to get the win. I think that every game we've played in we wouldn't win unless we play really hard and really well. We are excited to get back on the court," Barnes said.

For YSU, everything comes down to consistency. When it has played consistent in games, it normally wins those games.

One key will be rebounding. In the two games against Milwaukee, YSU was terribly outrebounded and will need to fix that for a victory.

In their win on Feb. 15, the Penguins scored 20 more bench points than Milwaukee and will need to do that again to beat them.

"We know that games now are going to be close and we just have to find ways to win. We are really confident in the way we are playing. Hopefully we can hand them another loss," Olson said.

Olson is a major part of YSU's offense as she started 18 games out of its 29 games played. She averaged 8.1 points per game on 40 percent shooting and 36 percent from three. She grabbed 4.2 rebounds, 1.7 assists and 0.7 blocks.

"The biggest thing is being able to get the players some rest. Any minor injuries have some time heal and get better," Barnes said about the extra break the team gets. "I think that we are playing our best basketball right now. This is the time of year that you want to be doing that. You win three games and you're in the NCAA tournament."

YSU faces Milwaukee on March 4 at 2:30 p.m. in Detroit, MI.

PRESS BOX PERSPECTIVE: SHOW ME THE MONEY

SETH RIVELLO

NCAA men's basketball has been hitting small speed bumps for years now, but most of the issues were swept under the rug. But now with help from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, things have blown up.

Coaches and schools have been giving players improper benefits for years now which shouldn't be a shock to many. Benefits include women, housing and a lot of money. As great as this is for the players, the NCAA could crash and burn or could change all together.

In 2015, the No. 1 ranked player coming out of high school was Ben Simmons. Simmons was a five-star prospect rated 97/100, according to ESPN. He chose to sign with Louisiana State University in 2013, a team that was nowhere near a championship run, and never decommit.

Michael Porter Jr. was the second-best high schooler in the country last season. Like Simmons, he was a five-star prospect

and rated a 97/100. He signed with the Missouri Tigers, another team nowhere near a championship run. They may have signed to put the team back on the map, but I think it's obvious they signed for other reasons.

Former Louisville Cardinals head coach Rick Pitino was the coach who set everything off. A woman detailed illegal parties thrown for incoming recruits that Pitino denies knowledge of. Pitino is also accused of knowing about a \$100,000 payment made by Adidas to five-star recruit Brian Bowen and his family. Adidas sponsors Louisville basketball on a \$160M deal.

As a punishment by the NCAA, Louisville must vacate all wins and revenue from 2011-2015.

Louisville loses its 2013 national title as well as its 123 wins from those four seasons in which ineligible athletes competed. Also, it must return about \$600,000 in conference revenue from the 2012-15 NCAA tournaments.

"I feel awful for what has happened,"

Pitino said at a press conference at the Greenberg Traurig law firm in Midtown Manhattan on Wednesday. "I've run a clean program all my life."

Arizona Wildcats head coach Sean Miller was caught on an FBI wiretap in 2016 talking with Christian Dawkins about the recruitment of DeAndre Ayton. Miller discussed the payment of \$100,000 to ensure Ayton signed at Arizona. Miller is still pleading his case and believes the truth will come out and he will soon be back in the driver seat for Arizona.

These are just a few big cases. Christian Dawkins plays a role in hundreds more. Dawkins, a sports agent at ASM sports, wasn't very good at his job even though his name is all over the news. Many players he and his company paid didn't even sign with them.

Dennis Smith Jr. was paid up to \$73,500 in loans while at North Carolina State, he later signed with Paramount Sports and Entertainment and now plays for the Dallas Mavericks. Former Seton Hall guard Isaiah Whitehead was paid up to \$37,657

in loans and did sign with ASM. He later left to sign with Jay-Z's Roc Nation.

Many players and coaches are being exposed for wrongdoing and it's only going to grow. Soon bigger and legendary names like Roy Williams for North Carolina and Mike Krzyzewski for Duke could be called and their legacy could plummet in the eyes of the NCAA.

One way to fix this is to pay the players. You pay them by their rankings; if you produce and have a high upside you get the most, if you ride the bench you get the least. If you just want to play ball, get paid, and not go to school, you could do that, but when you graduate and have no job there's a problem. Not everyone makes the NBA.

If the NCAA doesn't shape up and do what's been being done but in a legal way, AAU basketball will take off even higher and all the talent will play overseas and get paid for a year until an NBA team calls and drafts them. The NCAA may have just hit rock bottom.