


# THE JAMBAR

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Thursday, October 24, 2024

 THEJAMBAR.COM



420 ON CAMPUS

## The need for weed

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

The Williamson College of Business Administration hosted an hour-long seminar Oct. 23 to inform students about the increasing opportunities in the cannabis industry.

Kurt Seifert and Gabrielle Herdman, members of Hill, Barth & King LLC's Cannabis Industry Solutions department, held the seminar in coordination with Beta Alpha Psi and the Institute of Management Accountants.

The seminar informed Youngstown State University students of the financial restrictions, nonuniform state regulations and cash management limitations imposed on the cannabis industry by the IRS and other federal offices.

HBK was founded in Youngstown in 1949, and recently, the firm has created Cannabis Solutions. Its main focus is to help cannabis companies navigate several accounting and financing tasks such as banking, licensing and raising capital.

Christopher Marrie, the national director of Cannabis Solutions and a YSU alumnus, said the department offers traditional accounting services for cannabis companies from audit work to tax consultations.

"We've tried to build a practice that addresses any issues a client has. Even if it's something we can't directly do, we build a lot of relationships and we can help them with these challenges," Marrie said. "It's a



Photo courtesy of Eric Grischow

**Grischow holding state-compliant cannabis within an undisclosed state-compliant facility.**

cutting-edge industry and there's a lot of issues, obviously it's still federally illegal."

Regional director of Cannabis Solutions and a YSU alumnus, Eric Grischow, maintains Youngstown's cannabis industries by providing contacts and knowledge of federally mandated laws on the cannabis industry. He said the only tax deduction marijuana-related businesses can receive is the direct cost of goods sold.

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## YSU searches for deans

By Jacqueline Arroyo  
Jambar Contributor

Students in the Williamson College of Business Administration and Dr. Dominic A. and Helen M. Bitonte College of Health and Human Services should expect leadership changes.

Currently, neither college has a permanent dean, but both have interim deans in place.

Sara Michaliszyn, previously the associate dean of BCHHS, is serving as its interim dean following the retirement of Jeffery Allen, who served as dean for four years. There are many reasons she accepted the role, but one contributing factor was the convenience of the location.

"Allen left June 12, and June 13 is the date it was made official," Michaliszyn said. "It really is that simple. My office was right there and he's here, literally the next person in line."

She and Allen worked closely together, so the position change happened naturally.

Michaliszyn noted there is no significant difference from associate dean to interim dean except an added-connection.

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“[Cannabis companies] are not taxed as ordinary, necessary business expenses. Through various court cases over the last 40 years, they’ve been subject to being only able to deduct the cost of what is sold,” Grischow said.

Grischow also helps local cannabis startups apply for state licenses in Ohio.

The Ohio Department of Commerce grants licenses to four main areas of the cannabis industry — cultivators, processors, dispensaries and testing laboratories. Businesses within those four fields receive a limited number of available licenses.

“We’ve helped — specifically in Ohio — not only being tax compliant, but we’ve also assisted with assurance work and consulting on inventory costing,” Grischow said. “We’ve been a resource for our clients in Ohio to introduce contacts to expanded operations.”

Green Leaf Therapy, a dispensary in Struthers, was approved by Ohio’s Division of Cannabis Control for a dual-use provisional license for both medical and adult use, which began Aug. 6.

In Ohio, the state applies a 10% excise tax and a 5.75% state sales tax on adult-use cannabis sales.

Grischow said 36% of the yield from

the 10% tax will go towards Struthers.

The money generated from the tax is deposited into the adult-use tax fund, which is distributed in four ways:

- 36% to the Cannabis Social Equity and Jobs Fund to help those affected by marijuana prohibition.
- 36% to municipalities with dispensaries.
- 25% to the Substance Abuse and Addiction Funds.
- 3% to offset administrative costs for the DCC.

“Struthers itself, specifically, would essentially get 36% of that 10% that is levied on. They’re proportionally getting more than a standard sales tax, which would be held at the county,” Grischow said.

Cannabis Solutions also helps cannabis companies by assisting in depositing money for funding and employee payroll.

Although marijuana is considered legal in Ohio, federally licensed banks are unable to conduct business with cannabis companies.

Another part of working in the cannabis industry is learning to navigate Internal Revenue Code Section 280E. According to the IRS, cannabis companies are not entitled to tax refunds related to Code Section 280E.

The 77 words listed in Section 280E are

used as the precedent in numerous and ongoing court cases regarding cannabis companies seeking financial tax credits.

Section 280E prohibits deductions to businesses that traffic Schedule I or Schedule II controlled substances, which are still considered federally illegal. With marijuana still listed as a Schedule I drug by the Drug Enforcement Agency under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, cannabis companies are unable to regain financial losses.

According to the United States Department of Justice, President Joe Biden asked the Office of the Attorney General and the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services on Oct. 6, 2022, to restructure the classification of cannabis.

For several cannabis-related businesses and Cannabis Solutions, the potential reclassification of marijuana to Schedule III would help to alleviate financial hurdles imposed by Section 280E.

Schedule III drugs are considered to have medicinal properties that qualify to help treat specific conditions. Current Schedule III drugs include testosterone, ketamine and Tylenol with codeine, which are legal to prescribe as controlled substances.

For more information on HBK and Cannabis Solutions, visit [hbkcpc.com](http://hbkcpc.com).

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**7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

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

High: 59°F	High: 64°F	High: 57°F	High: 54°F	High: 62°F	High: 69°F	High: 70°F
Low: 38°F	Low: 46°F	Low: 37°F	Low: 34°F	Low: 46°F	Low: 56°F	Low: 53°F
Chance of precip: 1%	Chance of precip: 40%	Chance of precip: 25%	Chance of precip: 10%	Chance of precip: 13%	Chance of precip: 1%	Chance of precip: 10%



Partly Cloudy



Sunny / Rain



Partly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy



Overcast



Fair



Overcast

Information courtesy of [accuweather.com](http://accuweather.com)

GET WELL, BE WELL

# Wellfest comes to YSU

By Nicholas Bianco  
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University hosted the 13th annual Wellfest on Oct. 16 in the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

Wellfest gives YSU nursing students the opportunity to share wellness and mental health topics, as well as provide resources to students and community members.

YSU students learned about the different aspects of health through posters, tips, activities and handouts.

YSU nursing students discussed health related topics such as breast cancer prevention, human trafficking awareness and the effects of vaping.

Drinking and driving, sexually transmitted infection prevention, stress management, the effects of caffeine and sugar on the body, depression and suicide prevention, proper nutrition and benefits of exercise were among other topics discussed at Wellfest.

Dina Fabry, assistant director of fitness, wellness and special events at the Rec Center, said mental health, cancer and high cholesterol prevention were the biggest topics discussed at Wellfest.

"It might not necessarily be topics that students think about initially, but it's always good to provide those resources, so they know how to handle things later on in life," Fabry said.

Fabry said on and off-campus vendors were invited to Wellfest to promote wellness, mental health and fitness.

"[They were there] to share resources and just provide more information of what's out there for the community

in case students need those resources," Fabry said.

Mason Edmonds, the Rec Center's YSU community liaison, said Wellfest is a partnership between the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services's Centofanti School of Nursing and outside agencies and other support systems.

Wellness-based resources such as Meridian Healthcare, which Edmonds is a member of, provided information on health topics to community members in attendance.

"It's really trying to spread the mental health message and mental wellness across campus and this event champions that," Edmonds said.

Edmonds said Wellfest is meant to attract non-nursing students and community members to learn about health topics.

"We tried to really open the event up to be accessible and interesting for everybody on campus," Edmonds said. "There's a lot of cool things that people can learn at the nursing tables, and cool resources they can gather, too."

Edmonds said the organizers of Wellfest tried to make the event a relaxing environment.

Fabry said the event was successful and accomplished the goal of providing physical and mental health resources to the community.

"We just wanted to provide as many resources as possible," Fabry said.

YSU students can also visit the Wellness Resource Center located in the Rec Center, which was designed to promote healthy lifestyle choices in areas of fitness, nutrition, mental health, spiritual health and personal safety.



Wellfest takes place every year at the Rec.

Photo by Nicholas Bianco / Jambar Contributor

## Deans

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“Connecting the University or college to benefactors or alumni, or alumni to our college, or students to our programs and programs to students,” Michaliszyn said.

While expressing her appreciation for this new responsibility, Michaliszyn also said she’d serve as interim dean for no longer than a year.

A new dean is expected to start in August 2025.

As interim dean, she will not have a say in selecting the new dean, but thinks that knowing when to lead and when not to lead is what makes a good dean.

At the WCBA, the interim dean is Betty Jo Licata, who retired from YSU in 2021 after more than 26 years as dean.

Kelly Wilkinson, the former dean of Williamson, left for a position at the School of Business and Economics

at Indiana University East. Her last day was July 12.

“I started on July 15,” Licata said. “When Provost [Jennifer] Pintar called and asked if I would consider coming back for a year as the interim dean, I was more than happy to come back and do what I could to help the college move forward.”

As the interim dean, she works with the faculty and staff to achieve the college’s strategic goals.

Licata noted that this year’s activities and priorities are focused on enhancing students’ educational and professional development, while also bringing value to the business community.

Licata said she believes there are certain qualities the new dean should possess.

“To be an effective dean, you need to have a variety of experiences within a college of business to have had those leadership experiences, to understand what the priorities of the college are,” Licata said.

Provost Jennifer Pintar was the one who reached out to Licata and asked her to return. The provost is the chief academic officer of the university and is responsible for overseeing the Office of Academic Affairs.

“Regarding the dean position for the Williamson College of Business Administration, that search is on hold for the time being,” Pintar stated. “Our priority is to first focus on filling the associate provost position.”

Pintar works with the deans and academic support staff from the various colleges to determine academic strategy and priorities.

Once the associate provost and BCHHS positions are filled, they will turn their attention to the WCBA position.

Although Michaliszyn was unaware of the status of the BCHHS position, it is currently moving through human resources and is expected to be posted soon.



Students spend their free time lounging in the seating area of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services.

Photo by Jacqueline Arroyo / Jambar Contributor

# Kickin' it with Youngstown Kicks

By Nicalytle Hanchard  
The Jambar

For streetwear and sneaker lovers alike, Youngstown welcomes Youngstown Kicks to downtown on 23 W. Boardman St.

The store will celebrate its one-year anniversary Nov. 4. Store owner and operator, Andrew Murphy, said business has been steady. Though he manages the store by himself, Murphy said it takes a team.

"I can manage. I'm very grateful to have as many supportive people that I do have," Murphy said. "It's not just a one-part project, it's multiple different levels of very high-stake pain, but it's doable and I'm very grateful for a good team."

Murphy said his admiration for sneakers and streetwear began in his childhood.

"It started when I was a young kid. I would go to Kohl's with my dad. We'd get one pair of shoes a year and from there it kind of turned into an addiction," Murphy said. "[When] I got into late middle school, early high school years, I saw the dynamic change in sneakers. How different and expressive they were through emotion and materials — it really caught my eye."

Murphy said he travels the country to find shoes to stock his store.

"I travel across the United States, going from place to place, finding [apparel] that may pertain only to that environment. Traveling could be once a week, every couple weeks or once a month, it just depends," Murphy said.

The sneakers are also supplied by retailers and people who want to sell or trade their shoes.

"They come from retailers, people who buy them ... and want to wear them once or twice or even those who just bought them and want to return them," Murphy said. "I am an outlet where you can sell your shoes."

Murphy explained the process for those looking to sell or trade in shoes at his store.

"People can bring in their sneakers, clothing, streetwear — anything that relates to the culture — and we can identify variables that make that product important to the culture," Murphy said. "From there, if it has a market price, I take that in, establish its worth based on different criteria and they can either get in-store credit or cash."

For Murphy, Youngstown Kicks is more focused on sneaker culture rather than current trends.

"What differentiates me from other sneaker stores is I'm not selling a trend. I'm here to sell style, whatever that style may be. What makes style important is how well it matches your personality and it's not just about the shoes, though they contribute a lot to the culture, it's not everything the culture has to provide," Murphy said.

Prices for in-store items vary and Murphy believes them to be reasonable.

"Customers vary from in-store to private clientele. Prices range from giveaways, \$10 to \$20 shoes, all the way up to \$600," Murphy said.

Private clients include individuals in the National Basketball Association and the National Football League, for whom he and his team would source sneakers.

Youngstown Kicks is open from 1–6 p.m, Tuesdays through Saturdays.

## Halloween Downtown



Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26
<p><b>Penguin City Brewing Co.</b> 3rd Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6-9 p.m.</li> <li>• Pumpkins provided</li> <li>• Prizes for best pumpkins</li> </ul> <p><b>Thirst Thursday Karoke</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.</li> <li>• Drink and shot specials available</li> </ul>	<p><b>Noble Creature</b> Nobel Creature's Annual Halloween Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7-10 p.m.</li> <li>• Live music by Punk Willie</li> <li>• Costume contest with \$50 gift card prize</li> </ul>	<p><b>Penguin City Brewing Co.</b> Country Line Dance Halloween Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:30 p.m.</li> <li>• \$5 at the door</li> </ul> <p><b>7th Annual Youngstown Halloween Bar Crawl</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 p.m. - 12 a.m.</li> <li>• Check in at Penguin City</li> <li>• \$30 day of event</li> <li>• Must be 21+ to participate</li> </ul>



Youngstown Kicks opened Nov. 4 2023.

Photo by Nicalytle Hanchard / The Jambar

# From Mahoning Valley to Gridiron

By Madison Fessler and Dylan Lux  
Jambar Contributors

There are two former Penguins currently on the National Football League 53-man rosters, but these athletes weren't the only ones to make it to the big leagues.

Since the football program started in 1938, Youngstown State University has 31 players who have gone professional.

The first ever football player from YSU to make the NFL was standout center Sloko Gill. From the class of 1941, Gill played for the Detroit Lions in 1942.

Since 2000, the 'Guins have had 13 athletes play in the NFL, including former line-backer Tim Johnson, YSU class of 2000.

Johnson said playing at YSU gave him the spirit of the Mahoning Valley.

"Blue collar town, blue collar people, hard working people, steel town, people know how to make things happen. So being around that and learning what I had to learn with my teammates, colleagues and school, it just became something we all grew to love," Johnson said.

Johnson was inducted into the YSU Hall of Fame in 2010 and said it was an honor to receive that recognition.

"It was [a] really great time for me and my family to reflect and look back on all the hard work put in and the great people [I've] been around the game with," Johnson said.

Ron Strollo, executive director of Intercollegiate Athletics, said the athletes' success benefits the university and is a big achievement for former students.

"First and foremost, we're thrilled for those student athletes that competed and went to school here and now are having the success that they dreamed of for themselves and their family," Strollo said. "For us it's great publicity. It adds to not only the brand of our football program or athletics department, but also the university."

Strollo spoke on the value of athletes accomplishing their goals.

"It's unbelievably important to those young men and and it's equally

as important to our institution because we're so proud of the accomplishments that they've had," Strollo said.

Derek Rivers, defensive end from the class of 2016, was drafted by the New England Patriots in the third round of the 2017 NFL draft.

Rivers said it was a great experience being drafted to New England, as much of his family are fans of the Patriots and former quarterback, Tom Brady.

"My mom loves Tom Brady, so that was a huge thing," Rivers said.

Rivers said there was so much for him to learn about football from former NFL coach Bill Belichick — even after being involved in the sport for many years.

"You think, 'There's only so much football that you can learn' until you hear [Belichick] talk and you say 'Wow, this is on another level,'" Rivers said.

Other athletes from Youngstown State transitioned into other roles in the NFL, besides just playing.

Donald D'Alesio, safeties coach for the Kansas City Chiefs, played at Youngstown State as a part of the 2014 class as a safety. He became a coach for YSU the year after his graduation.

D'Alesio was a defensive line coach for the 'Guins in the same year Rivers and defensive end Avery Moss were drafted into the NFL.

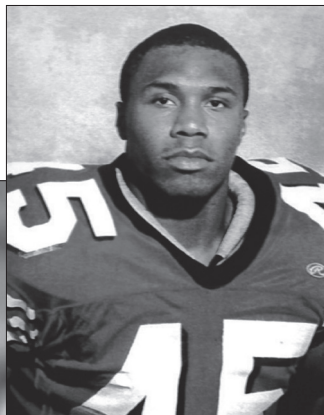
D'Alesio said it was exciting having two of his players get drafted to the big leagues, in just the first year of his coaching career.

"It was funny, because [Rivers] — who got drafted — I played with ... right when I got done playing I started coaching," D'Alesio said.

D'Alesio spoke on the hard-working nature of the players who were drafted under his tenure.

"It's easy to coach when the best players are the hardest workers," D'Alesio said. "[Rivers] and [Moss] alike were the exact same ... they worked hard, they stayed after and they put in the work."

D'Alesio, Johnson and Rivers said current athletes looking to go to the NFL should focus on playing in college, developing their skills and learning the game.



D'Alesio (left), Johnson (top) and Rivers (right) all transitioned to the NFL from YSU.

# Safe sex on campus

By Raeghan Hilton and Sydney Fairbanks  
Jambar Contributors

Safe sex resources are available both locally and on the Youngstown State University campus, including educational opportunities and free condoms.

Practicing safe sex is important for avoiding unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and sexually transmitted infections.

Joy Tang, associate professor in the department of psychological sciences and counseling, said people often underestimate the probability of contracting an STI.

“We tend to kind of focus on the partner in front of us and think, ‘What are the chances that they could give us any-

thing?’ What research has shown is that actually is the wrong way to calculate the probability,” Tang said. “The probability of catching STIs from their current partner is actually the compounding probability of this partner and all the previous sexual history of this partner and their previous partners.”

When practicing safe sex, Tang said it is also important to have strong communication and make good decisions.

“We should think about it beyond the act itself. Maybe we should think about the relationship partner. Are we choosing, perhaps, safe partners to partner with? In order to have these intimate relationships with. Maybe we can think about communication with our partner so that we can take preventative measures before the act, so that we can make

the best choice in the moment,” Tang said.

Another preventative measure people can take is staying educated. YSU offers courses about human sexuality and intimate relationships that students can take to stay informed.

Sofie Myers, Student Government Association vice president, said SGA hosts a safe sex week around Valentine’s Day to promote ongoing education.

“We’ll partner with different groups around campus to make sure students have information packets, any extra materials that they might need or just a safe space to ask questions or talk about it with people who know what they’re talking about and can give them the answers that they need,” Myers said.

Myers said YSU also offers year-round resources like free condoms.

“I know that in the library and some of the dorm areas they have free condoms available all the time. There is a group on campus called Pro-Choice Penguins and

they have a lot of safe sex materials, condoms and things like that,” Myers said.

Students can also find free menstrual products in some of the women’s bathrooms as part of the SGA’s initiative called Aunt Flow.

“Right now we’re really working on maintaining and keeping [the Aunt Flow displays] filled, keeping them nice and clean, making sure they’re not damaged,” Myers said.

Myers said the SGA is searching for ways to make the Aunt Flow dispensers accessible across all of campus and any ways they can improve upon it.

“There was a push to make things like menstrual products accessible. I know there’s a lot surrounding that, like the pink tax, it’s just something extra that women have to pay for that is kinda hard to get whenever you’re a struggling college student,” Myers said.

The dispensers can be found in women’s bathrooms in the Cushwa Hall, Beechly Hall and Kilcawley Center buildings as well as the William F. Maag Jr. Library.

# Spilling the tea on slang

By Molly Burke and Raeghan Hilton  
Jambar Contributors

Whether it’s telling a stranger their outfit “slays” or asking to “chill out,” with friends, people of all ages and cultures use slang in everyday life.

Nicole Pettitt is an associate professor in Youngstown State University’s Department of English and World Languages. She said slang is nonstandard language.

“That could be words. It could be how people use grammar as well. It could be altered words as well — things that could be exaggerated,” Pettitt said. “It’s typically used in speaking rather than writing, although that is changing right now with texting.”

Sophomore English major Gracie Pesa said she sometimes uses texting acronyms as slang.

“I say ‘slay’ a lot in my daily life,” Pesa said. “I’m not going to say ‘OMG,’ but I probably use ‘LOL’ in my daily life outside of texting.”

Some slang words stand the test of time, and others are only briefly popular. Each semester, Pettitt has students create slang dictionaries, each filled with 50 words and definitions. She said every semester brings something new she didn’t expect.

“Eight years ago, for somebody to say ‘spill the tea’ for gossip was a thing. Now, that doesn’t show up so

much on my slang dictionaries. Another one that started to show up probably five years ago was ‘sus.’ That still shows up, but a little bit less,” Pettitt said.

Slang can differ between generations, cultures and locations. It is often used to assert identity.

“It’s giving away information about who you are, what groups you belong to, what groups you don’t belong, social class, gender, race, sexuality, all sorts of pieces,” Pettitt said.

Pesa said she believes there’s a disconnect between generations when it comes to using slang.

“I’ll be saying it around my parents or something, it goes right over their head. They just look at me like, ‘What are you talking about?’” Pesa said.

According to Pettitt, language can be used to create division or find common ground.

“Say we have a younger person who uses some kind of slang that I don’t understand. I have a choice when that happens. I can say, ‘Wow that’s so interesting. Tell me more about what that means, I want to learn.’ I can also choose to say, ‘Oh, you don’t know how to use the language,” Pettitt said.

Jamba Juice cashier Linda Whittenauer said while slang has changed over time, she uses it to connect with people of all ages.

“Slang today is different from the slang from yester-

day because I’m 75. So, our slang had a lot to do with rock and roll and the Beatles and things like that,” Whittenauer said. “I use slang because it just adds color to your conversation. It makes you, you.”

Pettitt said slang is often used in informal situations, but it’s a misconception that it’s improper or bad English.

“In linguistics, there’s only conventional and unconventional. There isn’t bad or better, good and bad,” Pettitt said. “With your friends, it’s conventional to use slang. At the job, it’s unconventional to use slang. So, I think it’s important for people to be encouraged. If you use slang, that’s your choice — and it’s not that you’re not good at English.”

Ryan McNicholas, director of Campus Recreation, said he uses slang differently depending on where he’s at and who he’s talking with.

“I definitely say it to all of our Campus Rec staff here and they just think I’m cringe, but I know it’s straight fire,” McNicholas said. “I know when to be professional and not to be ... I’m not going to go into a budget meeting and say ‘Hey, our budget for this quarter is mid or sus.’”

Pettitt said studying how people use slang is important for understanding the way people communicate with each other.

“It’s easy to overlook how people are using language. It’s much more common for us to look at music, fashion, social groups, but think about how people are using language,” Pettitt said. “Slang gives us a window into the lives and cultures of people who are using it, and it’s a unique window.”

# Family fun

By AnnaBelle Boone  
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Family Weekend was four days of activities for students and their families.

The event was organized by Housing and Residence Life, with festivities lasting from Thursday, Oct. 17, to Sunday, Oct. 20.

Olivia Cupp, YSU's director of Housing and Residence Life, discussed planning this year's Family Weekend.

"Over the last couple of years, we've really tried to make a shift to making it more of an à la carte experience," Cupp said. "We're coordinating and then pulling in all the other fun, community-centered events that are also happening that weekend and we're highlighting all of the fun events that are happening on campus, so students and their families can design their own experiences for the weekend."

Cupp has been involved with YSU's housing department for almost 10 years.

"I'm really excited for all the fun that's going to happen in the Chestnut Room. Lance [Nave] and their team

have organized a lot of really fun activities. They're really family-friendly, whether the student has very young siblings or whether it's just their parents," Cupp said.

Family Weekend activities began at noon in the Chestnut Room. Activities included a polaroid station, penguin pebble painting and creating a family tree with Penguins. Karaoke was also offered until 3 p.m.

Martina Lemos, a resident assistant at Lyden House, said Family Weekend allows students and families to connect with each other and campus.

"Family [Weekend] is a great opportunity for students and families to get together on campus and get to know each other," Lemos said.

Lemos is also an international student from Uruguay. He said even though he cannot celebrate the weekend with his family, he has developed fulfilling relationships at YSU.

"It's a really good experience to get to know other people, even though my family isn't here at the moment," Lemos said. "I've made a beautiful YSU family that I will always cherish and love. I'm glad that I found so many people."

Nave was the associate director of Residence Life at YSU. He was involved with the organization and planning of this year's Family Weekend.

"So originally, Family Day centered mainly around our on-campus residents and their families, bringing them to campus for an experience," Nave said.

Nave has since left the university, so Family Weekend

is one of the last events Nave put on with YSU's housing department.

"We truly try to expand that to welcome our commuter students and their families. So last year, we tried opening up a little bit more and providing a downtown experience, like the Fifth Quarter," Nave said.

The Fifth Quarter is a program that works in tandem with businesses in downtown Youngstown. From 9 p.m. to midnight, students and families can receive discounts on food and drink with a YSU ID or ticket from the YSU game against University of South Dakota.

"This year, we were more intentional about inviting our commuter students and families. This year, we've provided almost 100 complimentary tickets for our commuter students to really try and expand and showcase this is a community," Nave said.

Family Weekend had a full slate of activities for every family. Oct. 17 kicked off the weekend with an exhibit at The Butler Institute of American Art, which featured artist Mateo Blanco. Penguin City Brewing Co. also hosted its monthly Penguin City Night Market.

Oct. 18 included activities like Nightlights, a Halloween show at the Ward Beecher Planetarium, along with a Youngstown Phantoms game at Covelli Centre.

Oct. 19 began with community activities like Christmas in the Woods at Shaker Woods Grounds and Fall Harvest Weekends at White House Fruit Farm. Saturday also included a Museum Crawl around Youngstown and Fun at the Chestnut Room.



Family Weekend in the Chestnut Room.

Photo by AnnaBelle Boone / The Jambar



# From Roman Holliday to Russian history

By **Matthew Sotlar**  
The Jambar

Just over 40 years ago, Brian Bonhomme took the stage with his band Roman Holliday. Now, he is a professor of history at Youngstown State University.

Bonhomme started Roman Holliday by himself in November 1980, at the age of 16, after he placed an ad in the paper in search of musicians to form a band.

“When I was 16, I dropped out of school basically. I’m not suggesting people should do that, but I was intent on having a musical career. I put an [advertisement] in the local paper asking for some musicians to form a band, and a bunch of people came and answered the advert,” Bonhomme said.

Alongside Bonhomme was lead vocalist Steve Lambert, keyboardist Adrian York, bassist Jon Durno, drummer Simon Cohen, trumpeter John Eacott and saxophonist Rob Lambert.

“In 1982, we signed a record contract with Jive Records,” Bonhomme said. “We released our first single in 1983, which was a song called ‘Stand By.’ That didn’t do great, but our second single, ‘Don’t Try to Stop It,’ that got to number 14 in the charts in the [United Kingdom].”

While Roman Holliday was generally considered to be a pop band, Bonhomme said the group incorporated a variety of musical styles based on their influences.

“We basically experimented with a lot

of different styles,” Bonhomme said. “There were seven of us in the band, we all had different tastes. One way or another, we ended up playing this music that was a little bit swing, a little bit pop ... sometimes people describe it as bubblegum music.”

The group released their debut album in 1983, titled “Cookin’ On the Roof.” The group scored two U.K. hits with “Don’t Try to Stop It” and “Motorman.”

Following the release of “Cookin’ On the Roof,” Roman Holliday embarked on a tour. The band opened for Missing Persons at the London Lyceum and toured with American rockabilly band Stray Cats and English new-wave stars Culture Club in the United States.

Bonhomme said he was taken aback upon his arrival in the U.S. for the first time.

“I particularly fondly remember the first two gigs we

did in the States,” Bonhomme said. “It was the first time I’d ever been to the States ... and we played two nights at a place called the Ritz in New York City, and that was just fantasy come true. We landed in Newark Airport and these stretch limos picked us up.”

Roman Holliday released one final album, “Fire Me Up,” in 1984. The album failed to garner any attention, and the group broke up the following year. The group held a reunion gig in 2001 in London, further shows are unlikely as Bonhomme and Lambert no longer live in England.

Bonhomme moved to the U.S. following the end of Roman Holliday. He graduated from the City University of New York in 2000 with a Ph.D. in history and a specialization in Russian and environmental history. He has taught history at YSU for 20 years.

Bonhomme said aspiring musicians should focus not only on the music, but also on the audience, which is similar to the responsibilities of a professor.

“If you’re going to go into the music business, you have to be able to connect with an audience. When you’re going from being in a band to being a professor, that’s a real big shift. To some degree, it’s not. It’s still about connecting to an audience in some respect. Whether you’re playing an instrument to people on stage ... or talking to a class, it’s still really about connecting with your audience,” Bonhomme said.



Bonhomme with Roman Holliday in England.

Photos courtesy of romanholliday.co.uk

## BESTOW AND BEHOLD



Youngstown's seventh annual Film Festival.



Photos by Mick Dillon / The Jambar

# Lights, camera, action

**By Mick Dillon**  
The Jambar

Youngstown Film Festival hosted its third annual event from noon to 9 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Chase Tower in downtown Youngstown.

Founder and Director Adam Michael has been hosting the festival since its inception in 2021.

Michael said he is passionate about preserving the arts community in Youngstown, and felt there would be no better way to do so than to bring a film festival to the city.

"This was a record year for us. We had over 300 films submitted this year," Michael said.

The cinematic event featured a variety of films from all over the country. Genres ranged anywhere from comedy to horror.

Some categories awarded were:

- Best Micro-Budget Film: "The End" directed by Jeremie Musyt.
- Best First Time Filmmaker: Johnny Lam, for "American Bison: Winter."
- Best LGBTQ+ Film: "Emerald City" directed by Josef Steiff.
- Best Youngstown Area Film: "Gemini" directed by Nicole Ice.
- Best Feature Film: "Aretha On Everest" directed by Tatiana Lohmann and Roberta Estrela D'Alva.

"We try to reward people that are coming from different backgrounds and have different budgets to work with. We don't want to exclude anybody," Michael said.

Youngstown Film Festival saw applications from all spectrums of the film industry. There were films spanning from a \$100 budget to films with over a \$500k budget.

Along with drawing submissions from all over the country, the Youngstown Film Festival highlights local talent with their category of Best Youngstown Area Film.

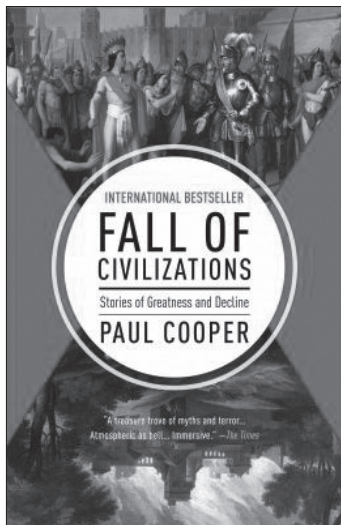
"This is an amazing community," Michael said. "Tons of really artistic people are in this area."

As far as the locations go, the Chase Tower is a change of pace from past festivals. Michael has held the Youngstown Film Festival in a different location each of its three years and hopes to settle into a permanent location in the future.

"We are looking for, eventually, a permanent home but I also like going to different spaces around the city... and highlighting different areas," Michael said.

Michael said he looks forward to growing the event and urges people to be on the lookout for next year's festival.

# Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library



## Nonfiction review

### **Fall of Civilizations: Stories of Greatness and Decline**

by Paul Cooper

Paul Cooper, known for his podcast of the same name, writes an empathetic and honest history of humanity while he examines a wide range of societies and empires beginning in ancient times through early colonization. Cooper's book discusses how each civilization grew, became successful, and ultimately fell either due to issues within the society itself or outside forces. Recommended for adults interested in history and anthropology.



## Fiction review

### **The Mountain King**

by Anders De La Motte

After being demoted to the "Lost Souls Department," detective Leonore Asker connects a cold case involving figures in a model train scene with missing urban explorers. Recommended for fans of Stieg Larsson's Swedish crime thrillers or Tana French's psychological suspense.

## Upcoming programs

**Thursday, Oct. 24**

6 p.m.

Casual Scrabble

**Saturday, Nov. 2**

2 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons: A Night of Masks and Monsters

**Thursday, Nov. 7**

6 p.m.

Relaxing Watercolor

Visit [libraryvisit.org](http://libraryvisit.org) to register, get more information or find other programs

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

# Have something to say to The Jambar?

## Write a Letter to the Editor!

Email The Jambar at

**[thejambar@gmail.com](mailto:thejambar@gmail.com)**

## The Jambar Column

# ‘Checking’ in for the season

Oct. 18 was the home opener for the Youngstown Phantoms, and subsequently, the return of my serotonin production.

Something about watching a bunch of guys hit a puck, and each other, is extremely entertaining to my pea brain. I believe it has something to do with the primal urge to watch people compete for attention.

While I’m excited for hockey to be back, this game was depressing. Like any sport, there’s going to be referees who need to see an optometrist, but to neglect so many calls is baffling.

The refs were missing blatant tripping, hooking, cross-checking and holding calls, yet they went feral over the icing and offside calls. Both teams deserved more penalties than they actually received, which makes for a frustrating game.

The Lincoln Stars won, not fully because they’re better at hockey, but the goalie couldn’t keep the net on the ice. Every opportunity the Phantoms had at scoring was ruined because the net was knocked out of place and the play had to end.

The lack of penalties and the Phantoms’s score, created a hostile atmosphere towards the refs to the point where the entire third period was full of people booing them. I hope they made it home safe.

I, for one, had fun participating in the booing, “Ref you suck” chants and taunting the Stars. There is a player for the Stars that looks like Zachary Gor-



**Madison Fessler**

I watch hockey for a reason, to see people fight. I was disappointed by the number of fights on the ice, not because the players didn’t want to, but again the refs wouldn’t allow it.

I understand why. Most of the players are under 18, but a few punches should be allowed especially when a game is going horribly. The fans paid for entertainment and if it won’t be good hockey, at least let it be a good fight.

There’s typically two games against the same team so more fights happen on the second day, the teams have built up animosity between them. However, there’s usually a good fight in the first game too.

The game got so bad I left early, something I have never done before. Even if my team is losing horrendously, I stick it out until the bitter end, but this was unbearable.

I still love the Phantoms. I’m delighted to see how the team develops over the course of the season.

The team lost a lot of core players from last year, so they will have to rebuild the chemistry there once was.

Go Phantoms!

don when he portrayed Greg Heffley in the 2010 ‘Diary of a Wimpy Kid’ movie adaptation and I have not stopped thinking about this.

## The Jambar Editorial

# Y (chromosome) women are funny

For a long time, humor was seen as an acutely male ability. But unlike other occupations and talents, the idea of women being unfunny has lasted well into the present.

In the past, when women were allowed into the comedic realm, they were restricted to either the ditsy housewife — Lucille Ball — or the vulgar, graphic, sex-obsessed single woman — Amy Schumer.

Ball and Schumer can be hilarious, and if you enjoy their comedy, that’s completely fine. However, their comedic styles become problematic when those are the only genres of comedy women can find success in.

The same issue applies to any comedian who occupies a marginalized group.

Plus-sized comedians such as Jonah Hill or Rebel Wilson — who played a character literally named Fat Amy — have long been the butt-end of fat jokes. Black, indigenous and people of color and visibly-queer comedians were often relegated to only doing sketches about their race or sexuality.

Once again, these types of comedy are fine when the comedian happily occupies their genre, as was the case with Wilson. But, this is unacceptable when they are forced to regulate into a niche solely based on their identity.

It is important to remember that hu-

mor is subjective. This may be unfortunate when you make a joke to new coworkers and they hit you with the 10,000-yard stare. However, thinking about it, this fact is actually beautiful.

A shared laugh is a shared connection. It’s a moment of looking at a person you may be entirely different from, but somehow your experiences have lined up well enough to be crying about the same punchline.

Sometimes, someone makes a joke that is the epitome of dry humor — they hit all the marks: delivery, cleverness, timing and setup. The sarcasm gods may be in awe, but an audience that loves slapstick isn’t going to be all that impressed. However, one might’ve had better luck if they had told the joke while falling down the stairs.

This is what happens when a woman makes a joke to a man, and vice versa. If they just don’t get it, if the humor isn’t the right genre, if the experiences don’t overlap, neither party is going to be laughing out loud — if you will.

While it’s true that some people are funnier than others, that quality doesn’t really have much to do with physical attributes like appearance, race or sex.

As much as many of us would like to believe that those who grew up ugly are funnier than those who grew up pretty, the stereotype isn’t always true.

## Quote of the Week

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

— Nelson Mandela,  
Former President of South Africa

# THE JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Press Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published weekly in the spring and fall semesters. The Jambar is free for YSU students and faculty.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editor, sports editor, arts and entertainment editor and head copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at [thejambar@gmail.com](mailto:thejambar@gmail.com). Letters should concern a campus issue, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for publication. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff has decided that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitted writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.



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# Women's golf putts a strong season end

By Marissa Masano  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State women's golf team concluded its fall season at the Lady Blue Hen Invitational, hosted by the University of Delaware on Oct. 19-20.

The Penguins finished seventh out of 10 teams with a three-round total of 913.

YSU's top performer was senior Lizzie Saur, who is coming off a season-low, one-over-par performance at the Butler Fall Invitational.

Saur tied for 12th with a three-round score of 221. Her best round came in the second, where she shot an even-par 72 with four birdies. Saur's individual three-round scores were 75-72-74.

Sophomore Neeranuch Prajunpanich was the Penguins' next-highest finisher, tying for 21st with a three-round total of 226. Prajunpanich, who recently broke a school record, delivered her best performance in the third round, shooting a two-over-par 74 with four birdies.

Freshman Sofia Perez Escarcena followed on the leaderboard, finishing with a three-round score of 232. In the third round, she matched her career low, shooting a one-over-par 73.

Freshman Valentina Pena Anaya tied for 43rd with a three-round total of 234, while junior Adena Rugola rounded out the Penguins' lineup with a total of 252.

For Saur, she accredits adjustments made by the team to put together a strong Day Two.

"The greens we played were very fast compared

to what we are used to playing. We had to play more breaks and focus on dying putts in the hole instead of hitting them firm. I believe this helped us to end the tournament with a strong team score in round three," Saur said.

Delaware claimed first place with a three-round team total of 881, besting Quinnipiac University by one stroke. The Bobcats secured second place with an 882 total.

Delaware senior Alisa Khokhlova defended her individual title, finishing first with a three-round total of 211.

At the end of Day One, the Penguins sat in ninth place with a two-round total of 615, scoring 310 and 305 in the first and second rounds, respectively.

Saur ended Day One tied for 11th. She recorded rounds of 75 and 72 for a total of 147. Prajunpanich shot 77 and 75, with a 24th-place finish.

As the team now begins to prepare for its spring season, Saur is looking forward to her last golf season. Throughout her college career, Saur said the Columbia Classic, Howard University Invitational and Therese Hession Buckeye Invitational hosted by The Ohio State University were her favorite events

"We are returning to some of my favorite events as well as adding a new and exciting event to our schedule. All of these great events will help us prepare for the conference championships which is always what we look forward to most," Saur said.

Youngstown State will kick off its spring season Feb. 8-9, 2025 at the Columbia Classic in Melbourne, Florida. Last season, the Penguins opened the spring at the same tournament, where they finished 11th.



Photo courtesy of ysusports.com

Senior Lizzie Saur tees off.

# Women's tennis swings big at Viking Invitational

By Kevin Skolny  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's tennis team traveled to Cleveland State University on Oct. 17 for the three-day Viking Invitational.

There were four schools in attendance at the event, including the host Cleveland State, the Penguins, Bowling Green State University and Duquesne University.

The 'Guins left with a total of 11 singles and six doubles victories, as the event concluded at the Medical Mutual Tennis Pavilion.

Leading the way for the Penguins was senior Lili Minich, as she defeated every opponent she faced. First, she defeated Cleveland State senior Tereze Vevere in two straight sets, winning the first six games to three. In the second set, Minich and Vevere entered a tiebreaker after each winning six games, where Minich would win the penultimate game by a score of seven to four, sealing her first match of the invitational.

Minich would go on to win each of her remaining two matches against Duquesne sophomore Sofia Serrano six games to two, and Falcons sophomore Tia Clemens six games to one in the first set, and six games to three in the second set.

The Penguins won multiple matches over the three-day tournament, as senior Gha-da Diringler and sophomore Yeseniia Ovcharova both won two matches.

In doubles, junior Line Greyling was a part of three different winning pairs.

Greyling's first duo win included freshman Lydia Foster, as the two defeated the Vikings duo of freshman Jenna Redmile and senior Filippa Frogner in a final of six games to three.

The next doubles match saw Greyling paired with Ovcharova, as the two defeated senior Ellie Hire and freshman Isabella Norris from the Falcons in six straight games.

Greyling had her final pairing with sophomore Laura Cedeno, as the two faced off against Dukes' junior Taisia Yakunina and Serrano. Greyling and Cedeno emerged as winners after the matchup.

For the Penguins, Minich moves up to second on the team for singles wins with seven, right behind senior Julia Marko with 10. As for Greyling, her record in doubles moves up to 4-4 after a strong weekend, putting her tied in second on the team with other 'Guins.

The Penguins will conclude their season Nov. 8 at the California State University-Northridge fall invitational.

# Howl, Coyotes win



YSU to play second-straight home game vs North Dakota.



Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

**By Teziah Howard**  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University football team applied pressure to No. 4 University of South Dakota football team Oct. 19. In a 10-point affair, Youngstown State fell to the Coyotes 27-17.

The Penguins fired off a 14-point lead early in the second quarter, but the Coyotes battled back when they tied the game with four minutes to go before halftime.

With the loss, the Penguins drop to 2-6 with a 1-3 record in the Missouri Valley Football Conference. The Coyotes improved to a 6-1 record, while being undefeated in the division.

Despite the loss, YSU took over in key statistics. The turnover battle and time of possession were won by the Penguins as they held the ball for nearly 34 minutes to the Coyotes' 26.

The Penguins picked up 22 first downs, while the Coyotes trailed with 19. South Dakota only mustered 69 more yards than Youngstown State.

YSU junior Max Tomczak led the team with nine receptions for 90 yards. Senior transfer, Ethan Wright, rushed for 50 yards on 13 carries.

South Dakota's offensive attack was led by their quarterback-running back tandem of redshirt sophomore Charles Pierre Jr. and redshirt junior Aidan Bouman. Pierre Jr. put up 153 rushing yards on 21 carries, while Bouman completed 12 of his 18 pass-

es for 223 yards and a touchdown.

Pierre Jr. gave the Coyotes their first lead of the matchup, when he went off to the races for a 50-yard score late in the third quarter. The Penguins would trail the Coyotes for the remainder of the game.

On the defensive side, three Penguins tallied six tackles. One of those leading tacklers was junior defensive end and captain Michael Voitius. Voitius said his team has been infamous for their second-half performances.

"I feel like in the past we've been a team that has come out after half and played well," Voitius said. "It seemed as though it was flipped tonight."

Head Coach Doug Phillips is in his fifth year as the leader of the Penguins football program and Phillips praised the resilience of South Dakota.

"South Dakota is a great football team. They have explosive players and we asked our kids to play fast and to play physically," Phillips said.

Phillips added that he felt proud of the way his defense played, but said that it can't just look good on paper.

"I think we saw a different defense than we have in previous games and I'm proud of that but there's no moral victories," Phillips said.

After Saturday's loss, the Penguins will return to the Ice Castle on Oct. 26 for a matchup against the No. 7 University of North Dakota Fighting Hawks. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. and can be viewed on ESPN+.

# Trail towards Green Bay

By Dylan Lux  
The Jambar

Following multiple record-breaking races and an award-filled season, the Youngstown State University men's and women's cross country teams prepare for the Horizon League Championships, hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

The 2024 campaign began Aug. 30 with a trip to Akron for the 55th Annual Tommy Evans Invitational, hosted by the University of Akron. The men's side finished fourth out of 11 teams, as The Ohio State University won the meet with every racer finishing top 10.

At the same meet, the women's team finished sixth out of 12 teams. Sophomore McKinley Fielding finished sixth overall out of 116 runners with a time of 18:08.8 in the 5K.

The next meet was Sept. 20 at the Roy Griak Invitational, hosted by the University of Minnesota, as 10 members of the men's team traveled to Falcon Heights, Minnesota.

The Penguins finished seventh out of 17 teams, with senior Hunter Christopher coming in third overall, with an 8K time of 25:05.4. Senior Thomas Caputo and sophomore Owen Brady finished 31st and 35th, respectively.

Then Sept. 21, Youngstown State hosted the YSU Inaugural Alumni Cross Country Meet. The event marked the first-ever on the brand new Gorby Family Championship Cross Country Course in Canfield.

The women's team finished first overall, as three Penguins placed in the top five. Fielding, freshman Caleigh Richards and junior Jenna Razavi finished second, third and fifth in the race, respectively.

On the men's side, YSU finished in fifth place — with only five runners.

Three 'Guins finished inside the top 20.

Following the home meet, the Penguins met Atlantic Coast Conference foe, the University of Notre Dame, at their Joe Piane Notre Dame Cross Country Invitational.

The women finished 12th out of 23 teams, while the men finished 18th out of 19.

Brady said the team's training switched this season, with practices geared more towards the races at the end of the season.

"We've definitely changed our training a little bit in the summer to peak for the later races," Brady said. "Starting out was a little slower but it was good for where we were."

The most recent meet for the 'Guins was Oct. 18, when the team traveled to College Station, Texas for the Texas A&M University Arturo Barrios Invitational.

The Youngstown State men's team finished in fifth place out of 38 teams at the invitational, as Christopher finished 18th out of nearly 400 runners.

The women's team finished 30th out of 41 teams, with the highest Penguin finisher being Fielding in 66th, in front of over 300 athletes.

The 'Guins will now prepare for the postseason Nov. 2, as the Horizon League Championships will take place in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Brady said the preparation didn't change for the postseason, but the stakes have only gotten higher.

"[There's] a little more pressure, it means more," Brady said. "We're more focused now and we have more tools to work with by the end of the year, so we should be at our best."

The women's 6K is slated to begin at noon, while the men's race will start at 1 p.m.



Christopher and McKinley have multiple top 10 finishes on the season.

Photos courtesy of ysusports.com