

THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931



Thursday, January 30, 2024



FOUNDATION FUNDING



The board of trustees held a meeting Jan. 28 for Kilcawley funding.

Photo by John Ostapowicz / The Jambar

From national champ to doctor

By Matthew Sotlar
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Mike Latessa, the first National Championship athlete with a bachelor's, master's and doctorate degree, was honored by the YSU women's basketball team Jan. 15.

Latessa, executive director of The Rich Center for Autism, said he did not initially anticipate staying to complete all three degrees.

"It's been amazing because it's not something that I anticipated doing," Latessa said. "There was a gap between each one. I graduated with my bachelor's degree in 2002 and my master's degree in 2006 ... and then my doctorate was just in December [2024] in educational leadership, so there was a career shift and a change between all of those."

While working on a bachelor's in Business Administration in Accounting, Latessa was an offensive lineman for the YSU's undefeated football team under Head Coach Jim Tressel. The team ultimately won the 1997 NCAA Division I-AA Football Championship.

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Core decisions made to reconstruct Kilcawley

By Nicarlyle Hanchard and John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University board of trustees held a special meeting Jan. 28 as the committee approved two motions to support the construction of the planned student center.

The first motion approved a pledge of student fees to support a bond issuance not exceeding \$40 million. The other motion authorized the issuance and sale of general receipt bonds by YSU.

YSU President Bill Johnson said the \$40 million in bond authority provides a cushion for the budget as construction bids for the student center are made.

"As we go through the construction process, there will inevitably be change orders. We thought we could do this, but we could actually do this and it would be a lot nicer," Johnson said. "But we would just have to have a little bit more money."

The previous construction estimate was upwards of \$40 million with donations and fundraising accounting for \$22 million of the pledges.

A few of the bids from construction companies were higher than expected, with some estimates totaling \$50 million for the project. The projection is 21% more than the initial construction cost.

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Johnson said the potential cost increase was expected because of inflation, material and labor costs, but it could remain at the original protection when the contractors re-bid Feb. 10.

“Those bids came in higher than what our construction costs were estimated. We did some refining to the construction costs, looking at the costs of those core systems,” Johnson said.

Johnson said when a university raises money through a foundation to allocate funds for projects, such as the YSU Foundation, the money comes in increments over a prolonged period of time.

“The contractor is not going to wait seven years to get their money. Under state law as a public system and as a public institution, we have to prove that we have all of the money necessary to execute the terms and conditions of a construction contract before we can enter that contract,” Johnson said.

Johnson said it’s not the first time the university has relied on student fees to help fund university projects. In recent years, the University Courtyard Apartments and the Andrews Wellness and Recreation Center were constructed using bond allocations.

In light of borrowing bonds, the Kilcawley: Centered on the Future Campaign is still receiving donations.

The John S. and Doris M. Andrews Memorial Fund donated \$500,000 Jan. 14, and Jim and Melissa DiBacco made a \$100,000 donation to the campaign Jan. 22.

The Andrews donation will go towards the construction of the black box theater on the first floor and a second-floor lounge. Both rooms will be named in honor of the Andrews to further cement their philanthropic support for YSU.

Scott Schulick, a trustee of the Andrews Memorial Fund and chairman of the campaign, said the fund’s advisors felt the campaign was deserving of donations.

“The fund advisors believed the advancement of the Kilcawley Center project is critical for students at YSU,” Schulick said. “Having been a supporter of YSU initiatives for a long time, [we] recognized the importance of this gift and wanted to do something significant.”

The DiBacco’s donation will support the naming of one of the basketball courts in the Rec Center, a key space that promotes student health and wellness on campus. It was initially constructed through donations from the Andrews Memorial Fund.

Schulick said the message going forward is to continue encouraging alumni, community members and other supporters of YSU to donate to the campaign.

Construction for the new Kilcawley Center is set to begin in May and its projected completion is September 2027.



Photo by John Ostapowicz / The Jambar

\$40 million in student bonds was approved for the renovation project.

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GIVE US A CALL
330-941-3094

7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**Thu.**

A Few Clouds

High: 42°F
Low: 36°F
Chance of precip:
4%

Fri.

Rain

High: 50°F
Low: 18°F
Chance of precip:
94%

Sat.

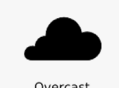
Partly Cloudy

High: 29°F
Low: 21°F
Chance of precip:
0%

Sun.

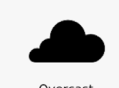
Mostly Cloudy

High: 43°F
Low: 34°F
Chance of precip:
25%

Mon.

Overcast

High: 38°F
Low: 16°F
Chance of precip:
24%

Tue.

Overcast

High: 27°F
Low: 14°F
Chance of precip:
4%

Wed.

A Few Clouds

High: 31°F
Low: 21°F
Chance of precip:
1%

Information courtesy of
accuweather.com

PAYMENT UPDATES

Don't pay with debit



Photos by Alex Sorrells / The Jambar

By Alex Sorrells
The Jambar

Starting Feb. 1, the Youngstown State University bursar's office will no longer accept debit cards at the cashier window, making card payments available exclusively online with a small fee.

After revising debit card policies, Susan Ewing, Bursar at YSU, said outdated debit card equipment and the processes of other schools led to the decision.

"We looked to see what other schools were doing in the state of Ohio. Some schools do not accept in-person payments any longer," Ewing said. "It was just time for YSU to take a look at that and see what we were doing."

Ewing said this change will not negatively impact students as debit card payments are still available online.

"Any student who has a debit card also has a checking account, so they have the option of going online and making a payment through electronic check by putting in their nine-digit routing number and account number, and paying online at no cost," Ewing said.

Cashier supervisor, Donna Tarbet, said online payments are user friendly and allow for easier payment methods.

"They can pay online anytime. You could save your payment information so you

don't have to punch it in every time you want to make a payment," Tarbet said. "They could also sign up for recurring payments... They don't even have to go online to do it."

During the transition period, the bursar's office has received positive feedback from visitors. Tarbet said people are excited when they find out a visit to the cashier's window is unnecessary.

"They're pretty happy when they realize they don't have to come in," Tarbet said. "They could do it anytime — from their room, from their phone, from their computer. They didn't realize they didn't have to come in to make the payment."

Ewing explains that the Penguin Service Center has a partnership with PNC Bank, which offers students free resources.

"We do collaborate with PNC. They offer free checking accounts to students here on campus," Ewing said. "PNC also gives us financial wellness resources like articles and videos that are shared with the Division of Student Affairs, which shares that with the students."

Ewing said the cashiers and Penguin Service Center are working to make the transition period seamless for students.

"We have our cashiers and Penguin Service Center who are working with students, making them aware, and then they're walking them through the process," Ewing said.

In addition to in-person guidance, Penguin Service Center offers a program to teach students about billing and financial aid.

"The Penguin Service Center has a program, or training, called 'Fund your Education,' in that they are explaining to students the payment options in addition to going over their billing and their financial aid," Ewing said.

The Program may not be the only change coming to the bursar's office this semester. Ewing said a new statement format for students is also in the works.

"When a student goes out and registers in a day, and if you don't register at the same time, you will see multiple transactions on the same statement," Ewing said. "We're coming up with a process that all the activity in one day will be lumped together so that you'll see fewer lines on your statement."

The bursar's office and Penguin Service Center are located on the second floor of Meshel Hall. More information can be found online at ysu.edu/university-bursar.



The cashier's window is located on the second floor of Meshel Hall.

Latessa

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“It was quite the experience,” Latessa said. “Being a local kid here in the area and watching YSU succeed and win national champions in the early part of the 90s, you begin to think, ‘Well, maybe that’s something I could be a part of.’”

Latessa said it was his love of coaching and sports that got him interested in education over accounting.

“Taking a step back before graduating, I had played football in high school and I had played football in college here at YSU, it was always an important part of my life,” Latessa said. “When I graduated, I went to work in the accounting field, and after a few years I kind of missed it, so I started volunteering and getting involved a little bit with coaching.”

Following a period of career exploration, Latessa settled on becoming a school counselor.

“I actually came back to career services on campus,

“Stay the course and be adaptable to change. There’s nearly 22 years in between my bachelor’s and my doctorate, and it’s never too late to make a change if that’s what you want to do.”

— **Mike Latessa**,
Executive director of the Rich Center for Autism

did the assessment, and was pretty confident that I didn’t want to be a classroom teacher,” Latessa said. “That’s where the counseling was highly ranked on my assessment, and I did a little bit of investigating and decided to pursue school counseling.”

With three degrees in total, Latessa worked with the

Rich Center for nearly six years. For his achievement, he was honored with a customized jersey from the YSU women’s basketball team, who wore Rich Center-themed shirts during its game.

Latessa said he was not expecting to be awarded and only thought he was participating in a pre-planned jersey handoff.

“I got a text from Jake Ellis, [community engagement and event coordinator at YSU.] He said, ‘They need you before the game, they’re going to do a jersey handoff,’ and I just assumed that made sense. So I walked out there and it got a little weird when I got to center court and no one was joining me. Then they started talking, and I was like, ‘Oh man, they got me good.’”

He added some advice for students to help them succeed.

“Stay the course and be adaptable to change,” Latessa said. “There’s nearly 22 years in between my bachelor’s and my doctorate, and it’s never too late to make a change if that’s what you want to do.”



Mike Latessa was honored at the women’s basketball game Jan. 15.

Photo courtesy of Jake Ellis



Scooby the dog comes to the university to help ease students' stress.



Photos by Daniel Shapiro / Jambar Contributor

Police with paws

By Daniel Shapiro
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown State University Police Academy received a therapy dog to help students and community members cope with stress, as well as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Scooby is a 2-year-old mixed Plott hound. Edward Villone, director and YSU Police Academy commander, said he obtained Scooby after two of his former cadets committed suicide.

"[The former cadets] were veterans — I'm a veteran also — and I felt that we needed a way to mitigate what was going on with veteran suicide and potential PTSD and stress issues," Villone said.

Villone said he got the dog to help reduce the stress that his criminal justice students endure.

gauged why it's convenient to have a therapy dog on campus.

"Interest has risen for therapy dog interventions at universities as these are cost-effective, easily accessible, require no training for students or university staff and can reach many students who experience stress before exams," the article stated.

James Keys, junior criminal justice major, said although he does not experience any mental health issues, he knows many officers who deal with it.

"Mental health and law enforcement go hand in hand and not in a good way," Keys said. "Most officers see things or experience things that they don't expect."

Keys said the old saying, "A dog is man's best friend," illustrates why having a therapy dog like Scooby can

"The dog itself is trained to recognize stress and/or that potential PTSD situation and will hover toward whoever it [might be]," Villone said.

An article from the National Institute of Health

help ease the stress of students or those experiencing trauma.

"Having a companion on your side that can help calm you down after certain situations can help officers and future officers deal with trauma," Keys said. "Scooby isn't trained to sniff out bombs or drugs, he is trained to sniff out and visualize mental health struggles with these officers."

Villone obtained the dog Nov. 11 from K9s for Warriors, outside of Jacksonville, Florida.

According to K9s for Warriors, it's the nation's largest veteran service organization focused on mitigating the symptoms of service-connected traumas. The majority of the service dogs are rescues.

Scooby lives with Villone at home and comes to his office every day on campus. His office is located at 2361 Cushwa Hall.

Villone makes the dog available to help students in need.

"If there's any traumatic events that happened to a student, through the [Office of the Dean of Students], I can be notified and I can bring the dog for some type of comfort," Villone said.

CELEBRATE AMERICA

YSU graduate represents Ohio in America250

By Nicarlyle Hanchard
Jambar Contributor

Dante Bernard, a Youngstown State University graduate and museum educator at the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, is one of two Ohio representatives on the Youth250 Bureau.

In response to the honor, Bernard said it's exciting to represent Youngstown's historical values and help showcase the city's experiences on a national level.

"To be able to bring some history from around here [and] beyond — not just the city, but the state — is a really cool opportunity," Bernard said. "A lot of the history that lives in Youngstown applies to pretty much everywhere else in the country."

Amy Fluker, associate professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences and chair of the Reeder Endowment in History at YSU, said Bernard's position on the bureau emphasizes the aim of the history department.

"It shows exactly what we prepare our students to do in the YSU history program — provide them opportunities for community engagement — bringing history outside of the classroom and using it to enrich the quality of life in our communities," Fluker said.

Bernard said the bureau serves to encourage young people's participation in the celebration of the United States' 250th anniversary.

"America250 events are probably going to be skewed toward adults, [but] young people have just as much right to celebrate and be a part of the celebrations," Bernard said.

Traci Manning, the curator of education at MVHS, emphasized the importance of diverse voices during the celebrations.

"A phrase that I often use is, 'A shared history is not always a shared memory' — people can look back at the same event and remember it in very different ways," Manning said. "American history is not always fun and happy, and it is important to share the elements that are difficult in the hopes that we can learn from the past to create a better future."

Bernard said history is important for young people to learn and observe for perseverance of stories.

"The most important thing for this is reading and learning about people's stories who have come before you," Bernard said. "No matter how far back you look in

"Be that person who embodies what the American Dream could be, and by doing that yourself, you're going to inspire others to do the same"

— Dante Bernard,
Mahoning Valley Historical Society museum educator

human history, people have always felt that [the event] that happened is going to be the end of us, but we can look back to how they overcame their struggles."

Fluker said history is the foundation of our identity and young people should be interested for that reason.

"We live in the world that the past made. We can't escape it, and so we have to understand it in order to better understand one another and be able to move forward," Fluker said. "As individuals, as communities, as

a nation, it's at the heart of who we are, so we can't ignore that. We have to come to terms with it, learn and be honest about it."

Fluker said the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is important for all Americans, especially Generation Z.

"The freedoms and liberties that we enjoy today are built on the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States," Fluker said. "We wouldn't have that without the beautiful ideas of the revolution a century before that."

Although 250 years is a great milestone for America, Bernard said there are multiple layers to celebrating America250.

"Celebrate America250 because for 250 years Americans have worked to make this country survive. It didn't get this way by happenstance. Young people worked to see it move forward," Bernard said.

He said young people should look inward and realize their contributions could help America see another 50 years.

"Be that person who embodies what the American dream could be, and by doing that yourself, you're going to inspire others to do the same," Bernard said.



Dante Bernard will collaborate with another Ohioan for the 2025 Youth250 Bureau.

Photo by John Ostapowicz / The Jambar

Baseball winds up for first pitch

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University baseball team held its annual First Pitch Breakfast with guest speaker George Foster 9 p.m. Jan. 25, at the Waypoint 4180 Banquet Hall in Canfield.

Several members of the YSU Penguin Club, including community members, coaches and players, attended the event to help generate additional funding for the program. The gathering also featured a breakfast buffet, fellowship, 50-50 raffle and a Q&A with Foster.

Head Coach Trevor Charpie hosted the

event for the first time and said it helps build the bond between the team and the Mahoning Valley.

“It builds this togetherness that we have as a unit and this whole community is a family. It takes more than just one good player to have a baseball team,” Charpie said. “It takes a community.”

Foster, a two-time World Series champion and five-time MLB All-Star for the Cincinnati Reds, spoke to the team before and during the event. He spoke on the importance of mental health, personal experiences and his journey to the Major Leagues.

Charpie said Foster is a legend and his

experience can help better the team before the official start of the season.

“Overall, hearing somebody with such experience is priceless. It helps me as a coach, my coaching staff and my players. He’s a great guest and we couldn’t be more thrilled to have him,” Charpie said.

With several community members in attendance, senior Jacob Gehring said the yearly event is a fitting way to start the season.

“It brings the community together and we get to listen to a great speaker in [Foster] this year,” Gehring said. “It’s a big accumulation of everything that makes Youngstown proud. It gets everyone

thinking of baseball even though there’s snow outside.”

Gehring also said the opportunity to speak with Foster taught him the most important skill is to have fun.

“When [Foster] had the most success in a season, it was all about having fun. He was playing a game with the guys he loved and enjoyed playing with,” Gehring said. “That will stick with me and my teammates for the rest of the season.”

The men’s baseball team will begin its 2025 season with a three-game series against the University of Baylor from Feb. 14-16 in Waco, Texas.

Penguin Collective guides NIL deals

By Jacqueline Arroyo
Jambar Contributor

In 2024, 50 student-athletes from Youngstown State University’s men’s and women’s basketball, football and softball teams signed name, image and likeness deals.

These partnerships were through the Penguin Collective, which accumulated a combined \$515,000 for student-athletes.

Although the Penguin Collective is considered a third-party organization and only has a sponsorship partnership with YSU, it still provides enhanced NIL opportunities for student-athletes.

This comes four years after the NCAA adopted rules allowing student-athletes to profit from their personal brands.

Tyler Burk, director of compliance and NIL at YSU, oversees recruiting hours and student-athlete eligibility. In his role as director, he helps student-athletes navigate the NIL environment, secure endorsement deals and maximize their earning potential.

“Getting across the point, you don’t need to ... have 50,000 followers or be a star player to be able to really have success in the NIL space,” Burk said.

He educates student-athletes on what to avoid, how to act on opportunities and the resources available to support them.

Regarding NIL deals, there are two points to consider — the internal process and external process.

The internal process focuses on Ohio laws, ensuring

NIL deals are disclosed to student-athletes’ schools.

In addition to the state-mandated disclosures, Burk said the YSU Athletics Department reviews contracts to ensure compliance with NCAA regulations and university policies.

The external process centers on student-athletes securing brand deals. They may be approached with offers involving their NIL or can seek opportunities on their own.

“The other part is finding your niche,” Burk said. “It’s easier to reach out to companies and brands and things like that you’re interested in.”

Burk said when a student-athlete finds a deal they are genuinely interested in, it becomes easier for them to promote their brand or product.

However, there are additional elements student-athletes must consider after securing a deal and earning money, such as taxes.

“One of the perks of the Penguin Collective, when student-athletes sign deals with them, [is] they help them with their taxes,” Burk said. “We’re worried that they’re not going to do their taxes and they’re going to get audited, and we’re going to have all kinds of problems.”

Ty Petrey, business development coordinator at Youngstown’s HD Growth Partners, manages the daily operations of the Penguin Collective. His responsibilities include coordinating with YSU, engaging with student-athletes and staying updated on NIL news and regulations.

“With the start of every year, like right now, we reach out to all the athletes that we’ve worked with from the year prior,” Petrey said. “We set up tax meetings with them — with some of our tax professionals — and we go over how to handle their taxes.”

The primary service the collective offers YSU athletics is accounting. In addition to advising on tax management, the collective provides guidance to athletes on filing their taxes.

For athletes earning substantial income, the collective files their taxes at no charge. For those with lower earnings, they assist in organizing the necessary paperwork to share with parents or tax consultants.

Meetings typically last 30 minutes to an hour. Some athletes come prepared with questions, while others request receipts and documentation for their earnings.

Petrey said since student-athletes are essentially running a business, it qualifies them for business-related write-offs.

These deductions include expenses such as social media subscriptions, gym memberships, clothing and beauty products.

Apart from managing taxes, the Penguin Collective also provides enhanced NIL opportunities by collaborating with businesses and connecting them to student-athletes.

Petrey said although the collective never anticipated generating \$515,000 through NIL deals, it strives in serving YSU and its athletes.

Social media and YSU's mental health



Jenna Sadosky and many other YSU students related social media use to increased feelings of body dysmorphia and anxiety.

By Elise Ramos
The Jambar

If a recent Jambar poll is any indication, Youngstown State University students and faculty have increased their use of social media.

The survey was conducted amongst 55 participants, who identified as females, males and non-binary individuals.

Participants reported various amounts of time spent on social media platforms. The average screen time was calculated to be four hours and 44 minutes per day, with the highest reported amount averaging 17 hours.

Anna Maillis, a sophomore nursing student at YSU, said she has seen both positive and negative effects on her self esteem.

"The pressure to maintain a certain image online can feel overwhelming, and the addictive nature of scrolling often distracts her from real-life interactions or import-

ant tasks," Maillis said.

The most popular social media platforms among the respondents were Instagram, TikTok, Facebook and Twitter.

The responses also indicated a correlation between social media usage and mental health. Nearly 60% of those surveyed felt anxious or stressed after using social media.

When asked if social media negatively impacts self-esteem, 63.6% of participants acknowledged that it does.

Jenna Sadosky, a first-year primary education student, said she struggles with body dysmorphia.

"Seeing all of the 'poster girls' or 'skinny girls' constantly advertises that one must be the skinniest version of themselves in order to be loved or even noticed by someone," Sadosky said.

Participants also reported various negative effects because of social media use, including increased anxiety, depression, loneliness and reduced face-to-face interac-

tions.

A study conducted by the Cleveland Clinic showed the more time women spent using social media, the more likely they were to experience body dissatisfaction and depression.

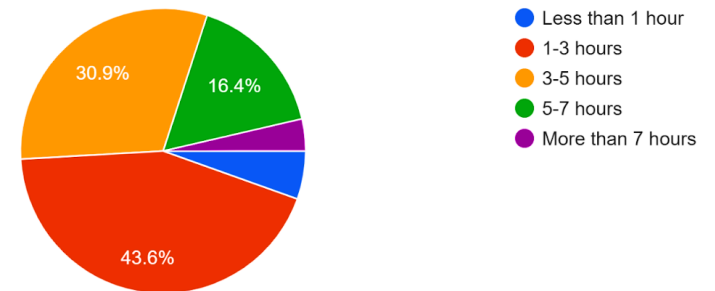
Another study by the Lancet Discovery Science found that greater social media use for both men and women was related to lack of sleep, poor body image, experiences of online harassment and low self-esteem.

YSU offers a comprehensive range of mental health resources to support both students and faculty. Student Counseling Services also offers free and confidential counseling, including individual sessions, group therapy and workshops.

To access these services, students and faculty can contact YSU Student Counseling Services at 330-941-3737, or email studentcounseling@ysu.edu.

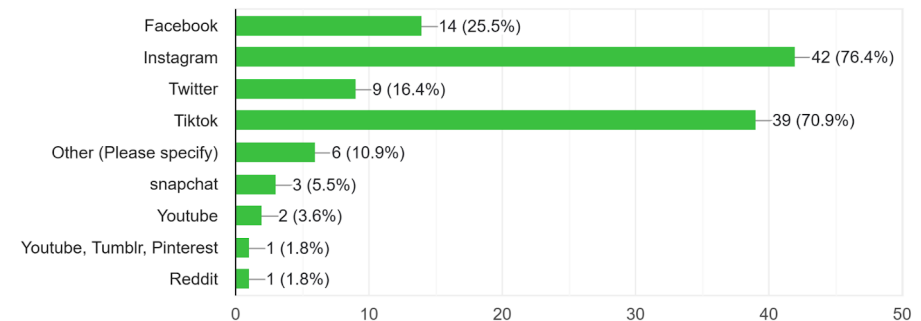
On average, how many hours per day do you spend on social media?

55 responses



Which social media platforms do you use most frequently? (Select all that apply)

55 responses



Photos and graphics by Elise Ramos / The Jambar

MUSIC AT SEA

Climb aboard a fantastic voyage

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The floating musical festival, The Rock Boat, is currently making waves as it set sail Jan. 26-31 to celebrate its 24th annual voyage.

For six days and five nights, several bands and fans boarded the Norwegian Gem as it departed from the Port of Miami to Harvest Caye, Belize, with a stop in Roatan, Honduras.

The Rock Boat XXIV features national and local bands from near the Mahoning Valley, such as Red Wanting Blue from Columbus and Pittsburgh natives The Commonheart.

For nearly 12 years, Red Wanting Blue has performed on The Rock Boat. Drummer Dean Anshutz said the opportunity to play with new artists on the cruise ship is always a surreal experience.

“With [The Rock Boat] — since it’s a couple days — we are able to act on the things we always talk about like, ‘We should play a song together’ or ‘You guys should jump up and do something with us,’” Anshutz said. “The collaboration and the community is something we’ve never experienced anywhere else.”

Besides Red Wanting Blue and The Commonheart, the lineup includes several bands such as Walk the Moon, American Authors, Tonic, Echosmith and The Strumbellas.

Since 2001, the cruise charter company Sixthman has presented The Rock Boat in collaboration with the rock band Sister Hazel.



Photos courtesy of @jparkspix on Instagram



The Rock Boat XXIV set sail Jan. 26-31 with several national and local bands.

In addition to live music, the cruise offers games and activities for voyagers. Bingo cards, an immersive DJ experience, song writing challenges and a polar plunge are a few of the available experiences.

The Rock Boat is also a cruise dedicated to first-time rock boaters. Dean Mitchell, known professionally as Saxsquatch, made his rock boat debut. He said he’s grateful for the organizers at Sixthman, and the ability to play with Sister Hazel.

“I’m thrilled, because I’ve been a huge fan [of Sister Hazel] ever since I was little. [It’s] going to be an insane dream come true and I’m really excited,” Mitchell said.

Saxsquatch is known for his YouTube videos as a saxophone playing sasquatch with covers of popular songs such as “Better Off Alone” and “Carry On Wayward Son.”

The boat also promotes collaboration between artists such as Red Wanting Blue joining The Strumbellas for a few tracks and Saxsquatch partnering with Sister Hazel for the band’s set.

The Canadian sextet The Strumbellas, known for the song “Spirits,” also made its rock boat debut. Violinist Izzy Ritchie said the band took a different approach in preparation for The Rock Boat with variations of older songs.

“We’re not playing any brand new songs, but we’re playing a couple new covers we’ve never played before. We have different arrangements of songs that are stripped back or added to, to make something real special for everyone,” Ritchie said.

Today marks the final day at sea for The Rock Boat. Red Wanting Blue kicks off the festivities from 9-10 a.m.

With the conclusion of The Rock Boat XXIV, the planning for The Rock Boat’s 25th anniversary voyage is currently underway, as the boat will depart Jan. 29, 2026.

McDonough introduces new exhibitions

By **Jacqueline Arroyo**
The Jambar

The John J. McDonough Museum of Art unveiled five new exhibitions, which will be on display 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays until Feb. 28.

Featured pieces include Julia Bett's "The Dams are Broken," Anna Chapman's "Underworld/Otherworld," Abby Cipar's "Sometime, Somehow, For You," William Hutnick's "QUEER HORIZONS" and Sidney Mullis' "Caught Skies and Pillowed Pines."

Claudia Berlinski, McDonough museum director, has taught in the art department at Youngstown State University for 20 years, where she also served as Foundations Program Coordinator and Assistant to the Chair.

At the museum, Berlinski curates the displayed pieces while also managing the budget, writing grants and organizing events.

Berlinski said gallery spaces depend on the artist's work and the number of pieces included.

"We have five distinct exhibition spaces, we have four galleries and then there is a space on our balcony which is frequently used for smaller or more intimate works," Berlinski said.

Each space is considered a solo exhibition, meaning the pieces don't correlate — each space features a different artist's work.

The artist's locations are from various cities such as Pittsburgh, Akron, Cleveland, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

When deciding how to open the new year, Berlinski said she received several proposals from various artists.

"Chapman sent me a proposal about doing a show and Bett's sent a proposal," Berlinski said. "When they do that they send information about what they want their show to be."

After reviewing the proposals, Berlinski considered how YSU students would respond to the pieces and how works might benefit them in terms of media usage or themes.

Once artists were informed their work was selected, the next step was transporting the pieces to the museum. Berlinski said some works were easier to move than others.

"[Chapman] has to pack up her work and fly it in with herself from Amherst," Berlinski said. "This big piece behind us took her six hours to fold up so it didn't get tangled."

In addition to Chapman, all artists were hands-on with their work, evaluating the spaces they were given and determining how they wanted their pieces displayed.

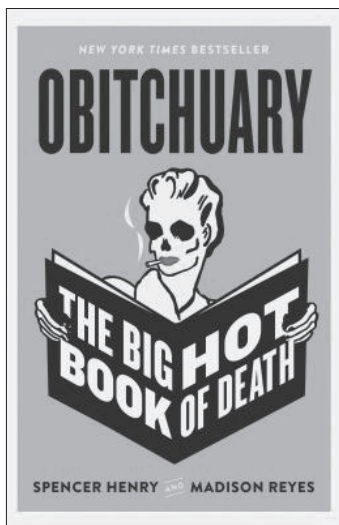
Admission to the museum is free for students and the public.



Pieces from Cipar's "Sometime, Somehow, For You" (left) and Chapman's "Underworld/Otherworld" (right).

Photos by Jacqueline Arroyo / The Jambar

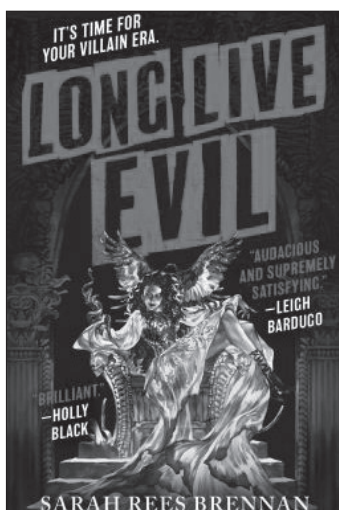
Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library



Nonfiction review

Obitchuary: The Big Hot Book of Death by Henry Spencer

We all have questions about death and this book has a lot of answers. In exploring the haps of dying, authors Henry Spencer and Madison Reyes look at traditions and contemporary practices (such as FUNerals) surrounding death. For the morbidly curious.



Fiction review

Long Live Evil by Sarah Rees Brennan

When her whole life collapsed, Rae still had the one thing she loved most...books. To get a second chance at life, she makes a magical bargain that allows her to enter the world of her favorite fantasy series. Now playing the villainess rather than the heroine, Rae assembles a rogue's gallery of villains which include an axe wielding maid, a shining knight with dark moods, a homicidal bodyguard and a playboy spy-master with a golden heart and a filthy reputation who may or may not live to see the final page.

Upcoming programs

Tuesday, Feb. 4
5 p.m.
Spanish 103

Saturday, Feb. 15
2:30 p.m.
Journey Into VR: Unleash Your
Imagination

Visit 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, 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

The Jambar Column

Building professionalism

Between balancing coursework and part-time jobs, university students often find themselves walking a fine line between academic life and professional responsibilities.

Campus jobs and internships are invaluable stepping stones, offering a glimpse into workplace dynamics and providing opportunities to develop essential career skills.

However, many students underestimate the importance of professionalism during these roles, often seeing them as temporary jobs rather than opportunities for growth.

Professionalism is the ability to act responsibly, communicate effectively and contribute meaningfully to a team. For university students, this includes showing up on time, being dependable and learning how to adapt to different work environments.

These are not just habits for the workplace — they're habits for life. The sooner students embrace these principles, the better prepared they'll be for long-term success in their chosen fields.

For some, imposter syndrome — feeling unqualified or out of place — can lead to hesitation in taking initiative or speaking up, but when students rise to the occasion, the results can be remarkable.

Consider the student who consistently arrives early to their shift, eager to learn and take on additional tasks. This individual isn't just earning a paycheck — they're building a reputation for reliability and a strong work ethic.

These are examples of professionalism in action, and demonstrate how even small roles can have a big impact. Employers and universities also play a vital role in shaping students' professional development.

On-campus supervisors, for instance,



Aicha Sawaneh

have the unique ability to mentor students in a way that bridges the gap between academic and professional expectations. Providing constructive feedback, encouraging accountability and recognizing achievements can help students see the value in their contributions.

Similarly, universities can offer workshops or programs focused on workplace readiness, covering topics like email etiquette, time management and conflict resolution. These resources not only prepare students for their current roles but also equip them for the future.

For students, the key is to view campus jobs and internships as more than just a way to pay bills or earn course credits. Every role, no matter how small, offers a chance to grow and leave a lasting impression.

It's about taking pride in your work, asking questions and embracing challenges with a positive attitude. Employers notice these qualities, and they can set students apart when it comes time to seek full-time employment.

Professionalism doesn't begin on graduation day — it starts now, in the classroom, at the front desk or during an internship meeting.

By treating every job as an opportunity to learn and grow, students can build not only their resumes, but also the confidence and skills they'll carry into every future endeavor.

As students, we have the chance to shape our own paths, and professionalism is the compass that will guide us.

The Jambar Editorial

Underrated '80s bands

Throughout the history of recorded music, many styles have overtaken the airwaves. Be it one of the thousands of genres and subgenres, The Jambar feels that only one decade has encompassed all major genres in a masterful, unique way — the 1980s.

One band from each major genre, including synth-pop, new wave, hair metal, pop and classic rock will compile the list.

Spot No. 5 goes to Orchestral Manoeuvres In the Dark, commonly known as "OMD," the original godfathers of synth-pop. OMD was formed in Merseyside, England in 1978. At the core was Andy McCluskey, bassist and lead vocalist, with keyboardist Paul Humphreys.

The duo's self-titled debut was admired by many, including Bono, Pet Shop Boys and American hard rockers, ZZ Top. Over the years, the band scored several hits in the United States, including "If You Leave" and "So In Love" though they are rarely recognized in the U.S. for its influence on synth and techno.

No. 4 goes to the B-52s, the greatest party band in the world and the unsung heroes of new wave.

With Fred Schneider's catchy vocals and Ricky Wilson's innovative guitar playing, the B-52s hit the ground running in 1979 with their self-titled debut.

Admired by John Lennon and the Go-Gos, the B-52s made rock music fun, simple and danceable, while leaving behind a trail of hits including "Roam," "Love Shack" and their iconic "Rock Lobster." The band continues to record and tour without Ricky Wilson, who died in 1985.

Rocking in at No. 3 is Hanoi Rocks, Finland's answer to Motley Crue and one of hair metal's founding fathers.

Hanoi Rocks first appeared in 1979 in Helsinki, Finland. Fronted by vocalist Michael Monroe, the group was best known for its wild makeup and hairdos that became synonymous with American glam rockers, such as Ratt and Guns N' Roses.

The group is also known for its relationship with Motley Crue. The band's lead vocalist, Vince Neil, was responsible for a car accident that killed Hanoi Rocks drummer Nicholas Dingley, known as Razzle. The accident ultimately brought the end of Hanoi Rocks in 1985.

Coming in at No. 2 are the Bangles, the all-girl rock group who took the spotlight from the Go-Gos. Best known for hits such as "Manic Monday" and "Walk Like an Egyptian," the Bangles first broke out of the Los Angeles' Paisley Underground rock scene in 1984.

Fronted by vocalist Susanna Hoffs and guitarist Vicki Peterson, the Bangles' debut was critically well-received. While the group scored numerous hits, they were overlooked because of their poppy sound. In the end, the Bangles split after a mildly successful third album.

The No. 1 spot goes to Australia's own INXS. Led by vocalist Michael Hutchence, INXS' ever-changing style brought worldwide fame with tragically little recognition.

First tasting success with its third album, "Shabooh Shoobah" INXS went on to release several chart-breaking albums and singles, such as "Need You Tonight" and "Never Tear Us Apart."

The band has a wide influence, ranging from U2, R.E.M. and the Killers, however, INXS is rarely recognized for its impact on rock music.

Penguin Picks by

‘Look Up’ to love

By Mick Dillon
The Jambar

Former Beatles drummer Ringo Starr released his 21st studio album Jan. 10. Totalling in at 11 songs and a runtime of 36 minutes, “Look Up” puts a fresh spin on classic country music.

Starr first found fame when he joined The Beatles in 1962, as a replacement for Pete Best, and stayed with the group until it split in 1970.

Starr and The Beatles saw more success than any other band in history, with 20 Billboard number-one hit singles and countless, sold-out shows in fifteen countries.

Although The Beatles earned a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction in 1988, Starr cemented his own musical legacy in 2015. He was inducted as a solo artist, presented by his former Beatles bandmate Paul McCartney.

After The Beatles broke up, Starr formed Ringo Starr and His All-Starr Band in 1989. The band featured a star-studded cast with members such as Steven Tyler, Bonnie Raitt, Christopher Cross, Peter Dinklage, Jeff Lynne and Joe Walsh. The band continues to perform with a rotating cast of musicians.

Starr released his first solo album “Sentimental Journey” in 1970 and continues to explore different genres with each release.

84-year-old Starr proved time has not passed him by with “Look Up.” With musical features from Billy Strings, Molly Tuttle, Larkin Poe and Alison Krauss, it adds a modern take on classic country.

Legendary musician T Bone Burnett also wrote and produced a majority of the album. In an interview with the Rolling Stone, Starr stated Burnett played a crucial role in the album's production.

“The new album was inspired not by any countrymania of the moment, but by a chance meeting with old-timey music champion T Bone Burnett at a book reading by George Harrison’s widow, Olivia,” Starr stated.

According to the Rolling Stone, some of the influences for “Look Up” came from Starr’s love for watching Westerns as a child in Liverpool, England.

“Look Up” is a display of a romantic country piece, with love songs from start to finish. It features a wide array of sounds within the classic country genre.

The album kicks off with “Breathless,” which resembles a folksy spin on the Beatles style. The intro track felt like a song out of a time machine with the renowned

catchy melodies of old, mixed with signature sentimental lyrics.

Songs such as “Time On My Hands” and “Come Back” featured an orchestral symphony. Additionally “Come Back” had hypnotic backing vocals similar to that of a hula beach with whistles and melodies reminiscent of Elvis Presley’s “Blue Christmas.”

Starr showcased the breadth of his artistry with outlaw-esque songs, including “Never Let Me Go” and “Rosetta.”

Also featured throughout the album were patented Ringo Starr drumlines, giving a familiar feel to fans of The Beatles like “Come Together” and “I Feel Fine.” Those fills can be heard on “I Live For Your Love” and “Never Let Me Go” from Starr’s new album.

Previously mentioned outlaw, jazz, Los Angeles, Bakersfield and western-swing country styles prevailed for the duration of this piece. Starr’s outro track “Thankful” put a bow on the album with a story about being pulled out of dark times from an unconditional lover.

His first full-length release in almost six years, “Look Up” displays the range of Ringo Starr’s musical abilities and leaves listeners wondering what’s next from the star-studded musician.

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.

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The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at 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.

Singles reign supreme

By Teziah Howard
The Jambar

The season-opening matches for the Youngstown State University women's tennis team came from the comfort of the YSU Tennis Center.

The Penguins opened their season with a 4-3 loss to Marshall University on Jan. 18, but bounced back the following week against Miami University.

Despite the loss to the Thundering Herd, Youngstown State claimed three singles-match victories against Marshall. Sophomores Lorena Cedeno and Yoana Dudova, and senior Julia Marko came out of their singles matches with individ-

ual wins.

No. 1 singles featured a matchup between Marko and Marshall senior Emma Vanderheyden. Marko swept the head-to-head matchup with a 6-3 and 6-4 victory.

No. 5 singles featured Cedeno matching up with Marshall senior Aisling McGrane. Cedeno was the first to six points in both matches and joined Marko with match sweeps.

Dudova recorded the final singles victory for the Penguins when she matched up with Marshall freshman Nel Van Hout. Dudova rallied to a 6-4 and 6-3 victory.

The match was decided after a head-

to-head between sophomore Yeseniia Ovcharova and Marshall freshman Alina Mokrynskaya. Ovcharova was victorious in the first set, winning 6-4.

She continued her impressive stint with four points in the second match, but dropped a 7-6 frame. Mokrynskaya closed out the series with a 6-2 win for The Herd.

The Penguins hosted Miami on Jan. 2, where they notched a statement 6-1 win over the Redhawks. Youngstown State swept in all singles matches.

In the No. 1 singles match, Marko faced Miami senior Sara Zalukar. Marko was victorious in the first match and won the final set 6-1, after being shutout in

the second.

In No. 2 singles, senior Lili Minich also reached three sets after winning her first and dropping her second. Minich finished the final set with a 6-1 win over Miami senior Nishitha Saravanan.

Ovcharova swept Miami senior Emilia Valentinsson with two 7-5 victories. Cedeno also swept her opponent with a 6-3, 6-2 win. Senior Ghada Diringer was a winner of both her sets with a 6-2, 6-0 statement victory.

Dudova rounded out the Penguins' singles matches against Miami sophomore Laren Joyce. Dudova won in convincing fashion over Joyce with a 6-1, 6-2 final score.

The Youngstown State women's tennis team will return to action next weekend when it travels out west to Las Vegas to play in three matches.

The competition begins Jan. 31-Feb. 2 with matchups against Oral Roberts University, Weber State University and the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Track and field runs through opponents

By Cameron Mitchell
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University track and field teams hosted the YSU Collegiate Invitational at the Watson and Tressel Training Site on Jan. 17. In addition, the Penguins traveled Jan. 24-25 to Clemson, South Carolina, for the Clemson University Orange and Purple Invitational.

Kicking off the collegiate invitational for the men's side, junior Trenton Shutters placed first in the 800-meter. For the long jump, junior Mateo Smith won the event, while senior Luke Laubacher won the event for the 60-meter hurdles.

In the high jump, senior Mason Stephens led the way for the Penguins. YSU claimed the top four spots, led by Stephens at 2.02 meters. Second place went to senior Nathan Leskovac, third to senior Zachary Webb and fourth to sophomore Connor Durig.

Rounding out the men's jumping events, junior Emmanuel Asabere won the triple jump.

The women's team found success with junior Melana Schumaker in the pole vault, while sophomore Nedgine Morancy won the triple jump. Fifth-year senior Nia Williams-Matthews claimed a victory in the long jump.

Freshman Caleigh Richards placed first in the 3000 meter, with a time of 9:59.76. During the field events, freshman Olivia Mason earned the title win in shot put

with a 13.89 meter throw.

The women's team also added a win in the 400-meter relay with a time of 4:04:51, coming on top of Pennsylvania Western University, Edinboro by 0.03 seconds. The team consisted of senior Aiamyia Dudley, sophomores Havilland Jones and Melody Harloff and freshman Mariah Day.

In the women's 60 meter, sophomore Elle Pearsall won her first career race in first place, achieving the meet's record time of 7.6 seconds. Fifth-year senior Madison Murry placed second in the event with a time of 7.63, followed by Harloff in third at 7.22.

After the invitational, the Penguins competed in 24 events at the Clemson Invitational.

At Clemson, Williams-Matthews broke the YSU record in the triple jump, placing fourth. She entered the event with the school mark of 12.41 meters, and on her final attempt of the day, broke her mark with a 12.49-meter jump.

In the finals for the men's 60-meter hurdles, Laubacher ran a time of 7.78 seconds and placed second. Junior Jamal Britt claimed a final time of 7.83 seconds in the preliminaries.

Youngstown State saw Day and freshman Ava Littler advance into the semifinals of the 60-meter hurdles. Both athletes ran their personal bests, with Day running 8.46 seconds in the prelims and Littler running 8.64 seconds in the semifinals.

Freshman Michael Ballone also ran a personal best of 48.96 seconds in the 400 meter. Along with Ballone, Schumaker broke her previous personal best of 3.72 meters in pole vault with a new record of 4.13 meters.

For both performances, Williams-Matthews and Day were named the Under Armour Horizon League Track and Field Athletes of the Week.

The Youngstown State track and field teams are back in action Jan. 31-Feb. 1, hosting the YSU Mid Major Invitational presented by Southwoods Health inside the WATTS.



Photo by Raeghan Hilton / The Jambar
YSU won 13 events at Collegiate Invitational on Jan. 17.

POSTSEASON HOPES

Penguins seek top five conference finish



The women's basketball team looks to earn a top seed in Horizon League tournament.

Photos by John Ostapowicz / The Jambar

By Dylan Lux
The Jambar

With the women's basketball season winding down, Youngstown State University looks to own a home conference playoff game or first-round bye — potentially both.

All seeds No. 1 through No. 4 earn first-round byes in the 2025 Barbasol Horizon League Championship will boast a first-round bye. Each team will receive a home game, a goal for all conference teams to achieve.

YSU currently sits in sixth place, with nine games remaining on the schedule. The Penguins currently hold a 4-7 conference record — four games out of fourth place.

In the Horizon League, Purdue University Fort Wayne sits with an undefeated record in conference play at 11-0, followed by the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay at 10-1.

Currently Cleveland State University is in third with an 8-2 record. One game separates the University of Detroit Mercy at 6-5 and Oakland University at 5-6 for fourth and fifth, respectively.

In the Penguins' recent stint, they went 2-1 at home and 0-1 on the road.

Northern Kentucky University traveled to Beeghly Center on Jan. 15, where Youngstown State emerged with a 75-66 victory. Senior Jewel Watkins led the game with 21 points, in addition to two steals.

Next was Robert Morris University on Jan. 18 — a team also battling for seeding in the Horizon League tournament. In the Colonials' game with the Penguins, they took a 67-61 win over YSU.

A trip to Cleveland was next for the 'Guins, as they met with the highly-ranked Cleveland State.

The Penguins couldn't overcome the Vikings on their home court, as they tallied a 67-53 loss — their twelfth of the season.

Another two-game homestand followed for YSU, as Oakland and Purdue Fort Wayne came to Youngstown.

The 'Guins handled the Golden Grizzlies in a 73-56 victory, where Watkins eclipsed 1,000 career points in a 22-point night for the senior.

It was an emotional day for Watkins, as she hit this milestone in her career on a day with a lot of emotional

backstory.

"It definitely meant a lot," Watkins said. "I needed 19 points, my dad died on 19th of November in 2019, so it felt good today."

YSU will play five of the remaining nine games on the road, including games against Green Bay, Detroit Mercy and Oakland.

Youngstown State will take on two other squads that are 4-7 in the Horizon League, with matchups against Robert Morris and Indiana University Indianapolis. They will also face off against Wright State University, with a record of 3-8.

All matchups in the 'Guins final nine-game stretch will heavily impact the seeding in the Horizon League Championships.

YSU took on top-seeded Purdue Fort Wayne on Jan. 29 inside Beeghly Center. To view stats from the game, visit ysusports.com.

Youngstown State will have a bye-week before playing Green Bay on the road at 7 p.m. Feb. 6. The game will be broadcasted on ESPN+ and 1390 WNIO.

Penguins heat up winter

By Marissa Masano
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team traveled to Wisconsin for two Horizon League matchups. The team returned home to Beeghly Center to play two games, including its final nonconference matchup.

The Penguins traveled to the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee on Jan. 17, as they fell 79-64. Juniors Jason Nelson and Cris Carroll led the team, each scoring 14 points.

In the loss, the Penguins shot 39% from the field and had six more turnovers than the Panthers. Milwaukee also led in rebounds with 43, compared to Youngstown State's 28.

YSU stayed in Wisconsin to face the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay on Jan. 19. The Penguins defeated the Phoenix 73-69, as Carroll scored a career-high 24 points. Fifth-year senior Nico Galette recorded a double-double with 17 points and 11 rebounds.

The team rallied from an 11-point deficit in the second half, sparked by a steal from Galette and a dunk by fifth-year senior Ty Harper. Galette kept pace as he converted on a three-point play to tie the game with three minutes remaining.

Nelson made a layup to give YSU its first lead since the first half. The Penguins' defense came up with two steals in the closing minutes. Redshirt sophomore David Wilkerson's steal led to a game-sealing dunk by Harper.

The Penguins returned to Beeghly Center on Jan. 22 as the Penguins fell 72-70 to Robert Morris University.

Junior Juwan Maxey recorded a career-high 22 points, shooting 7-for-10 from the field and 3-for-5 from beyond the arc. Harper contributed double-figures, scoring 15 points and grabbing a team-high five rebounds.

In the first half, YSU held the half's largest lead at six points, but trailed 36-40 at halftime. Robert Morris opened the second half with an 8-2 run, securing the game's first double-digit lead.

With 9:52 left, Maxey scored the next 12 points to get the team within four. Shortly after, Maxey made a three-pointer making it 69-68 in favor of RMU.

Head Coach Ethan Faulker praised Maxey's second-half performance.

"[Maxey] got it going late. [He] made a few shots, made plays off the bounce for us [and] got to the foul line. He really got us back in the game. He did what he needed to do offensively," Faulker said.

A foul by Nelson put the Colonials at the free-throw line, where they took the lead 70-68. After a YSU timeout, Harper rebounded his own layup and tipped it in with six seconds left to tie the score at 70.

RMU responded with a fast break in the final seconds, sealing the game with a layup.

With the conclusion of the game against Robert Morris, Faulker received a one-game suspension because of unsportsmanlike conduct.

Horizon League Commissioner Julie Roe Lach issued a statement regarding Faulker's actions.

"At the conclusion of Wednesday's game, YSU men's basketball Head Coach Ethan Faulker's unsportsmanlike actions toward an official violated our conduct principles and are unacceptable," Lach stated.

The Penguins stayed at home for their final non-conference game against Penn State Shenango on Jan. 24.

The Penguins defeated the Lions 112-63, as senior EJ Farmer recorded his first career double-double with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Harper added 17 points, including a career-tying five three-pointers.

All players scored at least two points as the team made 15 three-pointers, tying for fifth-most in a single game. Additionally, the team set a new school record in rebounds with 72.

With Faulker's absence from the game, Associate Head Coach Dwaine Osborne reflected on the team's focus.

"We just want to try to take the best shots we can. Hopefully we're training ourselves to create the habits that we need to be successful," Osborne said.

The Penguins will remain home for their next two Horizon League games, facing Wright State University today and Indiana University Indianapolis on Feb. 1.

