

# THE JAMBAR

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## UP IN SMOKE



Smoke was seen from Burke Lizzie's attic window.

Photo courtesy of Burke Lizzie

## Train derails in East Palestine

By Elizabeth Coss and Samantha Smith  
The Jambar

A train derailed and caught fire in East Palestine on Feb. 3 and underwent a controlled release of the chemicals inside.

According to the Ohio's Governor website, five of the 50 rail cars that were carrying vinyl chloride became unstable and were at a risk of exploding. On Feb. 6, Norfolk Southern Railroad conducted the controlled release to prevent shrapnel, toxic fumes and fire from spreading any further.

Burke Lizzie, a Youngstown State University sophomore mechanical engineering major from East Palestine was home when the train derailed and saw smoke from his attic.

"It derailed around 9 o'clock, I thought that it was a neighbor running into their garage — It was around the same volume — but further away. It was maybe three blocks from my house, like horizontally, and maybe a block or two down the train tracks," Lizzie said.

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## Lafferty begins leading YSU

By Cassandra Lucyk  
Jambar Contributor

A two-time graduate of Youngstown State University — and former member of the Ursuline Sisters — Helen K. Lafferty officially started her tenure as YSU interim president Feb. 1.

Lafferty was born and raised in Youngstown. She graduated from Ursuline High School and received her bachelor's degree in education, theology and philosophy, and master's in education, administration and psychology, from YSU. Lafferty is also a first-generation college student.

"No one in my family ever said the word college," Lafferty said. "When this opportunity came to me, I just thought, this is such a great way to thank both of them. If it hadn't been for the Ursuline Sisters or Youngstown State, I don't know where I'd be, but because of them I am here."

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**Train**

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Prior to a mandated evacuation led by the Ohio National Guard and U.S. Department of Defense, Lizzie said he evacuated the night of, because he was concerned.

"I evacuated around, between midnight and half past [midnight] ... I'm not sure if it was actually high enough that [the smoke cloud] was going over the houses or if that was just a smoke cloud. It was really ... it was terrifying," Lizzie said. "I was just, you know, 'I'm getting my dog. I'm getting my clothes. I'm getting my partner's clothes.'"

Geoffery Everly, an adjunct professor who instructs fire and explosives courses at YSU, said a regular vehicle explosion spreads toxic chemicals like carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, hydrogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide.

Everly said that the addition of hazardous chemicals carried on the train could pollute the air and water.

"This is an uncontrolled large-scale emergency incident," Everly said. "The off-gas and the byproducts are the largest hazard and they can be carried to other areas from the actual site of the event itself ... It's hard to tell with temperature changes, wind direction changes all of that affects where this is going to go."

Vinyl chloride, a colorless and cancer-causing gas according to the National Cancer Institute, burns easily and is used in making polyvinyl chloride, which is a hard-plastic resin product commonly

used in making pipes.

Everly said the fire and explosion from the train was similar to the 2005 train derailment in Graniteville, South Carolina, when a train derailed and created a hazardous chlorine spill.

"The burning of multiple chemicals can produce numerous toxic, potentially lethal byproducts," Everly said. "Many of these byproducts or substances could be colorless, odorless gasses that would be undetectable to the residents before they were overcome, as a similar situation occurred in Graniteville, South Carolina, killing nine people."

The Office of the Dean of Students is offering services for students facing unpredictable situations such as housing dislocation on a case-by-case process.

Nicole Kent-Strollo, the dean of students and the ombudsperson, said the office provides emergency housing, food options like the Penguin Pantry and Swipe out Hunger, and clothing services for the YSU community.

"When we have emergency housing needs, that's certainly not something that's going to take more than a couple hours to get them into," Kent-Strollo said. "[The Office of the Dean of Students is] really meeting with students, as we do everyday on a case-by-case basis, to see 'What do you need in particular?' 'How can we help?' So, there may be options for students to stay in our residence halls."

Kent-Strollo said several students have reached out to the office about needing services or resources following the evac-

uation of East Palestine.

"We've had a few reach out to us that are saying, 'Hey, I want to talk to you about some resources.' We're in the process of reaching back out to them to see 'what does that mean?'" Kent-Strollo said. "I'm in need of housing,' could mean a variety of things. It could mean they don't have the financial means to possibly pay for a hotel room or to maybe stay in a residence hall on an emergency basis."

The office has funding for emergency housing needs for students called the Penguin-to-Penguin Fund.

The fund was distributed to students who were struggling with either housing, bills or other expenses during the pandemic, but has since changed to cover issues outside of just COVID-19.

To donate to the Penguin-to-Penguin Fund, visit The Office of the Dean of Students website. The Penguin Pantry and clothing donation site is in Cushwa Hall, room 1405.

Feb. 8, the evacuation order for residents of East Palestine and surrounding affected areas was removed, allowing individuals to return home.

All rail cars have been removed from the tracks, but several main roads will remain closed for a few days.

For anyone wanting to perform an air test at their home, call Norfolk Southern at (234) 542-6472.

Norfolk Southern Railroad also opened a family assistance center at the Abundant Life Fellowship Church in New Waterford, Ohio to help aid residents.

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**7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed

High: 66°F	High: 44°F	High: 39°F	High: 46°F	High: 50°F	High: 56°F	High: 53°F
Low: 38°F	Low: 23°F	Low: 23°F	Low: 24°F	Low: 36°F	Low: 40°F	Low: 34°F
Chance of precip: 88%	Chance of precip: 24%	Chance of precip: 1%	Chance of precip: 3%	Chance of precip: 9%	Chance of precip: 17%	Chance of precip: 59%



Fair



Mostly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy



Fair



Partly Cloudy



Mostly Cloudy



Rain

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

# YSU allocated \$178,800 for renovations

By Christopher Gillett  
The Jambar

The Ohio State Controlling Board recently allocated \$178,800 to Youngstown State University for the Building Envelope Renovations Project. The money will specifically be used for designing the project's construction.

The funds were given specifically for architectural engineering fees, which involves paying an outside architect to do the design work, field work and construction management.

When YSU does its construction project funding requests, it first goes to the Ohio Department of Higher Education, with outlined plans for the next six years.

Richard White, the director of capital planning and construction for the Planning and Construction Department at YSU, said that project approvals are a part of a normal series of monetary requests YSU files every two years with the state government.

"Every two years ... every biennium we get so much

money from the state to do these types of renovations," White said. "Every two years they ask us to submit our list of projects. They'll approve that list of projects. That money will be sitting there."

After, the money is sent to the Ohio State Controlling Board, which is a committee consisting of three state senators and three state representatives, to approve the funding's release. YSU is still waiting for the release of the total monetary request for the project, which was over \$2 million together.

The project's main focus will be on building envelopes, which are the exteriors of buildings that separate the inside of the building from the outside environment. Examples of envelopes include doors, windows and brick wall exteriors. Envelope corrosion can lead to outside air and water going into the building.

Beeghly Center, particularly its brick walls and steel frame, will be the project's main focus. White said the project has been in discussion for several months.

"There's a lot of deferred maintenance. Some of it is crucial that we do right away," White said. "This was

one [project] that we've been having on our radar for quite a while."

YSU hired Domokur Architects Inc. from Akron, Ohio for the design. White said the university usually develops projects through the department, however it sometimes relies on outside architects.

"We develop the project in house. Essentially, what we do is we have our own little architectural engineering firm in the university," White said. "If it's something maybe out of our expertise, we'll go hire somebody to do that, and that's the case for the Building Envelope [Renovations] Project."

After designing is finished, interested companies will bid on contracts the project's construction. There will likely be money left over after Beeghly Center's renovations which will be used for envelope renovations on other buildings like DeBartolo and Moser Halls.

Typically, projects are done over the summer when less students are on campus. The whole project is expected to be finished by the end of 2023.



The moisture from the pool in Beeghly Center has worn down the building's exterior.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

**Lafferty**

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Before assuming the interim presidency, she worked at Villanova University in Pennsylvania for 42 years.

John R. Jakubek, chair of the board of trustees, said Lafferty possesses qualities that will make her a good interim president.

“First of all her experience in higher education — she’s a very articulate individual — she can express herself well. She’s very approachable and I think she’s going to be a great communicator,” Jakubek said.

The campus community should experience a smooth transition, Jakubek said, noting that Lafferty and

Tressel have similar leadership styles.

“I don’t think [Lafferty] will be that much different than how things have gone with President Tressel,” Jakubek said. “They both are very successful people, and know how to work well with people.”

Lafferty served as vice president of Villanova University for 16 years, interim vice president of academic affairs, associate dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Villanova and has been a national and global trustee for YSU since 2020.

Mark Vopat, head of the faculty union and professor of philosophy, said a large number of faculty are pleased with Lafferty’s appointment.

“I’ve had some very nice e-mail exchanges, and she is

very interested in something going on this week and will be attending. So, right off the bat she has gotten very involved, and I appreciate that,” Vopat said.

Although her position is temporary, Lafferty said she is excited about her tenure as president. Lafferty explained what she plans on doing during her presidency and how excited she is to have this position.

“I intend to enjoy everything that’s here. I’m really trying to immerse myself into all of the activities around. Universities are the greatest places to be because there is always something going on,” Lafferty said. “I go home every day and say to myself, ‘I am having too much fun. I’m not supposed to be having this much fun.’”

# Assistance for success

By John Cox  
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University students struggling with academic and mental-health difficulties have resources on campus to utilize for relief.

Student Counseling Services and the Resch Center for Student Success lend assistance to those struggling with these issues, with a variety of methods suited for the student as an individual.

The Resch Center for Student Success offers many avenues for support, including one-on-one academic coaching, tutoring in over 200 courses, organized study sessions with other peers and accessibility services for those with disabilities.

Becky Varian, director of the Academic Success Center, said the number of students utilizing the services has increased. ASC contacts were lower than usual because of the pandemic and while online tutoring is offered, she said students prefer face-to-face tutoring.

“We’re at an increase in every category at this point just because we’re more back to normal,” Varian said.

Even with this support offered, some students may refuse to take advantage of the services available.

“Some of it is pride, it’s like ‘I don’t need this.’ They don’t really understand what a coach can do,” Varian said.

The ASC works with many departments across campus, such as Student Counseling Services, to which it refers if necessary.

Ann Jaronski, director of Student Counseling Services, said the four biggest issues YSU students battle are different types of anxiety, depression, relationship concerns and managing stress. She said there are approaches to face these difficulties.

“If we’re talking about dealing with external stresses: work, school [those] kinds of things would be to tackle the problem head on. I know often people want to put things off and that can exacerbate the problem,” Jaronski said. “We’re talking about making sure that people are allocating enough time to sleeping, eating, exercising, as well as studying and fun.”

Jaronski recommended setting realistic goals and expectations for personal performance in whatever the source of stress may be, and allocating the time and resources toward said performance. She recommended asking for help early on as well, to begin addressing any issues soon after they’re observed.

These ideas and practices are not always the easiest for students to participate in, as issues can be difficult to open up to others about. Elyse Gessler, a communications professor, said she believes this obstacle is changing because of the proliferation of health information on social media.

“A lot of our students are very interested in social media and the different types of messages that are coming out online and health communication is currently one of our biggest growing fields. Social

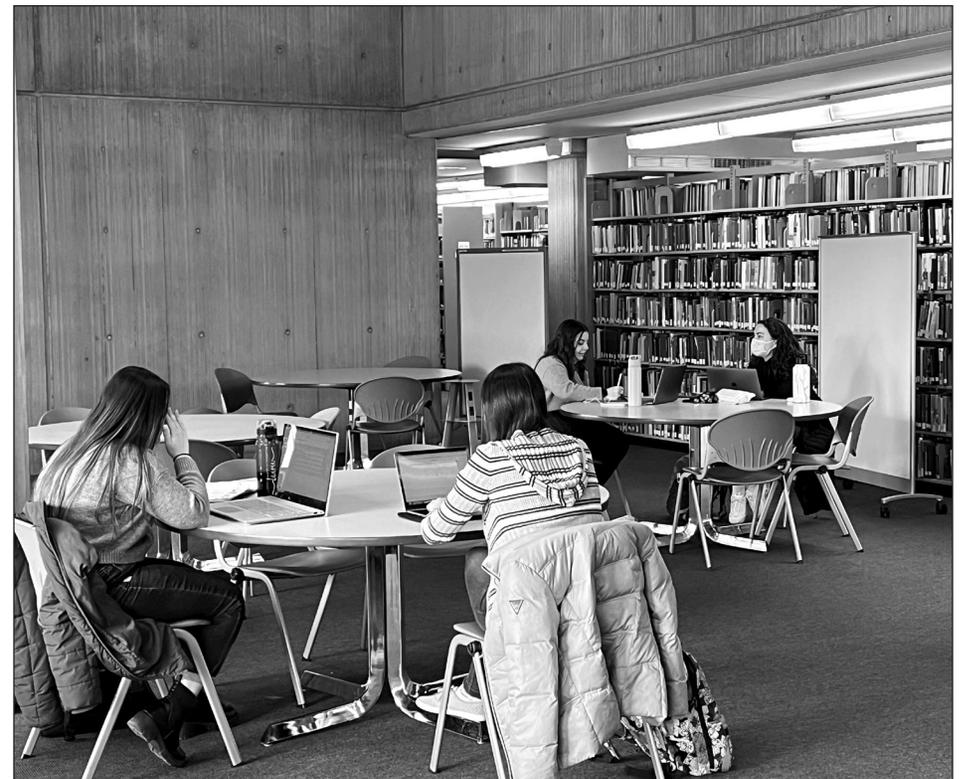
media really has helped visibility around the conversation of mental health awareness,” Gessler said.

Gessler said she’s not a mental health provider, but regularly encourages her students to take advantage of the resources available and find help from those who are.

“I’m just someone who likes to bring light to the different tools and resources

that we have at our disposal and I think that inherently that’s what social media does,” Gessler said.

The Academic Success Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Student Counseling Services is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Students studying at Maag Library.

Photo by John Cox / Jambar Contributor



Renovations of the athletic training center are predicted to be completed by early summer.

Photo by Lindsey Linard / Jambar Contributor

# YSU athletics renovates Beeghly Center

By **Lindsey Linard**  
Jambar Contributor

Renovations are underway in Beeghly Center to update locker rooms, expand the athletic training room and establish an academic center.

According to Athletic Director Ron Strollo, the women's basketball locker room is receiving a facelift, with the first phase being completed in early January. The updates were funded in part by a \$50,000 grant from the Horizon League and contributions from the team's fundraising efforts.

"The locker room is first class and will affect the experience of countless future women's basketball student-athletes," Strollo stated. "The improvements were overdue and now reflect the quality of the basketball program that we have."

Tim Stuart, senior associate athletic director, explained that the locker room received brand new lockers with colored LED lighting and personalized TV screens above each of the players' lockers. The second phase of the locker room is in progress with a theater-style player lounge and wall graphics being added soon.

"The old locker room was very outdated — probably 20 years plus since the previous lockers were installed. It's important for us to take care of our current stu-

dent-athletes by maintaining and up keeping our facilities," Stuart said.

Another project in Beeghly is the construction of the brand new Korandovich Sports Medicine Center, which will be located on the lower level of the building.

It will replace the current one in Beeghly, which now acts as a satellite facility to the main Stambaugh training room and mainly serves athletes who call the Beeghly Center home — basketball, swim & dive, tennis and volleyball.

"We always had a need for an expanded space in Beeghly as far as the training room growth goes, but it was clear when we added 150 student-athletes that we needed more space," Strollo said.

The facility will feature a new hydrotherapy area with hot and cold tubs, expanded rehab and recovery space, branded training tables and treatment areas, staff offices, and a physician exam room.

Jen Tymkew, associate athletic director and director of athletic training services, explained what all the room will house.

"The athletic training room will provide the functional space with state-of-the-art equipment to aid in prevention, treatment and recovery," Tymkew stated.

This project was funded by a donation by the Koran-

dovich family according to Steve Pinciario, assistant athletic director of finance and operations. It will open its doors to athletes in the late spring to early summer.

Once the athletic training operations are moved into the new facility, the old room will be renovated to become a student-athlete academic center. Currently, there is one academic center, located inside Stambaugh Stadium, to serve all athletes.

The new academic center will provide study tables and couches, desktop computers and printers, as well as academic advising staff.

Jaysen Spencer, director of academic services, said the project will greatly benefit all student-athletes, not just those in Beeghly.

"It'll make Stambaugh Academic Center a little bit more quieter in terms of a place to study. Plus, it's a little more convenient for the student-athletes who don't have to travel far to the stadium to do their academic work," Spencer stated.

The academic center is slated to be finished in the fall.

Strollo said future phases of Beeghly Center's improvements will include fixing the air conditioning and other problems in the men's basketball locker room, and possibly replacing the stadium-style bleachers around the basketball court.

# Greek Life aims to break stereotypes

By Raeghan Hilton  
Jambar Contributor

Almost six weeks into the spring semester, Greek Life organizations are sharing what it means to be a part of Youngstown State University's Greek Life.

Greek Life focuses on social aspects and networking connections that are not education or interests-specific clubs or organizations at YSU.

Carrie Anderson, the associate director of student involvement and Greek Life advisor, said there are benefits to joining a Greek organization.

"There's a lot of amazing opportunities — leadership opportunities. Things that you can relate to whatever you might be studying, or just in general some of the passions you might have as an individual. And a chance to align your personal values with some values of a national organization," Anderson said.

Each Greek Life chapter — fraternities and sororities — are national organizations that host events and fundraisers for a cause they choose. Each individual chapter offers volunteer opportunities to contribute to the community and the nationally designated cause.

Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta recently partnered up to host a philanthropy event for a local service provider called Someplace Safe, which is a shelter and resource center in Warren for victims of domestic violence.

Greek Life also holds a Hazing Prevention Week every September to raise awareness of what hazing is and what to look out for. All YSU organizations are required to have completed the Hazing Prevention Module.

Caleb Queen, coordinator of student involvement and Greek Life advisor, touched on the benefits that this module provides.

"It's about 15 to 20 minutes long, and it basically focuses on giving you tips on how to recognize signs of hazing, both in your own experience, as well as the experiences of your peers," Queen said.

Queen also explained that programming is in place to prevent underage drinking on campus. In the past, Greek Life has brought in speakers on the topic.

Last semester, the iamstonefoltz Foundation came to address YSU's Greek Life. There are also policies in place both locally and through each national organization regarding alcohol use.

According to YSU's website the anti-hazing policy includes a "These Hands Don't Haze" campaign which brought all Greek organizations together to start the conversation. There is also a form attached to report a suspected incident of hazing.

For more information on the fraternities, contact Queen at mcqueen@ysu.edu, and for more information on the sororities, contact Anderson at clander-son@ysu.edu. Information can also be found on Greek Life at ysu.edu.

## Sorority philanthropy

**Alpha Omicron Pi** nationally supports the Arthritis Foundation as well as Sisters for Soldiers. The Arthritis Foundation is actively working toward finding a cure for arthritis as well as raising awareness.

**Alpha Xi Delta** has recently shifted its philanthropic focus to the Kindly Hearts Initiative. The Kindly Hearts Initiative is to assist children facing foster care or homelessness. Presently, it is working with the Rescue Mission in the Mahoning Valley.

**Delta Zeta** nationally partners with the Starkey hearing Foundation and American Society for Deaf Children to support hearing and speech. It also partners with the Serious Fun Children's Network.

**Zeta Tau Alpha** supports breast cancer awareness and education. For over 20 years, it has hosted the Pink Ribbon Cheer Classic, where local schools could send their cheer squads to perform, as well as a pink out week.

**Alpha Kappa Alpha** partners with the Alzheimer's Association as well as Gleaner's Community Food Bank. The Alzheimer's Association supports those struggling with Alzheimer's.

**Delta Sigma Theta** has five philanthropic focuses which are economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health and political awareness and involvement.

## Fraternity philanthropy

**Alpha Phi Delta** raises money for the Akron Children's Hospital through Guinathon, which is a Miracle Network Dance Marathon.

**Sigma Alpha Epsilon** partners with The Children's Miracle Network, which raises money to support 170 pediatric hospitals. It specifically supports Akron Children's Hospital through Guinathon.

**Sigma Chi** nationally supports the Huntsman Cancer Foundation, which is a cancer research facility that is located at the University of Utah.

**Sigma Tau Gamma** works with Special Olympics and raises money to participate in Polar Plunge events locally.

**Theta Chi** partners with the United Services Organization, which supports members of the U.S. military.

Check out our Feb. 23 edition for part two on hazing and underage-drinking prevention.

*Editor's Note: Raeghan Hilton is the current president of the Delta Zeta sorority.*

# Parking permit problems

By **Cassandra Lucyk**  
The Jambar

With every new semester, comes a new parking pass. Sometimes, there are delays that students may deal with.

Danny O'Connell, director of Support Services, said there are a few specific reasons why students see delays when purchasing their permits.

"Sometimes it's an issue with the post office and sometimes it's an issue where the student put the wrong address in," O'Connell said. "There's been an uptick with headaches with the U.S. Postal Service, especially this semester, because you have such an overload with Christmas."

Students are sent an email with parking pass information at the end of every semester. The prices are \$45 for a commuter permit, \$90 for an overnight permit and students that enroll before Penguin Promise pay \$115.

O'Connell said there are alternatives to purchasing a semester-long parking permit.

"You can pay \$5 a day. You can buy permits that are weekly, monthly and so forth, but the best value is your YSU parking permit," O'Connell said.

O'Connell explained why it is a requirement that students have parking permits when parking in Youngstown State University parking lots.

"It's to regulate the parking. Parking permits are for all parking, and it's one of only two true auxiliaries on campus, parking and housing," O'Connell said. "Every repair we do, like tearing down a parking garage or a new parking lot, 100% comes from fees. So, those who use the parking end up paying."

If students are unable to purchase a parking permit, O'Connell said that they should call YSU Parking Services at (330) 941-2325 or visit its office in Smith Hall.



Some students still have not received permits.

Photo by Samantha Smith / The Jambar

## Youngstown Educational Health Care Demonstration This September

Pro: House-Senate COVID-19 investigation (unexplained disproportionate deaths), group health insurance abolitionists (unexamined forced charity scheme), FDA restorationists (opioid epidemic), autism truthers, SCOTUS's *Dobbs* decision critics, health disparities-busters, and more.

Anti: Health care free speech suppression.

Speakers. All welcome. Bring your own health care-related signs. Watch for details!

Jack Labusch and Friends of Health Care Free Speech

# A little bit of this and a little bit of that

By Jessica Stamp  
The Jambar

From lemon and flower earrings to knitted creations, Sarah Drabison, an education major in the master's program, offers a variety of handmade items through her business, A Smidgen of Everything.

Drabison started her business in 2019, by making cards while attending Youngstown State University for her undergraduate degree and has since grown her business. Later, her aunt taught her how to crochet items, which Drabison sells in person at flea markets. Drabison's recent handmade item — polymer clay turned into earrings — has received a lot of positive feedback from YSU students and the Youngstown community.

"When I started ... [at YSU] that's where most of my customer base was," Drabison said. "I made a lot of YSU scrunchies [and] especially during COVID [I made] YSU masks, and they've always been very welcoming and

very supportive of my business."

Drabison works as an English teacher and has summers off. With the free time, Drabison said she likes to stay busy. She said her business allows her to be creative, and it gives her a break to take her mind off her teacher responsibilities for a moment, and make extra money.

"When I'm teaching or learning, it's a lot of reading, it's a lot of analysis and kind of deep thinking — where when I am creative — I just kind of get to go where my thoughts take me. I don't necessarily have to know the outcome as I'm making something," Drabison said.

With Valentine's Day approaching, Drabison launched Valentine's Day-themed earrings for people who want to give gifts to loved ones for either Valentine's or to friends for Galentine's Day, a holiday celebrated with friends Feb. 13.

"A lot of my earrings and materials are flower-based, so I always think like 'it's a flower that lasts forever.' You

know, with Valentine's you often get flowers, [with the earrings] you can always have one," Drabison said.

Drabison designs, creates and markets her business herself. Drabison said her parents and fiancé are supportive of her business.

"I have very supportive parents and a fiancé who comes with me to shows. He'll help me package material or kind of put my earrings on different cards," Drabison said.

Drabison said there are many small businesses in the Youngstown community. One way people can support them is by attending small markets like the Youngstown Flea.

"YSU is such a central part to Youngstown, that helping support those local businesses will only make the Valley grow," Drabison said.

To check out Drabison's business visit her website or the Youngstown Flea on Feb. 11, where she will be selling her handmade creations.



A Smidgen of Everything has an array of handmade creations.



Photos courtesy of Sarah Drabison



Sweet Memories Vintage Tee's and Candy sells t-shirts featuring old candy advertisements.

Photo by Shianna Gibbons / The Jambar

# Youngstown's sweet history

By Shianna Gibbons  
The Jambar

Youngstown is returning to its candy and ice cream roots with a new vintage candy shop opening Feb. 10. Sweet Memories Vintage Tee's, a woman-owned business, is opening its newest business venture with Vintage Candy Shop featuring its graphic-design t-shirts.

Linda Barton, SMVT Vintage Candy Shop's owner, has been an entrepreneur since she was 24 years old and has lived in the Youngstown area for 27 years. In 2020, Barton reached out to Good Humor Ice Cream for its 100th-year anniversary.

"I found out Good Humor Ice Cream was from Youngstown," Barton said. "I just called them ... at the time, they had told me that they don't give licensing agreements out to small businesses, and I told them — I'm a small, woman-owned business. I said you don't have to marry me. You can just take me for your anniversary, and I can educate the community and let people know the history of Good Humor here."

Featured in Barton's Vintage Candy Store is a historical timeline of Good Humor, Isaly's and Klondike's business ventures. Barton said it's important for people to know these businesses started in the Mahoning Valley and Ohio.

"[Good Humor] invented America's first ice cream truck, and ice cream on a stick was invented here ... a lot

of people don't know they're from around here," Barton said. "We just launched our Isaly's and Klondike line. A lot of people don't know that the Klondike Bar is from Ohio. The first ever advertising for the Klondike Bar was Feb. 5, 1922, in the Youngstown Vindicator, so I reached out to Isaly's, and I was like, 'I have a whole wall dedicated to your history.'"

Barton said she wants people from the Youngstown area to take pride in the local history outside of the steel mills.

Barton said Good Humor had been a big supporter of her company and her new storefront.

"I told Good Humor that I was going to donate 20% back to Akron Children's Hospital to the [neonatal intensive care unit]. They loved the idea so much that they got me connected with Popsicle, Sweethearts, Pez Smarties and all these different candy brands," Barton said. "Good Humor was our cheerleader, so they [have] really been cheering us on. Good Humor is giving us 500 ice cream bars to hand out to people that are coming in."

Barton's vintage tees extend beyond candy and ice cream brands. Featured in the store are shirts related to Youngstown and the military branches. Barton said she created a Saint-shirt for the Youngstown Italian Festival and donated \$5 from every shirt to a YSU scholarship.

"We were able to raise \$1,000 for the YSU student scholarship," Barton said.

Abbey Hennessey, the graphic designer for Sweet

Vintage Memories Tees and YSU alumna, uses old advertising and the art skills she learned from YSU to create the designs on the t-shirts.

"I design it, I send it to them, they either tell me they love it or they give me critiques. Then from there, we make like pre-production samples [and] send those to them. They have to approve the print colors. Then we get to roll out the final product," Hennessey said. "I learned a lot from YSU. For the first year, I learned so much more [about] trademarks and licensing and things like that, but just my core art skills definitely came from YSU."

Sammie Gurd, the social media director, is a senior musical theatre major at YSU. Gurd said she's always wanted to work in social media.

"I actually had always kind of had an interest in doing social media. I heard that [Barton] was looking for someone. She kind of told me a little bit about everything here. [It] definitely sounded intriguing and something I would love to do, and I'm very glad that she took a chance on me," Gurd said.

The Vintage Candy Shop will have its grand opening at 11 a.m. on Feb. 10. The storefront is located at 1282 Trumbull Ave., Girard, Ohio. Free ice cream bars from Good Humor, a coffee tasting from Isaly's and more will be handed out to customers throughout the day.



Jam the Gym will take place in Beeghly Center Feb. 11 and 18.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

# Time to Jam the Gym

**By Molly Burke**  
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Pep Band is gearing up for its annual Jam the Gym on Feb. 11 and Feb. 18.

Director of Athletic Bands, Kate Ferguson, said Jam the Gym is an opportunity for high school students to participate in a basketball game-day experience with the YSU Pep Band.

"[The highschool students] just get to come, hang out before the game for a little while. We do some sectionals, work on some music for a little while and they get to participate in the game day experience and play with us for the whole game and cheer and just be a part of the Pep Band," Ferguson said.

Unlike previous years, Jam the Gym will be held on two separate days. The YSU Colorguard and Penguinettes will also teach routines and include students in the halftime show.

Ferguson said preparation is required to host over 100 high school students at Jam the Gym.

"We chose specific music for them to play, we gave them all that music so that they could learn it ahead

of time, and then the day of the game it's just a lot of managing all the people that are there and doing the rehearsals," Ferguson said.

David Ross, senior forensic science and chemistry major, plays trumpet in Pep Band. He said there are no requirements for Jam the Gym beyond having an instrument. This allows for a range in experience among students, which can present challenges for the Pep Band.

"I think the biggest challenge is just taking the kids from all different types of schools and different levels of musicianship and bringing it together and trying to just get one whole sound from it," Ross said.

To accommodate for all students and make it easier to learn quickly, simple tunes and popular Pep Band hits are selected.

"We have picked songs or tunes that are a bit on the easier side to make it more fun, just because a more difficult song might not entice them to maybe come to YSU," Ross said.

Graduate teaching assistant of Athletic Bands, Benjamin Pickard, said Jam the Gym can allow high school students to experience what being a musician in college is like.

"It's just one more chance for them to get their feet wet and get an idea of what the actual college band experience is like," Pickard said. "It just is a chance to broaden your experience in another way. Maybe they've never seen college sports before, maybe they've never seen a college band before. They'll get to meet other kids from other high schools and talk to them."

Pickard said Jam the Gym can connect high school students to YSU.

"They get to work with Dr. Ferguson, our student leaders, and myself. So, they'll see what those people are like," Pickard said. "Hopefully they'll enjoy that experience."

Freshman music major, Jacob Sizer, plays baritone in the Pep Band. He said the high school students can learn a lot from Jam the Gym.

"Honestly they can learn so much because whenever I was in high school, hearing other professional people play...it's inspiring, honestly on a different level. It sounds different, it feels different," Sizer said.

To register for Jam the Gym, go to its website. For more information, head to the YSU Marching Pride and Pep Band Facebook page.

# The dating scene on stage

**By Madison Fessler**  
Jambar Contributor

The Rust Belt Theater Company is showing “Dating Sucks: The Musical!” The Rust Belt Theater is located on Mahoning Avenue. The show is being performed in Club Switch on Belmont Avenue.

The show describes the modern dating scene through short monologues and songs.

Creator and Director Robert Dennick Joki premiered “Dating Sucks: The Musical!” in 2013 to capture the dating scene.

Joki said the show is about how dating can be wonderful and terrible at the same time. He said the dates of the show are chosen with Valentine’s Day in mind.

“What inevitably happens is after Valentine’s Day — a whole bunch of people get dumped. So we [the cast] usually do the show right after Valentine’s Day so they can come and it’s a little bit cathartic for them and puts a smile on their face,” Joki said.

He said the show has changed tremendously because of online dating apps such as Tinder and Bumble.

“Dating is mostly online via social media, with dating apps. That’s something we’ve had to include over the years. When we first started that [the show] most dating took place in person. Now people will talk to each other for a very long time online or on social media before they’ll ever meet, so we’ve had to include that in the show as well,” Joki said.

Since 2013, the show has been performed every year. Nicole Zayas, the Rust Belt Theater Company operations manager, stated the show was performed on Facebook Live in 2020 and had a limited masked audience in 2021.

Kari Lankford, actor for Rust Belt Theater Company,

“There’s a couple of numbers that are absolutely hysterical ... We have one [song] that is very touching and moving, so I’d like to see [the audience] cry.”

— **Kari Lankford,**  
Actor for Rust Belt Theater Company

said she’s excited to see audiences react to the song and dance numbers.

“There’s a couple of numbers that are absolutely hysterical ... We have one [song] that is very touching and moving, so I’d like to see [the audience] cry,” Lankford

said.

“Dating Sucks: The Musical!” will be performed Feb. 10 at Modern Methods in Warren and Feb. 11 at Confluence in New Castle, Pennsylvania.

The show is also performed Feb. 17 and 18 and again on Feb. 24 and 25 at Club Switch.

Tickets are \$15 and reservations are required because of limited seating. The show starts at 8 p.m. for all locations and doors open approximately 45 minutes before the show.

Call (330) 507-2358 for tickets.

## “Dating Sucks: The Musical!” show dates

Feb. 10 - Modern Methods - Warren

Feb. 11 - Confluence - New Castle

Feb. 17 - Club Switch - Youngstown

Feb. 18 - Club Switch - Youngstown

Feb. 24 - Club Switch - Youngstown

Feb. 25 - Club Switch - Youngstown



Actors performing a song in “Dating Sucks: The Musical!”

Photo by Madison Fessler / Jambar Contributor

## The Jambar Column

### The returns of life

I'm a 30-year-old student at Youngstown State University. This is not my first foray into secondary education, and I would like to tell my story and what I've learned from it.

I started at THE Ohio State University when I was 18 in 2011. I went to a private high school where I did not work extraordinarily hard to get slightly above-average grades. Like most people who grew up in a suburban city, the idea of "high school, then college, then a career" was instilled and expected. But, to be honest, I was not ready for college.

I threw myself into college social life stronger than I did my studies. I wanted to make friends, go out on weekends and experience life. I thought I could coast through OSU. I couldn't.

I started doing poorly in school, which led to bad mental health and brought on even worse performance in class. I had never built the habits I needed to succeed and my days of coasting had led to poor time and mood management.

All of this was magnified by ADHD, depression and anxiety to create a scenario where I was constantly digging myself out of holes I created. I took some time off, came back and things were okay — until they weren't again. I eventually was dismissed from Ohio State for my academic performance.

I made bad decisions and lost friends. Because of the amazing support system I have, I was able to get the help I needed. Therapy became sacred to me, and I finally started to lose that feeling of apathy that had built up so strongly in my chest.

I joined the workforce and worked more food-service and retail jobs than I ever thought I would. I built those habits that I had been lacking and I started school on-line again, but it didn't work for me.

In 2017, I found a new job, a bot-tom-rung organizing job; knocking on doors and talking to strangers. It was with the AFL-CIO's non-profit organiza-



Henry Shorr

tion, and I was making a living wage. I was passionate about the work, and that translated to personal success.

I practiced my script in the car and at home. I researched topics and candidates to build talking points. I self-analyzed constantly and that led to self-improvement.

After working various campaigns in Ohio, Virginia and Pennsylvania and raising over \$50,000 for our organization solely from door-to-door contributions, I was promoted out of the field. This was my goal: to be a real community organizer. Not only had I gotten there, but I worked HARD to get there. I showed up, did my homework and did my job well.

During the 2018 election cycle, the organization lost a decent amount of funding and a bunch of us were laid off. I took it pretty hard. I was applying to jobs I thought I was qualified for but kept losing out. Unemployment can be demoralizing. After finding some more campaign work and realizing how fickle it all can be, I decided to go back to school.

I enrolled at Columbus State Community College in 2019, and was terrified to go back. I'd tried this multiple times and it never worked out. This time was different.

I found school more engaging. I cared about my classes and teachers, and actually did the work. COVID-19 lockdowns definitely made it harder and there were (and are) still times when I find myself in that ADHD paralysis, but it is way fewer and farther between. I graduated from CSCC in 2021 and made my way up to Youngstown.

Be kind to others, take time for yourself and, lastly, just go to class. That made a world of difference in my life.

## The Jambar Editorial

### Psychic groundhog determines fate?

Groundhog Day is a tradition recognized by the United States and Canada every year Feb. 2. Punxsutawney Phil is the groundhog who determines if there will be six more weeks of winter, depending on whether he sees his shadow or not.

The tradition was first brought to the U.S. by German immigrants. Although Germans had brought the custom here, according to groundhog.org, the tradition originally was seen in Christianity and was called Candlemas Day.

Christians took candles to church to have them blessed and would bring offerings to their households for the remaining winter. It was not until the Germans heard about this tradition that animals were brought into the picture.

Germans adapted Candlemas Day and used badgers and other small animals seeing their shadows to determine whether the day would be sunny or not. Once German immigrants came to the U.S. in the 18th and 19th centuries, they brought this custom and chose the groundhog as the animal to tell them the forecast.

On Feb. 2, 1886, the first celebration of Groundhog Day was held in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Clymer Freas, a newspaper editor, was a part of a group called Punxsutawney Groundhog Club. Accord-

ing to wmur.com, Freas brought up the idea of Groundhog Day to the club and named the groundhog in charge of determining how long winter will be, Punxsutawney Phil.

Today, the Groundhog Club's Inner Circle leads the tradition. Stated by groundhog.org, "Inner Circle is a group of local dignitaries responsible for carrying on the tradition of Groundhog Day every year. They're the ones who are not only responsible for planning the events every year, but they're also responsible for the feeding and care of Phil himself."

Over 100 years of celebrating the day, the question of Phil's weather accuracy comes into play. According to The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Environmental Information, Phil is only accurate about 40% of the time. Basing how long winter will be on whether a groundhog will see its shadow might not be for the best.

The tradition is all in good spirits though. It brings thousands of people to the Punxsutawney area, specifically Gobbler's Knob, every year. As for this year, unfortunately, Phil has seen his shadow, bringing us six more weeks of winter.

Fun fact: Woodchucks and groundhogs are the same animal.

### Quote of the Week

"Never, no never, did Nature say one thing and Wisdom say another."

— Edmund Burke,  
Anglo-Irish philosopher

## Angelou and Giovanni celebrate the Black experience in verse form

By James Pascoe  
Staff Writer

*Previously published in 1973, former staff writer James Pascoe writes about when poets and civil rights activists Maya Angelou and Nikki Giovanni spoke in Youngstown, when Black History Month was only celebrated as a week.*

*Giovanni continues to publish books, with her most recent having come out in 2022, titled "A Library." Angelou has since passed away in 2014.*

*This article first appeared in the Feb. 16, 1973 edition of The Jambar.*

Black poets Maya Angelou and Nikki Giovanni, in observance of National Black History Week, spoke of the importance of survival and its poetic celebration in relation to the Black experience.

Poets Angelou and Giovanni were the introductory speakers for YSU's observance of Black History Week, which also included speakers, movies and workshops. The theme of this year's activities is the strong courageous Black woman and her contributions to the total Black experience.

Miss Angelou, renowned for her contributions as a poet, novelist, and playwright, spoke to a crowd of about 250 Monday evening at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Tracing Black poetry through its last 200 years in America as a testimonial to Black survival, Miss Angelou then proved herself to be a rightful heir to that tradition with such poems as "Hopscotch" and "Times Square Shoeshine Boy."

"People live in direct relationships to their heroes," said Miss Angelou, "and for Black Americans that hero is their poetry."

In this way, Miss Angelou recognizes no separation between the Black experience and its poetry. In other words, she views the Black experience as poetry itself.

"Staying Black is beautiful," said Miss Angelou, "is surviving with style, flair, compassion and overwhelming humanity."

Miss Angelou designated one type of

poetic survival as "signifyin." This is an art form, as explained by Miss Angelou, which is generally unknown to the White populace. It developed as a way to say no and speak one's mind by a people who were not allowed to do either.

Nikki Giovanni spoke Tuesday afternoon, also at St. John's Episcopal Church, but to an overflowing crowd.

A poet since childhood, Miss Giovanni has received numerous grants and awards and has published several volumes of poetry.

Miss Giovanni also stressed the importance of survival in the Black experience. The time has come however, she said, "for the Black man to gain a foothold in the Establishment." Survival is no longer sufficient she said "There's nothing wrong with being Black and rich too."

Miss Giovanni's poetry was less concerned with social protest as it was with simply relating to the earthy side of Black experience. Poems like "My House" and lines like "... brown butterflies fluttering across my brown body ..." showed her interest in the sensual side of the human experience.

Though Miss Giovanni's poetry lacked some of the invective so evident in Miss Angelou's, her prose was filled with biting criticism. Besides taking punches at the Establishment in general she leveled particular criticisms against the women's liberation movement, which she feels absurd for two reasons.

First, her earthy sensualism denies the belief that men and women are exactly the same. "It is the differences," she said, "that make love poetic."

Second, she cited that Black Women have always been independent and liberated and are the "standard for all women."

Black History Week continues today with further workshops and a dance tonight. The observance will be concluded tomorrow night at Stambaugh Auditorium with a concert by jazz artist Les McCann.

If the pace and the level of awareness set by these two Black women are carried over to the rest of the week, Black History Week at YSU will be a highly-successful venture.

## WORK WITH STUDENT MEDIA

The student media committee is accepting applications for YSU Student Media positions.

Editor-in-Chief\*

Managing Editor/Executive Producer\*\*\*

News Editor\*

Student Life Editor\*

Sports Editor\*

Head Copy Editor\*

\*must be available Wednesday evenings

\*\*must be available Thursday evenings

Apply online at [thejambar.com](http://thejambar.com)

For questions, contact Mary Dota at [mfdota@ysu.edu](mailto:mfdota@ysu.edu) or call 330-941-3094

## 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.

# Tennis serves up sweet victories

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men and women's tennis team picked up victories en route to an action-packed three-day endeavor, Feb. 3 to 5.

The men's team started the day strong in its double-header on Feb. 3, against St. Francis College-Brooklyn inside the YSU Indoor Tennis Center. With the match deadlocked at 3-3, the Penguins rallied late over the Terriers at No.5 defeating SFCB, 4-3.

Youngstown State fell early to St. Francis in doubles matches, with the lone victory coming from senior Will Everett and senior Javi Pla, 6-3 at No. 2.

In singles matches, junior David Alvarez Moreno forced

the tiebreaker at No. 5. Moreno was down 6-5 in the third set but won the next two points to force a tiebreaker. In the tiebreaker, he secured a three-point lead and claimed a 7-5 win over graduate student Luis Foix Sotos.

Later in the day, the Penguins found their rhythm against Duquesne University, shutting out the Dukes, 7-0.

Youngstown State picked up the doubles point early on at No. 2 and No. 3 and proceeded to win five of the six singles contests in straight sets.

To round out the day, senior Laurentiu Mandocescu, sophomore Nathan Favier and Pla. Each walked away with two wins during the double-header.

Finishing out the three-match homestand, the Pen-

guins went to work against The United States Naval Academy on Feb. 5.

The men's team picked up a 6-1 victory over Navy after sweeping matches in singles.

In singles matches, senior Laurentiu Mandocescu, junior Asier Pena Ibanez, Favier, Everett, Pla and Moreno, all won in straight sets.

The men's tennis team is back in action Feb. 10, as it travels to Washington, D.C., to take on Georgetown University.

The women's team had a tough match against the University of the Pacific on Feb. 3 in Las Vegas. The Penguins dropped a 5-2 decision to the Tigers, with the two wins coming from singles matches.

In doubles, the lone victory of the day came from graduate student Cecilia Rosas and

junior Maria Oliveira at No. 2, 7-6. The Tigers claimed the doubles point with wins at No. 1 and No. 3.

In singles matches, graduate student Moka Ito and junior Eliska Masarikova picked up straight set victories at No. 2 and No. 5.

The Penguins looked to bounce back against Weber State University, but fell short 6-1 on Feb. 4.

In singles matches, Ito clinched the single win of the day for Youngstown State at No. 4, 7-6 and 7-5, in two sets.

The final day of competition, Feb. 5, was canceled because of inclement weather.

The women's tennis team is back in action, Feb. 10 and 11 against the State University of New York at Buffalo and Ball State University inside the YSU Indoor Tennis Center.

# Penguins finish seventh at PVAMU

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's bowling team rolled out to seventh place at the three-day Prairie View A&M Invitational at the ITRC in Arlington, Texas, Jan. 27 to 29.

On Day One, the Penguins started strong by defeating the second-ranked North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

In head-to-head matches, Youngstown State went 2-3, facing off against four of the top five teams in December's National Tenpin Coaches Association Top 25 poll.

Over five matches, the Penguins totaled 4,946 pins, averaging 197.8 pins a game. The total was the sixth-highest out of the 12 teams.

Youngstown State finished the day in the sixth spot with an opportunity to place higher. Head coach Doug Kuberski

knew that the next few days would be challenging.

"You have to go in with an open mind and do the best you can to navigate that, and that was the game plan," Kuberski said.

In traditional matches on Day Two, junior Madyson Marx led the way en route to a total of 4,959 pins over five matches.

In traditional matches, the Penguins finished 4-1, moving into fifth place and earning three top ten wins. Youngstown State missed the mark for fourth place by 14 pins and was 58 pins shy of third.

The Penguins' only loss of the day came in the match opener to No. 15 Mount St. Mary's, 993-928. With the loss, Youngstown State responded by winning four straight matches; three of the four teams were ranked in the top 10.

Heading into Day Three, Marx was second in the individual standings. She finished with a six game set of 1,322.

Marx finished the tournament by

bowling a 201, claiming the tournament title. She is the first Penguin since Emma Wrenn in 2019, to be named a tournament champion.

The accolades for Marx continued, as she was named Southland Bowler of the Month for January because of her impressive showing at the invitational. Marx is the second Penguin to earn a monthly award since Wrenn in November, 2019.

Individually, sophomore Lyndsay Ennis bowled the highest average total by a Penguin over the weekend with a 258. Sophomore Jade Cote and freshman Hope Bunk also finished the day above 200, toppling the fourth-ranked University of Nebraska for the first time this season.

The Penguins are back in action Feb. 17 to 19 in Jonesboro, Arkansas to compete in the three-day Mid-Winter Invitational hosted by Arkansas State University.

## AWAY SPORTING EVENTS

### Feb. 10:

Swimming & Diving at Miami Classic  
@ Oxford, Ohio

Track & Field at Tyson Invitational  
@ Fayetteville, Arkansas

Track & Field at David Hemery Valentine Invitational  
@ Boston, Massachusetts

Men's Basketball at Purdue Fort Wayne  
@ Fort Wayne, Indiana

### Feb. 11:

Women's Golf at Columbia Classic  
@ Melbourne, Florida - Duran Golf Club

Men's Tennis at Georgetown  
@ Washington, DC

Track & Field at David Hemery Valentine Invitational  
@ Boston, Massachusetts

Track & Field vs SPIRE Indoor Collegiate Games  
@ Geneva, Ohio

# Men win by buzzer-beater in triple overtime

By Cameron Niemi  
The Jambar

Last week, the Youngstown State men's basketball team continued its home stand, hosting two games. On Feb. 2, Wright State University came to town, and the Penguins picked up their 10th conference win of the season in a triple overtime thriller by a final score of 91-89.

Despite shooting 19.4% from 3-point range, the 'Guins dominated in the paint, as they scored 50 points.

Four players scored in double figures. Senior Dwayne Cohill scored the buzzer-beater layup with just six seconds remaining in the third overtime. Cohill scored 19 points, eight assists and added five rebounds. Senior Brandon Rush added 15 points and seven rebounds.

Graduate students Malek Green and Adrian Nelson both recorded a double-double. Green scored 24 points and had 12 rebounds. Nelson had 27 points and 15 rebounds, which tied his career high. He also led the team with six steals, which is another career high.

In the first half, Wright State's biggest lead was seven points. Youngstown State cut that down and took a 32-29 lead at halftime.

In the second half, the Raiders led by eight points with less than ten minutes to play. The Penguins fought back and led by five — with less than thirty seconds left. Wright State's Trey Calvin scored five straight points to tie the game at 62, which sent the game to its first overtime.

The Penguins lead 68-66 with under two minutes remaining. Calvin once again tied the game for the Raiders with a layup and sent the game to double overtime.

The Raiders led with two points and less than three minutes to play. The Penguins fought back and junior Myles Hunter hit a layup with fifty seconds remaining to go up by three.

Calvin made a 3-pointer to tie the game at 79 for a third time with just five seconds remaining.

In triple overtime, the Penguins hopped out to an early four point lead. The Raiders cut the lead down and Calvin tied the game at 89 with just six seconds remaining.

Cohill got the inbound in the back court, took it all the way down the lane and scored the game-winning layup at the buzzer. This secured the team's third straight victory and improved to 18-6 for the year.

Head coach Jerrod Calhoun spoke after the game about Cohill's game winner and also about his team's grit in a triple overtime game.

"Really happy Dwayne finished, this team is just resilient. I can't thank the crowd enough, I thought they

got us through it, everybody was exhausted," Calhoun said.

On Feb. 4, Northern Kentucky University came to town with a 10-3 Horizon League record, tied with Youngstown. The Penguins got their revenge from an earlier overtime loss in the season. The Penguins won in a dominant performance by a final of 74-56.

In front of a packed crowd at Beeghly Center. The Penguins improved their 3-point shooting, as they shot 41.2% from beyond the arc and 58.8% from the field. YSU dominated the Norse in the paint, outscoring them by 20 points.

Four players for the Penguins scored in double figures again. Rush led the way with 18 points and four rebounds. Nelson recorded his third straight double-double, as he scored 17 points and 12 rebounds. Cohill scored 15 points and had six assists.

Green scored 13 points and had nine rebounds. Freshman John Lovelace Jr. came off the bench and scored seven points with four rebounds.

In the first half, the men got off to a slow start as they went down by five, but eventually climbed back and led by as many as eight points. Northern Kentucky cut that lead down before halftime. The Penguins led at half, 36-32.

The Penguins came out hot defensively, in the second half. Offensively, they outscored NKU 38-24.

The team jumped out to an early 11 point lead and never looked back. With just nine minutes remaining, it went on a 10-0 scoring run and led by as many as 23 points.

Youngstown State would go on to secure the 18 point victory, picking up its 11th conference win of the season and fourth win in a row. The Penguins now have sole possession of first place in the Horizon League with a conference record of (11-3).

Calhoun spoke after the game about the team being in first place in the Horizon League and the six games remaining on the schedule.

"A lot of people doubted us, they said this is not a basketball school and we can't get it done. What this team has is talent, toughness and they got that Youngstown mentality," Calhoun said. "We gotta keep going, it's not going to be easy. The next six games are going to be very difficult, we have two on the road against two really good teams."

The Penguins remained in first place after the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay upset the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in overtime, Feb. 6.

The Penguins go on a two-game road trip starting Feb. 10, as they head to Fort Wayne Indiana to take on Purdue University Fort Wayne at 7 p.m. Then on Feb. 12 at 1 p.m. They travel to Cleveland State University. Both games can be listened to on 570 WKBN or watched on ESPN+.



Photo by Cameron Niemi / The Jambar  
Cohill scored the game-winner against Wright State University.

# Women drop two-straight games

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team dropped two hard-fought games against Horizon League opponents, Purdue University Fort Wayne and Cleveland State University, Feb. 2 and 4.

The Penguins started out strong against Purdue Fort Wayne on Feb. 2, but fell short, 67-65. Despite a career-high 23 points from sixth-year senior Megan Callahan, Youngstown State had its four-game win streak snapped.

In the final moments of the game, the offense was led by Callahan after a deep 3-pointer to spark a 6-0 run for the Penguins. After a clutch trio of free-throws from senior Paige Shy, the score was tied up.

With 22 seconds left, fifth year Lilly Ritz's attempt to tie the game was blocked by the Mastodons on the final possession of the game.

Despite the loss, Ritz finished the day with 12 points and 12 rebounds, recording her 13th double-double of the season, while going 5-of-6 from the field.

In response to the tough loss to Purdue Fort Wayne, head coach John Barnes knew that going into the game that it would be a competitive game.

"It was close the whole way and you need to build a cushion down the stretch," Barnes said. "We were not able to do that and it got us in the end."

As a team, Youngstown State shot 41.5% and went 10-23 from the 3-point line. From the free-throw line,

the Penguins shot below 31%.

With a quick turn around, the Penguins traveled to Cleveland State University on Feb. 4. The Vikings pulled away in the third quarter, scoring 13 unanswered points and defeating the Penguins, 81-48.

With four fouls from Ritz and senior Emily Saunders, the Vikings went on a 18-0 run in third to seal the deal for the Penguins.

With two straight losses, the Penguins fall two games behind the Vikings in the Horizon League standings. The women fall to 16-7 and 10-4 in conference play.

In response to the losses on the road, senior Mady Aulbach talked about the character of the team and bouncing back from tough times.

"What shows our character is how we bounce back from these losses," Aulbach said.

Within the Horizon League, several teams lost close games, leading to a shake up in the conference.

"There were several upsets over the weekend and you have to be ready to play at a high level or you're getting beat," Barnes said.

As of Feb. 7, Youngstown State is ranked second defensively holding opponents to 57.3 ppg and fifth offensively averaging 67.3 ppg in the Horizon League.

The women's basketball team is back in action, Feb. 9 against Oakland University, marking the start of a four-game homestand inside the Beechly Center.

Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. and can be listened to on 570 WKBN.



Women's basketball team cheers on Megan Callahan before the game start.

Photo courtesy of Robert Hayes