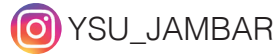


THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

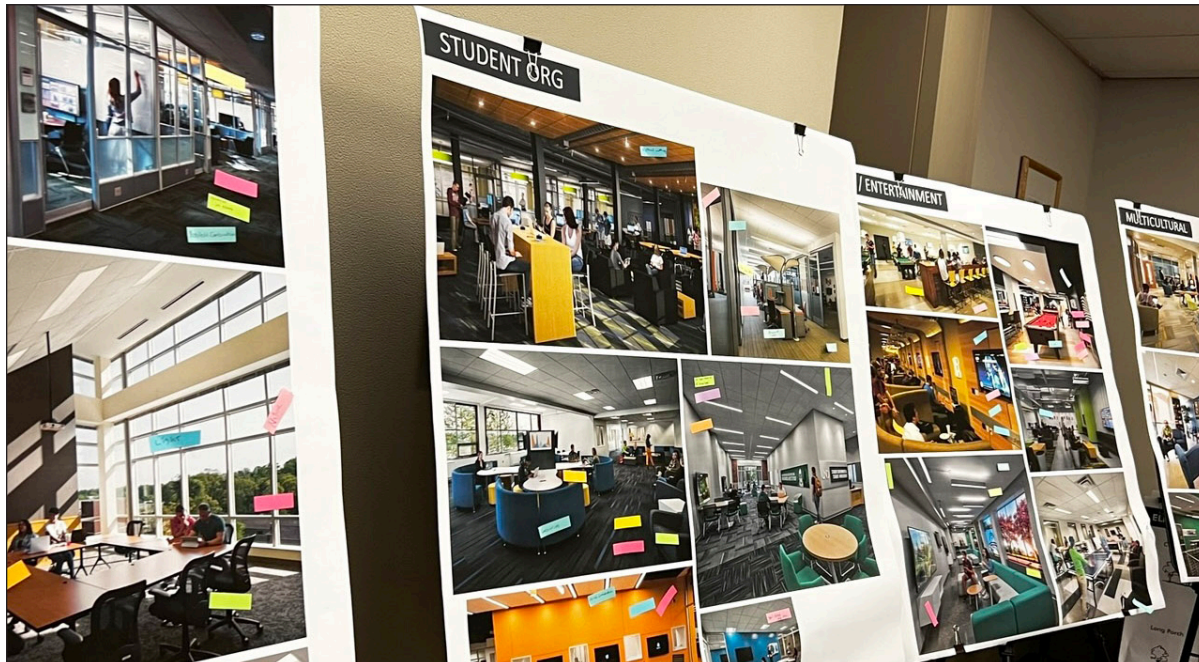
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Thursday, November 16, 2023



REDESIGNING THE FUTURE



Vision boards for the new Zoldan Center were displayed at the open forum. Photos by Sydney Fairbanks / The Jambar

A glimpse of the Zoldan Center

By Sydney Fairbanks
The Jambar

Youngstown State University is in the program verification phase for the Zoldan Family Student Center that will replace Kilcawley Center.

A forum for community feedback took place Nov. 2 in the Jones Room of Kilcawley to discuss what YSU students and staff want to see.

The program verification phase refers to designing what will be in the building. Designers will evaluate the building's features, such as how many rooms there will be, room size and what attributes they will have. The feedback received at the forum will help the design team create the final program for the building.

Joy Polkabra Byers, the associate vice president of Student Experience, started working with WTW Ar-

chitects, an architecture firm, two years ago to conduct a feasibility study to figure out what would be needed in the new student center.

"We're at the stage that the architects [have] been hired and we're developing the plans for the building. When they talk about the programmatic, now we're really narrowing it down," Byers said. "It's not just having X number of space for the Chestnut Room, it is what the Chestnut Room is going to be used for [and] how it's going to be designed."

In her presentation at the forum, Amy Maceyko, principal at WTW Architects Inc., said one change that students can look forward to is the consolidation of food services. The goal is to have most food venues in one area to accommodate students and food service staff.

Zoldan Center Page 2

Contracts switched for janitorial services

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's janitorial services switched its contracts for janitorial work to two new companies over the summer to two new companies.

The companies SERVPRO and Vocational Guidance Services replaced CORE and Compass Family Services because they offered lower costs in their contracts and were locally based.

YSU's janitorial contracts are divided into six zones, with different YSU staff overseeing zones and deciding which contract to accept for their zone.

Janitors were either reinterviewed by the new contractor or left to a new location with the old contractor. The transition between contractors occurred at midnight between June 30 and July 1.

Dan Kuzma, the interim manager of Building Services, oversees three zones. Kuzma said the hardest part of the transition was switching right at midnight.

"We have to make sure the old company is cleaned out completely, but at the same time, bringing in this new company so they are ready to hit the ground running as of July 1 at midnight," Kuzma said. "You have very little time in between, and so it is a very chaotic process."

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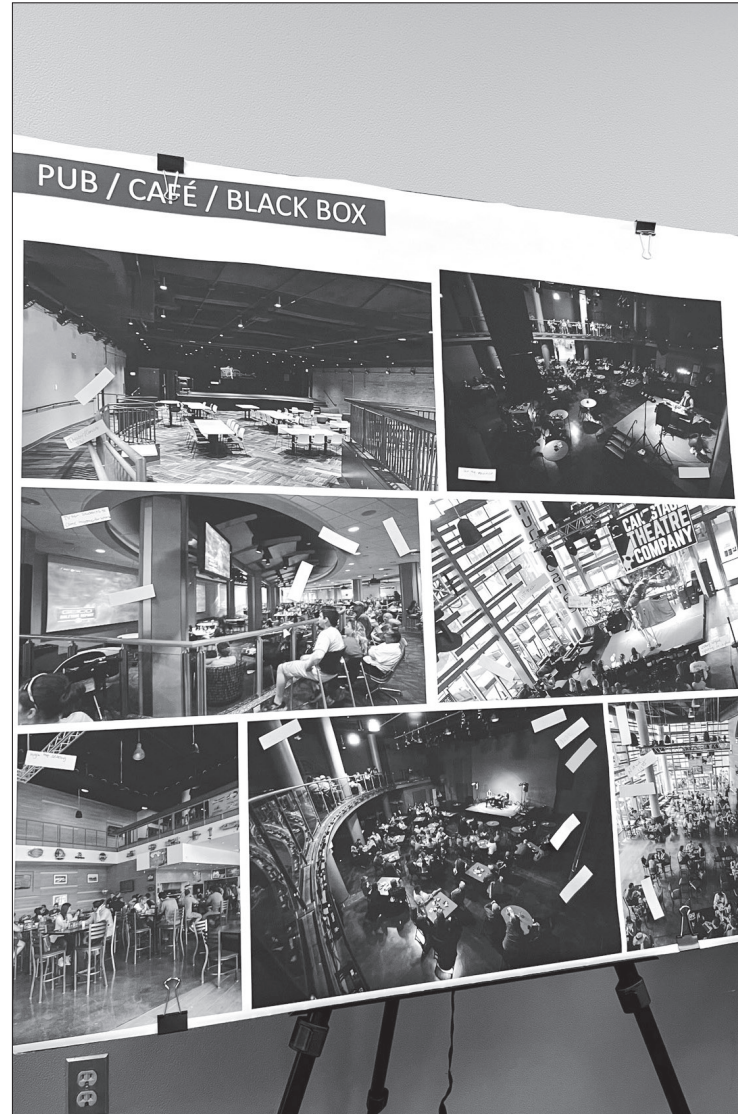
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Photos by Sydney Fairbanks / The Jambar

One vision board showed the option of a pub in the new student center.

Zoldan Center

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“One person wants Chick-fil-A, one person wants Wendy’s, one person wants Dunkin’.

Instead of having to go to three separate parts of the building and try to meet up later, all of the venues, or most of the venues, will be in one place,” Maceyko said.

Another concern during the meeting was creating a large event space. One idea included expanding and upscaling the Chestnut Room, as well as adding a secondary, student-focused area.

The ideas discussed for the new area include late-night programming, a pub or evening food venue and the feel of a black-box theater.

Other changes discussed included creating more meeting rooms — whether that means adding smaller meeting rooms or making the larger ones divisible.

The forum also considered implementing retail stores, which could sell basic needs for travel, personal care items, over-the-counter medications and food.

Byers said the main goal of the new student center is to turn the space into what most benefits students.

“I want a building that meets the current needs. This building is outdated and it has a lot of opportunities for students, but maybe because the building has some issues with temperature or accessibility. I want to make sure we’re really meeting what students and campus needs,” Byers said.

The next step will be to design development and construction documents throughout 2024 to bring the discussed ideas to fruition. The team plans on holding various forums, focus groups and surveys to get feedback throughout the process.

The next Open Campus Forum will be 12 to 1:30 p.m., Nov. 30, in the Jones Room of Kilcawley.

The projected date to shut down Kilcawley Center and begin construction is May 2025. The process is expected to take up to two and a half years to build and all activities taking place in the center will be relocated during that time.

To learn more about the construction of the new building or to share input, contact Byers at jlbyers@yzu.edu.

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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

High: 67°F	High: 59°F	High: 48°F	High: 50°F	High: 46°F	High: 51°F	High: 48°F
Low: 49°F	Low: 36°F	Low: 32°F	Low: 29°F	Low: 38°F	Low: 40°F	Low: 33°F
Chance of precip: 2%	Chance of precip: 91%	Chance of precip: 6%	Chance of precip: 8%	Chance of precip: 25%	Chance of precip: 68%	Chance of precip: 18%



Partly Cloudy



Rain



Partly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy



Mostly Cloudy



Scattered Showers



Overcast

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

GRAB A SNACK FOR THIS ONE

Pocket full of Pete's Points

By McCartney Walsh
Jambar Contributor

Over 800 students, faculty and staff members at Youngstown State University use Pete's Points, one of the three meal plans offered at the university.

According to the Associate Director of Operations and Events for Kilcawley Center, R.J. Markowitz, Pete's Points is the most useful of the three.

"There are meal swipes that folks can use just at the dining hall for entry to the dining hall. There are Flex Points, which are a dollar-for-dollar value, but those can only be used at select locations on campus. Pete's Points are another dollar-for-dollar tender but those can be used a little bit more freely," Markowitz said.

Users can purchase Pete's Points on the Penguin Portal to be directly loaded onto the user's YSU ID or YCard. Points can be used throughout the fall and spring semesters but expire at the end of the academic year.

Unlike other meal plans used by on-campus residents, Pete's Points is available to commuters and the currency is accepted by more on-campus restaurants and snack shops, which may benefit those with dietary restrictions.

Pete's Points can also be used at the Giant Eagle at Churchill Commons in Liberty. According to YSU's website, groceries can be purchased in person or online where they can be delivered to the Cove in Kilcawley Center.

YSU's website lists all locations that accept Pete's Points. Markowitz said the list will soon include the new Just Baked machine in Kilcawley Center, which is available 24 hours a day.

"There is a new Just Baked food vending machine, so it'll make [a] pizza for you, it'll make ramen for you just in a little vending machine," Markowitz said.

Markowitz said having a fixed amount of points on a students' Y Card per week may help them learn budgeting skills and prevent overspending.

"Another great thing about Pete's Points is that it allows you to budget," Markowitz said. "We have a lot of students and staff alike that will essentially every week put \$50 worth of points on their card so they know that they're not going to go over \$50 for their lunches for the week."

Senior computer science major Declan Sekol used Pete's Points his first year living on campus. Sekol said Pete's Points helped him keep track of the money he

spent.

"It definitely helped me budget because I only bought food from places that took Pete's Points," Sekol said. "I usually spend between \$25 to \$50 on on-campus food."

Michael Gordon, a sophomore education major, began using Pete's Points because of his frequency on campus his freshman year. Gordon said he stuck with points because of how much money it saved him.

"I thought I should use Pete's Points and pay in advance instead of using my own current money," Gordon said. "Pete's Points has definitely helped me budget. I started off with the 450 Pete's Points package and still have plenty left ... I have probably saved over \$200."

Markowitz said Pete's Points can also be loaded onto students' accounts by friends, family members or whoever wants to give a gift.

"The nice thing too is there's also a guest login that you could set up so if mom, dad, grandma, grandpa [or] whoever is helping you with expenses on campus, they're able to just log on, use that guest account and charge up somebody's Pete's Points as a gift or something like that," Markowitz said.

For more information on YSU's meal plans, head to its website.



Stone Fruit Coffee Co. is one off-campus restaurant that accepts Pete's Points.

Photo courtesy of McCartney Walsh



Photo by Christopher Gillett / The Jambar

Mirella Ruiz is a contracted janitor for SERVPRO in Kilcawley Center.

Janitors

Page 1

Kuzma also said the new contractors had to learn the university.

“Once the new companies got in, it’s expected that it’s going to take a couple weeks or even up to a couple months before they’re 100% confident and comfortable. So, we have the learning curve that’s associated [with that],” Kuzma said. “Both of the companies — SERVPRO and VGS — have adapted very quickly to the buildings on campus and have been doing a great job with the transition.”

With the transition and the start of the fall semester, janitors and students have interacted under the new contractor system.

Olivia Cupp, director of Housing and Residence Life, oversees the zone that includes university housing and Christman Dining Hall. She said students generally are courteous toward the janitors.

“[Rudeness has] honestly been a really rare occurrence, which I think is great. I think people really recognize it’s a tough service industry. It’s a tough job to be the person that cleans toilets or scrubs floors,” Cupp said.

Janitors in that zone often work with residence assistants to make sure areas are kept clean.

R.J. Markowitz, associate director of Operations and Events at Kilcawley Center, oversees one janitorial zone, which only holds Kilcawley. Markowitz said students should talk with and get to know janitors when they can.

“There is a huge team of folks who work night and day — literally night and day — to keep this campus the way it is,” Markowitz said. “I would encourage students to get to know the folks that are around them who are cleaning their classrooms and who are cleaning their lounges.”

Markowitz also said plans are still in discussion over how janitorial work will change when construction of the Zoldan Center begins.

“[Kilcawley’s closure] is slated for [May 2025]. So, we still have time to work through what is going to happen ... I’ve had a couple [of] preliminary conversations with SERVPRO, and they very much like to see mobility and movement within their staff, especially if their staff are doing great things,” Markowitz said. “We’re still in discussions over how it is going to be handled. So, stay tuned.”

Breaking down the stigma on menstruation

By Tala Alsharif
The Jambar

The PERIOD club at Youngstown State University raises awareness about menstruation and menstrual health.

The club was formed in spring 2023 and is a chapter of PERIOD, a national organization surrounding the menstrual movement.

PERIOD’s goal is to reduce the stigma that surrounds menstruation and to increase access to menstrual products.

President of the PERIOD club, Divya Warriar, started the club her freshman year and said she hopes it increases conversations about menstruation.

“I know there’s a big stigma around even talking about it,” Warriar said. “We’re bringing that to the table and saying, ‘Hey it’s okay to talk about it — let’s talk more about it.’”

Vice president Shruthi Datla said it’s important to make menstruation a topic that can be talked about with no negative connotations.

“It’s important because ... not many people want to talk about it,” Datla said. “It’s really important to make it something that we can talk about openly.”

Warriar said the club also brings awareness to issues such as period poverty, which refers to the inaccessibility of menstrual products and education.

“Period poverty rates are really high,” Warriar said. “A lot of people aren’t able to afford menstrual products ... to get them through their periods each month.”

One of the national chapter’s accomplishments was advocating for the repeal of the pink tax in Ohio, which taxed hygiene products such as pads and tampons.

PERIOD club at YSU hosts drives to

collect period products and donates them to community groups and partners in Youngstown.

“Last [semester], we donated [all products] to Ursuline Sisters who help with Beatitude House, which is a women’s shelter in Youngstown,” Warriar said.

A period product drive was hosted from Oct. 18 to Nov. 6, where PERIOD collected disposable menstrual products such as pads, tampons and panty liners.

Warriar said she believes donation drives are the best way to directly help and reach out to the community.

“At the end of our drive ... we got together and put together packages of all the products that were donated so that we can just send them out,” Datla said.

The period packages contained a week’s worth of menstrual hygiene products.

Warriar said some of the club’s future

goals are to donate to the Penguin Pantry and increase their product drives to one each semester. Warriar said she hopes to work with the Student Government Association for its Aunt Flow initiative.

SGA supports the Aunt Flow project by providing dispensers of menstrual products in bathrooms on campus.

“We are hoping to work with SGA to increase their supply of products because they can only get so many,” Warriar said. “We’re looking to see if we could potentially fundraise or to help get them more products ... for that project.”

The PERIOD club plans to have more educational events, fundraising and other events in the future.

Warriar and Dalta said students who want to be involved can attend general body meetings, volunteer and donate products.

Student excellence

By **Matthew Sotlar**
The Jambar

Youngstown State University senior Miah Pierce was the sole Ohio recipient of the National Association of Secretaries of State John Lewis Leadership Award.

The NASS awards the John Lewis Youth Leadership Award to one student per state a year. The award was first issued in 2021 and is dedicated to preserving the legacy of former congressman and civil rights activist John Lewis.

Pierce is a senior social work major with a double minor in communications and sociology. She received the award at a ceremony from Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose in Columbus.

“It’s an honor to be named [a recipient] after John Lewis and all of the amazing, extraordinary things he has done — it’s a blessing,” Pierce said.

To be eligible for the award, a recipient must be 25 years or younger, recognized for improving the quality of life in their community, such as organizing environmental cleanups or removing graffiti, and express meaningful com-

mitment toward addressing civil rights issues. An applicant must also submit a video explaining why they feel they should receive the award.

“[The award] makes me realize that the work I’m doing is bigger than me, and it’s also important to me because I got to meet John Lewis,” Pierce said. “He always says to get into good trouble, which is basically doing the right thing, even if it gets you into trouble.”

After graduation, Pierce plans to earn her social work license and attend graduate school. Her goal is to be a high school counselor.

“I want people who look like me — little black boys and girls — to know that someone is representing them and that I’m a safe space,” Pierce said.

Pierce is an active member of the Black Student Union at YSU, the Mahoning Valley’s Sojourn To the Past and the Boys and Girls Club of Youngstown.

Pierce said she would be grateful to receive another award, but is focused on her future.

“I’m just looking forward to graduating,” Pierce said. “If something does come up, I will be more than thankful.”



Photo Courtesy of Miah Pierce

Miah Pierce holds the NASS John Lewis Youth Leadership Award.

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.

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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.

DESCANSE EN PAZ

Remembering loved ones, celebrating life

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

Youngstown State University community members gathered for a Día de Muertos celebration from 5 to 7 p.m. on Nov. 1 in The Hub at Kilcawley Center.

Día de Muertos, also called Day of the Dead, is a holiday celebrated by many Latin American cultures and is most often observed Nov. 2.

Student Activities and the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee collaborated with math professor Alicia Prieto Langarica to coordinate the free public event. Prieto Langarica said the holiday is a day of remembrance for loved ones who have passed away.

“Day of the Dead is celebrated very differently in many Latin American cultures,” Prieto Langarica said. “Before the Spanish influences, we thought it was a day where all of our loved ones would come back from the dead and we could celebrate with them. It’s not like a mourning sad kind of day but more celebratory.”

One Día de Muertos tradition is honoring passed family members with a three-tier altar called an ofrenda. The Hub’s stage was made into an ofrenda where anyone was welcome to place photos of their loved ones or

display their favorite items.

Prieto Langarica said the altar was dedicated to the late Carol Bennett, former assistant provost for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

“We’re dedicating the altar to Dr. Carol Bennett because we lost her this year and we all love her so much,” Prieto Langarica said. “[I’m placing] her books and her plants and some of the foods she used to eat all around the altar for her because we’re hoping that she comes and visits today.”

The Hub was decorated with flowers, sugar skulls, candles and los papeles picados, colorful paper with cut-out shapes. Attendees could paint sugar skulls, listen to music and watch spoken word poetry performances while sipping on Mexican hot chocolate and eating pan de muerto, a sweet Mexican bread and staple of Día de Muertos.

Prieto Langarica said taking part in the event’s coordination allowed her to help the YSU community understand the difference between appropriation and participation when it comes to Día de Muertos.

“Cultural celebrations like this, in which you get to immerse in somebody else’s cultures — they’re very important so that we distinguish between copying other

cultures and participating in other cultures ... and then honoring other cultures,” Prieto Langarica said.

History professor and program coordinator Brian Bonhomme sang an acoustic selection of music at the celebration, including songs in Spanish. He said universities should make efforts to educate students about different cultures.

“It’s important for universities to open students’ eyes to and provide access to all sorts of different people and cultures,” Bonhomme said. “I hope [guests] go away having a greater appreciation for what the Day of the Dead is and what it isn’t.”

Claudia Zacharko, owner of Piccadilly Parlour Victorian Tearoom in Canfield, was among the crowd at the celebration. Zacharko said she honored her parents by putting some of their favorite things on the altar.

“I wanted to remember my dad and my mom. Something I would do with my dad was have tea parties when I was a little girl ... I brought his favorite tea,” Zacharko said. “It’s hard to lose loved ones, it really is, but when you have them in your heart and you remember beautiful things that they taught you, you want to celebrate that. That’s something important.”



YSU's ofrenda displayed a photo of Carol Bennett and her favorite belongings and guests were invited to add to the altar.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

YWCA wishes upon a star

By Matt Sotlar
The Jambar

The YWCA Mahoning Valley began a collection of donations in October that will run until Dec. 4 for its Wish Upon a Star program.

Wish Upon a Star started as a way to benefit those in the YWCA Mahoning Valley's permanent housing program. Toys and monetary donations are collected throughout the year for children who live in the apartments during the holiday season.

The YWCA services over 400 people in Youngstown. The YWCA's event manager Jessica Gibbs said this is a decline from previous years.

"[YWCA serves] over 400 individuals in our program. This year we have 93 children in the program. This year, our numbers are a little bit down ... kids get older ... and some of our program's goals are to have them transition out into permanent housing," Gibbs said.

The YWCA has different types of housing around Mahoning and Trumbull counties, including transitional housing. The Youngstown branch features the Rayen

Avenue Apartments, which has 30 one-bedroom units inside of the YWCA.

While Wish Upon a Star focuses primarily on collecting toys, Gibbs said monetary donations are also accepted.

"Say we get children that enter the program a little bit later, or a child doesn't get as much as another child, we will supplement with the money and make sure everybody gets about the same. We have about 55 actual donors this year," Gibbs said.

Youngstown State University is one of the major donors to Wish Upon a Star. Gibbs said many different organizations around the Mahoning Valley area donate to the program.

"YSU has always been a big donor. Others are Poland Presbyterian Church, Poland Cheerleaders. Monetary wise we get a lot of rotary clubs that donate, and mostly individual based donations," Gibbs said.

Along with collecting toys for the holidays, the YWCA hosts food drives throughout the year to benefit those in its housing program.

"With our Young Women with Bright Futures pro-

gram, we have a community service project, and we collect canned food donations. Then, we pass them out to everybody in our housing program. Some of the case managers here opt to fill in on the wishlist scarves, gloves, hats, coats [and] stuff like that," Gibbs said.

Gibbs said while all donations are accepted, parents can also complete a wishlist for their children.

"We have the parents fill out a wishlist for each of their children, so they can fill in whatever they think their children need or whatever their children want, and then donors are able to buy from that list, or they use their judgment to purchase what they think is necessary," Gibbs said.

All donations for Wish Upon a Star are due by Dec. 4. The YWCA accepts general donations year-round.

"We're always looking for donors. Whether it's Wish Upon a Star or whether it's a general donation that somebody would like to donate to the YWCA, we're grateful for anything and everything," Gibbs said.

Those interested in donating can visit the YWCA website.



The YWCA Mahoning Valley is located on 25 W. Rayen Ave.

Photo by Christopher Gillett / The Jambar

The Jambar Column

Then and now

On Sept. 20, 1969, John Lennon met with his Beatle bandmates at Apple Records. Here he announced that he was leaving The Beatles, signifying the end of its nearly 10 year venture as the greatest band in the history of recorded music.

There's no debate about it, The Beatles changed music forever. In a time when America was dominated by Connie Francis and Elvis, The Beatles proved to be a beacon of rock-and-roll light in a bleak poppy world. The band's first American performance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" garnered 73 million viewers.

The Beatles released 12 studio albums with "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" being considered its finest work. Personally, I like "Revolver", but I'm also not a big Beatles fan to begin with. I am, however, a fan of the Beatles members' solo works.

Lennon went on to work with the Plastic Ono Band. His self-titled debut album and "Imagine" are often considered the best albums in rock-and-roll history. Sadly, Lennon was shot and killed in 1980 outside of his apartment in New York.

George Harrison's "All Things Must Pass" was a transatlantic hit when it was released in 1970. Afterward, he teamed up with Bob Dylan, Tom Petty, Roy Orbison and Jeff Lynne of Electric Light Orchestra to form the Traveling Wilburys. Harrison died of lung cancer in 2001.

Paul McCartney formed Wings with his wife, Linda, and former Moody Blues guitarist Denny Laine. Their band went on the run as one of the best selling of the 1970s.

Ringo Starr, like McCartney, endured lasting success throughout the 1970s and both are still heralded as godfathers of rock music. The Beatles have been credited by Black Sabbath, David Bowie, Pink Floyd, Nirvana and Oasis as major influ-



Matthew Sotlar

ences — and those are just the artists I like who were inspired by the band.

It came to me as a surprise when, 54 years after its break-up, The Beatles released a new song.

"Now and Then"

was recorded by Lennon at home in 1977. It was a simple demo that was shelved for many years after his death. McCartney and Starr both unearthed the track and brought it into the studio. They decided to toss in some of Harrison's original guitar work and then sprinkled in a dash of artificial intelligence for good measure and audio enhancement.

The song itself is not too bad. Obviously, it's not The Beatles as we know. There will never be another band like The Beatles, which sounds grammatically incorrect. It is quite impressive to hear something relatively close to The Beatles, but it's still not the original. The song, however, is a fine example of how quickly AI is evolving.

At some point, AI will make an entire symphony on its own, it's only inevitable. I like to think of it as the monkey sitting in front of a typewriter. Eventually, he will type out everything Shakespeare has ever written. One day, AI will make an entire Beatles album. What's stopping it then?

Hopefully, I'll live to see the day when there's perhaps a new Led Zeppelin or Nirvana track. While I am somewhat opposed to AI making anything humans can make — because one day, it may become sentient. I like to think that musicians and recording technicians will use it for good and for the betterment of mankind. Until then, I'll go back to being terrified of AI.

The Jambar Editorial

Seeing injustice, confronting reality

Adversity, destruction and conflict exist throughout every part of the world. The horrors of war plague the lives of millions overseas, natural disasters tear families and homes of Americans apart, and homelessness and hunger oppress thousands within our own communities.

It's a privilege to live without encountering war, injustice, food insecurity, oppression, poverty or violence. Everyone has unique experiences and a person can be more fortunate in some ways, and lack advantage in others.

Recognizing privilege is important for better understanding ourselves and others. It requires self-awareness, honesty and nuance. Yet, many people misunderstand what it means to acknowledge privilege.

Acknowledging privilege can be realizing that your gender or race has never prevented you from getting a job. It can be understanding that your family's legacy of graduates from an Ivy League school could influence your acceptance into that same school.

Knowing the differences between your experiences and another person's can reveal not only what privilege and oppression look like, but how they affect everyone.

This understanding may motivate some to use privilege for uplifting those who are oppressed. If you're someone who benefits from a high paying job that has flexible hours and lots of free time, you may want to spend that free time volunteering.

However, recognizing privilege doesn't have to translate to taking action either. It is just another cornerstone of self-awareness, which is essential for growing as a person and emotionally maturing.

Unfortunately, privilege has become a buzzword in the past few years as many try to spread awareness for the importance of acknowledging it.

Social media posts about checking privilege are often met with backlash from those who feel like their personal problems or achievements are being overlooked. Being able to recognize that your family's generational wealth has positively impacted your career doesn't mean you didn't work hard in life or that you haven't suffered from other trauma.

Conversely, some will interpret the need to check privilege as an obligation to feel guilty living without oppression. With constant access to news and social media, it is easy to ruminate on the plethora of negativity in the world, causing feelings of stress, despair and helplessness to build up.

It is easy to feel attacked when you think someone is disregarding your experiences, and it's hard to remember that you can't control what kind of situations you're born into, but neither of these reactions are productive nor helpful.

Having conversations about privilege should involve vulnerability and accountability, but above all else, they must be nuanced.

Looking at life through a black and white lens prevents us from taking care of ourselves and each other. With all that holds people down and keeps them down, acknowledging privilege is just another step in a long journey toward progress — both personal and societal.

Privilege and oppression keep people divided in many ways, but you can always make the choice to break down the barriers of ignorance by starting a simple conversation with yourself.

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Men's basketball bounces back at home

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team returned to the court to start the 2023-24 season over a three-game span.

With only three returnees from last year's Horizon League regular season conference title team, head coach Jerrod Calhoun has relied heavily on the transfer portal and recruitment, with eight transfers and four freshmen.

The Penguins hit the road to play the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on Nov. 2, which resulted in a 72-62 loss.

In an effort to jump start the Penguin offense, senior Brandon Rush and graduate student DJ Burns combined for 27 points and 18 rebounds. For Burns, it marked his first double-double as a Penguin.

Despite a 20-8 first period lead, Louisiana went on two double-digit scoring runs, 11-0 in the first half and 10-0 in the second to win the game.

The team continued its two-game road stretch Nov. 10 against the University of Michigan inside the Crisler Center.

In 2015, the Wolverines bested the Penguins 105-46 while former Youngstown State player Cameron Morse led the team with 10 points. Youngstown State looked to defeat Michigan for the first time in its sixth all-time meeting but fell short, 92-62.

Senior Bryson Langdon led the way for the Penguins with 15 points on 7-for-11 shooting while senior Ziggy Reid posted 12 points.

With several new players on the roster this season, size and mobility is the Youngstown State upside, according to Calhoun.

"We're bringing a lot of size off the bench, we do have some things off the bench we've never had," Calhoun said. "What we look to do is execute to create advantages."

With the addition of Reid from Merrimack College, the defense flourished as he had four steals and five defensive rebounds.

Another transfer impacting the team is sophomore Imanuel Zorngvol. He is one of two active true-centers on the team since the 2018-19 season.

After a 0-2 start, Youngstown State returned home to the Beeghly Center as it took on Ohio Christian University on Nov. 13.

The game featured a historic milestone for Rush as he eclipsed 200 career 3-pointers, en route to a 99-71 win against the Trailblazers. He also led the way with 32 points to go along with 10 made 3-pointers on 18 attempts.

For Rush, he credited his teammates who have trusted him to take those shots off of screens.

"It's a good accomplishment. I give all the credit to my teammates in the past years," Rush said. "Two hundred of those 3-pointers are 200 of my teammates giving me the ball."

Rush made ten 3-pointers, which moved him into second place in the record book for most 3-pointers in a game.

The current record of 11 was set Feb. 24, 1992 by Mike Alcorn against the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford.

Youngstown State is back in action over a two-game span inside the Beeghly Center for the Lake Erie Classic against Utah Tech University on Nov. 17 and Lake Erie College on Nov. 19.

Both games will be streamed live on ESPN+ or listened to on 570 WKBN.

Jackrabbits soil senior day

By Cameron Niemi
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University football team traveled to Terre Haute, Indiana to take on winless Indiana State University on Nov. 4. The Penguins won their first road game of the season, 19-7.

Indiana State scored first and took a 7-0 lead late in the first quarter. The Penguins responded with a 18-yard rushing touchdown from senior quarterback Mitch Davidson. The game was tied at seven heading into the second quarter.

Both teams battled back-and-forth defensively in the second quarter. The offenses went scoreless for 15 minutes and at halftime it remained 7-7.

YSU received the ball to start the third quarter and went on a seven-minute drive that ended in a 35-yard field goal from freshman kicker Andrew Lastovka, which gave the 'Guins a 10-7 lead.

After a defensive stop from YSU, the Sycamores punted. The Penguin offense drove down the field and extended its lead to 13-7, as Lastovka hit from 45 yards out.

On Indiana State's ensuing drive, junior Troy Jackubec picked off Cade Chambers's pass for Jakubec's fourth interception of the season.

The Penguins capitalized off the turnover with another seven-minute drive, which was capped off with a 37-yard touchdown run by backup quarterback redshirt freshman Beau Brungard that sealed the game for the 'Guins.

Davidson was efficient in the game as he went 25-of-37 passing for 254 yards. Sophomore Max Tomczak had a career high in receptions as he caught 10 passes from Davidson for 81 total yards.

On Nov. 11, YSU welcomed the defending FCS champions South Dakota State University into Stambaugh Stadium. The Jackrabbits came into the game with a 9-0 overall record and ranked No.1 in the FCS Rankings.

SDSU spoiled senior day in the Ice Castle as it defeated the Penguins by a final score of 34-0.

YSU struggled offensively against a veteran and stout Jackrabbits defense. The South Dakota State offense put up 20 points in the first half and added two more touchdowns in the second.

Davidson spoke after the game about the team's loss and what went wrong against the tough SDSU team.

"We gotta be mistake free and we weren't today. We knew all week we gotta take care of the football. We gotta have a better first half, our defense was playing hard and we didn't score points," Davidson said. "It's a bunch of sixth-year guys that have played a lot of foot-

ball games together."

The Penguins drop to 6-4 overall and 4-3 in the Missouri Valley Football Conference, which has them in a four-way tie for fourth. The team also remains in the Stats Perform FCS Top 25 as it dropped down to No. 25.

YSU will need to take care of business on the road in its season finale in hopes of making the FCS playoffs. The committee will once again decide if the Penguins will make the cut for playoffs.

Junior center Aidan Parker spoke about the possibility of making the playoffs.

"Some of those road games we didn't quite take care of business, but we know at the end of the day who we are and how good of a team we are," Parker said. "We get in those playoffs anything can happen. We start to put it all together, we are gonna be a really scary team."

The FCS Selection Show is set for 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 19. on ESPNU. YSU needs to win and University of Northern Iowa needs to lose for Youngstown State to get a low seed bid in the playoffs.

Youngstown State will play its final game of the season in Murray, Kentucky, to take on Murray State University for the first time since 1986.

Kickoff is set for 2 p.m on Nov. 18. To watch, visit ESPN+ or listen on 570 WKBN.

Women's volleyball ends season at home

By **Marissa Masano**
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's volleyball team played Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Purdue University Fort Wayne and Robert Morris University in a three-match homestand to conclude its 2023 regular season.

The Penguins opened their Nov. 3 game with a dominant 25-18 set victory. In this set, the team hit .343 and had six aces.

The team dropped the second and third sets, 25-11 and 21-18, respectively. The third set saw seven ties and three lead changes.

IUPUI led 21-18 late in the fourth set, but freshman Jocelyn Jourdan and senior Dayan Malave combined for a block to tie the game at 21.

Freshman Maria Insana's ace and sophomore Julia Sell's solo block forced the set point. Jourdan sealed the fourth set victory with a kill.

The 'Guins won the fifth set 15-12. After a timeout, the team took the lead with Jourdan factoring in on five of the six final points.

Jourdan finished with a team-high 13 kills and three blocks. All of the freshman's blocks came in the fifth set. Graduate student Josi Borum posted a double-dou-

ble with 21 assists and 19 digs. Additionally, she led the team in assists and digs.

On Nov. 4, the 'Guins fell to PFW in three sets. The set scores were 25-18, 27-25, and 25-18.

In the matchup, Borum led the team in kills, assists and digs. She finished with nine kills, 12 assists and 11 digs. Borum was one kill shy of a triple double.

The 'Guins finished their season sweeping Robert Morris 3-0. The team celebrated its seniors on senior night along with the three-set victory. For head coach Aline Scott, sending out her seniors with a win at home meant a lot.

"I'm just so happy we can go out on a win, and a 3-0 win is even better. I think it's the first one we've had all season, so we saved it for a good time," Scott said.

Youngstown State won the first set 25-19 and had zero attacking errors during the set. The team posted a .385 hitting percentage as well. Scott said attacking consistency is something the team has been striving for all season.

"Aside from attacking, we talk about keeping our errors low at every single match, and we really haven't been able to do it very well, very consistently. Today the attacking errors and errors overall were really low for us, so it was a good execution day," Scott said.

In the second set, the 'Guins trailed once and then

pulled away to take the win, 25-15. Youngstown won the third set, 25-15.

Playing her last match as a Penguin, Borum posted 17 assists, nine digs and eight kills.

Sophomore Abbie Householder led in kills and digs. She also held the night's only double-double with 13 kills, 15 digs and three aces.

Senior Kiley Mitchell led in blocks with four and also recorded four kills. Both were season highs for Mitchell.

Graduate student Isidora Sisic surpassed 900 digs in her Penguin career after registering 10 against the Colonials.

Senior Elise Moeller ranked second in kills and blocks for her team. The senior had nine kills, nine digs and three blocks.

For Jourdan, these seniors have set a standard she wants to uphold as the freshman continues her Penguin career.

"They're all such [great] leaders, and they're great captains. They all work hard, and they all show compassion for the game, and I think it shows me the kind of player I want to be for the underclassmen when I'm a senior," Jourdan said.

The YSU women's volleyball team ended its season 9-20 overall and a 4-14 mark in Horizon League play.

Marx breaks records at SFA Ladyjack Classic

By **Madeline Hippeard**
The Jambar

Senior Madyson Marx of the Youngstown State University bowling team broke two school records Nov. 11 at the SFA Ladyjack Classic hosted by Stephen F. Austin State University.

On Day Two of the tournament, Marx broke the YSU school record and was named tournament MVP for the highest pinfall in a five-game set, where she knocked down a total of 1,144 pins.

She also broke the school record for highest tournament average pinfall with 228.80 pins per game.

Before Marx's record breaking performance on Day Two, the Penguins totalled 5,098 pins over five Baker matches on Day One of the tournament.

The team used the same lineup throughout the day. Junior Jade Cote started each match, followed by juniors Ellie Drescher and Madison Doseck and seniors Kristen Moore and Marx.

Head coach Doug Kuberski said heading into the Ladyjack Classic, the Penguins focused on improving their togetherness and team chemistry.

"It's challenging crossing the house lane-to-lane, pair-to-pair and it gets tricky. So, it's really important

for us to communicate what we're seeing to each other and challenge each other in respectful ways with love," Kuberski said.

The 'Guins started out the day with a 1,035-973 victory over No. 2 Arkansas State University.

The team defeated Lewis University, 1,074-939, and University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, 1,045-888. The team also defeated Maryville University, 1,014-973.

The Penguin's winning streak was cut short in their last match of the day against Tulane University, 940-933.

On Day Two, the 'Guins bowled five more traditional qualifying matches.

The team began the day with a 1,070-942 win over Stephen F. Austin University.

After the Penguin's only loss of the day against Jacksonville State University, 1,103-917, the team defeated Aurora University, 1,036-904, and Nebraska State University, 1,068-980.

The 'Guins finished the day with a 950-749 win against Carthage College.

As a team, the Penguins shot 5,041 on Day Two, placing them fifth overall heading into the final day of the tournament.

Day Three consisted of best-of-seven bracket style

Baker matches.

The 'Guins started the day with a win against Maryville, 4-3, followed by another win against Arkansas State, 4-3.

The Penguin's winning streak was cut short by a 3-4 loss to the University of Nebraska, earning them fourth place in the tournament's final standings.

Youngstown State had a combined record of 10-3 to finish in fourth place.

With the conclusion of the tournament, Marx and Doseck were named members of the all-tournament team.

Doseck said heading into the tournament the Penguins' were focused on improvement rather than victory.

"The team game plan is just to go and do our best, go be the team that we know we are. For me, my goal is to go and be the best teammate I can be. Whether I'm bowling or not, I want to be the loudest one this year," Doseck said.

The 'Guins will return to action Nov. 17 when they travel to the Maryland Eastern Shore Hawk Classic to compete in the final tournament of their fall campaign.

Women's basketball is so back

By Dylan Lux
The Jambar

A loss in the first round of the 2022-23 Horizon League tournament left the Youngstown State University women's basketball team watching from the sidelines.

A new leaf has been turned, and the Penguins started their new campaign Nov. 8, when they took on Xavier University inside the Beeghly Center.

The Musketeers came off a winless record in the Big East Conference last season, and they are looking to add some wins with the addition of first-year head coach Billi Chambers.

With the announcement of head coach John Barnes' leave of absence, the YSU women's team is being coached by acting head coach John Nicolais.

Fifth-year forward Emily Saunders made her first career start against Xavier after the departure of All-Horizon League center Lilly Ritz.

Through one half of play, the Penguins held a 25-18 lead over the Musketeers after burying 10 field goals and multiple 3-pointers.

At the final buzzer, YSU defeated Xavier 55-41 for its first win of the new season.

Saunders finished with a game-high 20 points, 14 rebounds and two blocks. She credited her team finding her in the right positions for her new career high.

"My teammates were seeing me, and I feel like that's the most important thing," Saunders said. "We really emphasize getting the ball in the post, and I thought they did a tremendous job tonight."

Senior guard Malia Magestro also ended the game in double digits, with 14 points to go along with 3 steals and 2 assists.

The Penguins shot 41.5% from the field and 30% from beyond the arc. The Penguins also had 12 second-chance points and 24 points off turnovers to help secure the victory.

The team finished the game with 21 turnovers. Nicolais said this would be a point of emphasis for the team and something it hopes to correct going forward.

"We discussed that in the locker room for sure ... it really wasn't forced turnovers, it was more stuff we were doing to ourselves," Nicolais said. "That part was a little bit frustrating."

The next opponent for Youngstown State was Slippery Rock University, a Division II program that plays in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

After a 43-point first half, the Penguins had a sizable lead going into the locker room, up by 27 over SRU, while shooting 71.4% as a unit.

The Penguins held onto the lead for the rest of the contest as they went on to win 78-32.

Three 'Guins scored in double figures in the game — Saunders, junior Haley Thierry and fifth-year senior Dena Jarrells. Jarrells also led the game in assists with five.

As a whole, the team's field goal percentage was 57.8% after draining six threes and 26 shots in total.

Eleven women saw playing time against Slippery Rock, which was all part of the game plan, according to Nicolais.

"It was nice to get the other kids off the bench, and come in and provide a spark and get them comfortable," Nicolais said. "We were trying to experiment a little bit out there."

The Penguins will return to the court Nov. 16 to round out their three-game home stretch to open the season.

The team will take on Western Michigan University at 5 p.m. on Nov. 17 inside the Beeghly Center. The game will be streamed live on ESPN+. To follow along with live stats, visit ysusports.com.

