

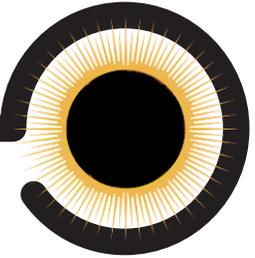
THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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Thursday, April 4, 2024

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FAREWELL COACH



Photo (left) by Dylan Lux / The Jambar and photo (right) courtesy of ysusports.com

Faulkner takes over for the Penguins as Calhoun leaves for the Mountain West.

Calhoun leaves for Utah State, Faulkner to take over

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

Ethan Faulkner was appointed the 14th head coach of the Youngstown State University men's basketball team April 1 following Jerrod Calhoun's leave from the position.

Calhoun was hired March 30 as head of the Utah State University men's basketball program.

Faulkner joined the Youngstown State men's basketball staff in August 2019 and was named associate head coach in 2022. He graduated from Northern Kentucky University in 2014 and played in 117 games with the Norse.

Under Calhoun, Faulkner coached 11 All-Horizon League selections and helped the program win 98 games over five years.

With his hire as head coach, Ron Strollo, director of Intercollegiate Athletics, stated Faulkner was the ideal replacement.

"We feel very fortunate to have someone of [Faulkner's] caliber step into this role and lead our program," Strollo stated. "It was important for us to make this decisive decision to assure our current players, portal transfers, high school recruits and supporters that the program will continue to suc-

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Grab your glasses 'Guins

By Nicholas Bianco
Jambar Contributor

With parts of Ohio in the path of a total solar eclipse around 3 p.m. on April 8, Youngstown State University is leading the way for residents to view the eclipse with several different events.

Ward Beecher Planetarium is hosting a solar eclipse viewing event at Foxconn's EV System's parking lot in Lordstown from 1 to 4 p.m.

Patrick Durrell, director of the planetarium, said the event gives residents a chance to view the total eclipse close to the Youngstown area.

"We tried to make an event where people didn't have to feel they had to drive all the way to Cleveland or Kent to see the eclipse," Durrell said. "Youngstown, Boardman and Canfield won't see a total eclipse, but go over to Warren, Lordstown and places to the northwest, you will see the total eclipse."

Durrell said the planetarium is bringing telescopes to safely view the eclipse from Foxconn's parking lot.

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Coach

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ceed.”

Calhoun’s leave from YSU comes almost a month after an 82-70 loss to Cleveland State University in the quarterfinal of the Barbasol Horizon League Men’s Basketball Championship.

After former USU head coach Danny Sprinkle resigned March 25, Calhoun became the Aggies 22nd head coach in program history. Sprinkle spent one season with USU and led the program to its second straight NCAA Tournament appearance and first tournament win since 2001.

The Aggies program has appeared in 24 NCAA Tournament and 18 Mountain West Conference championships. USU has reached the Round of 32 twice and made a trip to the Sweet 16 and Elite Eight.

Diana Sabau, vice president and director of Athletics at USU, said Calhoun embodied all the qualities the team looked for in a head coach.

“[Calhoun] is energetic, enthusiastic, a player’s coach and is motivated to keep our current student athletes in Logan,” Sabau stated.

Calhoun continues his coaching career at Utah State with several postseason appearances, three coach of the year honors and an overall record of 242-144.

He leaves YSU as the programs’ winningest coach since Dom Rosselli, who

“We feel very fortunate to have someone of [Faulkner’s] caliber step into this role and lead our program,” Strollo stated. “It was important for us to make this decisive decision to assure our current players, portal transfers, high school recruits and supporters that the program will continue to succeed”

— **Ron Strollo**,
Director of Intercollegiate Athletics

was with the Penguins for 36 years from 1946 to 1982.

Calhoun was hired as YSU’s head coach in March 2017. Over seven seasons with the program, he recorded an overall record of 118-106, was named Horizon League Coach of the Year and led YSU to win its first regular-season conference championship.

In the 2023-2024 season, Calhoun led

the Penguins to a 22-10 overall record and their fifth straight winning season for the first time since the 1981-1982 season.

Over the past five years, Calhoun accumulated a 98-62 record with the Penguins and delivered two consecutive 20-win seasons for the first time in YSU’s Division I history.

Prior to Calhoun’s arrival, the last 20-win season was set during the 1997-1998 season by former Penguin head coach Dan Peters.

Calhoun’s 24-10 record in the 2022-2023 season tied the school record for most wins in a season. In the same year, he guided the program to its first National Invitational Tournament appearance against Oklahoma State University.

Before coming to YSU, Calhoun served as head coach at Fairmont State University from 2013 to 2017 and led the program to four NCAA Division II Tournament appearances. Calhoun won nearly 80% of his games and recorded five 20-win seasons.

Joe Mazzulla, head coach of the Boston Celtics, stated on USU’s website that learning from Calhoun as an assistant at Fairmont State made an impact on his coaching career.

“[Calhoun] is a coach that I have learned from my entire career. He is a program builder and a connector of team and community. He is dedicated to building a program and a culture of success on and off the court,” Mazzulla stated.

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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

High: 45°F	High: 41°F	High: 48°F	High: 57°F	High: 62°F	High: 65°F	High: 69°F
Low: 31°F	Low: 32°F	Low: 31°F	Low: 37°F	Low: 44°F	Low: 45°F	Low: 50°F
Chance of precip: 93%	Chance of precip: 91%	Chance of precip: 25%	Chance of precip: 20%	Chance of precip: 40%	Chance of precip: 0%	Chance of precip: 0%



Information courtesy of accuweather.com

Giving back by setting the table

By Tala Alsharif
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University students facing food insecurity can visit local organizations such as Dorothy Day House and Our Community Kitchen to receive free meals.

Dorothy Day House is a nonprofit, volunteer-run organization that serves meals from 5 to 6 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. About a 15-minute walk from campus, Dorothy Day House is located at 620 Belmont Ave.

Daniel Wakefield, co-coordinator of Dorothy Day House, said the nonprofit also provides shower services every Wednesday in the afternoon.

“We provide the towels, washcloths, the soap, the shampoo,” Wakefield said. “We also provide people T-shirts, undergarments and socks for them after they take a shower.”

The organization relies on local foundations and donors for funds. Some donors, such as organizations, individuals and churches, donate meals.

Additionally, some volunteers cook in the kitchen or donate meals from local businesses.

“We’re very deliberate about choosing local business

owners, specifically women and minority owned business owners, who do catering,” Wakefield said. “We really do believe that that’s very important.”

Dorothy Day House is operated through the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown and Youngstown Catholic Worker. The organization has an open-door policy and doesn’t require registration. Students can stop by if they need an evening meal or a shower.

Our Community Kitchen has operated for eight years and is open for breakfast Monday through Saturday 7 to 9 a.m. and for lunch 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The kitchen is located at 551 Mahoning Ave. and takes about 20 minutes to walk to from campus.

Meals are typically prepared in the kitchen, but some are donated.

Annette Hagerty, manager of Our Community Kitchen, said the organization aims to help everyone in need. Students can get a meal and hangout in the community room, which has computers and WiFi.

“We let anybody come. If you have a job, if you don’t have a job, if you’re homeless, and if you’re not homeless,” Hagerty said. “We accept everybody.”

According to Wakefield, one of the factors contributing to food insecurity in Youngstown is a lack of access

to healthy, nutritious foods. There are also national trends impacting residents.

“Things like inflation ... reduction of SNAP benefits, in some cases rising rent costs,” Wakefield said. “All those things make it very difficult to sometimes afford food.”

Wakefield said Dorothy Day House focuses on being hospitable, compassionate and personable to their guests. Volunteers are encouraged to sit and eat with people who come in.

Additionally, Dorothy Day House volunteers have a strong belief of upholding the dignity of people in need. Wakefield says the organization services meals on proper dinnerware to preserve guests’ dignity.

“Part of the mission of that is showing people the dignity of eating a meal on a typical plate you’d eat at home,” Wakefield said. “That is the basis really for all the services we provide.”

Wakefield said Dorothy Day House meets the emotional needs of people who are marginalized and feel like they don’t belong.

“By forming a community here, where people feel accepted, welcomed and valued ... I think that makes a big difference,” Wakefield said.

‘A Story of Love and Strength’

By Matthew Sotlar
The Jambar

A Youngstown State University professor has written a children’s book discussing cancer among families with younger children.

Crystal Bannon, YSU’s director of Career Exploration and Development, released “Caring Through Cancer: A Story of Love and Strength” on Amazon on March 26.

Bannon had breast cancer and entered remission in 2021. She said she wanted the book to be a resource for families.

“I got diagnosed in October of 2020, and I did all of my treatment — chemo, surgery and radiation — all in 2021. As I was sitting at these doctor’s appointments going through my healing and my recovery, I decided I wanted to create a resource for parents and children,” Bannon said.

Bannon said she compiled most of her material during treatments in her spare time.

“I basically had a Google Doc on my phone, and I started creating a manuscript,” Bannon said. “Every time I

had a little bit of time, I would just add more ideas and thoughts to it, ideas on what I wanted it to look like.”

“Caring Through Cancer” is meant to educate younger audiences who may not understand the concept of cancer. The book follows a boy named Maceo whose mother has cancer.

“It’s a basic children’s book,” Bannon said. “It’s 24 pages that really kind of tell the story of Maceo as he goes through learning about that his mom is sick with cancer and follows the journey of as she goes through that year of treatment and surgery and all that, and how in the end, through love, strength and support, we all got through that together.”

After noticing the lack of material about cancer for young children, Bannon was inspired to write the book.

“When I was originally going to tell [my son] about mommy being sick, I, of course, went to Amazon to look for books and options, and there wasn’t a lot out there. So, I started to do some research into [Kindle Direct Publishing] and how to publish a book on my own,” Bannon said.

Bannon said she has been working to promote sales

of the book.

“I put it on my LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram,” Bannon said. “I also shared it with my classes that I teach on campus. This semester I’m teaching a Communications 1545 class, so we talked a little bit about it there. They were excited to see Professor Bannon doing this.”

Bannon is also working toward providing copies of her book to local organizations and groups working with families through cancer treatments.

“I do some volunteering with a local organization here called Pink Lights the Way. So, I’m going to provide them with some copies to be able to give to women that have recently been diagnosed that could use it as a resource for them and their families,” Bannon said.

Bannon said she is considering writing a second book in the future. She added that it would most likely be more adult-oriented.

“I actually have this fun idea about doing a short story for the actual patients. So, it would be adult content of kind of some short clips and funny things I went through as I was traveling through this journey,” Bannon said.

Eclipse

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“The Foxconn people have kindly donated use of their parking lot in the area that’s going to be fenced off for people to view the eclipse,” Durrell said. “The telescopes we’re bringing to Foxconn on April 8 will have proper high-quality solar filters on them. It’s perfectly safe to view.”

According to Durrell, a minute and a half of the eclipse’s totality will be seen in Lordstown. Full totality is when the moon completely covers the sun.

Durrell said the eclipse is a wonderful spectacle and a great opportunity to see a celestial event.

“We just want people to enjoy and experience the beauty of the universe and a total solar eclipse is one of those events,” Durrell said.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported April 2 the path of totality for the eclipse will be more narrow than originally predicted, with about a half mile of each side of the map no longer under the total eclipse.

Some areas of the Mahoning Valley originally predicted to be under the path of totality, such as Girard and parts of Mineral Ridge, will not experience a total eclipse.

Durrell said the new prediction will not affect the event at Foxconn, but those on the edge of the original map should consider changing location.

“If people were looking at earlier maps and they were right on the line... it might mean they won’t get totality. But it’s not a drastic change,” Durrell said. “Lordstown, where we’re doing the event out at Foxconn ... it’s still going to be in the path of totality.”

Durrells said the duration of totality may change by a few seconds.

“The time for the eclipse for people in Cleveland and stuff will still be like four minutes,” Durrell said. “I haven’t been able to calculate to the second how long totality will change, but it does mean for people on the edge of the path the difference between totality or not. If people are well in the eclipse it shouldn’t make much difference.”

YSU’s Society of Physics Students is inviting local res-

idents to Geneva Township Park in Lake Village, Geneva to view the eclipse. The event will take place on the beach and eclipse glasses will be provided to students and faculty.

Amanda Keating, vice president of SPS, said Geneva will be in the line of totality within Northeast Ohio.

“We can kind of embrace it to the fullest extent that we can, because Geneva-On-The-Lake is pretty much in the most line of totality that you can get without being in the middle of the lake,” Keating said.

Alexa Beyer, president of SPS, said the event brings awareness to the once-in-a-lifetime event.

“This is kind of just bringing awareness to not only Youngstown State students, but to the SPS club members and the community members that this is something really cool that’s happening that they can go see,” Beyer said.

YSU’s Student Activities is hosting a Bus Trip to the Great Lakes Science Center in Cleveland to view the eclipse. A \$10 ticket guarantees an exploration of the NASA Village and a live NASA broadcast of the eclipse. The event is sold out.

News Brief

Student government elections

Youngstown State University’s Student Government Association hosted its fall 2024 election from 8 a.m. on April 2 through 8 p.m. on April 3.

The election fills executive board, academic senate and representative positions. SGA President Jordan Pintar and Executive Vice President Sofia Meyers ran for reelection uncontested.

Results for the election are expected to be solidified and announced following an 18-hour grievance period. Pintar and Meyers will continue their roles if no grievances are filed.

If reappointed, Pintar and Meyer’s selected vice president for financial affairs, Francesco McElrath; vice president for public relations, Alyssa Oswald; and chief of staff, Rayvin Gorrell, will assume their positions immediately.

Executive board positions of parliamentarian, vice president for student life and vice president for assessment and enrichment will be decided at a meeting April 22 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center.

Tech Talks at Penguin Plug-In

By Christopher Gillett
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University's Information Technology Training Services has been working to engage more with students and educate them on YSU-related technology. Throughout the spring semester, IT staff members have hosted monthly Tech Talks.

March's two Tech Talks took place at the Penguin Plug-In by the IT service desk in Kilcawley Center. The month's theme was getting digitally organized, with a focus on using Microsoft 365, One Drive and Blackboard.

Sean Melnik, the associate director of IT Training Services, was among staff available to teach students about the products. Melnik said the idea of Tech Talks was in the works for a while.

"We've been kind of working on the Tech Talks since the beginning of the last academic year and using an academ-

ic cycle to identify technology needs for students," Melnik said. "We did kind of a needs assessment in the beginning of fall semester last year, just to kind of see what students are submitting ticket requests for or what they were inquiring for with the service desk."

Cara McEldowney, a technology trainer in IT services, was also involved in last March's Tech Talks. McEldowney said she draws on previous skills to help out.

"I was at Mount Union [University] for 29 years in the IT department. So, I've gone from manager of [the] support desk to manager of instructional technology," McEldowney said. "[My favorite part is] helping people. That's been my goal the entire time I've been in IT. Making technology easy to use, understand and make life easier."

Melnik said when working with students, he tries to understand their perspectives.

"The hardest part is being able to take the information and the technology and making sure I put myself in the shoes of my students," Melnik said.

McEldowney agreed and said communicating the information is a hard part of the job.

"The hardest part is making sure that we're communicating well enough — making sure we're communicating to the students in a way in which they're understanding how to use the technology so that it benefits them and saves them time," McEldowney said.

For McEldowney, engaging with students is meaningful.

"Getting out in the campus community, engaging with the students and knowing that we are providing them a service with all of the ways that they can incorporate technology, either with their assignments or within Blackboard," McEldowney said.

Melnik said helping students is also his favorite part.

"[My favorite part is] engaging with students, helping them to not only learn about the technology, but how to apply the technology in their learning and career path," Melnik said.

At Tech Talks, Melnik has also helped students transition from the old Penguin Portal to Ellucian Experience. Melnik said an issue many students have is navigating the new software.

"The biggest issue is just the navigational change. So, you went from sort of a list view to more of a tile view and it's highly customizable. A lot of times we just had issues with individuals that would reach out to us. They're not quite able to find the same information in the same place," Melnik said.

The date and location for April's Tech Talk will be announced to students through email.

Let's chat about podcasts

By Sydney Fairbanks
Jambar Contributor

Students at Youngstown State University can get involved in various forms of media, including podcasting with the Communications Department.

Inside the audio lab on the second floor of Bliss Hall, YSU's podcasting studio has two sound-proof rooms, each with all the equipment needed to produce a podcast.

Communications professor Adam Earnhardt said podcasting is a growing and popular form of content creation.

"It's just another mechanism for students to practice their content creation or content creation skills. This one just happens to be a popular one right now," Earnhardt said.

YSU's podcasting studio uses a Rode RodeCaster Pro Audio Production Studios, Shure SM7B microphones and Sony headphones — all of which are industry standard and can be purchased for under \$2,000.

According to Earnhardt, the RODE RODECaster allows users to program sound effects and music at the push of a button and connect to the system via Blue-

tooth. It also allows users to have participants call into a podcast.

"If I wanted to interview someone via Webex or Zoom, I can set up my computer, have them on the laptop in front of me, wire [the laptop] in, mess around with the levels, and bring them up on Zoom," Earnhardt said. "With some of the audio quality on Webex and Zoom now, it's so good it sounds like they're in the same room with you."

Earnhardt said the Communications Department used to have one podcast studio but added a second due to the growing demand.

"We wanted to do podcasting. It was just trying to find the right place to do it in. So, this was a natural fit. Plus, we started with one just to see how it would grow, and that got so big so quickly that we added the second space," Earnhardt said.

Despite its recent popularity in the media, Earnhardt said podcasting is not a new platform.

"Podcasting has been around with us since the '90s, but it really kind of exploded in popularity, especially with famous podcasts like 'Serial' and 'S-Town,'" Earnhardt said.

On platforms like Spotify and Apple Music, users can

listen to podcasts anywhere on topics from history to anecdotes on people's lives. Earnhardt said many people have created podcasts because it's easy to make and edit.

"This takes no time to edit," Earnhardt said. "I was actually just working on one of these last night where I had like three minutes of content and it took me maybe five minutes to edit it down."

Earnhardt said podcasting's recent growth is likely due to how easy the equipment is to own and operate. Users can purchase equipment online and set up a studio in their home.

"Because of that, it makes it really accessible to people so that the people that do have a story to tell don't have to be on video. You don't have to have your own blog. You can do it this way and make it available to everybody," Earnhardt said.

Earnhardt predicts podcasts will play a big role in the future of communication.

"Everybody's gonna have one, right? We use this line, and it's very accurate — that everybody has a story to tell," Earnhardt said.

To access the podcast studio, students can sign up for a time slot in the audio lab.

Stepping up to the plate for others



Photo (top) courtesy of women's basketball's Facebook and photo (bottom) by Molly Burke / Jambar Contributor

Athletes from the women's basketball team at the 2022 YESPYs (top) and SAAC's 2023 executive board (bottom).

By Molly Burke
Jambar Contributor

For some student-athletes at Youngstown State University, competing in a sport is only half of what it means to represent YSU Athletics.

Made up of about 40 members, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee is dedicated to community service and social justice initiatives while connecting students with YSU administrators.

SAAC is a national organization with branches at colleges around the U.S. Both the Horizon League's and YSU's committees are led by President Mady Aulbach, a graduate student in the professional communications program and former guard on the women's basketball team.

Aulbach said this semester, YSU's SAAC is volunteering for Special Olympics and Team IMPACT.

"[For Special Olympics] we help out with sports — whether it's coaching or participating, things like that," Aulbach said. "[For Team IMPACT], basically when there's a kid in the community with an illness, or basically they can never play a sport, they're like an honorary member of the team. They have a signing day. They get to come to different events and games."

Jordan Truelsch, a sophomore civil and construction engineering technology major and a captain on the swimming and diving team, is a co-community outreach coordinator for SAAC. Truelsch said SAAC will also work with the Ursuline Sisters Mission, a Catholic social service organization.

"Some of our opportunities through [the Ursuline Sisters Mission] are social media help for the elderly people that live there who might need help with that. They're looking for swim instructors for kids on Sundays to go help out," Truelsch said. "They have Easter basket filling and helping get funds for that."

SAAC's executive team has seven members. According to Aulbach, the organization also serves as a liaison between students and the Athletic Department.

"[SAAC] is comprised of leaders from every sports team. So, there's a represen-

tative — at least one — for each team. We meet once a month. We are basically the liaison between administrators, advisors, coaches and all other student-athletes," Aulbach said.

For Aulbach, SAAC is important for uplifting the voices of student-athletes at YSU.

"It kind of gives us a voice. It's very cliché to say, but I think you don't realize when the administrators are making a decision, they want to hear from us first," Aulbach said. "We get to help decide in a way, and it gives us a better understanding of why the Athletic Department does what they do."

Aulbach said SAAC not only connects students with the community and administrators, but with each other.

"We started an initiative called the Guin Cup, which is basically whichever team goes to other team's sporting events the most and is most supportive gets a prize at the end of the year," Aulbach said.

SAAC is responsible for planning and hosting the Athletic Department's annual YSU Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly Awards. This year's YESPYs will take place in mid-April.

Taylor Berry, a sophomore business marketing and professional selling major and center forward on the women's soccer team, is also a co-community outreach coordinator for SAAC. Berry said it takes a lot of work to host the YESPYs, but the experience is rewarding.

"We all show up, we set up, we decorate. We have awards that captains or representatives decide to give out to their team members," Berry said. "We go up and present them and give them full plaques with their names on the awards."

Berry said she enjoys being a part of SAAC because it helps student-athletes grow outside of their sports.

"We have a lot of guest speakers that come in every meeting, so those are cool. I love taking different things away from that," Berry said. "You learn a lot on the soccer field, but you learn a lot more when you can sit down and really work on yourself in that aspect, and I think SAAC does a really good job at bringing that out."

ADVANCING IN STEM

Women engineer equal futures

By **Gunnhildur Baldursdottir**
The Jambar

Students in Youngstown State University's Society of Women Engineers are hopeful about starting their careers in engineering, an industry becoming more receptive to diversity and inclusion.

According to the 2023 Global Gender Gap Report, women represent 29.2% of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics workforce in the 146 nations evaluated.

Janelle Pezzuti, a junior chemical engineering major and secretary of SWE, said the organization provides a safe space for women to create friendships, find networking opportunities and discuss difficulties they face in their fields.

"It's a great organization to join if you want to connect with other people and serve the community because we have volunteer and career professional development opportunities," Pezzuti said. "It's also good to enhance those social skills because we don't talk about it much in classes since it's so technical, but you really need those soft skills to be successful."

SWE has around 45 members and welcomes allies interested in volunteer opportunities, attending SWE events or participating in the monthly meetings.

Senior engineering lecturer Kelsey Lyda was one of the founding members of SWE during her undergraduate studies in mechanical engineering at YSU.

"We didn't actually have enough women in the building to start an SWE group, so we convinced a big group of guys to join and ended up having about 40% males, but that's how we started," Lyda said.

Lyda said despite some faculty members' biases against women in STEM, she had a good experience as a YSU student. Lyda added during her early career, she often felt uncomfortable in her work environment and experienced adversity when she got pregnant.

"I worked in materials research, I was actually the only woman in my research group, but I never saw issues until I got pregnant. All of a sudden, very traditional values seemed to seep out of everyone. I couldn't deal with

a lot of the comments. So, I ended up leaving the industry after having my first child," Lyda said. "They also didn't even have a maternity leave policy. They treated maternity leave as a short-term disability leave."

Now, 20 years later, Pezzuti said her recent work experiences have been positive.

Both Pezzuti and Elena Zandier, a junior civil engineering major and the vice president of SWE, have joined women's organizations while interning, which Zandier said provided them with support and opportunities to network.

"During the interview process, I didn't have any hesitations. [The staff was] very welcoming. Even when I got to the office, it was very interesting to see how diverse it was and how many women worked there. I think we were 50-50 women to men, and it was just a really empowering experience. So, I guess providing a safe space helps a lot," Zandier said.

Zandier interned with Alfred Bennish in Pittsburgh during summer 2023.

Pezzuti said young women considering a degree in engineering should never give up.

"If you enjoy challenges and problem solving, you should stick with it and not let whatever difficulties you might face put you down," Pezzuti said. "There are times when you're pursuing an engineering degree where you feel like giving up, but getting an internship and seeing even just a glimpse of what it will look like after you graduate is so worth it."

To encourage young girls interested in STEM, SWE will host The Girl Scout Outreach on April 14.

Zandier said the six-hour event is important for young girls who lack role models that represent them.

"It's going to be really fun working with the younger kids, hearing about their passions, and see if we can feed into those passions," Zandier said. "Some of them don't have role models. So hopefully, we can help them understand that there are other people in this situation, and they should definitely pursue engineering if it's something they love."

Zandier added the event is rewarding for anyone who would like to volunteer at The Girl Scout Outreach.



Photos courtesy of YSU SWE

SWE at its Dinner With Industry event March 14 (top) and (bottom) Pezzuti (right) and YSU SWE President Alyssa Rollinson (left) at the 2023 SWE Conference.

Penguins dance the night away

By Alex Sorrells
The Jambar

Students and community members can take ballroom dance lessons with a twist at Youngstown State University.

Consisting of around 15 members, the Dance Club meets from 7 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday in Room 100 of Beeghly Center. Each class, instructor Matthew Feehley teaches two ballroom dance styles but centers them around modern music.

Celeste Kapalin, a senior public and professional writing major and the club's president, said ballroom dances are categorized separately.

"Ballroom kind of encompasses a number of dances. They fall under two categories called rhythm and smooth. We've done salsa, we've done waltz, we've done East Coast swing. It's like those things you'd see on dancing with the stars," Kapalin said.

Dances are performed in pairs, but attendees do not need to bring a partner to participate.

"The club [purpose] is to learn a new skill. You're dancing with people you may not have met before or if you keep coming you're dancing with people that you've seen every week. So, it's a really great place to meet people," Kapalin said.

Feehley is a YSU alumnus who has taught at Fred Astaire Dance Studio for 11 years. He said the class is taught simply.

"I just kind of plan out and help coordinate what kind of dances we're going to be doing and then facilitate those dances to be done," Feehley said.

No prior experience is required to join, as most members are new to dancing. Feehley said he hopes attendees can have fun while learning.

"I hope they take away a passion for dancing and maybe a newfound interest in

something they hadn't considered before, and I hope they come back and keep learning," Feehley said.

The club's advisor is Dan McCormick, a professor and studio engineer in the Communications Department. According to McCormick, anyone who wants to learn how to dance is welcome to come to meetings, as his wife often attends.

"Very quickly during these classes, you start doing things that you've never thought you could do or even thought about doing," McCormick said. "Within an hour, you're doing some actual moves that actually look like something and that in and of itself is enjoyable."

McCormick said the club helps attendees break out of their shells.

"One thing that this is good for is helping people with shyness because it's one of the few things where you have to touch another person," McCormick said, "That pulls you out of your comfort zone if you're not used to it. But after a while, you realize that's normal."

According to Kapalin, the club aims to get involved in the Youngstown community.

"We try to do stuff at Sears and Avon Oaks and try to get involved in the dance community around Youngstown," said Kapalin.

McCormick said the club hopes to work with other dance clubs.

"There's all kinds of dance clubs everywhere, in every area, even in Youngstown. In years past, the YSU Dance Club would join up with other organizations in town and have combined efforts, which is a larger goal," McCormick said.

In November 2023, the club hosted a masquerade ball where attendees could dance, enjoy food and drinks and participate in a mask contest. Kapalin said while she will graduate soon, returning officers are hoping to host a similar event in the fall.



The Dance Club meets at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays in Room 100 of Beeghly Center.

Photos by Molly Burke / The Jambar

SLOP-POP PLUM

Cleveland's fruity tunes

By Sydney Fairbanks
The Jambar

Tunes from the Cleveland-based band Grumpy Plum have reached millions beyond Northeast Ohio.

The band consists of vocalist and guitarist Tallulah Swasey, drummer Mattie Zanin and bassist Laurel Ila. According to Swasey, Grumpy Plum's sound has been described as bubble grunge, indie and pop punk, but the band considers itself "slop-pop."

Grumpy Plum has released two EP's and one album titled "Don't Yell at Me!" featuring the single "Dollhouse," which has accumulated over 2 million streams on Spotify. Swasey said the song gained traction after using it to create TikTok videos.

"It was really weird because I was just really bored when COVID hit, and my job was remote, so I just made TikToks nonstop for days and months on end and it got traction," Swasey said.

The band members chose the name Grumpy Plum because they were upset after realizing their first name option wasn't available.

"We wanted 'Plum' but it was taken and then we were grumpy about it. So, that's our name, Grumpy Plum," Swasey said.

Grumpy Plum performed at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on March 23 for its Empow-HER event in honor of Women's History Month. The band performed along-

side Charity Evonna and members of the School of Rock.

School of Rock is a multi-location music school that hosts music classes, workshops and camps. It also allows attendees to perform at live events.

Swasey said performing at Empow-HER was a goal for the band.

"[The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame] reached out to us, which is really cool because we wanted to perform here," Swasey said.

The event offered headshot opportunities and accepted donations for body care items for Laura's Home Women's Crisis Center.

Before forming Grumpy Plum, Swasey played shows in 2019 with different band members before Ila and Zanin joined in mid-2021. The members knew each other through School of Rock and Swasey invited them to perform together.

Swasey said the band has written a third EP that it hopes to release by 2025 but has been held back from doing so.

"Our producer that we've worked with before just moved to California, so we're trying to find someone else to work with," Swasey said.

Ila said the band hopes to have the EP recorded by this summer so it can be released in the next year.

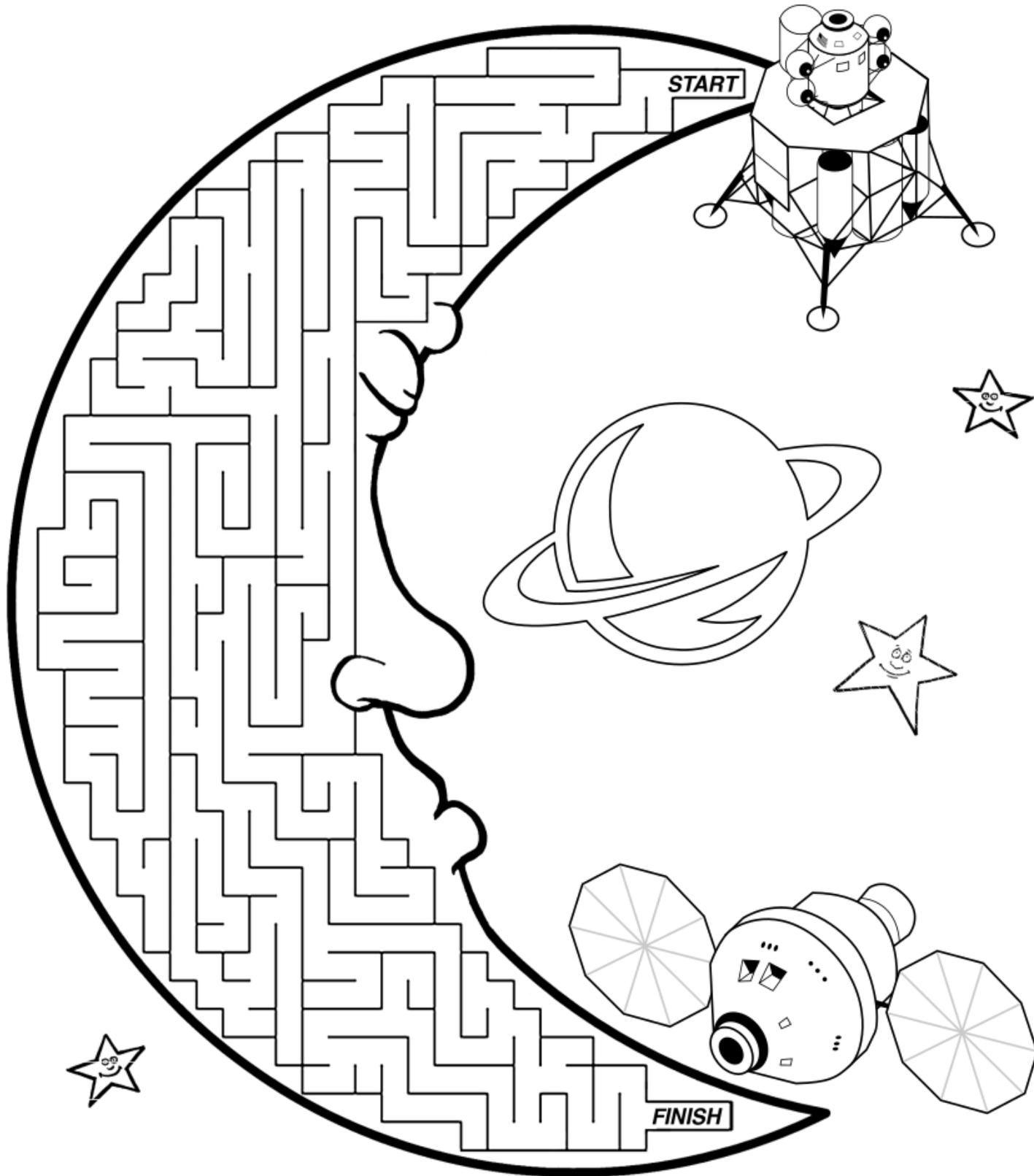
Grumpy Plum will take on Cleveland throughout April as it performs with Small Crush on April 7 at Mahall's and with Mickey Darling on April 20 at the Grog Shop.



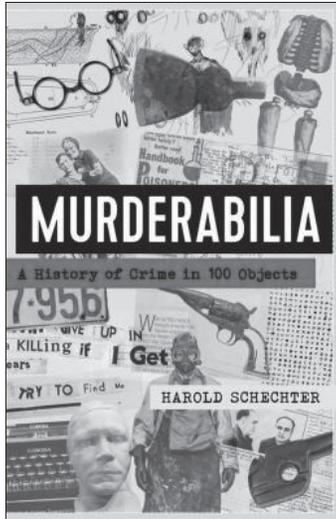
(From right to left) Ira, Swasey and Zanin (left) performed at the 2022 Brite Winter Festival in Cleveland (right).

Photos courtesy of @grumpy_plum on Instagram.

Moon Maze



Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library

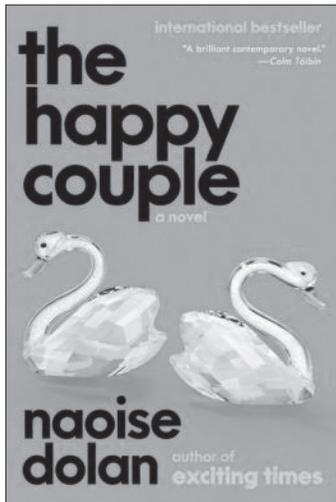


Nonfiction review

Murderabilia: a History of Crime in 100 Objects

by Harold Schechter

A collection of relics of famous murders, from Lizzie Borden's hatchet to the car from Bonnie and Clyde's last joyride. Recommended for historians, collectors and true crime fans.



Fiction review

The Happy Couple

by Naoise Dolan

Celine and Luke are getting married and no one is happy about it. The story is told by the wedding party in alternating narrations, revealing their feelings and motives leading up to the wedding. Recommended for fans of contemporary relationship fiction.

Upcoming programs

Thursday, April 11

6 to 7:30 p.m.

Anime & Manga Club

Registration required

Friday, April 12

All Day

National Library Week Special

Event Station

No Registration required

Wednesday, April 17

6 to 7 p.m.

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Write a Letter to the Editor!

Email The Jambar at

thejambar@gmail.com

The Jambar Column

Revenge of the sequels

I have recently been watching the 2021 spin off of the children's sitcom "iCarly," which was popular in the late 2000s and early 2010s. To be frank, I don't know how to feel about the reboot.

Most often, I don't find myself enjoying sequels of movies, so I didn't have any intention of watching the new version of "iCarly." However, one of my roommates was watching it one night when I came home.

The best way I can describe the reboot is that it put trauma into what I know and love about the original "iCarly." For example, the characters openly talk about adult themes, and a main character from the original show, Freddy, now has a kid.

I was not expecting the show to be a carbon copy of what it once was, but I still find myself wishing some elements of the original show carried over, such as its wacky web design or Spencer's art projects.

I get it, the apartment was remodeled — it does look nice and modern, but it almost feels too artificial with its black and white aesthetic.

This just reminds me of a conversation I had with a friend about how sequel movies are almost always a let down. A great example of this is "Cars 2."

I wasn't the biggest fan of "Cars 2" because it introduced so many new charac-



Alison Butz

I remember, the sequel seemed to have more new characters than old ones from the first movie.

I feel like the "Cars" universe is something I could grow to like if I ever sit down and watch the three movies in succession. That is something that I can appreciate from Pixar movies — every movie feels different, and whether that's bad or not is up to the viewer.

"High School Musical" is another example of a movie that didn't need a sequel — no less two of them. The original was great, although it's a bit cringey nowadays. At the end of the day, it's a classic.

The fact that I hardly remember the plot of the second and third "High School Musical" movies is a massive sign, in my opinion, that making them was entirely unnecessary. However, I understand that these kinds of movies can be someone's cup of tea.

ters into the universe. The more characters that I was introduced to, the more overwhelmed I would get.

Granted, I didn't expect the second movie to have the exact same plot as the first, but from what

Quote of the Week

"April is the cruelest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain."

— T.S. Eliot,
American poet and publisher

The Jambar Editorial

Greatest songs of the 1980s

Over 44 years ago, the 1980s ushered in a new era of music with genres such as hip-hop, new wave, synth-pop and the popularization of metal. This era played a huge role in what music is today.

The introduction of Music Television, MTV, on Aug. 1, 1981 changed how the world listened to music. The idea of music videos was not widely known until it aired on American cable television.

The '80s also introduced the term known as a "one-hit wonder." Songs from the '80s such as "Take On Me" by a-ha, "I Melt With You" by Modern English and "Tainted Love" by Soft Cell are all regarded as some of the greatest one-hit wonders of all time.

Besides these one-hit wonders, what are the greatest songs to come out of the decade? The Jambar has listened to numerous tracks and put together a top-five list of the greatest songs from the '80s.

At No. 5 on the list is singer-songwriter Cyndi Lauper's first major single, "Girls Just Want To Have Fun." The hit was released on Lauper's debut 1983 album "She's So Unusual," with Portrait Records. The album also featured hits such as "Time After Time."

"Girls Just Want To Have Fun" reached No. 2 on the United States Billboard Hot 100 chart and has been covered by over 30 prominent artists as a studio recording or live performance. The synthesizer-backed track implemented a fun and playful attitude that became an anthem for girls growing up in the '80s.

The music video to "Girls Just Want To Have Fun," won Best Female Performance at the American Video Awards in 1983 and Best Female Video at the MTV Video Music Awards in 1984.

Tensions between the U.S. and Soviet Union gave inspiration to "Everybody Wants to Rule the World" by English pop-rock band Tears For Fears. This song, released March 22, 1985, crashes its way to No. 4 on the list.

"Everybody Wants to Rule the World" is the third track on Tears For Fears's second studio album "Songs from the Big Chair." The song peaked at No. 2 in

Ireland, Australia and the U.K. while it reached No. 1 in Canada, New Zealand and the U.S.

This song is highly regarded as the "decade's best" by several critics and is certified gold by Music Canada and the British Phonographic Industry.

Phil Collins's 1981 track, "In the Air Tonight" lands at No. 3 on The Jambar's list. The song's drum fill is regarded by Ozzy Osbourne as "the best ever."

"In the Air Tonight" appeared on Collins's debut solo album, "Face Value," which reached No. 2 on the U.K. Singles Chart and No. 1 in Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Sweden. In 2021, Rolling Stones Magazine ranked it No. 291 in the publication's "500 Greatest Songs of All Time."

Moonwalking its way to No. 2 is "Billie Jean" by Michael Jackson. Released in 1982, Jackson's sixth studio album "Thriller" had other hits such as "Beat It," but "Billie Jean" stands out from the rest of the tracks.

The album sold over 70 million copies worldwide, and with the help of producer Quincy Jones, it blended several different genres together. "Billie Jean" features a mix of R&B, funk and disco with a groovy, melodic bassline.

The track spent three weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and quickly became one of the best-selling singles of 1983.

Rounding out the list at No. 1 is "Careless Whisper" by George Michael. Originally released as a single from Wham!'s sophomore album "Make It Big" in 1984, the song was written and sung by Michael.

During the song's recording process, Michael auditioned 11 saxophonists before reaching the iconic sound on the track. "Careless Whisper" went on to reach commercial success and topped the record charts in ten countries with six million copies sold world wide.

Although the '80s are gone, the musical influence is still around and can be heard almost everyday in modern pop-culture.

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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 advisor, business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute or have final approval in editorial content. Editorials published by The Jambar do not necessarily represent the views of faculty, staff or administration at YSU.

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A FASTBALL INTO APRIL

Softball win streak hits 11 games

By Dylan Lux
The Jambar

After a March 13 matchup against Kent State University on the road, the Youngstown State University softball team held an 11-10 overall record. The team is currently 22-10 with an 11-game winning streak.

The streak began March 16 with a doubleheader win over the University of Detroit Mercy, followed by a victory over the Titans the following day.

With a three-game win streak, the team traveled to Fort Wayne, Indiana for a matchup with Purdue University Fort Wayne on March 22 and 23. In a three-game series against the Mastodons, Youngstown State prevailed with a sweep of PFW.

A trip to New York on March 27 was next for the 'Guins with a doubleheader against St. Bonaventure University.

The Penguins scored a combined 23 runs in the two games, only allowing seven from the Bonnies. The two victories extended YSU's win streak to eight games.

Senior Hailey Niederkoehr said hitting was a focal point of the team in the offseason, which has helped lead

the Penguins to a league-best .298 hitting percentage.

"We work a lot on our hitting, to be dominant [and] to be aggressive," Niederkoehr said. "We work really hard on our movements and to hit the ball with solid contact."

Youngstown State's most recent matchup wrapped up March with a three-game series against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay at home March 29 and 31.

The Phoenix played the Penguins close in game one, as they scored a run in the top of the sixth inning, making the score 6-5 with YSU leading.

Green Bay held Youngstown State scoreless in the bottom of the sixth, but YSU held on to the win after allowing no runs in the top of the seventh.

Game two saw multiple four-run innings for the Penguins, as they only allowed three runs for the Phoenix, leading to a 9-3 'Guins victory.

In game three, senior Sophie Howell pitched a shut-out for the third time this season with a 7-0 win, sweeping another Horizon League opponent.

The Penguins now sit with a 9-0 record in the conference, two games ahead of No. 2 Northern Kentucky University.

Head coach Brian Campbell said the Horizon League is a competitive conference and YSU must focus on more than statistics.

"Our conference is so comparable ... it doesn't matter who you're playing, it doesn't matter what their record [is] when you walk into [a matchup]," Campbell said. "It's about doing the best you can and understanding that you have to play every pitch and every inning to [your] best."

YSU is set to face off against Horizon League opponent Oakland University on April 5 and 6.

As the team prepares for its trip to Rochester, Michigan, Campbell said there's no change in mindset when heading into a matchup on the road.

"Shouldn't be any different in my opinion," Campbell said. "I don't think there's any difference on how you approach it. The only difference is on the road you get the bat first and at home you get the bat second."

Youngstown State holds a 9-3 record on the road this year. Campbell recently passed 650 career wins in March.

To watch the game against the Golden Grizzlies, go to ESPN+ and for live stats, visit statbroadcast.com.



The softball team looks to defend its win streak on the road in Michigan April 5 and 6.



Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

Men's golf in the rough near season's end

By Marissa Masano
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's golf team continued its spring season March 18 and 19 at the East Carolina University Intercollegiate.

The two-day event featured 54 holes with a par set at 72. Five golfers represented the Penguins, and one competed individually.

The Penguins finished 13th out of 15 teams and scored a three-round total of 937. ECU finished first with a team total of 879.

Junior Jacob Sylak said the practice round was important for the Penguins despite the loss.

"Knowing where to miss and how the greens moved was the big key for us, especially when playing on a grass different from up here," Sylak said.

Sylak tied for 41st to lead the Penguins. He finished with a three-round total of 232 and improved from his ranking of 66th on Day One with a first-round score of 80. Sylak was tied for fourth in birdies with nine.

Sylak said course management led to his improvement on the second day.

"The second half of the course was by far the hardest part, and we knew that going in. So, for me, I just wanted to get past that with a reasonable score and put myself in a position to make up ground if needed," Sylak said.

The next highest finisher for the Penguins was senior Justin Atkinson, who tied for 54th with a three-round total of 234. Within his second-round score of 76, the senior had 12 pars and a birdie.

Redshirt senior Dean Austalosh tied for 58th with a three-round score of 235. During his first-round total score of 75, Austalosh collected 13 pars and a birdie.

Redshirt freshman Michael Porter accumulated a three-round total of 240 to tie for 73rd. Fifth-year senior Jimmy Graham tied for 78th with a three-round total of 242.

Playing as an individual, freshman Jake Ryan finished tied for 85th with a three-round total of 244.

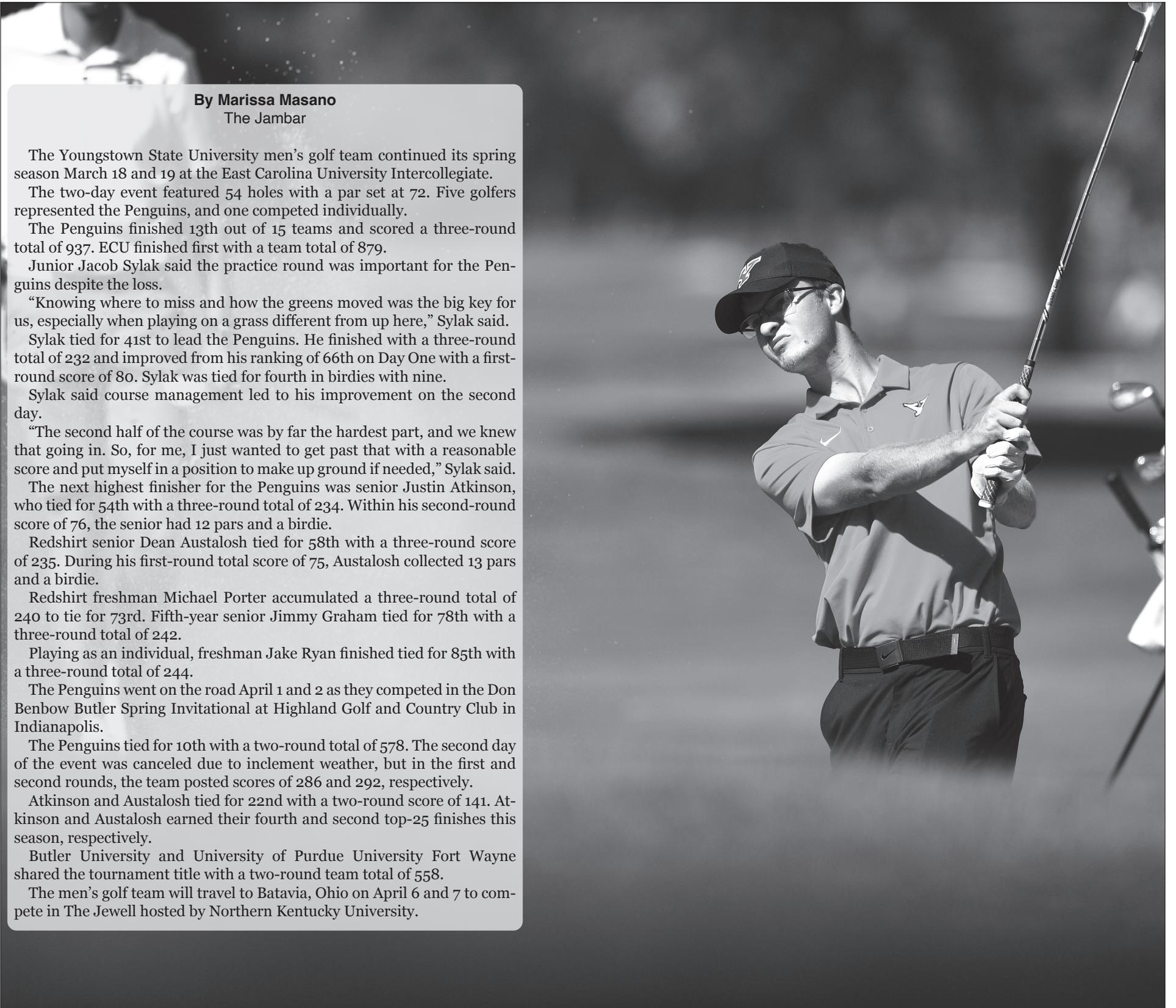
The Penguins went on the road April 1 and 2 as they competed in the Don Benbow Butler Spring Invitational at Highland Golf and Country Club in Indianapolis.

The Penguins tied for 10th with a two-round total of 578. The second day of the event was canceled due to inclement weather, but in the first and second rounds, the team posted scores of 286 and 292, respectively.

Atkinson and Austalosh tied for 22nd with a two-round score of 141. Atkinson and Austalosh earned their fourth and second top-25 finishes this season, respectively.

Butler University and University of Purdue University Fort Wayne shared the tournament title with a two-round team total of 558.

The men's golf team will travel to Batavia, Ohio on April 6 and 7 to compete in The Jewell hosted by Northern Kentucky University.



Atkinson hits a ball out of the bunker during the 2023-2024 season.

Photo courtesy of ysusports.com

YSU hosts 2024 Pro Day

By Cameron Niemi
The Jambar

After a 45-28 loss against Villanova University in the second round of the NCAA FCS Playoffs on Dec. 2, seven Youngstown State University football seniors declared for the 2024 NFL Draft.

This marked the beginning of a nearly three and a half month preparation period for the seniors.

The seven players who declared for the Penguins are quarterback Mitch Davidson, wide receiver Bryce Oliver, linebacker Greg Benton Jr., tailback Dra Rushton, offensive lineman Ryan Johnson, and defensive backs Marcus Hooker and Quincy Lenton.

Youngstown State hosted its Pro Day on March 27. All seven players participated in multiple events.

Scouts from three NFL teams were in attendance at Pro Day. Three were from the Cleveland Browns, one came from the Green Bay Packers and one represented the San Francisco 49ers.

Height and weight took place under Stambaugh Stadium in the football weight room, and the bench press and vertical jump took place in the gym.

The players then moved over to the Watson and Tressel Training Site for the

broad jump, 40-yard dash, three-cone drill and on-field individual drills.

Parents, coaches and several players from this year's team attended in support. Mike Mcallister, former Penguin and current Los Angeles Rams offensive lineman, also attended to support his former teammates.

Davidson and Oliver had the opportunity to showcase their skills in front of scouts in January, as they participated in the 2024 Trillion Tropical Bowl.

For the vertical jump portion of Pro Day, Oliver had a 32-inch vertical jump. Davidson, Lenton and Johnson had 33-inch vertical jumps. Benton reached 33.5 inches and Hooker had the highest vertical jump of 36 inches.

Davidson, Rushton and Johnson did not participate in the 225-pound bench press. Benton hit 16 reps, Lenton had 13, Oliver had 12, and Hooker had 11.

As the players moved inside for the field tests, Hooker led the way in the broad jump at 10 feet, 4 inches. Oliver was right behind as he jumped 10 feet, 3 inches.

Benton had a best jump of 10 feet, 1 inch, and Davidson jumped 10 feet. Rushton jumped 9 feet, 3 inches, while Lenton jumped at 9 feet 1 inch. Johnson finished at 8 feet, 10 inches.

Oliver recorded the best 40 time out of the group, as he ran 4:48 officially and 4:43 unofficially. Benton ran 4:56 officially and 4:59 unofficially.

The players then performed various individual offensive and defensive drills for their respective positions.

Former Ohio State University and NFL quarterback Cardale Jones attended and ran Davidson through his throwing portion of Pro Day.

Davidson said he has been training with Jones in Columbus in preparation for Pro Day.

"It's been amazing. You look at a guy like him who did it at the highest level in college and then that transferred to the NFL where he was actually pretty successful. He was a draft pick, played in the XFL, he's been around everywhere," Davidson said. "To have a guy like Cardale Jones in my corner through this process has been nothing but amazing."

Oliver and YSU sophomores Luke Hensley and Max Tomczak have also run routes for Davidson.

Rushton said he is confident he can make a team and will take advantage of any opportunity he



Jones prepares Davidson (bottom left) before his throwing period and Rushton (top right) sets up for the three-cone drill.

may get.

"My agency has told me a few teams said that they were looking at my film and they liked the things they saw," Rushton said. "I know if I get on a team, I'm gonna stay on a team as well. So, I'm just hoping I get a call. Putting everything in God's hands."

Last year, former YSU running back Jaleel McLaughlin was signed as an undrafted free agent and went on to make the 53-man roster for the Denver Broncos. McLaughlin rushed for 410 yards on 76 attempts and scored three total touchdowns last season.

The last Penguin to be drafted by a team was back in 2022, when the Indianapolis Colts selected Drew Ogle-tree with the 192nd pick in the sixth round.

The NFL Draft will take place in Detroit, Michigan from April 25 to 27, which will include all seven rounds. Undrafted free agency will begin after the draft.