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 YSU\_JAMBAR

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## HOME AWAY FROM HOME



Photo by Nicholas Bianco / Jambar Contributor

YSU's enrollment numbers increased largely because of incoming international students.

## The world comes to YSU

By Nicholas Bianco and Tala Alsharif  
Jambar Contributors

Youngstown State University reported a 44% increase of international students from over 500 students in 2018 to nearly 1,300 in fall 2024.

Out of the total number of currently enrolled YSU students, nearly one-tenth are international.

Jina Vitullo, coordinator of the English Language Institute, believes YSU's affordability is paving the way towards international enrollment increase.

"You can't beat our prices, we are so affordable and because of that increase, we also built [a] community, especially with the Nepalese community, and the Vietnamese community," Vitullo said.

Ross Morrone, academic marketing and enrollment strategy officer, said international students' positive feedback about YSU contributes to attracting more international students.

"There was this first wave of students that came over and had great experiences and went home, and then we saw family members and friends start to show up as well," Morrone said.

Morrone said the International Programs Office is tasked with handling recruitment strategy overseas.

"We work with agents across the globe, and basically what they do for us is they help recruit students overseas for us," Morrone said.

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## All smiles after landing grant

By Jacqueline Arroyo  
Jambar Contributor

Education for Youngstown State University's dental hygiene students will be enhanced through a grant awarded to the Dr. Madeleine Haggerty Dental Hygiene Program.

The grant was awarded through the Delta Dental Foundation and was submitted by Dr. Diane Kandray, who teaches head and neck anatomy lecture and lab, radiology lecture and lab as well as preclinical courses.

"I know that our dental hygiene program has been in need of some equipment," Kandray said. "I reached out to [Delta Dental Foundation] first and we did a virtual call saying here's what our needs are."

Kandray noted that her program's training manikins and digital radiography sensors needed to be replaced.

The training manikins are equipped with real teeth to provide students with a realistic experience. Kandray said over time, some of the teeth began to break.

Meanwhile, the radiography sensors started to wear down — those allow students to take pictures of a patient's teeth and jaw.

The grant funds will be used to purchase two digital X-ray sensors, two training manikins and a handheld X-ray unit.

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Morrone credits the university's Google AdWords campaign in attracting international students to YSU.

"We've really ramped up our Google AdWords campaigns overseas, which has allowed us to target users based on the interests of what they're looking to come into from a program standpoint," Morrone said. "That has definitely been a driver. The traffic that we see from those campaigns has been tremendous."

Explore.yosu.edu is a website where students applying to YSU can see what the university offers. Morrone said the website is not only for domestic students but for international students.

"It has all of our program listings on there, what you can study, outcomes, what you can do with those kinds of de-

grees," Morrone said.

Morrone said the biggest challenge is understanding different cultural balances and how they can be accommodated.

"You don't want to neglect [any students], but you also want them to be introduced to the American way of life too," Morrone said. "There's a balance that has to be figured out still a little bit there, and we've all been doing a great job to get that balance."

Vitullo said the international programs office tries to get international students involved in student organizations and clubs to make them feel at home.

"We have 1,350 international students right now," Vitullo said. "With the capacity that we have, we are trying to put everything we can into all of these organizations and events."

IPO puts on International Coffee Hour twice a month during the academic year.

Vitullo said international students are able to connect with the community at the event.

"With International Coffee Hour, we see everyone, not just YSU students, not just faculty, everyone from the community," Vitullo said.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a decrease in international student enrollment, which rose to normal enrollment rates in the following academic years.

"COVID presented challenges for everybody, being able to cross from country to country definitely presented challenges," Morrone said. "[We're] coming out of that and having things open back up to the way they were, it definitely kind of put a little bump in the road, but we've been able to see that growth."

International students are encouraged to get involved on campus through IPO.



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**7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

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

High: 60°F	High: 69°F	High: 66°F	High: 66°F	High: 54°F	High: 53°F	High: 59°F
Low: 40°F	Low: 51°F	Low: 43°F	Low: 41°F	Low: 38°F	Low: 42°F	Low: 41°F
Chance of precip: 0%	Chance of precip: 3%	Chance of precip: 1%	Chance of precip: 25%	Chance of precip: 44%	Chance of precip: 1%	Chance of precip: 0%



A Few Clouds



Partly Cloudy



A Few Clouds



Partly Cloudy



Sunny / Rain



Partly Cloudy



A Few Clouds

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

## MY TOWN

# Youngstown over the years

By Matthew Sotlar  
The Jambar

Youngstown has taken a few hits throughout its nearly 250 years on the map.

Before Black Monday fell Sept. 19, 1977, Youngstown was a bustling town with a population of over 395,000 residents. Youngstown is merely the remnants of a once-powerful steel town.

Youngstown was never the center of cultural enrichment, but rather it was the epitome of the midwestern, working-class town. Despite this, there were once many nightclubs and theaters all across the Mahoning Valley that catered to a wide variety of residents.

The Freak Out once stood on the south side of Youngstown. It became a hub of many local psychedelic rock bands of the 60s and 70s including Blue Ash, Glass Harp, Left End and the one-hit wonder Struthers-based band The Human Beinz.

Another popular Youngstown-based theater was The Tomorrow Club, which opened in 1973 and featured artists including Barnstorm & Joe Walsh, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers and AC/DC. They also held one of the Ramones's major concerts outside of New York City in 1976.

The most popular of these ballrooms, however, was the Idora Park Ballroom.

Idora Park was among the most popular amusement parks in the United States. A wide variety of artists performed at the ballroom, including Raspberries, Eagles, Blue Öyster Cult and Michael Stanley Band. The final concert held at the ballroom was B.B. King in August of 1985.

Idora Park itself was open for 85 years until a fire devastated the park April 26, 1984. The park closed its doors Sept. 16, 1984. The Idora Ballroom remained in operation until Memorial Day, 1986. Since then, there have been no attempts at reviving Idora Park.

In addition to the many theaters in Youngstown, there have been a number of local hangouts that have been hung up. Among the most popular was O'Donold's Irish Pub and Grille, which once stood on Federal Street until its abrupt closure in March 2023.

Where Ryes Craft Beer & Whiskey now stands on Federal Avenue was formerly Strouss' Department Store up until its closure in 1986. Hills Department Store once stood in the sprawling Lincoln Knolls Plaza up until the mid-1990s when the shops in the plaza began closing. All that remains is a vacant lot in Lincoln Knolls.

Some popular campus hangouts included The Arcade

on Fifth Avenue, Pogo's Pub on Rayen Avenue and Pal Joey's on Lincoln Avenue. By the end of the 1990s, all that remained were open lots in their places.

One institution that has withstood the test of time is Cassese's MVR, which has been on Walnut Street since 1927. Just down the road on Oak Street is the Royal Oaks, a bar that has remained in the same building since 1934.

Certain bars, including Liquid Blu, closed during the COVID-19 pandemic. While Liquid Blu was only open for seven years before a fire destroyed the interior, there was no immediate need to renovate or reopen the bar.

There have been more additions than revisions on campus. Youngstown State University, in particular, has added many new restaurants and hangouts in the past 20 years. Within the past year alone, Bull & Bear Neighborhood Grille and Tavern opened in place of Inner Circle Pizza on Belmont Avenue.

Among the local changes are the upcoming renovations to Kilcawley Center and the renovation and re-naming of Bistro 1907 to Casa di Canzonetta.

As the years pass, there will undoubtedly be many changes to Youngstown. Buildings will be closed and torn down, however, it is still important to remember the history of Youngstown.



MVR is one of Youngstown's oldest restaurants.

Photo by Matthew Sotlar / The Jambar

## Downtown events

Thursday Oct. 10	Friday Oct. 11 / Saturday Oct. 12	Sunday Oct. 13	Tuesday Oct. 15	Saturday Oct. 19
<b>Twilight Theme Trivia</b> 6 p.m. at Nobel Creature  <b>Thirsty Thursday Karaoke</b> 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. at Penguin City Drink and shot specials  <b>Round up Karaoke</b> 8 p.m. at The Octave	<b>Beck-Ward Project</b> Friday, 8 p.m. at The Octave  <b>Live Music by Gallatin Hall</b>  Saturday, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Nobel Creature	<b>Brunch Party</b> 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Penguin City  Build your own breakfast with games, breakfast cocktails, mocktails and a coffee bar by Stone Fruit. Music by DJ Spruce	<b>Tokyo Tuesday</b> 4-6 p.m. at Penguin City  Doors open at 4 p.m. with games. Happy hour 4-6 p.m.	<b>Rocky Horror Picture Show</b> 7 p.m. at Penguin City  Doors open at 7 p.m. and show starts at 8 p.m. \$5 Admission.  All proceeds from the show will go to Rebel Rescue Ranch.

**Grant**

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“Our dental hygiene program at YSU, we always try and have the best and the most current equipment that’s out there,” Kandray said.

While explaining the new X-ray unit they are purchasing, Kandray explained that the new unit would come with a chargeable battery, which would allow students to move more freely.

“Our students can just walk into the room and stand next to the patient,” Kandray said.

This was the only grant she applied for, which Kandray learned about at a dental conference she attended last November.

Before speaking to a representative from DDF, Kandray said she thought the organization only dealt with dental insurance, but then learned it also offered grant money.

DDF aligns its grant-making with five strategic aims focusing on access to care, advocacy, education, emerging initiatives and workforce development.

Applicants for the grant must be nonprofits, government agencies, schools and colleges or universities in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana or North Carolina.

Kandray worked with Angie Cameron, associate director of the YSU Office of Research Services, to fill out the application. The Office of Research Services handles all external funding for the university.

“All proposals come to our office,” Cameron said. “She

reached out to the Office of Research Services and we reviewed the proposal together.”

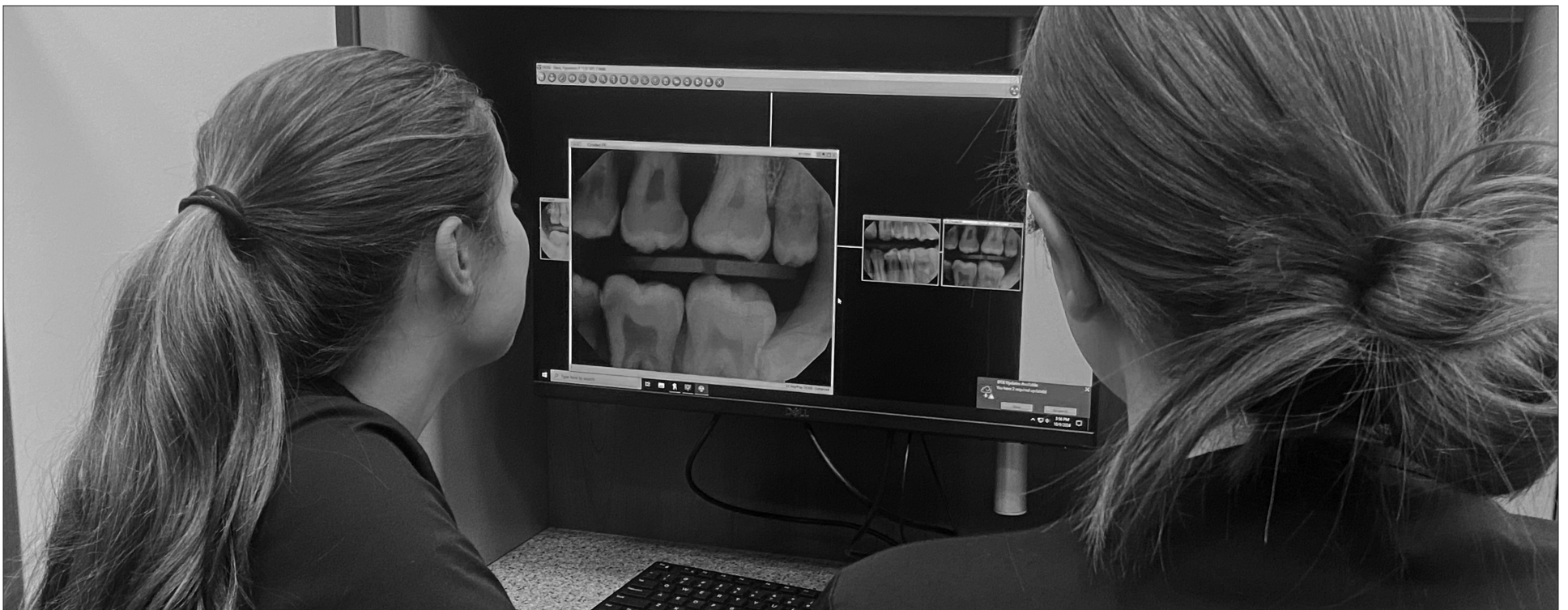
When applying for the grant, Kandray had to get quotes from dental manufacturers.

“She is the subject matter expert,” Cameron said. “She knows what vendors are best to be used.”

Kandray submitted the grant in February and learned in March the program was awarded \$53,988.25 to fund her entire request.

She said the relationship between YSU and DDF is good because part of its mission is to increase and support the dental hygiene workforce.

YSU has an accredited dental hygiene program, and with the new equipment, Kandray aims to demonstrate that students are competent in specific skills.



Dental Hygiene students Paige Figueiredo (left) and Jessica King (right) look at X-rays from a Dexis manikin head.

Photos by Madison Fessler / The Jambar

# Navy veteran charts new course



Tim Harrington was hired as special assistant to the president in July.

Photo courtesy of Tim Harrington

**By Dylan Bigelow**  
Jambar Contributor

Tim Harrington is no stranger to unsettled seas.

Even as Youngstown State University found itself navigating tumultuous waters after the controversial hiring of President Bill Johnson, Harrington, a retired Navy captain, did not hesitate to accept a position as Johnson's special assistant.

"I came here because I love Youngstown State University," Harrington said.

In January, as Johnson prepared to become YSU's 10th president, he asked Harrington to join his administration. The two were acquainted during Harrington's 25 years in the Navy and Johnson's 13 years in Congress.

"I was on [Johnson's] service academy committee," Harrington said. "We had that relationship there, and he asked me to come on and work as his special assistant."

The pair shared a geographic connection as well. Johnson's sixth Congressional District included Harrington's hometown. Harrington, a Salem native, graduated high school in 1984 and spent the next four years at YSU. He graduated in 1988 with a bachelor's degree

in business.

"I worked three years in Kilcawley Center," Harrington said. "I still know most of the nooks and crannies there."

As a special assistant, Harrington said Johnson leaned on him for advice from his years of leadership experience. Over the summer, Harrington was selected to head the newly created Strategic Communications Office. His new role, he said, is to share YSU's story with the public.

"We are, right now, the anchor university in Northeast Ohio," Harrington said. "And we're just gonna keep building on that."

He said the office is working on an initiative called the Campus Communicators Network. The goal of the initiative is to create a "collaborative network" of those involved in communicating YSU's story to the public, from social media and marketing to alumni and university relations.

"We want to be able to use best practices," Harrington said. "We want to be able to have that network of people that are gonna be able to help each other get that information out."

Another goal of the initiative is to direct people to the

appropriate department when they need assistance or information.

"We also want to be able to tell people who's who at YSU to make sure you're coming to the right people," Harrington said.

Harrington said his goal for the program is to eventually bring in experts from communication fields to help YSU elevate its communications.

"At the very strategic level, we can bring somebody in to help [YSU] at the tactical level," Harrington said.

He said a time and date will be provided later, but he hopes to have an announcement event for the initiative around mid-October.

Harrington retired from the Navy in 2014. Before accepting the YSU position, he worked as the chief operating officer for BOC Water Hydraulics in Salem for nearly 10 years.

His military service took him all over the world, but in retirement, the same sense of service brought him home.

"I wanted to come back here," Harrington said. "I retired from the military out of Hawaii. I could've taken two jobs there, and I came back to Northeast Ohio."

# 'Guins see money for rentals

By Nicarlyle Hanchard  
Jambar Contributor

Rentals are a source of revenue for businesses, and Youngstown State University is no different. In 2023, YSU's Athletic Department brought in over \$64,000 from its facility rentals.

YSU has seven sporting facilities, which are often rented by outside schools to host its home games. The facilities open for rental are the Beede Football Field in Stambaugh Stadium, the Watson and Tressel Training Site, Cafaro Family Field, Farmers National Bank Field, the YSU Softball Complex and the YSU Indoor Tennis Center.

Beede Field brought in over \$38,000 — the most out of the seven facilities.

Miles Bergner, manager of YSU's athletic facilities and programs, said the school has been renting its current facilities since their inception. The WATTS, Farmers National Bank and Cafaro fields were constructed in the early 2010s.

According to Bergner, Beede Field is rented for ap-

proximately 10 varsity football games annually.

High school football games have a flat rate of \$3,500 per game. Regular pricing per hour is \$200, while scholastic pricing is listed at \$100 per hour.

"We have two high schools that share it, Cardinal Mooney [High School] and Ursuline High School. Beyond that, they also play their varsity soccer games at Farmers Bank National Field. Those two facilities are rented pretty frequently," Bergner said.

Vince Taddei, director of communication and assistant football coach at Cardinal Mooney, said the Cardinals have played football games at YSU for decades.

"Historically, it was the 1983 football season. It was definitely in the early 1980s," Taddei said.

Bergner said rentals are on a case-by-case basis.

"Trying to make this facility available for the community at the same time as our students here at YSU is always the challenge," Bergner said.

The 2021 football season saw Cardinal Mooney's temporary departure from renting YSU facilities for its home games.

"We went away in the 2021 season. For a couple of

years, we played our football games at Mineral Ridge, and we returned this season for football," Taddei said.

Taddei said the change of location came from wanting a change of atmosphere for its athletes.

"Just a little bit of a change of scenery. At the time, we wanted to go to a traditional high school football stadium to get a different experience for our students," Taddei said. "But we realized that Youngstown brings a different kind of intensity, a different feel to the game, so we were happy to return."

Bergner said the revenue from the rentals goes into the facilities' upkeep. He also said YSU's pricing is reasonable when compared to other rental facilities.

"We are not super heavily dependent on the funds raised from facility rentals. The majority of that money goes back into the facilities' budget and for projects we have ongoing," Bergner said.

Bergner also commented on the socio-economic status of the Youngstown community.

"We try to keep it modest. We recognize the economics of our community, and we try our best to stay within our boundaries," Bergner said.



Stambaugh Stadium and the WATTS can be rented out, along with other athletic facilities.



Photos by Nicarlyle Hanchard / The Jambar

## HAPPY LITTLE TREES

# Paint your feelings away

**By Syann Ellis**  
Jambar Contributor

A local mental health expert says art therapy remains a tool benefiting individuals who grapple with emotional challenges.

Heidi Larew is an art therapy supervisor at Alta Behavioral Healthcare. She discussed why art therapy is beneficial to mental health.

“It’s a profession and an intervention that helps clients use art, creativity, symbolism and metaphor to express their thoughts and feelings, explore their values and behaviors and develop healthy coping skills,” Larew said.

Larew discussed the mediums she uses in her sessions such as acrylic paint and canvas. She also works with decoupage items with tissue paper, creating collages, making jewelry with beads and some weaving.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy is a form of psychological treatment that has been

demonstrated to be effective for a range of problems including depression, anxiety disorders, alcohol and drug use problems, marital problems, eating disorders and severe mental illness.

Larew said CBT is utilized during art therapy sessions to establish what a patient wants to discuss, assess what is important and determine which treatment plans will be employed.

The National Institute of Health said there is growing evidence that creative expression can significantly enhance well-being, promote healing and foster resilience.

Larew said individuals who might benefit from art therapy often have trouble articulating their experiences or communicating effectively.

“It’s helpful for people with depression to become actively engaged in a physical experience, and that behavioral activation can help them get unstuck emotionally,” Larew said. “It is also beneficial for individuals with anxiety to calm them-

selves or express their fears. For those with autism, art therapy can provide a means to explore their sensory experiences.”

Art therapy can assist people who may feel uncomfortable with traditional one-on-one therapy.

“If a person has difficulty sitting with a therapist, having an object between themselves and the therapist can help them project their feelings onto the object rather than onto the relationship,” Larew said.

According to LifeSpan, art therapy is often misunderstood, and there are many misconceptions about the profession as a whole.

“One misconception is that it’s only for children, but for the majority of my career, I’ve worked with adults. Another is that males don’t use it, which is also not accurate,” Larew said.

Larew said another misconception is participants must be skilled artists or abstract thinkers, but it depends on indi-

vidual treatment goals and how the therapy is applied. No prior artistic skills are required to attend art therapy sessions.

The National Library of Medicine said it calls for greater awareness and integration of art therapy into treatment plans, emphasizing its unique ability to bridge communication gaps and unlock deep-seated emotions in a nonverbal, therapeutic environment.

In July 2023, Governor Mike DeWine signed legislation approving the licensing of art therapists in Ohio, which took effect in 2024.

Larew said she’s optimistic about the future of the profession.

“In the next few years, I believe our professional identity will solidify to the point where we can receive supervision from other art therapists for advanced licensure, allowing us to diagnose without needing someone else to review our work,” Larew said.

# Inside operations of YSU’s clubs

**By Joel Fuzo**  
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University offers a wide variety of clubs that allow students to pursue their interests, ranging from entertainment to career-related goals.

Caleb Queen, coordinator of student involvement, said students can access clubs through their Penguin Portal.

“What they can do is navigate there through their Penguin Portal, and then there is an option for groups,” Queen said.

When students access their Penguin Portal, they’ll find campus groups in the student E-service index. Inside there is a link called “student organizations.” This will show meeting times and groups students can message.

Another way students can explore clubs at YSU is

by visiting the university’s student activities webpage, which provides a full list of all active organizations.

If a student looks at the list and doesn’t see a club that piques their interest or doesn’t exist, this is what they can do.

“If you have a club idea that doesn’t already exist, what you need is five members including yourself, three to four officers. Typically you would want president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and then you would need a full-time faculty staff advisor,” Queen said. “After that you would need a constitution of bylaws. We have one of those on our website that you can copy, paste and edit to fit your own work.”

The fall deadline has passed to create new clubs. There is an option for students to do so again Jan. 1, 2025.

Queen provided further details on how the funds are managed.

“The cool thing about student organizations is that

they have their own bank accounts. We consider them legally distinct from the university,” Queen said. “We don’t have anyone from the university on the account, just the students. They raise funds on their own and they are able to use them how they like for club activities.”

Fundraising isn’t the only way for clubs to earn money. Each club is eligible for a budget from the school, though there’s no guarantee they will receive it.

“There’s an application process, a general budget that each organization is allowed to have. They are just not guaranteed that money,” Queen said.

Nora Paraska, president of the YSU Book Club, said being involved in the club has been beneficial.

“I definitely think that book club has enriched my college experience,” Paraska said. “I’ve made good friends through the club, and it gives me an outlet to step out of my school work and enjoy my love of reading.”

# Penguins run on caffeine

By Sydney Fairbanks  
Jambar Contributor

As midterms approach, some Youngstown State University students rely on caffeine to get through their tests via coffee, tea, energy drinks, pre-workout and other alternatives.

Zara Rowlands, a professor of health professions, taught a research methods course for junior and senior students where they looked into YSU students' caffeine intake. She said some of the interviewed students reported that caffeine decreased their pain perception.

"If [the students] were feeling headachy - and there is research to back this up, that people who have migraines, if they drink caffeinated beverages, it actually improves the blood flow and it can actually down regulate that pain of migraines," Rowlands said.

She also found that students drink more caffeine when studying, to improve their cognitive function.

"It helped them be more able to study for longer periods of time. It kept them alert and that kept them more receptive for studying," Rowlands said.

Athletes' reaction times tend to improve after caffeine intake. Student athletes reported responding better in

situations where they had to act quickly, such as tracking the ball.

However, research findings also showed that many students are not aware how much caffeine is too much.

According to the Mayo Clinic's website, adults should not exceed 400 milligrams of caffeine per day. That's roughly the amount of caffeine in four cups of brewed coffee, 10 cans of [soda] or two energy drinks.

One student, Connor Murphy, said he drinks somewhere between 200 to 1,000 milligrams of caffeine almost every day and reports no known adverse side effects. He drinks mainly energy drinks and pre-workout powder to reach this amount.

"If I drink a lot of caffeine in a row, I will feel my heart start to pound faster," Murphy said. "But I've always had anxiety, I don't think it's really heightened... It doesn't affect my sleep, I sleep eight hours every night."

Murphy said while his intake doesn't increase around exam times, he does believe he has started drinking more caffeine since starting college.

"In college you're paying to be here, you're trying to be locked into school. So I feel like my caffeine intake has increased just because I'm trying to be more alert and more focused," Murphy said.

Some of the benefits of caffeine include it acting as a performance enhancer to give people a boost to get through the day.

"We have a biorhythm in the body that you get used to and this is why you get sleepy at a certain time of the night. And I think for a lot of people, especially people who don't eat properly, they need that boost to get them through the afternoon," Rowlands said.

The negative side effects of drinking too much caffeine can include caffeine dependency and fertility issues in women.

Rowlands said some of the healthier ways students can gain energy without drinking caffeine include eating healthy on a regular basis, which will also avoid negative side effects.

"Some of these intermittent fasting patterns are really 18 hours without eating anything, so then your energy levels and your nutrient levels in the body are going to drop," Rowlands said. "Your body runs on energy and nutrients, and if you don't give your body this energy and nutrients, you're not going to function."

Other methods to help energy levels are proper hydration, exercise and good sleeping patterns.



Photo by Sydney Fairbanks / Jambar Contributor

Mayo Clinic says adults should not exceed 400 milligrams of caffeine a day.

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# Still playing after 100 years

By AnnaBelle Boone  
The Jambar

The Youngstown Playhouse has been a cornerstone of the Mahoning Valley for 100 years.

According to [www.youngstownplayhouse.org](http://www.youngstownplayhouse.org). The Youngstown Playhouse is considered the oldest operational community theater in the country. The 100-year-old institution began as a group of women reading plays to each other before eventually evolving into a theater club.

At the time, there were several theater clubs in the area, which all joined into a single entity called Youngstown Players.

After its creation, the organization was housed in a renovated 19th-century barn. In 1940, the group was able to refurbish a vacant movie theater, and two years later, it held its first performance on the new stage.

Dr. John Cox is the head of The Youngstown Playhouse board, and has been involved with the theater since 1988.

"[The Youngstown Playhouse has] 100 years of entertaining our community and preserving through hard times," Cox said. "We have gone through all the ups and downs that Youngstown has gone through. Prosperity, wars, closing of the mills and yet, Youngstown and The Playhouse are still around."

In 1959, The Playhouse moved to a new location off of Glenwood Avenue.

The theater has two stages, including a main stage that seats around 400 people and a black box stage, used for productions with audience interaction. The second stage is called the Moyer Room and seats 75 guests.

The theater is currently supported by partnerships with local businesses and individual sponsors. It's tended by board members, and its goal is to feature the work of local actors, builders, designers and technicians.

Cox explained that he got involved with the theater because he grew up in the area and decided to audition for a show during his medical

residency. Cox said after he began doing shows he, "Got bit by the bug."

"I got involved with the board in 2005-ish... The board at the time wanted to close the place due to money issues and frozen pipes that flooded the place. I took exception to that and pushed hard to keep the place open," Cox said. "Too many people worked too hard for too long to have this community theater. I didn't want to see it go — so I got involved."

While the centennial year for the theater began in January, the season didn't start until Aug. 23 with "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical."

Michael Moritz Jr., a Youngstown native, was a co-producer for the Broadway and West End productions of "Beautiful" from 2014 to 2019. Moritz joined The Youngstown Playhouse as a producer and music director for this rendition.

Moritz has won a Tony Award for Best Musical as a co-producer for "Hadestown," an Emmy for his work on "From Broadway with Love; A Benefit Concert for Orlando" and a Tony Award nomination for "Beautiful."

The Youngstown Playhouse's next show will be a youth production, "Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic." The play will run on the main stage Oct. 25-27.

The organization has many productions lined up for its centennial season, including "Gem of the Ocean," "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical," "Oklahoma!" and "Almost, Maine."

Cox said funding from the Youngstown Foundation has allowed the theater to give away free tickets for students and families to come see a main-stage show during the entire 100th season.

"I feel that art is vital to a city... Arts have helped revitalize many post-industrial cities, and I think it can do the same here," Cox said. "I want audiences to leave our shows saying that it could be done on any stage and hold its own. We are thrilled to be celebrating our 100th season and look forward to the next 100th."

## Spotlighting a students perspective

By Brookelynn Roush  
The Jambar

To celebrate the 100th year anniversary of The Youngstown Playhouse, Brooke May, a sophomore musical theater major at Youngstown State University, said she's been performing since she was a child.

"I suppose my first show was when my elementary school did the story of the gingerbread man where I played 'Little Sister,'" May said.

May was recently cast as Carole King in The Youngstown Playhouse production of "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical."

"Honestly, it was absolutely amazing. It felt so good to play a real person because it made it that much easier to be real and natural because she is real," May said. "It was both a breath of fresh air and a challenge as an actor."

May got this opportunity when she received a call from her former vocal coach, who said he thought she should audition for the role.

"I put a good amount of pressure on myself because I wanted to do her story justice, I wanted to do her justice," May said. "I was very conscious of choices I made to illustrate her growth and changes as she grew from a teenager to a mature woman."

After the fall semester, May plans to move to New York to start her musical theater career.

"After discussion with the Broadway producer who worked for this show, Michael Moritz, I have decided to move to New York after this semester comes to an end, to get my feet on the ground and pursue work in the industry," May said.



Mike Jaffee at the Arthur Awards.

Photo courtesy of Centennial Project

# PCB gives ‘BYOB’ a new meaning

By Mick Dillon  
The Jambar

Downtown Youngstown’s Penguin City Brewing Co. is partnering with Build Your Own Breakfast for a fresh spin on the catered brunch experience.

BYOB founder Ashlea Duck looks forward to forming a deeper relationship with the local community by sharing her love for food with Youngstown locals from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every Sunday.

The collaborative brunch experience began in early September and will continue through the end of the year. YSU students receive 15% off all menu items as well as qualifying for various game day specials after each Penguins victory during the 2024 football season.

With several yearlong specials, Duck hopes to see plenty of YSU students coming in for the brunch festivities to wrap up their weekly extracurriculars.

With all of the ingredients purchased and prepared on the morning of each event, Build Your Own Breakfast’s menu features a variety of items such as chicken and waffles sliders, biscuits and gravy, build-your-own omelets and more.

Along with the diverse food menu, the brunch parties also provide plenty of entertainment, such as live DJs, henna tattoos, tarot card readings and a full bar supplied by Penguin City.

“We have been in the heart of the city — that’s where my heart is — downtown Youngstown,” Duck said.

Build Your Own Breakfast and Penguin City seem to share the same love for the

community, and both companies reflect this sentiment with its weekly collaborations.

Penguin City’s co-founder Aspasia Lyras said the company is happy to bring other local businesses into its warehouse.

“This space is too big for us. We need to share it with other local businesses. We want this to be an outlet, because there’s not many,” Lyras said. “I love partnering with the food [businesses] because we don’t have a kitchen.”

In its four years of operation, Build Your Own Breakfast hasn’t had a steady location. Likewise, Penguin City released its first beer in 2018, but didn’t find its “perfect spot” until the summer of 2022, when it landed at its current warehouse located on Federal Street in downtown Youngstown.

With both companies starting from similar situations, Lyras said she understands the struggles of trying to find a permanent home for an up-and-coming business.

“This is an incubator space for small businesses,” Lyras said.

Along with hosting weekly brunch parties with Build Your Own Breakfast, Penguin City hosts a variety of other events.

Monthly night markets, country line dance nights, live DJs, karaoke and indoor disc golf matches are just a few examples of the many different events hosted by the brewery.

Lyras puts a heavy emphasis on hosting student-friendly events because she acknowledges that YSU students are a big part of our community.

BYOB looks forward to furthering its relationship with Penguin City, and the feelings are mutual. Lyras said everything is a trial, but has high hopes for the future of its partnership.

# Sometimes, all it takes is “you and i”

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

While some may refrain from mixing blood and business, Jack and the Cadavers proves the value of family ties.

From Lisbon, Ohio, the band is made up of lead guitarist Noah Pennington, bassist Avery Pennington, rhythm guitarist Josh Pennington and drummer Aaron Bowles.

Most recently, Jack and the Cadavers released its debut album titled, “you and i” on Sept. 27. The band’s most streamed single, “who am i to you?” is the opening track on the record.

The nine-song LP features new songs such as “just out of reach,” “reverie” and “panorama,” which combines themes of love, loss and relationships. Two previously released singles also made an appearance on the album — “who am i to you?” and “lost and found.”

Jack and the Cadavers mixes hints of rock, loud guitar tones and creative lyricism to achieve a new take on the indie genre.

All three siblings take turns on vocals, with Noah Pennington and Avery Pennington sharing the role as the band’s primary lyricists. Josh Pennington, the band’s youngest sibling, is perceived as a prodigy by both Noah Pennington and Avery Pennington, as he has played a significant role in the band’s musical writing.

“Behind a lot of the chords and the structure of the songs themselves, [Josh Pennington] has a lot of input which is nice,” Noah Pennington said.

“A lot of the time, [Josh Pennington] comes to practice and he’s like, ‘Okay guys I have something,’ and it’s a fully fleshed out song,” Avery Pennington said.

Before the official creation of Jack and the Cadavers, the Penningtons’s participated in a jam session at Birdfish Brewing Co. in Columbiana and partnered up with Bowles shortly after.

The new record was produced by Bowles at his home studio. Noah Pennington said Bowles is a crucial part in the band’s recording process.

“We recorded it all at his house with some vocal takes at my house. [Bowles] is the primary producer and mixes it all. It was a blast and a fun experience,” Noah Pennington said.

With local performances at The Wickyards, Westside Bowl and Cedars West End, Noah Pennington said it’s time for the band to travel away from the Mahoning Valley for new opportunities.

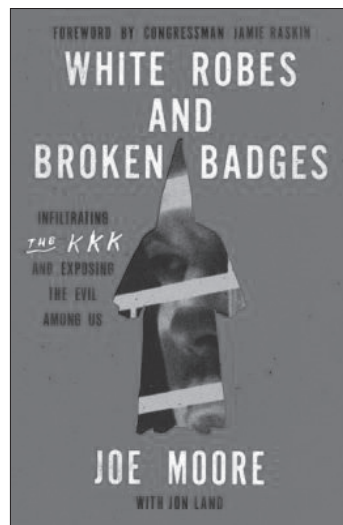
“We’re going to slow down in [Youngstown], we’ve been around here a lot,” Noah Pennington said. “Kind of spreading our wings a little bit, maybe a little tour here next summer.”

Although the band has been busy with live performances, Avery Pennington said the band has musically benefited from the hard work that goes into the shows.

“Playing the live shows has been really good for us because it has really helped us work out these songs as we’re playing them,” Avery Pennington said.

Jack and the Cadavers music is available to stream on Spotify and Apple Music.

# Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library

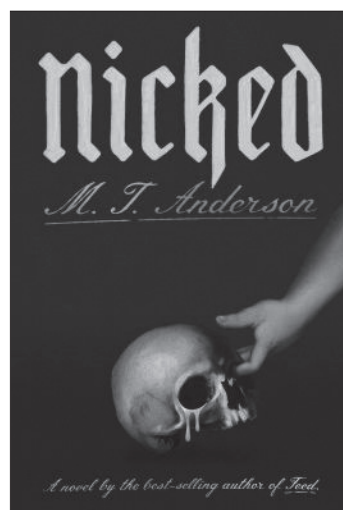


## Nonfiction review

### **White Robes and Broken Badges: Infiltrating the KKK and Exposing the Evil Among Us**

by Joe Moore

Over the span of a decade, Joe Moore witnessed the violence and insurgence of various Florida chapters of the Ku Klux Klan. Alongside revelations of the Klan's shameless rise and relentless power, Moore looks back on what led to him becoming an FBI informant, how it affected him and his family, and what he knows it means for the future of the United States.



## Fiction review

### **Nicked**

by M.T. Anderson

Looking back ten centuries, an unlikely friendship between a monk and treasure hunter forms on their journey to untomb St. Nicholas of Myra, or Saint Nick, after one of them receives a premonition. Although things do not go as planned, typical for vagrants, we find the pair reconciling their adventure... and their love.

## Upcoming programs

**Monday, Oct. 14**

11 p.m.

Mystery Monday Book Club

**Tuesday, Oct. 15**

6 p.m.

Relaxing Watercolor

**Wednesday, Oct. 16**

6 p.m.

Spooky Candle Holders

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# Have something to say to The Jambar?

## Write a Letter to the Editor!

Email The Jambar at

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

# The Jambar Column

## I hear the bells

To whomever it may concern, I will be getting married soon. That is how it works when one catches the bouquet, right? Enough about me, congratulations to everyone that will be getting married this wedding season! I hear the bells, and I would also like to see the colors.

All this talk about weddings and marriage has me pondering the history of marriage. At the same time I wonder when so many people got into relationships to get married. In that regard, I have concluded that I am now, however unfortunate, at the age when people have to make serious decisions about their life.

I have studied several Shakespearean plays in high school, and marriage, in most instances, was an economic institution. “The Tempest” and “The Taming of the Shrew,” to name a few, presented marriage as a means of control and social mobility. That presentation raised many questions about the need or importance for marriage.

Presently, some people will argue they prefer marriage’s presentation and representation from “the old days.” I scratch my head thinking about the premise and warrant of that claim. To think that marriage four-to-five generations ago was solely based on love is misguided. There were many factors at play, love included, which led individuals to the “I do’s.”

To the argument that suggests marriages in the past were better than now, I disagree. Not wholeheartedly, but strongly. I will admit, I have heard of many “marriages of convenience” taking place recently, however, I have also heard of an equal amount, if not more marriages, taking place because of love.

The bells that have rung in my earshot have sung many love songs. The ones that lead you to cry even if you don’t know the lovers. Simply the idea of eternal love is



**Nicarlyle Hanchard**

enough to please the soul.

Additionally, let it not be said that people marry “those who are available to them.” They might date someone who is “available,” but

marriage is a lifelong commitment — as long as life permits it.

As such, I do not believe anyone would commit themselves to someone who was simply available. I believe it to be more than availability that causes people to say the fateful phrase, “Till death do us part.”

In conversation with some friends, we spoke about the various ways people commit themselves to each other — marriage isn’t the only personification of love. Some people do not believe in marriage or what it represents. Others don’t believe in the institution of marriage, but like its symbolic meaning as love epitomized.

Understanding that the big day is accompanied by its fair share of drama. I turn to friends and family who get to partake in this matrimonious occasion. Understand that it’s a privilege to witness the union. You didn’t hear about it in passing, not at the family holiday dinner where you feel othered cause everyone else knew.

No, you were sat in the audience, watching the groomsmen enter, then the bridesmaids and then the bride. In real time, you smiled ear-to-ear seeing the newlyweds walk in separately, and walk out hand in hand. You then must understand the significance of them wanting to share their special day with you.

# The Jambar Editorial

## Why is this happening?

In the past two weeks, several racially motivated incidents occurred on campus.

The first involved a man allegedly shouting slurs and attacking several students, and the second involved hateful fliers being posted across campus. Preventative matters should be put in place, but it is important to understand where this hate stems from.

The fliers distributed near campus originated from Patriot Front, which is not a Youngstown State University associated organization. The white supremacy group, linked to multiple hate crimes beginning in 2017, made its message clear.

According to Patriot Fronts website, “Membership within the American nation is inherited through blood, not ink.”

But why did they choose YSU particularly? With less than a month until what may be the most consequential election in American history, former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris hold widely opposing views on a range of issues, including immigration.

During his presidency, Trump’s policies on immigration became extremely restrictive. Following a tangent involving legal Haitian migrants residing in Springfield, multiple bomb and death threats were targeted at both the migrants and city officials.

It should also be noted that President Joe Biden instituted restrictive asylum policies during his tenure as president. These policies are far stricter than those enacted during Trump’s presidency.

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights reported in 2023 that hate crimes tend to increase during elections.

“From white supremacist and anti-government movements coalescing and moving more into the political mainstream, to conspiracy theories circulating online and public officials amplifying hate, there are few — if any — signs that tensions will lessen,” the report stated.

While conspiracy theories can be easily debunked, a significant number of Americans fall victim to conspiracies. The Public Religion Research Institute found in a 2022 survey that 1 in 5 Americans had fallen victim to the QAnon conspiracy theory.

Survey author Ian Huff noted that there had been a decline in QAnon conspiracy deniers over the course of 2021-2022.

“Interestingly, the decline in the share of QAnon rejecters have taken place across the party spectrum,” Huff wrote. “The share of Republican QAnon rejecters has decreased from 21% in March 2021 to 12% currently ... and the Democratic share has decreased from 58% to 45%.”

White supremacist organizations often propagate false statistics and conspiracy theories on various ethnic groups. These conspiracy theories have contributed to an increase in hate crimes across the United States. The Leadership Council Education fund reported that hate crimes have increased by 80% since 2015.

Why must there be hate here at Youngstown State? Why can’t we all treat each other equally? After nearly 250 years, one would expect America to have progressed to the point of total equality, but for some reason, “The greatest country in the world” cannot see past skin color, and lives by the idea of liberty and justice for some.

# THE JAMBAR POLICY

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

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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



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# Volleyball setback seeks get-back

By Teziah Howard  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University volleyball team was bested by the Northern Kentucky University Norse Oct. 4-5. The weekend losses brought the Penguins to a five-game losing streak and the Norse to a two-game winning streak.

After four sets against Northern Kentucky, the scores were 25-18, 18-25, 25-23 and 25-18. Despite falling in four sets, the Penguins had a number of athletes that went on to reach milestones in the matchup.

Sophomore Gabriela Machin posted a career-high in kills with 16, while junior Abbie Householder led the match in kills for YSU with 17.

The Penguins held the competition tight as YSU led the matchup in attempts with 169, while Northern Kentucky had 155.

Youngstown State also led the matchup in aces with five, while Northern Kentucky recorded four. Assists were kept close as well, as YSU racked up 49 to NKU's 47.

NKU's defense surged late in the matchup. The Norse recorded 12 blocks in Friday's matchup to the Penguins' eight. Northern Kentucky graduate-student middle blocker Allie Siefke led the Norse with six.

The Norse were able to benefit from YSU's costly mistakes. As YSU's offense was clicking, having more kills than NKU, the Penguins could not escape the attack errors. The Norse only had 19 errors, but the 'Guins tallied 32.

Northern Kentucky's offense was wired from sophomore outside hitter Ava Hoying and senior outside hitter Joy Banks. Hoying and Banks posted 12 kills each

for the Norse.

Saturday's matchup featured more back-and-forth action than Friday's competition. The teams went into five sets with the Norse, emerging on top in a 3-2 victory. The set scores were 25-21, 25-7, 25-15, 25-17 and 15-11.

Householder led the matchup in kills with 23, while Hoying led the Norse with 14. The Penguins evenly distributed aces in the matchup between fifth-year setter Isabel Schaeftbauer, fifth-year defensive specialist Nya Setla and junior outside hitter Bianca Giglio.

YSU returns to the Beeghly Center for four-consecutive matchups, and the team's veterans have much appreciation for the environment inside their home court.

Senior Kiyah Franklin reflected on the impact of her team's fans and said the support was long-lasting.

"I love our fans because they are always hyping us up. They always know when to be at their loudest and then when to stay in their place," Franklin said. "Shoutout to the swim team as well because they are always supporting us and coming to our games being hype and getting loud."

Franklin also mentioned the mindset going into the stretch of home games.

"We're excited about all of our matchups in the new arena, but we can't let all the home games get to our head," Franklin said. "We still need to lock in and take it one game at a time so we can stay on track."

The Penguins will look to get back on track as they return home for a four-game stint inside the Beeghly Center. They will face the Wright State University Raiders Friday and Saturday, Oct. 11-12.

Friday's matchup is set to begin at 6 p.m., while Saturday's game follows at 2 p.m. To view live stats and stay updated on the team's matchup, visit [YSUsports.com](http://YSUsports.com).



Photo by Dylan Lux /The Jambar  
Junior Julia Sell spikes a set.

# Penguins win final game of home slate

By Kevin Skolny  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's soccer team defeated Wright State University for its second straight conference win Oct. 11 at Farmers National Bank Field.

The Penguins hold a two-game win streak after a rough start to the season. They climbed to a record of 4-7-2, while the Raiders fell to 3-7-1.

As of Today, the Penguins are 10-3-3 in games played in the last week of September through October since 2022.

The 'Guins got started early in the 13th minute, as sophomore Eva Sunjevaric assisted redshirt freshman Sara Felder on her third goal of the season. The score broke the nil-nil tie and was the only score of the game, resulting in a 1-nil final.

However, both teams received multiple opportunities for several shots on goal throughout the game.

For the Penguins, senior Maddie Keister, junior Chloe Weiland and junior Sophia Blankenship would each get shot attempts spread throughout the game.

However, the Raiders made sure it was a busy day for redshirt-freshman goalkeeper Maya Naimoli, as she secured an additional six saves. This includes a game-seal-

ing save in the 87th minute, as Wright State would not get another chance to put a shot on goal.

Naimoli recorded her third career shutout, while climbing to 68 career saves.

The Penguins will look to continue their winning ways as they hit the road again Oct. 10 to take on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers, who are currently ranked No. 2 in the Horizon League standings.

Youngstown State will stay in Wisconsin as it heads to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on Oct. 13 to go up against the Phoenix, who are coming off a 4-1 win against Cleveland State University.

Both games will be available to watch on ESPN+.

## OVER THE HORIZON

# Women's tennis takes individual HL title



Julia Marko (left) and tennis team celebrate Horizon League title.



Photos courtesy of ysusports.com

**By Joel Fuzo**  
The Jambar

Senior Julia Marko ranked first at the Horizon League Individual Championships, defeating Cleveland State University senior Oihane Vicario in two sets Oct. 7.

Marko finished the tournament undefeated, losing only seven games in five sets. Before the tournament, Head Coach Mickael Sopol discussed how the team maintains its level of success.

“Keeping the focus on the Horizon League title, those girls, that’s all they’re looking for. They come here and want to win, and they see the success we have — they really want to keep that going,” Sopol said.

Sophomore Lorena Cedeno emphasized the importance of the event before it began.

“For me, I think it’s going to be the most important of this semester. Everyone’s at the same level, and it could go either way. I know my teammates are very good, and we’re all going for it,” Cedeno said.

Youngstown State University earned 11 wins in singles. Senior Ghada Dirninger,

senior Lili Minich and Cedeno won their first two matches.

Under Sopol’s guidance, the Penguins have won multiple Horizon League titles. Sopol offered insight into how his scheduling helped prepare the team for the event.

“I choose teams that are very similar to us or stronger. I believe in playing against that competition before going into the conference,” Sopol said.

In the doubles event, the pairs of Cedeno and Marko, along with Minich and Dirninger, won two matches each, advancing to the semifinals.

Cedeno explained what makes the doubles event so intense for her as a singles player.

“In doubles, you need to be more aggressive. It’s faster, and you need to have a great connection with your partner. You might also feel more pressure because if you miss, the other person loses,” Cedeno said.

Both YSU pairs in the doubles event lost in the semifinals to pairs from Cleveland State.

YSU’s next event is Oct. 10 at the ITA Midwest Regionals, hosted by Ohio State University in Columbus.

# Back in the 'Guin column

By Dylan Lux  
The Jambar

Coming off a three-game losing streak, the Youngstown State University football team looked for its first conference win against the Indiana State University Sycamores.

After a fumbled kickoff ended the game against Missouri State University, with a final score of 38-31, the Penguins returned to Stambaugh Stadium for another Missouri Valley Football Conference matchup.

Head coach of the Penguins, Doug Phillips, said the game against the Sycamores is always a battle.

“[Against] Indiana State, it’s been a battle,” Phillips said. “Two years ago it was a battle here in the Ice Castle, even last year it was a battle up until the fourth quarter.”

ISU came into the matchup with a 1-3 overall record, as its game against the 'Guins was the Sycamore’s first MVFC game of the season.

Youngstown State opened up a 21-0 lead at halftime following two touchdown runs by senior tailback Ethan Wright and a passing touchdown from sophomore quarterback Beau Brungard to senior wide receiver Latrell Fordham.

At halftime, Youngstown State crowned its king and queen of Homecoming. Senior philosophy and political science major Julian Johnson was announced as king. Senior financial management major Alysa Oswald was announced as queen.

In the game, the 'Guins tallied four sacks in the contest, including two from senior defensive end Hunter Allen. On the season, he has accumulated five sacks through five games.

Allen credited the defense’s performance to the right mindset and solid

practices.

“My time here is ticking down, so it seems like as the games go on it’s just more urgent,” Allen said. “The guys went out there with a good mindset and we put great days of practice back-to-back, so when you do that it sets you up for success.”

Despite a comeback attempt in the second half by the Sycamores — with two third-quarter touchdowns — the 'Guins allowed zero points in the fourth quarter and escaped with the 21-14 win.

Brungard went 11 for 18 for 130 passing yards, one touchdown and one interception. Leading the game in receiving was junior Max Tomczak with 87 yards on four receptions.

Wright led YSU in rushing with 83 yards and two touchdowns. He gave the Sycamores credit for their second half adjustments, but said the Penguins were able to play aggressive and rally late in the contest.

“Indiana State made good adjustments at halftime, they really changed up the looks they were getting up front and in the second level,” Wright said. “We knew what we were gonna get and we were able to come out fast and play physical in the second half.”

The Penguins will face an uphill battle next week as they hit the road to play the No. 1 team in the FCS, South Dakota State University, coming off back-to-back NCAA Championships.

The 'Guins will make the trip to Brookings, South Dakota, for the contest with the Jackrabbits. The game will be streamed on ESPN+ and on 570 WKBN at 3 p.m. Oct. 12.

