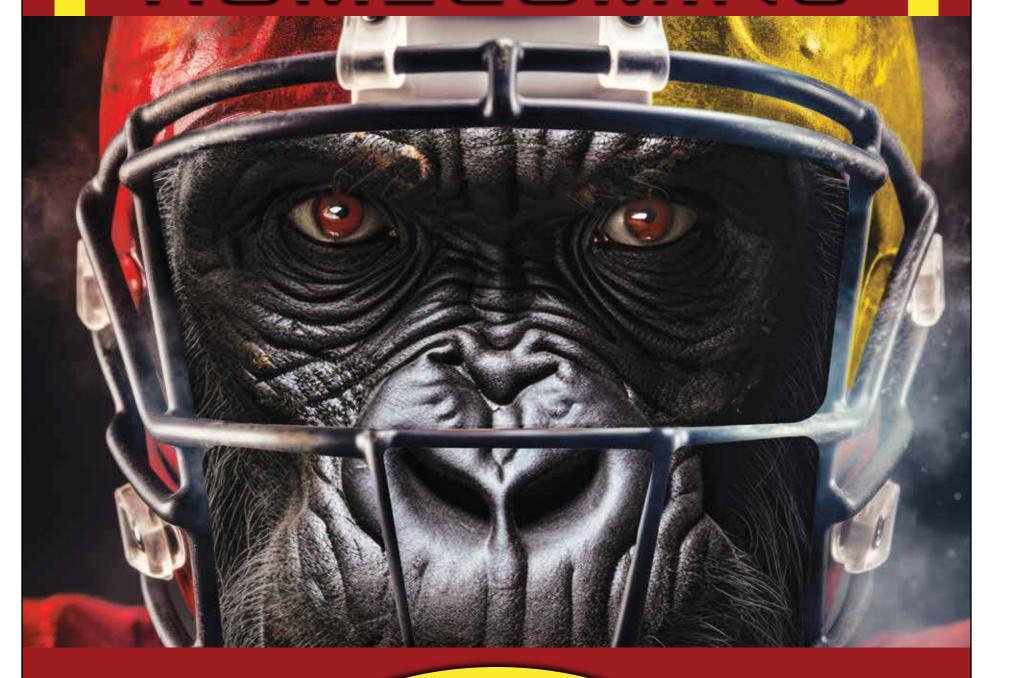
# 2024 PSU HOMECOMING



# THE MORNING SUN

# It's Homecoming Week!

Homecoming Week and its various events are a reminder not only of the close relationship that exists between the Pittsburg community and Pittsburg State University, but also of our shared history. For the past century, the university and the community have supported each other, through good times and bad. It's a relationship that other communities envy. We and the advertisers who helped bring you this special Homecoming tribute hope you enjoy this special week in the life of our community.

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Sara Hannigan

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# Monday, Oct. 14

- **HOMECOMING KICKOFF** 6:00-8:00 PM GORILLA VILLAGE
- **ROYALTY VOTING OPENS AT NOON ON GORILLA ENGAGE**

# Tuesday, Oct. 15

- **JUNGLE JUMP** 5:00-7:00 PM STUDENT REC CENTER
- **BANNER DECORATING COMPETITION VOTING OPENS AT 5:00 PM ON ENGAGE**

# Wednesday, Oct. 16

**RAFT RACE RELAYS** 5:00-7:00 PM UNIVERSITY LAKE

# Thursday, Oct. 17

- **► YELL LIKE HELL** 7:00-9:00 PM CARNIE SMITH STADIUM
- **ROYALTY VOTING** CLOSES AT NOON ON GORILLA ENGAGE

# Friday, Oct. 18

- **► TASTE OF PITTSBURG** 6:00-8:00 PM OVERMAN STUDENT CENTER
- **HOMECOMING CONCERT** 8:30 PM GORILLA VILLAGE

# Saturday, Oct. 19

- **► HOMECOMING PARADE** 9:00 AM DOWNTOWN PITTSBURG
- **GORILLA FEST** 10:00-1:45 PM GORILLA VILLAGE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME 2:00 PM CARNIE SMITH STADIUM



# Congrats to The Jim Kennedy Scholarship Fund 2024 Recipients!

**MULBERRY STUDENT SPOTLIGHT** 

Adison Cameron Pittsburg State University

Adison and her father Adam Cameron (Cox Communications)



The Jim Kennedy Scholarship Fund was created and is personally funded by Jim Kennedy to help Cox employees provide for their most important investment — the future of their children. Established in 2008, the scholarship provides \$10,000 annually toward the cost of tuition for 15 selected recipients each year. The program is open to any high school senior whose parent has worked at a Cox company full-time for at least three years.

Jim Kennedy Chairman Emeritus, Cox Enterprises and Chairman, James M. Cox Foundation



# **Gorillas romp to homecoming victory**

By Jim Henry

jhenry@morningsun.net

Pittsburg State University capped off the 2023 Homecoming celebration with a convincing win.

The Gorillas. coming into the game ranked No. 2 in Division II, turned in a complete, four-quarter performance and celebrated homecoming with a 55-6 victory over Sioux Falls on a cold. rainv Saturdav afternoon at Carnie Smith Stadium.

The Gorillas (9-0) tallied three second-quarter touchdowns to open 27-0 halftime advantage. They added two TDs in each of the final two periods and almost cleared the bench as 74 players saw action.

The Gorillas played four quarterbacks, and all four completed a pass. Eight players had a rushing attempt, 10 caught a pass, and 31 make a tackle or defended a pass.

Sioux Falls (3-6) averaged 30 points per game, but it

end zone for the said linebacker Alex first time since a 55-0 loss to Carroll College in the NAIA championship game on Dec. 3, 2005, in Helena, Montana.

The Cougars scored on Nick Hernandez field goals of 35 and 36 yards in the third quarter -- their first two field-goal attempts of the season.

field goal, Kolbe Katsis took the ensuing kickoff two yards deep in the end zone and raced 102 yards up the right sideline for a touchdown.

"I'm proud of how our team came out and played today," Gorillas coach Brian Wright said. "I'm proud of how our team worked this week. I don't feel like our team tried to take a week off. I felt like they came to work all week long, and we had good practices, good attention to detail. When you prepare the right way, you come out and play well. Our guys did that lead on the second todav."

failed to reach the good team win," Gaskill, who had nine tackles and an interception. "Evervone was dialed in. We had a good week of prep."

Carson Otworth also had an interception for the Gorillas, and Javlen Fuksa made three of the team's seven pass breakups.

Barkley, Jake Luke Jennings and After the first Cole Sample all had five tackles, and Durbie McReynolds and Jasper Ogburn made four.

Gorillas' The three-headed running back committee made a quick impact each as a touchscored down for a 21-0 lead one minute into the second quarter.

Antwan Squire's three-yard run off a direct snap capped a nine-play, 56-vard drive for a 7-0 lead with 5:57 left in the first period.

The next two scores came just 14 seconds apart.

Cleo Chandler went seven yards untouched around left end for a 14-0 play of the second drive.

Gaskill intercepted Camden Dean's pass at the Cougars' 33-yard line on the first play of the ensuing series.

"We knew they were a heavy (bootleg) team because the quarterback's ability to run and spread it around," Gaskill said. "Coach (Lvnn) Nutt and all the coaches have been preaching all week if he 'boots' out, just get to the sideline because it was going to be a route I could get underneath. I trusted it. was able to get underneath, and he threw it right to me."

On the Gorillas' next snap Ty Pennington threw a strike down the seam to Noah Herthe backfield for a touchdown and a 21-0 lead.

Chad and Devon Garrison connected for a 14-yard touchdown hit 10-of-14 passes

eight-play, 60-yard Garrison caught four passes for 68 yards.

> On the third play of the second half, the Gorillas faced third down-andinches at the 39yard line. Squire broke free off right tackle for a 61-yard touchdown, the Gorillas' longest run of the season.

"If it wasn't for (Jeffries, Trace tackle). he coming around and he just completely (knocked) a dude out of my way." said Squire, who finished with 96 vards on 10 carries. "So, I had a clear lane because of him and the entire O-line. They played great today.'

Pennington's 10-yard pass Kam Gillespie and Eric Virgil's four-yard run pronandez circling out vided the Gorillas' of the right side of fourth-quarter scores.

Gorillas' The balanced attack Dodson finished with 454 vards total offense -- 216 rushing and 238 passing -- while pass the Cougars had and a 27-0 lead at 241 yards, includhalftime. Dodson ing just 85 passing on 15-of-29 accu-"It was an overall guarter, ending an for 152 yards, and racy. The Cougars

entered the game averaging 252 yards through the air.

The Gorillas return to MIAA play this week and play Saturday at Missouri Western (7-2), which blanked Northeastern State 44-0 on Saturday.

Sioux Falls 0 0 6 0 -- 6 Pittsburg St. 7 20 14 14 -- 55

## **First Quarter**

PSU--Antwan Squire 3 run (Austin Schmitt kick), 5:57

## **Second Quarter**

PSU--Cleo Chandler 7 run (Schmitt kick), 14:16 PSU--Noah Hernandez 33 pass from Ty Pennington (Schmitt kick). 14:02 **PSU--Devon Garrison** 

14 pass from Chad Dodson (pass failed), 3:17

## **Third Quarter**

PSU--Squire 61 run (Schmitt kick), 13:24 **USF--Nick Hernandez** 35 FG, 7:56 PSU--Kolbe Katsis 100 kickoff return (Schmitt kick), 7:42 USF--Hernandez 36 FG, 2:31

## **Fourth Quarter**

PSU--Kam Gillespie 10 pass from Pennington (Schmitt kick), 13:25 PSU--Eric Virgil 4 run (Schmitt kick), 7:54

# Happy Homecoming Week! THE SPIGARELLI LAW FIRM

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# Homecoming royalty to be named at Yell Like Hell

Staff reports

news@morningsun.net

A century ago, students at what is now Pittsburg University State

the big football per. game. There was night- those even through down-

Today, we can see traditions time snake dance reflected in Yell Like Hell. This town Pittsburg, all modern version of covered extensive- the old pep rallies held bonfires and ly by the Pittsburg pits fraternaties, pep rallies before Headlight newspa- sororities and oth-

er student groups are against each other Homecoming King in a contest that and Queen. blends dance and cheer. Points are Like Hell convocaawarded for different aspects of each at 7 p.m. on Thursroutine. At this day, Oct. 17, in Car-

tallied

The annual Yell tion, held this year event, the votes nie Smith Stadium,

is free and open to the public.

This year's Homecoming King and Queen nominees are:

SEE NOMINEES, 13C



**Addie Hinterwege** 



**Emily Fuerborn** 



**Emma Polly** 



Hannah Eckstein



Jenna Clark



**Jordan Hawarth** 





# SHOP SMALL FOR CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, NOV. 30

All Day - Small Business
Saturday passport event
10a-1p Holiday Art Market at
Frisco Event Center
6:30p Tree Lighting Ceremony at
Pritchett Pavilion

# One of a kind

PSU's beloved Gorilla mascot is like no other college mascot in the U.S.

Staff reports

news@morningsun.net

We couldn't celewithout Gus, who is beginning his second century as Pitt State's beloved mascot.

Generations of story, proud PSU alumni historians take us lation of students have embraced the back to the early at campus athletic fectionately known State University, to themselves into a

as "Gus," but many the year 1920. are at a loss when asked how it came Gene to be that a univer- an early PSU hissity on the edge of torian, writes that brate Homecoming the Kansas prairies a group of about adopted this ma- two dozen young jestic primate from men who were Africa as its unique dissatisfied symbol.

In one account. DeGruson. with the state of school To reveal that spirit exhibited by university the general popu-Gorilla mascot, af- days of Pittsburg events, organized

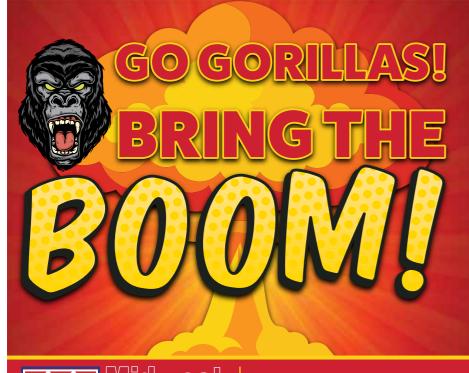
group with the purpose to "accelerate college spirit and enthusiasm until it shall permeate the State."

With that lofty goal in mind, the group, under the leadership of Harold "Babe" Alyea, submitted a number of editorials to the school paper.

"The only thing that is wrong with this school," they wrote in one of their editorials, "is that the student body is made up of a bunch of would be school teachers who are trying to get their









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# **GUS**

CONTINUED FROM 8C

dignity established before they get out. We want PEP and we want it all the time."

the group adopted the nickname "Gorillas," which was a common twenties slang term synonymous with "roughnecks." Thev sponsored pep rallies, trains to out-of-town athletic events, freshman hazings, and "night shirt stampedes" through downtown Pittsburg, all which auickly.

torical accounts vary slightly, ingroup earned the nickname "Goril-In this account, las" from others because of their behavior at said events. What is the student body agreed is that the group readily embraced the name as have Pitt State students and alumni in the century since.

> went in search of an appropriate visual image to represent themselves.

their membership dent Helen Waskey. character. In 1965, The image that Some other his- Waskey drew was published in the school newspaper, timating that the making it the first visual representation of what was to become the official school mascot.

> On Jan. 15, 1925, officially adopted the Gorilla as the "name and the synonym for the athletic teams."

Over the years, the mascot's image In 1923, the group has changed with the times.

In the early '50s Kanza art editor Lee Green turned served to boost turning to art stu- Gus into a cartoon

art instructor Larry Wooster sculpted a modern version. seated and looking over his right t-shirts and hats shoulder, that was cast in fiberglass and set in front of the Student Union. That version was cast in bronze and remains in its original location.

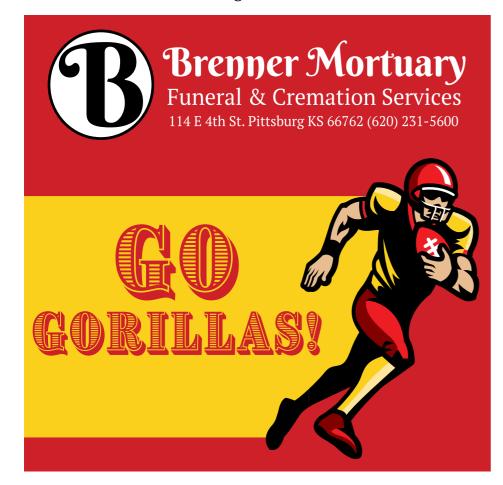
In 1986, the university adopted the familiar and ubiquitous now "split-face" logo for use on official and licensed material. The logo was created by

recognizable logo can be seen on a seemingly endless to key chains and cupcakes. It's a popular specialty license plate, as well.

In 2014, 2,000-pound bronze Gorilla Statue by famed artist onto a t-shirt, Pitt and sculptor Tom State fans and Corbin was unveiled in Champions Plaza on the east side of Carnie Smith Stadium. The dramatic piece has become one of designer Michael the most popular Hailey. Today, that sites for photo-

graphs for alumni and visitors. It sits at the end of the Gosupply of Gorilla rilla Walk, where collectibles from football players on their way to the stadium tap Gus' hand for good luck on their way in to face their foes.

Bronze, concrete, a painted on wood, etched on pewter or glass, or sewn alumni love their Gorillas. Thev owe a big "thank you" to a group of rowdy who a century ago thought we needed a bit more "PEP... all the time!"





# Homecoming has a rich history

Staff reports

news@morningsun.net

The Homecoming traditions Pittsburg State University alumni celebrate this weekend have their roots in the earliest days of the university's history.

The school, founded in 1903, created an alumni association the year after it opened. The school, then the State Manual Normal School Auxiliary, began holding dinners alumni as early as 1910,

although Topeka as part of sociation meeting. According

"Pittsburg State University: Photographic History of the first 100 Years." the early schoolwide occurred at the annual teachers' meetings held on coming campus. "As many Laverne Cranston, as would attend these 1924 and by 1930, meetings each fall Homecoming was where the greeting an annual event no of old friends was longer tied to state

events were held in hidden benefit. By the 1920s, the camthe annual Kansas pus sororities and State Teachers As- fraternities were hosting informal to reunions."

> It took until the 1920s for the word "Homecoming" to appear in the Collegio, the student newspaper, around reunions important football games.

The first Home-Queen, 3,000 people was crowned in

Topeka, in firmly associated with football. Events like pep rallies, bonfires and parades quickly became part of the annual celebration.

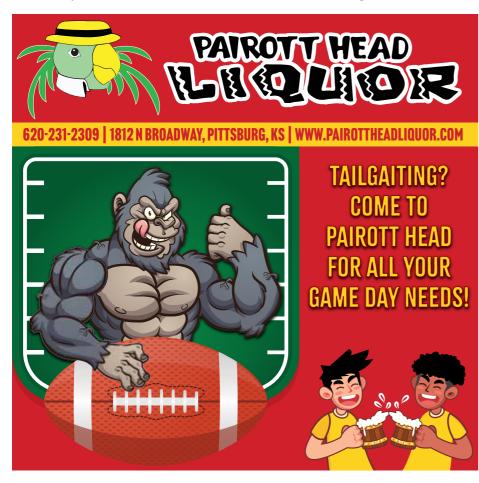
For a short period in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the university had a **Black Homecoming** Queen, referred to Plains Marching as Miss Bold Black. Band has always That was discontin- featured ued in 1975.

known entertain- the 1950s began ers were part of Pittsburg Homecoming for a Homecoming. Col-

but the 1950s. Names such as Duke Ellington, Roy Clark, Glenn Campbell, Broadway composer Meredith Wilson and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, performed on campus and were often honored as parade grand marshals.

The Pride of the prominently in Home-Nationally coming and in hosting Band Day State's to coincide with

those somewhat of a teachers' meetings time, beginning in lege, high school and junior high school bands from a wide area attended those days. marching in the parade in the morning and performing in a massed band concert at halftime of the Homecoming football game. The performance always concluded with the "1812 Overture." complete with ROTC cannon, which still rattles windows after every Gorilla touchdown.





# **Five Pitt State alumni to be** honored during Homecoming Week

Staff reports

news@morningsun.net

Five alumni of Pittsburg State University will be honored with awards presented by the Alumni Association during a Alumni reception on Friday, Oct. 18. The reception will begin at 2 p.m. in the Wilkinson Alumni Center at Ford and Joplin streets.

Bartlett. Rvan Benjamin Cochran, and Amber (Shaverdi) Huston will be honored with

the Dr. Kenneth K. Bateman Outstanding Alumni producer of Digital Award. Lexington Talent Production Peterson and Josh Thompson will be presented with the Gorillas of the Last Decade (GOLD) Award (formerly Good Apple Award).

The reception is open to campus and the community.

Dr. Kenneth K. **Bateman Outstand**ing Alumni Award

**Ryan Bartlett** Ryan Bartlett (BA

'03, Communication) is the senior at FOX Sports in Los Angeles, California.

After graduating from Pitt State, he began his broadcast career. He worked at KM-BC-TV. KOAM-TV. ESPN. and NFL Media where he served as digital line producer and managing producer. In his current role. Bartlett over-

SEE ALUMNI. 15





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# **Gorillafest draws thousands**

Staff reports

news@morningsun.net

After the parade, thousands of Pitt State fans and alumni will head Band, Dance Team feed into what is directly to the campus for the GorillaFest tailgate experience, now in which the band atmospheres its 27th year.

around Village the stadium and Champions Plaza University Lake, to the stadium. features food bounce and activities for

loon twisting and laFest and grown Splitface Gorilla and changed, now tattoos and hair encompassing paint; a pep rally numerous private by the Pride of the and Plains Marching tailgates that all and Spirit Squad; and the traditional Gorilla Walk, in leads the team NCAA Division II. The event, in and from the Weede PE Gorilla Building through music between Gorilla Village and

GorillaFest trucks; live music; free and opens at pep rally will behouses 11 a.m.

kids including bal- its launch. Goril- to kickoff.

corporate widely recognized as one of the top overall game day

This year, live will be provided by Bill and Monica's Excellent Adventure is and the pre-game gin approximately In the years since 75 minutes prior

# NOMINEES CONTINUED FROM 6C



**Brett Gibson** 



**Charlie Judd** 



**Matthew Schmidt** 



**Parker Jenkins** 

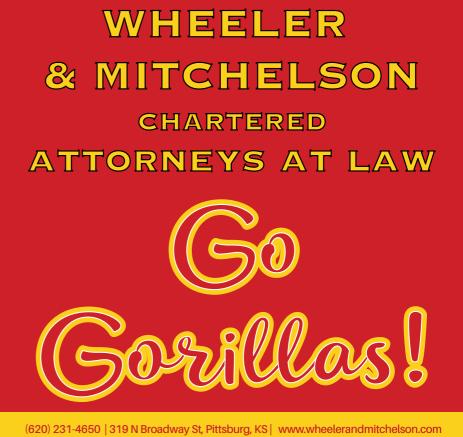


**Riley Johnso** 



**Trevor Bohnenblust** 







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# **ALUMNI**

CONTINUED FROM 11C

sees the digital production of content for the NFL. MLB. Gambling WWE, and NASCAR.

He is a threetime Emmy Award Winner and a twotime winner of the Vision Award at ESPN for Creative Excellence, just to name a few.

Bartlett was appointed to the Pitt State Alumni Association Board of Directors in 2023. When he is back on campus at his alma mater, he can be found visiting with broadcasting students in the Department of Communication.

Bartlett grew up in Merriam, Kansas, and is a graduate of Shawnee Mission North.

## **Benjamin Cochran**

Benjamin Cochran (MSN '13, Family Nurse Practitioner DNP '16, Advanced Practice Nursing) is a board-certified family nurse practitioner at Labette Health's Clinic in Altamont, Kansas.

Starting his nursing education at Labette Community College. finished his bachelor of science degree in nursing at Wichita State attending the Irene

Bradley Ransom School of Nursing at Pitt State, where he earned two advanced degrees.

In addition to practicing nursing. Cochran hosts a podcast called Just some Podcast for Nurse Practitioners, which he started in 2018.

the Nurse Practitioner State Award for Excellence in Kansas from the American Association of Nurse Practitioners in 2021. Cochran also received the William & Allene Guthrie Van Meter Outstanding Alum-Achievement Award from LCC in honored 2023.

of the LCC Nursing Advisory Board, the LČC Foundation & Alumni Association Board. the Altamont City Council, is president of the Curious Minds Discovery Zone, and has coordinated Labette County Toys for Tots since 2013 with Affairs his wife. Audra.

in Chetopa, Kansas. He has lived in Altamont for the past 17 years with his family.

## Amber (Shaverdi) Huston

Amber (Shaverdi) Huston (BA '05. Communication) University before is the executive Sigma Alpha Sodirector of the Na-rority and Student named the

tional Association for Campus Activities. She is the first female in NACA's 64-year history to hold that role.

In addition, Huston is serving her second term as National President of Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority. She has served Alpha He was awarded Sigma Alpha in a variety of roles as a volunteer, an adviser, and as an employee - since she graduated from Pitt State. She was initiated into the Eta Eta Chapter at Pitt State during collegiate her vears.

In 2020. Eastern Illinois University Amber as an Outstanding He is a member Alumnus. She completed her master of science degree in Student Development at the university in 2008.

Huston serves on the Marriott International Customer Council Advisory and the Higher Education Consortium for Student Certification Board. She Cochran grew up has volunteered for several fraternal. college/university and association programs, serving as lead facilitator and presenter.

> During her time at Pittsburg State, she was very involved on campus. including Alpha

Government Association. She earned many awards, such Outstanding Leader of Campus, Jack H. Overman Leadership Award. Service Outstanding Greek Golden Woman. Gorilla, and Homecoming Queen, just industry. She has to name a few.

Huston grew up in Girard, Kansas. She and her family currently reside in Columbia, South Carolina.

## **GOLD Alumni Award**

# **Lexington Peterson**

Lexington Peterson (BŠ '21, Polymer Chemistry & BSET '21, Plastics Engineering Technology) is the busi- nies in Pittsburg. ness development Kansas. manager in the Automotive and Mobility division at ENGEL in Cincinnati. Ohio.

After graduating in 2021, Peterson joined the team at iMFLUX as a field process engineer. She then joined KraussMaffei as project manager in their injection molding division. At ENGEL, Peterson builds partnerships and advances a shared vision on the future of automotive and mobility markets with a special focus on sustainability and emerging technologies.

Peterson was 2023 Plastics New Rising Star and was an SPE Inspiring Plastics Professional at SPE ANTEC 2023.

As a woman in STEM. she encourages girls to follow their dreams and advocates for women in the volunteered in several schools in the Cincinnati area, as well as organizations focusing on girls in STEM.

grew Peterson up in Amsterdam, Missouri.

## Josh Thompson

Josh Thompson (BST '17, Construction Management) is the owner and CEO of JT Compa-

JT Companies includes JT Construction and JT Home & Lawn. Thompson started JT Home & Lawn while he was a student at Pittsburg State. After graduation. Thompson ioined Crossland Construction Company where he served as a field engineer and project manager.

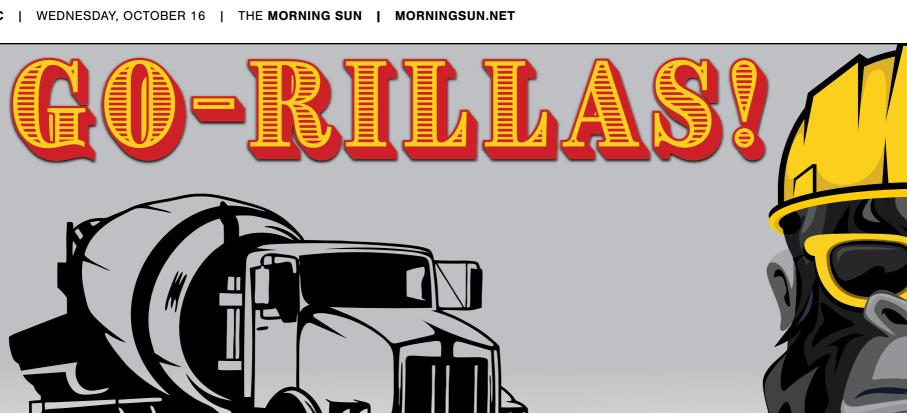
In March 2020, he made the decision to step away from a secure, full-time job to operate on his own. Two days later, COVID shut the world down. Thompson kept working hard – focusing on concrete and metal building construction. During this time, he had only one full-time employee.

Over the past four years, the companies have experienced exponential growth. Companies JT now employs more than 30 employees. Thompson continues to hire Pitt State graduates to help him lead field operations and welcomes interns.

Thompson gives back to his alma mater in a multitude of wavs. He serves on the School of Construction Leadership Council, is a proud sponsor of Pitt State Athletics, and gives back to several departments and groups through sponsorships.

In addition, he supports the community through service to the Salvation Army. The Lord's Diner, Mt. Carmel Foundation, Big Brothers/ Big Sisters, Fold of Honor, just to name a few.

Thompson was born and raised in Pittsburg. He still lives in the community today with his wife. Amv.



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