

CAMPUS COVID-19 CASES

| Faculty and Staff | Students | Weekly Total (Sept. 21 - 23) | Recovered | Overall Total (Since Aug. 1) |
|-------------------|----------|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 7 | 8 | 83 | 119 |

Information from the Kentucky Department for Public Health.

Daniella Tebib/The News



Photo courtesy of Shelby County Detention Center

Former Louisville Metro Police Detective Brett Hankinson posted bail Wednesday, Sept. 23.

Community reacts to decision in Taylor case

Gage Johnson
Editor-in-Chief

gjohnson17@murraystate.edu

On Wednesday, Sept. 23, it was announced that one of three officers involved in the shooting of Breonna Taylor would be charged. Following the announcement, *The Murray State News* reached out to students and the Murray community via Facebook for their thoughts.

During the indictment hearing it was announced that the Louisville grand jury charged former detective Brett Hankinson on three counts of first-degree wanton endangerment.

This announcement comes after the \$12 million settlement that was made on Sept. 15 which also included 12 items of police reform.

The charges against Hankinson were made for putting Taylor's neighbors in danger, as Taylor's neighbor Chelsey Napper stated in a lawsuit filed in early May that a man was almost struck by a bullet inside the neighboring apartment after shots were "blindly fired" by the officers.

Each of the three wanton endangerment charges carries a sentence of up to five years. His bail is set at \$15,000 cash and a warrant has been issued for his arrest. Hankinson was fired from the LMPD on June 23 for his involvement in the Taylor shooting.

The other officers involved—Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly and Detective Myles Cosgrove—were not indicted, meaning that no charges were made in direct correlation to Taylor's shooting.

Murray State student Maddy Lander stated that she was

disappointed, but not surprised by the decision the grand jury made to not charge the officers.

"No justice was served here," Lander said. "We waited six months for her to not get justice. Her family has said they now have no trust in the justice system. I knew as soon as Louisville went into a state of emergency that the outcome was not going to be good for Breonna Taylor."

Other students shared Lander's sentiment. Taylor Martin—a student at Murray State—said she is ashamed of the decision by the grand jury and is thinking of Taylor's family.

"I'm embarrassed to call Kentucky my home," Martin said. "No property is worth someone's life. I am praying a little harder for her family tonight. This decision makes my blood boil so I can only imagine what i would be feeling if this were a close friend or family."

Fellow Murray State student Elina Fochtman, who is from Louisville, echoed Martin's statement.

"I am very disappointed in my city, especially Mayor Greg Fischer's response to Breonna Taylor's death," Fochtman said. "It is extremely unjust that the three cops that unlawfully broke into Breonna Taylor's apartment and shot her eight times have not been punished for her death. Breonna Taylor's death was very eye-opening because I did not realize how corrupt Louisville's local government was before our cries for justice were smothered by the local government. Mayor

see **TAYLOR**, page 4



"I'm embarrassed to call KY my home. No property is worth someone's life. I am praying a little harder for her family tonight. This decision makes my blood boil so I can only imagine what i would be feeling if this were a close friend or family."

~ Taylor Martin

"The charges did absolutely nothing to address the murder of Breonna Taylor. Brett Hankinson, the officer who got charged with firing shots into three nearby apartments recklessly, has already been released from a Shelby County prison as someone posted bond. There is no justice in this case; The law was never on Breonna's side and it continues not to be."

~ Ryan Ackermann

"I am very disappointed in the outcome but not surprised. The indictment had nothing to do with Breonna Taylor's death. The officer was charged with a class D felony. 3 counts of wanton endangerment. The nearby apartments were more important than Breonna Taylor. No justice was served here. We waited 6 months for her to not get justice. Her family has said they now have no trust in the justice system. I knew as soon as Louisville went into a state of emergency that the outcome was not going to be good for Breonna Taylor."

~ Maddy Lander

"Based on the facts provided by the special prosecutor the decision seems fair and reasonable."

~ John Hlinka

"We have laws for a purpose. I would venture to say a 12 person jury of afro Americans if asked to render a verdict of murder according to the law would have to say innocent. If the judge being Sworn to uphold the law would give a bench verdict overruling a guilty verdict regardless of his race. Change the Laws lawfully if needed but they won't be changed by illegal deeds."

~ Chuck Plummer

"This case proves that our system of justice is broken. If police can kill citizens in their own homes and no significant charges are brought related to the death of an innocent woman, we should all be disturbed."

~ Christopher Mitchell

Comments compiled from a Murray State News Facebook post

Brooklyn Burnett/The News

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Change of plans

Spring Break canceled amid COVID-19 concerns

Simon Elfrink
Staff Writer
[selfrink@murraystate.edu](mailto:sselfrink@murraystate.edu)

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, President Bob Jackson sent out an email detailing adjustments made to the spring 2021 semester. "While we are making great strides on campus to minimize the spread of COVID-19, we have examined the academic calendar for the 2021 spring semester for further safety measures," Jackson said. "Upon review by the University's leadership, specific adjustments in the academic calendar are warranted."

While the fall semester began at an earlier date than originally scheduled, the start date for the spring semester has been pushed back from Jan. 11 to Jan. 19. The University will be closed Jan. 18, the day before classes begin, to recognize Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The semester will continue

from there until Feb. 24 for a non-instructional study day. The only other non-instructional day listed in the president's release falls on March 30. The revised calendar will not include a spring break, breaking the status quo set by countless spring semesters past, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by limiting travel.

Despite the late start to the spring semester, classes are expected to end in a normal time frame. While the 2020 spring semester ended on May 1 with finals ending on May 8, the 2021 spring semester is scheduled to end on May 4 with finals ending on May 7.

"Since the University's Holiday Schedule is closely linked to the academic calendar, modifications were necessary in order to align the two calendars," Jackson said. "Thank you for your assistance and cooperation as the University implements these necessary schedule changes."



Tutoring available despite COVID-19

Sarah Mead
Staff Writer
smead@murraystate.edu

Murray State developed new campus tutoring options to comply with COVID-19 standards and to help students who may be struggling more than usual because of the pandemic.

The Lowry Center partnered with Penji, an app that allows students and tutors to hold sessions virtually. Students can set up an account with their University username and password. The app shows a list of all the subjects offered for tutoring, as well as what days, times and tutors are available for those subjects.

The subjects available for tutoring are as follows:

BIO: 101, 115, 221, 227, 228
CHE: 101, 105, 111, 201
CIV: 201
CRJ: 140, 220
CSC: 199
MAT: 110, 115, 117, 130, 140, 145, 150, 215, 220, 230, 250
PHY: 125, 126, 130, 131, 132, 133
POL: 140
PSY: 180
SOC: 133
SPA: 101, 102
STA: 135

Through Penji, students can schedule Zoom meetings with available tutors. The app allows for greater flexibility in scheduling, which allows the Lowry Center to offer more tutoring timeslots.

"The primary goal is, of course, to help these students in their courses, but I think during this time when we're more isolated, it's important for students to have that interaction with other people," said Sarah Williams,

tutoring coordinator. "Our center is conducted by peer tutors, meaning that the tutors are also Murray State students and they can empathize with a lot of the same issues the students they are helping are going through."

As students and professors are adapting to hybrid and fully online course schedules, the

new tutoring system is one of many ways the University is trying to adhere to social distancing guidelines while also encouraging student success.

"Reach out for help if you need it, whether it's a homework assignment, exam, stress or personal issue," Williams said. "There are so many

places on campus that are set up to help students with problems big or small, take full advantage of them. If you have a problem, but don't have a clue where to start, ask your advisor for advice."

The Penji app is free and can be downloaded from either the app store or web.penjiapp.com.

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Professors adjust to new virtual learning environment

Ben Overby

Contributing Writer

boverby2@murraystate.edu

Professors are adapting to new teaching circumstances alongside students who are learning in a new environment.

Kevin Qualls, associate professor of television production, transitioned to teaching his four courses completely via Zoom. Qualls believes online learning can be as effective as in-person learning. However, he said he feels that effectiveness varies from person to person, as certain ways of teaching and learning best suit certain people.

"I think we have to recognize that there are different methods," Qualls said. "Some of those are more comfortable for some professors than others. I'm sure the same is true for students."

Qualls said he enjoys being able to see students and building the culture that having everyone together in a classroom provides. While the COVID-19 pandemic makes this difficult, he has found an upside to meeting over Zoom.

"Every student has a front row seat, unlike the regular classroom where there will be a student who is behind someone else or three rows back," Qualls said.

Even when the COVID-19 pandemic is over, Qualls would like to continue inviting guest speakers to visit his classes over Zoom.

"I have contacts all over the country that aren't available to walk into my classroom," Qualls said. "I can meet with them on Zoom, record that, and give my students access to someone they wouldn't have access to otherwise."

One adjustment Qualls has made since he started teaching over Zoom is his set-up. He began teaching while sitting at a desk, but realized he was missing some of the energy he had from standing while he taught in a normal classroom. His new set-up is a music stand and a microphone, which allows him to stand while he teaches.

Matthew Williams, physics and astronomy instructor, uses a hybrid method to teach his courses. Some students attend class in-person while others meet over Zoom. However, Williams said this leads to some uncertainty while teaching.

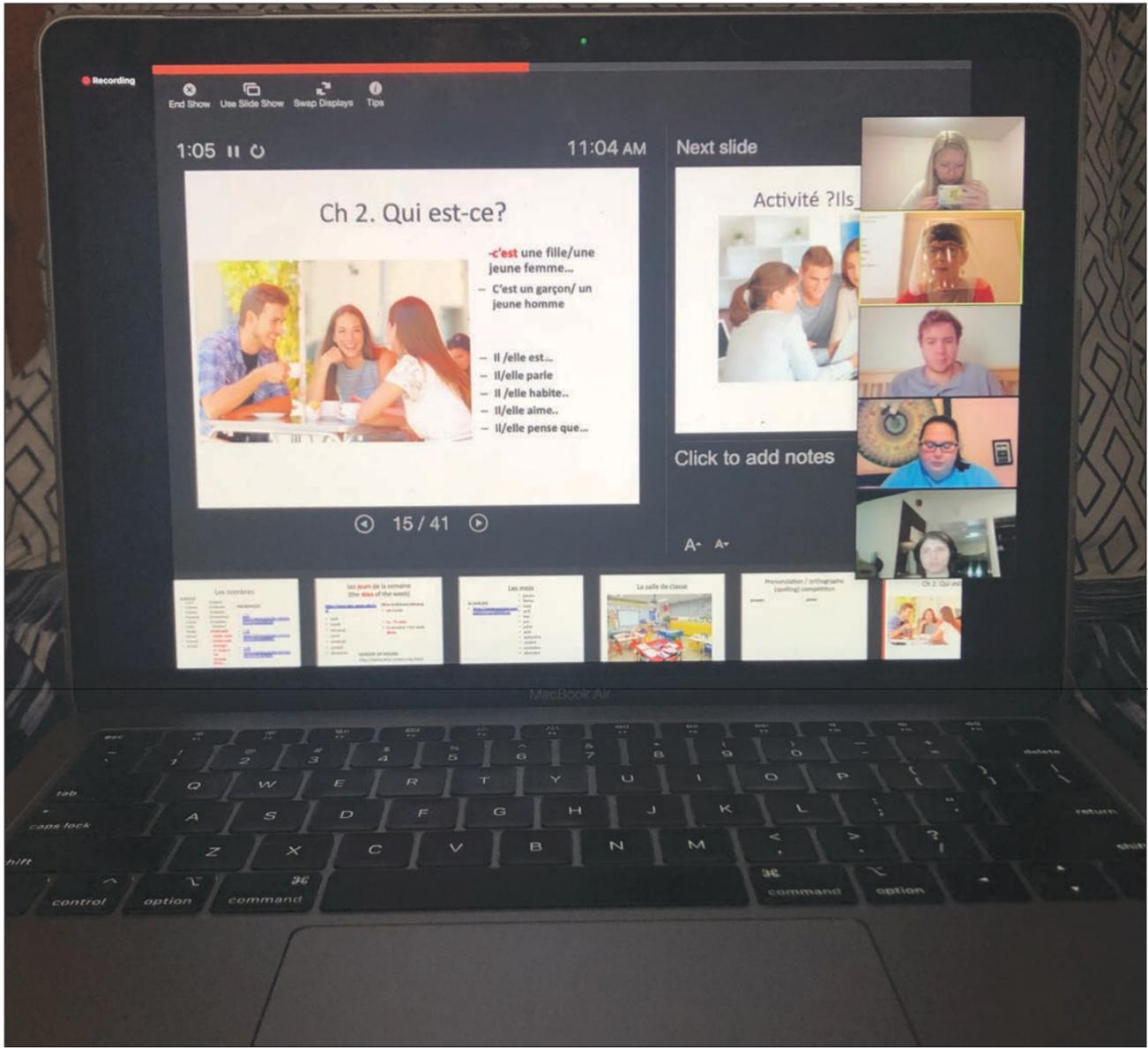
"One of the big problems is that I have no idea whether students are engaged," Williams said. "With the Zoom students I am sort of working under the assumption that they're engaging, but I have no idea if they're even behind their screens listening to me."

Williams said not having students in the classroom removes some of the cues he can normally pick up on as a professor.

"In a normal semester I can tell when students get disengaged," Williams said. "I can see people glancing at their phone and at least know when I'm losing them so I can tell an interesting story and re-engage them. With Zoom, I try to give them the opportunity to engage the same way, but I doubt that it's the same experience."

Though, Williams said there has been a silver lining to hybrid classes.

"With hybrid teaching, I've learned new skills, like using Zoom, that I will probably use in



Therese Saint Paul teaches some of her French classes via Zoom.

Jill Rush/The News

a limited way even when we return to normal teaching," Williams said.

One example he gave was projecting notes written on an iPad rather than writing on a whiteboard.

Williams said he thinks one form of learning where he believes students are missing out is labs. He is disappointed that all labs have to be virtual, but said there is no plausible solution right now.

Therese Saint Paul, associate professor of French, is able to teach her smaller, advanced classes completely in-person. Her larger classes are hybrids, with students divided into two groups. Both groups are assigned certain days they attend class over Zoom and days they attend in-person. Saint

Paul believes having as much in-person contact as can be done safely is crucial for her classes.

"I think in-person contact is very important for any kind of teaching, but especially when teaching a language," Saint Paul said. "That's why I teach with a face shield. How can you teach a language if they don't see your lips articulating? Especially when you're dealing with languages where position of mouth is important."

Saint Paul said adding the Zoom aspect of the class brings along a lot of issues between technical difficulties such as a poor wifi connection or students trying to join class late while she is already teaching and background noise or disruptive

roommates. Saint Paul believes these factors make the learning process less equal for students.

However, Saint Paul said there is one aspect of teaching where Zoom can be an improvement.

"If students are at home, they are more relaxed," Saint Paul said. "I can hear them, I can see how they pronounce and I can target their needs. Possibly, I can take time to do it even better than when they are in class."

The common sentiment among professors is everyone is doing their best to make the most out of an unprecedented situation. Professors are learning, along with students, how to adjust to the "new normal" created by COVID-19.

STOP

THINK

ACT

Murray State
has implemented
several safety
initiatives
on campus

Such as.....

Lighting
Racer Patrol
Escorts
Cameras
Call Boxes
LiveSafe App
Emergency Warning
System



Jillian Rush/The News

The Murray State Police Department can be reached at (270) 809-2222.

Title IX

Training deadline approaches as sexual assaults reported on campus

Staff Report

While COVID-19 has turned the focus of the campus community to ensure the safety of their health and others, the deadline for the Title IX quiz is approaching.

According to the Murray State Crime and Fire Log, two reports of sexual assault and harrasment were made in August and four reports of rape have been made in September.

To combat sexual assault on college campuses, students are required to complete a Title IX training under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972.

“Regardless of the format of participation by students on our campus, in person/face-to-face, Zoom or remote learning, the Office of IDEA houses the Title IX function at the institution and continues to serve the University community,” said a representative from the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access.

Murray State implements this training on campus through a quiz. The goal is that by having students complete the quiz, it will increase awareness about consent, bystander intervention and the incident reporting process.

Faculty, staff and students must complete the quiz. Students must complete it with a 100 percent or they will have a hold on their account, meaning they cannot register for spring semester courses. The twenty-question quiz can be found on students’ Canvas accounts and must be completed by Oct. 2.

The Office of IDEA offers several resources for both parties involved in a Title IX matter as they are meant to act as a non-biased party. The office informs those involved what their rights are on campus, including the changing of class schedules and work schedules if they work on campus or live in the residential colleges.

Should a student, faculty or staff find themselves involved in a Title IX matter, victims should report the incident to the Office of IDEA or the Murray State Police Department. Victims are encouraged to make a report within 24 hours, but it is not a deadline.

When victims come forward, they are not required to make a formal report or notify the Murray State police. Criminal charges will only be pursued if that’s what the victim wants.

Murray State Interim Police Chief Jeff Gentry said the University has implemented several safety initiatives on campus including the LiveSafe app, call boxes, cameras on campus, emergency warning system, lighting and Racer Patrol escorts to help ensure the safety of the campus community.

“Stop, think and act,” Gentry said. “Be prepared for whatever situation presents itself. Do not put yourself in potentially harmful situations. Don’t walk alone, lock your doors.”

If students have been involved in any kind of Title IX matter or know someone who has, they can visit the Office of IDEA in Wells Hall Room 103 or reach them at (270) 809-3155.

TAYLOR

From Page 1

Greg Fischer’s lack of accountability while people marched in downtown Louisville for weeks on end was astounding. For Louisville to progress and to have justice for Breonna Taylor we cannot have this type of leadership that supports the systemic racism within our justice department. I believe it is even more astounding that Kentucky’s Attorney General Daniel Cameron, who grew up only an hour away from Louisville in Elizabethtown and now lives in Louisville, has ignored

the nation’s call to action to give justice for Breonna Taylor.”

Murray State student Ryan Ackerman also said the law was never on Breonna’s side and it continues to not be.

Meanwhile, John Hlinka said he feels the correct decision was made by the grand jury.

“Based on the facts provided by the special prosecutor the decision seems fair and reasonable,” Hlinka said.

The News will continue to update its readers on the happenings of Taylor’s case and the protests taking place in Louisville. To stay up to date follow *The News* on Facebook and Twitter.

OP-ED

Experience Matters: The case for passage of Constitutional Amendment 2

On November 3rd, voters will have an opportunity to raise the bar on Kentucky's judiciary by requiring candidates for District Court Judge to have more experience. Surprisingly, candidates for District Court Judge must only have a law license for two years. Constitutional Amendment 2 raises that requirement to eight years, commensurate with every other level of Kentucky's unified court system.

At a time when District judges face more and more responsibility and handle important issues like domestic violence, mental illness, and addiction, Constitutional Amendment 2 will benefit Kentuckians by "raising the bar" for candidates to the District Court bench. Our District judges must be prepared to handle a broad range of criminal and civil proceedings, including matters involving our most vulnerable citizens in juvenile, guardianship and mental health cases.

Kentucky's 115 District Court judges preside over more than 700,000 new cases each year and despite being a court of limited jurisdiction, District Court judges are not limited in the scope of their work or the reach of their efforts to help Kentuckians. District Court judges preside over cases involving the following: city and county ordinances; juvenile offenses (public and status); misdemeanors; preliminary felony proceedings; violations; traffic offenses; probate matters; small claims complaints

involving amounts of \$2,500 or less; civil matters involving amounts of \$5,000 or less; involuntary commitments; guardianship petitions; petitions for emergency protective orders and interpersonal protective orders; petitions for dependency, abuse and neglect; actions seeking involuntary inpatient treatment for substance use disorders ("Casey's Law"); and actions seeking court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment for the seriously mentally ill ("Tim's Law"). Many District Court judges also volunteer their time to Kentucky's specialty courts, including Veterans Treatment Courts, Mental Health Courts and Drug Courts.

Without question, a candidate for any judicial office should be an experienced attorney. Both professional legal experience and life experience are necessary for one to be a capable jurist. Breadth of experience lends itself to a more thoughtful decision-making process for someone to choose to be a District Court judge. The District Court bench should not be viewed as a training ground but as a position one aspires to achieve. A more experienced bench benefits all Kentuckians and raising the licensure requirement will improve the public perception and confidence in the District Court judiciary.

Although numerous Constitutional Amendments were proposed during the 2020 Legislative Session, only House Bill 405, now "Constitutional Amendment 2"

and Senate Bill 15, more widely known as "Marsy's Law," passed both chambers to earn submission to Kentucky voters on November 3rd. House Bill 405 received overwhelming bipartisan support from both legislative chambers, passing the House of Representatives by a 76-7 margin and the Senate by a 25-7 margin. Senate Bill 15 will be listed first on the ballot as Constitutional Amendment 1, while House Bill 405 will be listed second as Constitutional Amendment 2. The entire text of each amendment must be presented to voters on the statewide ballot pursuant to a ruling by the Supreme Court of Kentucky in 2019.

Constitutional Amendment 2 proposes to amend Sections 97 and 119 of the Constitution of Kentucky by extending the terms of Commonwealth's Attorneys and District Court judges to eight years. Currently, every Circuit Court Judge, Family Court Judge, Court of Appeals Judge, and Supreme Court Justice serves an eight-year term while District Court Judges serve four-year terms. An eight-year term, coupled with an eight-year licensure requirement, would make District Court consistent with every other level of Court in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our Commonwealth's Attorneys, who prosecute cases in Circuit Court, currently serve six-year terms. It is not uncommon to have multiple-county circuits with a Circuit Court judge serving

an eight-year term, and a Commonwealth's Attorney serving a six-year term. To modify judicial circuits to meet the necessity of the various regions, the two positions must be selected at the same time. The eight-year term for District Court judges would take effect following the 2022 general election, while the eight-year term for Commonwealth's Attorneys would not take effect until after the 2030 general election due to the current disparity in term lengths and the misaligned election cycles of the prosecutors and Circuit judges.

The Board of Directors of the Louisville Bar Association, the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Association, the Kentucky District Judges Association and District Judges for a Better Commonwealth support passage of Constitutional Amendment 2 on the November 3rd ballot.

You are more likely to come in contact with a District Court judge than any other elected official. Experience matters. On November 3rd, Vote "YES" to "raise the bar" on Kentucky's Judiciary. Vote "YES" on Constitutional Amendment 2.

Visit www.raisethebarky.com for more information on Constitutional Amendment 2.

Respectfully submitted,

The Officers and Executive Committee of the Kentucky District Judges Association
The Officers of District Judges for a Better Commonwealth

Letter to the Editor

Got opinions?

We want to hear from you!



The News welcomes commentaries and letters to the editor.
We are also hiring for an Opinion Editor.
Contact Gage Johnson at gjohnson17@murraystate.edu.

CHEERS....

to Cassie Wooley, the 2020 Ms. Murray State! Catch an interview with her in The College News online broadcast on *The News'* Facebook page.



JEERS....

to no Spring Break in 2021. We completely understand why, but seriously COVID-19 go away already!

Editorial Board



Gage Johnson
Editor-in-Chief
gjohnson17@murraystate.edu

Jenna Carnes
Chief Copy Editor
jcarnes2@murraystate.edu

Kalea Anderson
Chief Videographer
kanderson29@murraystate.edu

Cady Stribling
Features Editor
cstribling1@murraystate.edu

Allison Manning
Ad Sales Manager
amanning4@murraystate.edu

Elizabeth Erwin
Public Relations Manager
eerwin1@murraystate.edu

Dr. Stephanie Anderson
Faculty Adviser
sanderson37@murraystate.edu

Jillian Rush
Photo Editor
jrush4@murraystate.edu

John O'Neill
Online Manager
joneil14@murraystate.edu

Contact Us

2609 University Station
Murray State University
Murray, Kentucky 42071-3301
TheNews.org



Sophomore guard DaQuan Smith hypes up the crowd after closing out a win against Belmont at the CFSB Center.

Gage Johnson/The News

College basketball gets new start date

Gage Johnson
Editor-in-Chief
gjohnson17@murraystate.edu

After the sound of basketballs bouncing on the hardwood floor and fans roaring in the stands were nowhere to be found in March because of the pandemic, the hope for a full season of college basketball has been reignited with a start date of Nov. 25.

On Sept. 16, the Division I Council voted to move the official first contest date of the 2020-21 season to Nov. 25, 15 days past the original starting date for the season. Along with this new starting point came a slew of guidelines.

Teams will not be able to host any exhibition games or closed scrimmages before the season's start. According to the NCAA's announcement, pushing back the beginning of the season is to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

By starting in late November,

nearly 75% of schools will have ended its fall term or moved to remote instruction and online final exams. This helps student athletes have less contact with the student body of schools.

"The new season start date near the Thanksgiving holiday provides the optimal opportunity to successfully launch the basketball season," said NCAA Senior Vice President of Basketball Dan Gavitt in the NCAA's announcement. "It is a grand compromise of sorts and a unified approach that focuses on the health and safety of student-athletes competing towards the 2021 Division I basketball championships."

This could create a bubble of sorts for collegiate athletics, just without being in one centered location like the NBA has done for the 2020 playoffs.

With four games being cut from the maximum number of games, men's basketball programs have three scheduling options:

1. 24 regular season games and one multiple-team event that includes up to three games

2. 25 regular-season games and participate in one multiple-team event that includes up to two games

3. 25 regular-season games and no participation in a multiple-team event.

Women's basketball programs have similar guidelines, stating that they can schedule 23 regular season games and compete in a multiple-team event that includes four games or schedule 25 regular season games.

Programs can begin practicing on Oct. 14 and can have up to 30 practices during the preseason. Players will be allotted 20 hours of work out time each week, with a maximum of four hours a day and one day off during each week.

The council also voted on and approved a transition practice period that will take place from Sept. 21 to Oct. 13 to help athletes prepare for the upcoming season with the challenges players are facing both mentally and physically as a result of the pandemic.

During this period, teams can partake in strength and conditioning activities, meetings and skill instruction for a max of 12 hours per week, with eight hours maximum being allocated to skill instruction. Players must also have two days a week off during this transition period. Teams will be able to begin full practice on Oct. 14.

Murray State men's and women's basketball programs do not have schedules released for the 2020-21 season at this time. *The News* reached out to Murray State Athletic Director Kevin Saal and did not receive an answer by press time.

Assistant coaches join USTFCCCA

Riggins and Wallace look to make difference in mentorship program

Simon Elfrink
Staff Writer
selfrink@murraystate.edu

Two Murray State assistant coaches are participating this fall in the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Female Mentorship Coaching Program.

Track and field assistant coach Kelsey Riggins and cross country assistant Jordan Wallace decided to be part of the mentorship program in hopes that female coaches become better represented. According to the NCAA database, less than 20 percent of track & field and cross country programs have women in the head coaching positions. In addition, only 36 percent of assistant coaches in these sports are women.

The USTFCCCA Female Coaching Mentorship Program was formed in 2018 by NCAA coaches Rhonda Riley, Janine Kuestner and Angelina Ramos. 2020 is proving to be a record year for the program, as Riley, who was named the interim head coach at Duke University in July, tweeted about the growth of the program.

"Excited to say we are able to pair everyone who applied," Riley said. "Having over 100 women wanting to give back and help lead other coaches is how we will move our sport forward!"



Assistant coach Kelsey Riggins (left) and assistant coach Jordan Wallace (right) look to make an impact in the USTFCCCA mentorship program.

Riggins, who has been with the FCMP since its birth, explained the importance of the program.

"One of my bigger passions is having women, whether it be in athletics or the female student athletes, feeling empowered," Riggins

said. "This program provides you with other women doing the same thing you're doing. It's nice to be a part of a community on a bigger scale."

Riggins encouraged Wallace to join the program in 2019. Wallace,

who participated as a mentee last year, will ascend to a mentor position in the program this fall.

"It's really nice to be able to learn from each other and be an advocate for each other as well," Wallace said.

Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics



Students Tessa Northcutt and Matthew Anderson performed in "The Commedia Pinocchio" last weekend, playing multiple characters for the show within a show.



Photo courtesy of Tessa Northcutt

Students perform in Pinocchio production

Cady Stribling
Features Editor
cstribling1@murraystate.edu

These two Murray State students would be lying if they said they didn't enjoy performing in the production of "The Commedia Pinocchio" this past weekend with the Playhouse in the Park.

"The Commedia Pinocchio" is an adapted story of Pinocchio performed in commedia dell'arte, a unique style of theater from Renaissance Italy where masked characters typically play exaggerated stock characters. In other words, it is a show within a show.

Tessa Northcutt, junior secondary English education major and theater minor, played the commedia dell'arte character Harlequin who plays the cricket, fox and policeman. Senior advertising major Matthew Anderson's commedia dell'arte character was Pantalone, who plays the Puppet Master and Maestro Cherry.

Northcutt said they only had about four weeks to put the show together. Because of the quick turnaround, Northcutt said they didn't audition

but she and Anderson were contacted by the directors of Playhouse in the Park who asked if they would do the production.

During the four weeks, they prepared their roles, built and painted the set, gathered props and costumes and choreographed their movements. Northcutt said the script was shorter because of the commedia style, which includes a lot of nonverbal and physical acting.

"I was really excited to be a part of this show because it's such a fun, silly play, and I really wanted to support the Playhouse," Northcutt said. "The pandemic has made it very difficult to keep the doors open, so now that we are able to perform again, I wanted to be a part of it."

Northcutt described her character Harlequin as a mischievous troublemaker who has a clownish, child-like personality. Although she didn't choose her character, Northcutt said she was excited for the role because she can be creative with Harlequin's wild unpredictability.

Pantalone, Anderson's commedia dell'arte character, is a stingy individual whose only concerns are money

and gifts. Anderson said he also really enjoyed playing the Puppet Master and Maestro Cherry since they all have very different personalities with the Puppet Master being eerie while Maestro Cherry is joyful and happy.

"For a show like this to work, we needed talented individuals who were able to take risks and be proficient with multiple roles," Anderson said. "Luckily, we have a well-rounded cast filled with talent and the right, positive attitude."

Since the cast was made up of only five people, it was easy for them to block away from each other. Anderson said during each rehearsal the cast wore masks and socially distanced as much as possible, and only limited seating was offered for the performances.

Northcutt said the show went really well and she heard lots of giggling from the little ones in the audience. Because of the nature of the show, Northcutt said they often took opportunities to do a little improvisation.

"It was so much fun to have the freedom to take opportunities to cause a little havoc when I saw them

open up," Northcutt said. "We were playing the role of amateur actors, so if a costume change took longer than expected, we made a big show of it and made it a comedic bit."

Anderson said the audience was very energetic with laughter and smiles. Since the show style they performed is rare, Anderson was excited to perform, especially with his fellow cast members.

Playing multiple characters was even more exciting in front of an audience, Anderson said. His favorite part was when they broke from character during the improvisational moments.

"For example, on the Saturday evening performance, my money bag was 'stolen' and I chased a cast member across the stage," Anderson said. "This was not in the script at all. It was fun to mess around with the characters, have those improvisational moments and still put on a good performance."

Anderson said the most memorable part of the performance for him was building relationships with his cast members. The production was also the joy and smile that everyone needed right now.

Student embarks on Civil Rights Pilgrimage

Ciara Benham
Staff Writer
cbenham@murraystate.edu

In March, freshman Azzie Cunningham marched with more than 40 members of Congress for the Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage. Cunningham joined civil rights activists including the now late Rep. John Lewis, Ruby Bridges and Brian Stevenson, lawyer and renowned author of the book "Just Mercy," in Alabama for the event.

Hailing from North Carolina, Cunningham is a double major in visual arts and political science. Her choice of political science was shaped by her family's involvement in politics, including her uncle, U.S. Rep. Joe Cunningham and her grandfather, retired Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Bill Cunningham.

Cunningham said her family has always pushed her to learn about black history. Her familial influences combined with her political enthusiasm is what led her to the pilgrimage.

"Being biracial, my father who is white has always encouraged my brothers and I to know and indulge in our people's history in this country," Cunningham said. "Especially since I am a Jamican American. My uncle learned of my passion and thought it would be an amazing experience for me to attend the pilgrimage with him, as it was his first year attending as well."

Cunningham flew from Washington D.C. with her uncle and other members of Congress. As she boarded the plane, she first saw the famous civil rights activist John Lewis.

"I saw THE John Lewis in the very front row, and we made eye contact," Cunningham said. "My heart sank to my stomach, my face got bright red and the worst part was... Jon Lewis



Photo Courtesy of Murray State

Incoming Murray State University freshman Azzie Cunningham from Asheville, North Carolina, joined members of Congress, luminaries, award-winning authors and renowned civil rights activists for the Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage this past spring in Alabama. Pictured from left are Ruby Bridges, the first child integrated into the William Frantz Elementary School in Louisiana in 1960, and Azzie.

and Brian Stevenson noticed this and found it fairly comedic. They both let out a couple of chuckles as I stuttered a 'Hello, Mr. John Lewis,' and he said to me 'Hello, Azzie,' and laughed. I went back to my seat absolutely flabbergasted that he knew my name. Then I realized I had a name tag on."

This was a moment that Cunningham said she wouldn't trade for anything in the world. She said seeing someone like John still fighting for the African American community was a life-changing experience.

Even though she only talked to him once she felt different and ever since that trip her whole perspective has changed and so has her life motto.

The pilgrimage began on March 6 with a convention held in a hotel in Montgomery, Alabama. In this hotel, Cunningham first met Ruby Bridges, the first African American child to attend an all-white school.

Cunningham ate breakfast and shared laughs for two mornings with a woman wearing the name tag "Ruby Bridges Hall." It wasn't until Ruby Bridges gave a speech at the convention that Cunningham realized she had been speaking with the historical activist all along.

"The woman with whomst I had become acquaintances stood up and the room roared in applause," Cunningham said. "My jaw dropped nearly landing in my grits! 'You buffoon, you have been talking and eating breakfast and dinner with Ruby Bridges for the last two days and didn't notice.'"

The pilgrimage stopped at many places, some of them Cunningham had no idea existed.

"Which goes to show you can never learn too much about African American history," Cunningham said.

They stopped at the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama, where

no cameras or video recorders were allowed inside.

"This museum like the others was so silent you could hear a pin drop," Cunningham said. "Many of us left this museum in tears."

She said the pilgrimage then went to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. This memorial was built to remember and honor victims of lynching.

"This memorial was one of the most emotional sites to visit due to us having to walk and read not even every name of the lynching victims in this country, in every state," Cunningham said. "To read the names of the victims was difficult and my eyes were glossy from the moment I walked through the memorial entrance to the exit."

Finally, the pilgrimage stopped at three different churches that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at, including the 16th Street Baptist church where four young black girls were killed in a white supremacist bombing.

On the last day, they marched across the Pettus Edmundson Bridge and Cunningham witnessed John Lewis speak and march on that bridge for his very last time.

Although Cunningham knows not everyone can attend a civil rights pilgrimage, she encouraged students to do everything in their power to get involved.

"Voting is a big thing, a very big thing that I believe is a very evident way to have an effect," Cunningham said. "Social media is another huge way. Please do not let what's happening turn into some sort of social media trend. Black lives are not just a hashtag nor a fad. Spread the word, take advantage of all your social platforms, promote change and push others to pay attention."

Professor published on Google Scholar

Dionte Berry
Staff Writer
dberry11@murraystate.edu

To have an article published on Google Scholar is a prestigious accomplishment, and Murray State assistant professor of marketing Ismail Karabas has had multiple articles published about business and service.

One of Karabas' works on Google Scholar is his dissertation at Washington State University, "New Directions in Service Failures," which explores people's responses to service and tipping.

Inspired by his wife working in the service industry, Karabas started doing research on tipping in 2015.

"My wife was working at a restaurant and they were changing their tipping system, which is kind of where I got the idea," Karabas said.

From there Karabas went on to discuss how the basic tipping model is evolving in his essay "What am I tipping you for? Customer response to tipping requests at limited-service restaurants," published in the International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management.

Karabas explores how customers respond to having to tip before receiving the services they are paying for.

Before working on his dissertation, Karabas also had some experience in food service.

"I'm originally from Turkey, and working at a cafe there, tipping is not really a thing," Karabas said.

Before coming to America, Karabas worked on his masters at the Izmir University of Economics in Turkey. In Turkey, he met his wife.

"I met my wife in Turkey while I was doing an internship, and she was there for a summer job for three months at space camp in Turkey," Karabas said. "We met in 2010 and then we moved to Washington State in 2013."

At Washington State University, he received his doctoral degree in 2018. Now on the job hunt, Karabas was looking for a position where he could have the opportunity to do research as well as teach. He and his wife also had their family and friends in mind.

"I had several campus visits and then multiple offers after that, and one of them was Murray State," Karabas said. "[I had] been there several times for friends, family and holidays because my wife is from Louisville."

Besides being close to family and friends he was also attracted to Murray State because the school allowed him to balance research and teaching.

Karabas enjoys teaching and although he has written several useful materials toward his teaching, he makes sure not to overuse his articles.

"I worry too much about sharing my research because it runs the risk of self promotion," Karabas said. "I only talk about my work if it is relevant to the class materials."

Karabas' essays may be geared toward those in the marketing and service field, but it can benefit both consumers and producers.

"For business owners it can show them how customers may respond to a change in tipping systems," Karabas said. "For those who don't own a business they can learn more about something they face every time they dine out."



Photo courtesy of Ismail Karabas
Professor of marketing Ismail Karabas presents over one of his works published on Google Scholar.

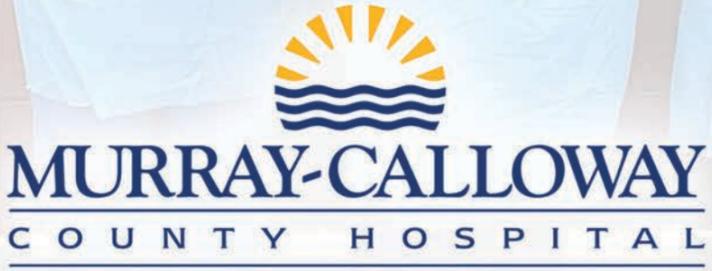
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