Vaccine card registration falls short of goal

The second vaccine incentive program ended on Wednesday, Dec. 1, and will award students, faculty and staff with a $2,500 scholarship or reward.

Executive Director of Branding and Marketing Shawn Tonneysaid as of Nov. 18, the vaccine percentage for students, faculty and staff was 68.9 percent. "Our expected vaccination rate for students is 62.5 percent, who have received at least one dose, based on available information," Tonneysaid. "We expect that many more faculty, staff and students will upload their COVID-19 vaccination card as soon as possible."

"I'm very proud of where we're at with 68.9 percent because our expected vaccination rate for the campus this semester," Puckett said. "I think it is safe to say we would like to be able to perform on the steps of Lovett for an audience that can hear us."

"We just want to make sure that we're at the numbers that we want to see the trend in cases decrease to go away with them [mask mandates]," Robertson said. "I just don't think we will get there."

"We are at 70 percent of campus as vaccinated," Touney said. "We expect that many more faculty, staff and students with a vaccine card. We encourage members of our campus community to upload their cards as soon as possible."

"Our expected vaccination rate for students is 62.5 percent, who have received at least one dose, based on available information," Toney said. "We expect that many more faculty, staff and students are vaccinated with at least one dose, but have not uploaded their COVID-19 vaccination card. We encourage members of our campus community to upload their cards as soon as possible."

"I think it is safe to say we would like to be able to perform on the steps of Lovett for an audience that can hear us," Puckett said. "I just don't think we will get there."

"We have enough information," Toney said. "I think it is safe to say we would like to be able to perform on the steps of Lovett for an audience that can hear us."

"We just want to make sure that whenever we do take the masks off that we don't have to go back to masks," Puckett said. "We want this to be a final one and done."

Vaccine card registration falls short of goal

All Campus Sing set to return to Lovett steps

Jill Smith
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The number of performers will only be limited to how many people can fit on the steps of Lovett. Sigma Alpha Iota announced at an informational meeting that the 63rd ACS will be returning back to its original format after being altered by COVID-19.

ACS is a singing and dancing competition among student organizations such as clubs, residential colleges and Greek organizations that serves to highlight and donate to Sigma Alpha Iota’s philanthropy, People to People, which donates instruments to schools that can’t afford them.

"There has been some discussion, but it has really been more of a wait-and-see," Robertson said. "We are at 70 percent of campus as vaccinated," Touney said. "We expect that many more faculty, staff and students with a vaccine card. We encourage members of our campus community to upload their cards as soon as possible."
The Full earn global student interest prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fall earn global student interest prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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"I'm super excited for it even though I haven't experienced it myself, it does seem like just a very exciting event overall, and everyone seems to look forward to it every year," Bussen said.

Although COVID-19 is expected to remain a variable in the spring semester, Bussen said since the event is outside they have been given the green light from the Music Department and the Office of Student Affairs. Despite having that green light now, the normalcy of ACS is reliant on the severity of COVID-19.

With ACS back in person, Bussen sees it as a way to engage with the student population.

"For ACS last year we at least wanted to have something that we could get people to come out, because I feel like there was a weird lack of spirit," Bussen said. "This year since we are going back to normal hopefully there will be a lot more involvement." Sigma Alpha Iota President Jonathen Magelemore agreed with the excitement about the return of ACS.

For Wilkinson her experience is different from Bussen's because she was able to experience a normal ACS.

"I would describe Sigma Alpha Iota's All Campus Sing as an event that is an experience like no other," Wilkinson said. "Being able to see organizations across all campuses come together to share music is a truly inspirational thing." Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Sigma Alpha Iota has seen multiple roadblocks such as not being able to hold a normal ACS in the past as well as not being able to use their space in Lovett, because of renovations. While having to deal with unfamiliarities for nearly the past two years, the upcoming ACS stands as a return to normalcy for Sigma Alpha Iota.

"Pushing through COVID-19 has been so tough for everyone and it [ACS] will be a day to relax and share music with each other," Wilkinson said. "I would love for everyone to come out and spend the day with us! ACS is 100% free and is an all day event and it is so much fun." ACS will be an April 3, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in front of Lovett Auditorium.

The selection process for Staff Regent is defined under Kentucky law and is consistent amongst all state universities. Staff Regents are required to have been employed by Murray State for three years; be classified as “non-teaching personnel” and cannot hold the positions of President, Vice-President or academic dean on campus.

Evans has been working at Murray State since 2010. Evans began her career at Murray State as an administrative assistant, but has also worked in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness as the Director of Assessment and Academic Program Review. During her tenure on the campus, Evans served on several committees such as the President’s Commission on Student Retention and Budget Committees. Evans decided to run for Staff Regent because I wanted to continue serving as an advocate for non-teaching personnel who are working hard to make life better for themselves and their family,” said Orville Hendricks, chair of the Staff Constituency Committee.

"I decided to run for Staff Regent because I wanted to continue serving as an advocate for non-teaching personnel who are working hard to make life better for themselves and their family,” said Orville Hendricks, chair of the Staff Constituency Committee.

"I was a first-generation student, I was a first-generation student, and know that without financial support, it would have been almost impossible for me to attend college," Evans said. "I also am an advocate for non-teaching personnel and cannot hold the positions of President, Vice-President or academic dean on campus.

Evans plans to advocate for including cost savings and scholarship support in the maintenance across campus.

"I am hopeful Murray State will have many sources of enrollment. It's very important to stay current with a changing world to maintain decent enrollment," Zou said. "We have a system that we will work with. If one source does not work it may influence us but it will not kill us." International and ESL students are optimistic about the future of international enrollment.

"I am very excited to get vaccinated. I want to be part of the solution and make it safe for all students," Zou said. "I am not worried at all."
The News Reviews: Essential Winter Albums

‘Man Alive!’ by King Krule

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‘Man Alive!’ by King Krule is a swanky alternative album with a jazz influence. Archy Marshall, professionally known as King Krule, is known for his gritty deep voice. Krule’s overall discography has a cold feeling, and ‘Man Alive!’ continues that feeling creating foggy and dark scenes with somber lyrics. This album does not make me feel the joys of winter like Christmas and the sense of togetherness, but instead it brings sadness. Songs like “Alone, Omen 3,” “Don’t Let the Dragon Drag” and “Face” having a faster pace they still have an icy and disgruntled tone.

‘808s and Heartbreaks’ by Kanye West

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The triple-platinum album “808s and Heartbreak” by Chicago rapper Kanye West is one of my all-time favorite albums. It’s quite a different album from most of West’s discography as it feels cold and shows a lot of emotion, like you’re walking alone through a busy street on Christmas Eve. The album was one of my first exposures to hip-hop music when I listened to it in high school, so it brings back plenty of memories from that time. Songs like “Coldest Winter,” “Street Lights” and “Love Lockdown” provide a slightly happier feel, yet have lyrics that still match the album’s tone. The album has proven to be one of the most influential albums of the current generation of hip-hop, marking its significance in the world of music.

A Very Swingin’ Basic Christmas’ by The Count Basie Orchestra

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In this album, one of the greatest big bands in the history of jazz is giving us one of the best ways to swing into the holiday season. Starting off with an arrangement of “Jingle Bells” by the great Sammy Nestico, the upbeat feeling of the album continues through the second chart, “Let It Snow.” The band’s smooth and relaxing sound is what vocalists carry us through the rest of the album, showing off all of the different styles and moods that the jazz world has to offer. By far my favorite chart in the album is RB& vocalist Ledesi’s amazing rendition of “The Christmas Song.” These charts combined with the arrangements of “Stairway,” “Silent Night” and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” makes this a solid album.

The Polar Express [Motion Picture Soundtrack] by Various Artists

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When I think of music that instantly reminds me of Christmas and/or Winter, it is the Polar Express Soundtrack. I love listening to movie soundtracks no matter what they are. I often listen to them when I am doing homework or reading because of how soothing and constant they are. Two popular orchestra conductors are Alan Silvestri and Josh Groban, who conducted certain set music pieces that were included in the movie. Both of these artists have very signature styles for their music. When you hear another soundtrack, you can usually recognize the common elements in other albums. This soundtrack always brings me back to being a kid and just brings me so much peace and joy. This album and movie are always my go-to when it comes to Christmas time.

‘We Need a Little Christmas’ by Pentatonix

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Chief Copy Editor
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‘We Need a Little Christmas’ by Pentatonix is the perfect blend of secular and religious Christmas songs, this album encapsulates everything I love about winter. Winter is a time of reflection and joy, of beginnings and endings, and this album delivers the soundtrack to winter’s feelings. My favorite non-Christmas songs are “Once Upon A December” from the movie “Hannibal” and “My Favorite Things” from the Sound of Music. Yes, I know it’s definitely possible.”

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Our View: Where is the justice?

On Nov. 17, 18-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse was found not guilty on all five charges for the killing of two men and the injury of another in August 2020.

Rittenhouse faced five different felony charges, including first-degree intentional homicide and two counts of first-degree reckless endangering safety. The shootings took place at 270 7th St. in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Rittenhouse argued it was in self-defense.

During the trial, video was released that showed one victim, Joseph Rosenbaum, chasing after Rittenhouse while Rittenhouse shot his gun. One reporter at the trial, Richard McGinnis, testified that Rosenbaum yelled “You damn shooter” as he was running after Rittenhouse.

In all, Rittenhouse was facing up to 270 years in prison if the jury found he was guilty on all charges. The judge agreed and found Rittenhouse not guilty of all charges.

While the verdict is split on the verdict of the trial, we agree that there is still more to be answered by the judicial system. Parts of the trial seemed questionable at times and many felt the judge mishandled the trial at points. Some pointed out that the judge seemed partial towards Rittenhouse.

Overall, the trial has proven the gap between justice and the legal system. Two people are dead and our dear sports editor to use aphorisms at the end of pos sessive nouns that end in the letter “s” and coming up with apostrophes at the end of possessive nouns will be accepted. All contributions should be turned in by noon on Mon day of each week. No email to the newsroom will be accepted. Contributions should be turned in by noon on Mon day of each week. No email to the newsroom will be accepted. Contributions should be turned in by noon on Mon day of each week. No email to the newsroom will be accepted. Contributions should be turned in by noon on Monday of each week. No email to the newsroom will be accepted. Contributions should be turned in by noon on Monday of each week. No email to the newsroom.
Sophomore forward DJ Burns scored a season-high 19 points against the Campbellsville Tigers, while also grabbing 15 rebounds in the Racers' win.

Junior guard Tevin Brown scored a game-high 29 points with a score of 65-60. Junior guard Tevin Brown finished with 19 points, five rebounds, three assists and five free throws from Burns, as well as a dunk and a three-pointer from Hill. Sophomore guard Claira McGowen made back-to-back shots to get on the board and when the scoring started to slow down, the Racers were up by 41 and led 80-39.

The Tigers continued to climb up and make it a respectable game, but it was too little and too late for them as the Racers defense held strong. When the game came to a close, the Racers defeated the Tigers 98-61. Brown led all scorers with 10 from the line in the second quarter. Evansville shot 10 from the line in the second quarter until McKay made a three-pointer to put the Racers up 20-10. The Tigers hung around for it 10-7 with the Racers up.

The Aces continued to extend their lead, getting scrappy, that’s what I do.”

They tell me to just ‘Be Young scored the first basket of the game, putting Murray up 2-0 over the Tigers. They continued to go back-and-forth the rest of the game.

When the run ended, the Racers were up 37-14. The Tigers continued to fight right back, getting the ball, bringing scrappy, that’s what I do.”

The Tigers hung around for it 10-7 with the Racers up. The Tigers hung around for it 10-7 with the Racers up.

As the quarter started to come to a close, the Racers started their run that included baskets from Hill, Turley and Braden. The run brought the Tigers closer, but the Racers were still up by 34 to 24. The Tigers hung around for it 10-7 with the Racers up.

Head Coach Matt McMahon said, “He’s such a fun guy to watch play. I love coaching guys like that who bring passion and energy to the team. I also loved our guard play. Justice had eight assists and five zero turnovers. Tevin was very efficient in scoring in the second half. Overall, it was such a great win for our team.”

Speaking after the game about Burns’ performance, Head Coach Matt McMahon said, “It was a big win for the team and that he plays with a motor like Burns.”

Love the energy that DJ brings to the team,” McMahon said. “I’m stepping up. Everybody has to do their certain things. The team on the get the job and I just do whatever the coach asks of me. That’s it. The games started with 20 points, followed closely behind by sophomore forward DJ Burns, who had a season-high 19 points.

Speaking about his season-high performance in the game, Burns said his role is just to be himself in the game and play his own game.

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The Murray State volleyball team finished its season with a 3-1 loss against SEMO in the second round of the OVC tournament on Friday, Nov. 19, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The teams went back and forth to open the first set, tying the score at 12 before the Racers used a 7-2 run to take the lead at 19-15 with kills from senior outside hitter Emily Matson, freshman outside hitter Brooke Lynn Watts, senior middle blocker Kolly McClelland and sophomore middle blocker Taylor Beasley. The teams traded points until a kill from Watts closed out the set 25-22.

With the teams tied at five in the second set, the Redhawks used a 6-1 run to take the lead at 9-5. SEMO kept a steady control of the set as the teams swapped points. The Redhawks used a 4-1 run to finish the set 25-18. The Redhawks carried their momentum into the third set, using an 11-3 lead to lead 14-6. The Racers fought back with a 5-2 run with two kills from sophomore opposite hitter Jayla Holcombe and a block assist from Holcombe and Beasley, but still trailed the Redhawks 18-12. SEMO, however, used a 6-2 run to seal the set 25-15.

SEMO took the early 11-7 lead in the fourth set, but a 6-2 run from the Racers tied the score at 13. The Redhawks responded by scoring seven straight points to lead 20-13, but with the Redhawks at set point, Murray State scored five straight points to tie the set 24-24 and the match 3-1. Holcombe led the Racers' offense with 22 kills, followed by Watts with 13 kills. Beasley finished with three block assists while McClelland counted two block assists and a solo block.

Senior Ibby Becca Fernandez led the Racers' defense with 17 digs, followed by freshman outside hitter Alex Harris with 11. Freshman setter Bailey DeMier tallied 54 assists. The Racers finished their season with an 18-12 overall record and 11-7 in the OVC. Racking up end of the season honors, McClelland was named to the OVC All-Tournament team, Fernandez was named OVC Defender of the Year for the third time of her career and to the All-OVC First Team, Watts was named OVC Freshman of the Year after eight OVC Newcomer of the Week honors and leading the league in kills per set along with All-OVC First Team, DeMier was named to the All-OVC Second Team.
The Nonprofit Leadership Studies 305 class presented a $1,000 grant to The Homeplace at Land Between the Lakes on Nov. 30.

The Giving Back Endowment grant was established thanks to Bob Long, retired NLS professor, and his wife, Patricia. The Endowment provides the Student Grant and Development Initiative to support an experiential learning opportunity within a core academic open access course—NLS 305—"Giving, Philanthropy, and the Nonprofit Sector." The award was established to advance the principles of altruism, generosity, and service to others, the website states. "The central goal is to provide students with innovative educational experiences that help prepare them to be active citizens of the world and provide faculty with resources to reinforce the course design that pursues these outcomes." NLS 305 is a course on "Grants, Giving and Philanthropy," meaning students learn about the history of philanthropy and its role in society, the website states.

According to the University of Kentucky Libraries' Digital Commons, NLS 305 "will familiarize students with key aspects of grant-making including the identification, development, needs assessment, grant proposal analysis, and site visits. Students will also develop their own grant-making strategy and learn how to be strategic in their individual giving." The grant allows students in NLS 305 to learn about the topic in a hands-on application, said Elise Kieffer, nonprofit leadership studies program director. "Students individually research the local nonprofit environment and identify qualifying organizations," Kieffer said. "They draft a grant application based on factors they feel are most important." The endowment's mandate states the funds should be issued to an organization in Callaway County working in youth development. After all applications are received, the class debates and selects a finalist.

Karabas, assistant professor of marketing, said he was notified of receiving the award during the Spotlight on Open Scholarship Practices Zoom session. "I was very surprised as I had no idea I was one of the recipients of this award," Karabas said. "I feel very excited and honored to have been recognized at this level." Karabas' nomination packet included several research articles, which are available on his Google Scholar profile. Karabas said his interest in open access research stemmed from not being able to access some of his work. "Even at high quality institutions like Washington State University or Murray State University, there are several journals that the University does not have a subscription for," Karabas said. "Every time I can't access something, it inspires me to make sure my work is accessible to everyone." Kieffer said the class saw value in all of the grant proposals but ultimately chose The Homeplace because of their specific intention. "The Homeplace is planning a Trail of Tales educational experience," Kieffer said. "These funds will allow The Homeplace to come to life. Given the local importance of that historical atrocity, the Homeplace felt that this was a timely and important project." Kieffer added that because of the strength of the final proposals, the class decided to award the funds to an organization in Callaway County working in youth development.

"...It is important that we support non-profits through funding of the high-quality work generated at Murray State University's Student Academic institutions."
—Assistant Professor of Biology Ismail Karabas

"Finally, in this time where misinformation is abundant and easily accessible, it is important that we remove barriers to the high-quality work generated at Murray State and other academic institutions," Lennon said. Lennon said his lab at Murray State will be working on research investigating the role of African Americans in the Civil War in western Kentucky, especially the role of African Americans in the community of Irish immigrant copper miners in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. "I have tracked down their place of origin in Ireland and the development of the life face-to-face," Lennon said. "The second is on a community of Irish immigrant copper miners in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan." Mulligan said, "When I was working on a book of his writings on the Civil War and writing a book on the Irish immigrants, Karabas encouraged other scholars to publish open access research by submitting their work to Scholarly Communication Librarian Aj Bitcoin. "To my scholar colleagues who are reading this story: You too can make your work available to everyone with no cost or copyright issues," Karabas said. "This way the copy that still belongs to the author will be available online and you will not only have more reach but also likely more citations."
After filing the FAFSA, some families realize that their EFC may not adequately reflect the family’s current financial situation due to extenuating circumstances. The Federal Government allows schools to review the family’s unique circumstances to determine if the situation warrants special consideration. Please note that a request for a Professional Judgment of a special/unusual circumstance does not guarantee approval. In addition, even if approved, a recalculation of FAFSA does not always result in increased eligibility for the student.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak with a financial aid counselor, you can contact Student Financial Services at 270-809-2546 from 8 am to 4:30 pm or email msu.sfa@murraystate.edu.