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Photo courtesy of Jennifer Rukavina Bidwell. The December 10, 2021, storm caused EF4-scale damage to Mayfield.

Disaster relief grant assists tornado victims

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The Purchase Area Development District (PADD) stationed workforce staff at Murray State Sparks Hall to assist individuals impacted by the storm on Dec. 10, 2021.

PADD is providing services like on-the-job training, work clothing or uniform donations, housing assistance and tuition assistance.

The Western Kentucky Workforce Board received a national disaster recovery grant from the U.S. Department of Labor through the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

Associate Director of Workforce Cissy Fox said the funding goes toward individuals who have been laid off or "dislocated," meaning those who have experienced some kind of job loss, including reduced hours.

see **GRANT**, page 2

Admin revises 2022 freshman success seminar

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The success seminar component of the transitions courses are set to be changed beginning fall 2022.

Provost Tim Todd and Don Robertson, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, announced changes for transitions courses on Jan. 10.

Transitions, or 100T, courses will continue to be taught through each academic department and be required for all undergraduates.

The success seminar aims to support retention rates through lessons on fulfilling goals, developing study skills and other related topics. In the past, student success instructors from various offices on campus have coordinated this portion of the transitions curriculum.

Effective fall 2022, the success seminar content will be delivered differently.

see **SEMINAR**, page 3



Students return to campus as COVID-19 cases peak

Rebecca Mertins Chodini/The News

The University distributed two KN95 masks to students in response to the latest Omicron variant of COVID-19.

Governor reports highest case count in one day

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Gov. Andy Beshear reported Jan. 21 as the highest COVID-19 positive case report since the beginning of the pandemic. In response to the Omicron variant and rise in cases, the University has taken precautions as the spring semester begins.

Kentucky, including Calloway County, continues to be in the red zone as more people are reporting infections, according to Team Kentucky. The Calloway County Health Department reported 131 new cases on Jan. 19.

"On 1/19, the total case count was at 7,530 with 21 hospitalized and 74 deaths," according to the Calloway County Health Department website.

Bob Jackson said the University continues to evaluate the impact of the pandemic.

"Murray State University evaluates all matters regarding the pandemic on a daily basis and will respond as recommended by our local and state healthcare providers, the Calloway County Health Department (CCHD) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] guidelines," Jackson said. "Murray State also continues to have a very good working relationship with the CCHD along with the Department for Public Health, and remains in constant contact with our state, local and federal health officials."

Murray State administration announced via email on Jan. 18 that all COVID-19 protocols from the fall semester would remain in place for the spring semester.

According to the Racer Safe and Healthy Guidelines on the University's website, "Face masks/coverings will continue to be required indoors, for all individuals,

vaccinated and unvaccinated, in all campus locations, including classrooms. This includes visitors to campus and applies to all Murray State buildings in all locations."

The University has provided students, faculty and staff with two KN95 masks to use during the semester. Fully vaccinated faculty members, including boosted individuals, can choose to not wear a mask in office, classroom, laboratory or other work spaces if they are safely distanced from others.

According to the CDC website, the Omicron variant is more contagious than the Delta variant, but the symptoms are less severe — especially for fully vaccinated individuals.

"With other variants, like Delta, vaccines have remained effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations and death. The recent emergence of Omicron further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters," according to the CDC website.

see **COVID-19**, page 2

ON CAMPUS COVID-19 VACCINE/BOOSTER CLINICS



Clinics will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first floor of the Curris Center, with no appointments needed. The first and second dose and vaccine booster will be available.

- Feb. 1
- Feb. 8
- Feb. 15
- Feb. 22
- March 1
- March 8
- March 15
- March 29
- April 5
- April 12
- April 19
- April 26

Source: Murraystate.edu/racerrestart

Dionte Berry/The News

MURRAY STATE RELATED COVID-19 CASES

Students (Jan. 17 - Jan. 24)	Faculty and Staff (Jan. 22 - Jan. 24)	Weekly Total (Jan. 17 - Jan. 24)	Overall Total (Since Jan. 24)
41	11	52	52

Source: Murraystate.edu/racerrestart

Dionte Berry/The News



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Rukavina Bidwell

The tornado impacted many areas of Kentucky, including Mayfield and The Moors by Kentucky Lake. The grant is available to both students and individuals who have experienced job loss or reduced hours.

GRANT, from page 1

For students, this means if they meet this criteria or are low-income, they can either qualify for services from this grant or for grants specific to low-income.

In response to the tornado, the University reached out to PADD asking for staff to be stationed at Murray State.

In December, the University also sent out a campus-wide text announcing the cancellation of the fall commencement ceremony.

Provost Tim Todd said the administration did not expect inclement weather of this scale in December.

“The key with this commencement is both the sheer devastation and [the] power [being] out in the entire region, including the CFSB Center,” Todd said. “For graduates, the upcoming spring commencement is being planned and will be set.”

December graduate Levi Brandenburg said when he received news of the tornado and the damage, he was more surprised than anything.

“The day after, me and my dad drove through the area because we just wanted to see what it was like,” Brandenburg said. “It was pretty bad, but we

personally weren’t affected by it. We provided aid because my sister and her boyfriend work ... in the southern states to help provide food aid for farmers.”

In the days and weeks following the storm, the CFSB Center operated as a warming center, and the University housed National Guard members during their relief efforts.

Mayuree Chetawatee, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act career coach, is stationed in Sparks Hall for those seeking services. She said on-the-job training is offered for those who are seeking employment, whether short-term or long-term.

“A lot of the time, students have lost their vehicles or home or it has been damaged, and students still have jobs and are still able to work, so due to that, [these] students will not qualify for this grant,” Chetawatee said. “However, we do not discourage students to seek out other eligibility, or some may qualify for other grants.”

Fox said part-time students may be considered low income and can receive financial assistance for tuition and books. PADD also offers help with security deposits for rental units to those who are eligible.

Todd said while the University was focusing on relief efforts, graduation took a lower priority.

Brandenburg said the graduates did not receive information about graduation until weeks later.

“The weird thing, though, is we didn’t know anything about commencement ... or what was going on with graduation for maybe 3-4 weeks,” Brandenburg said. “We had small updates occasionally, but we didn’t really know.”

Todd said communication was delayed because of the power outages and internet issues.

The administration contacted all local hotels to display signs about graduation, sent out a campus-wide text and answered emails that came through in the morning.

“The University administration had to prioritize efforts and setting up the CFSB Center as a shelter, and coordinating relief efforts with the National Guard was prioritized,” Todd said. “While we always want to celebrate our graduates, the timing was not right with the devastation, loss of life and destruction facing our neighbors, students, faculty and staff.”

Todd said the uncertainty on the time frame of tornado relief efforts made rescheduling graduation difficult.

“Hosting a commencement ceremony involves a lot of moving parts ...,” Todd said. “While moving the ceremony to spring is not the ideal solution for many of our graduates who were excited and ready to walk across the stage, it was the best solution where we could provide the graduates and their families with ample notice to make arrangements to return to campus.”

Brandenburg said many graduates felt that job offers and relocation would conflict with the spring commencement. For Brandenburg personally, he will not be walking in the spring.

“I have a job offer that I’m accepting here in the next few days hopefully,” Brandenburg said. “Because of that, it would conflict with that ... I do feel like it’s a lot more inconvenient, though, for the winter students than moving it back a few weeks, [which] I thought would be better. But I understand why they did it. Personally, I just feel like it doesn’t really help the winter graduates as much as they think it does.”

For those interested, PADD has a temporary career center in Mayfield where impacted individuals can apply for disaster-related unemployment and receive help with other programs.

COVID-19, from page 1

The CDC released a statement on Jan. 14, encouraging individuals to wear N95 or KN95 masks.

“Loosely woven cloth products provide the least protection, layered finely woven products offer more protection, well-fitting disposable surgical masks and KN95s offer even more protection and well-fitting NIOSH-approved respirators (including N95s) offer the highest level of protection,” according to the CDC website.

Several Kentucky universities, including the University of Kentucky, have opted for mandated vaccinations and testing for unvaccinated individuals, but Murray State maintains its current policies of mandatory masking indoors.

“While voluntary, we strongly encourage everyone, in consultation with your healthcare provider, to get an initial COVID-19 vaccine and booster vaccine,” according to the University email sent out on Jan. 18.

Executive Director of Branding and Marketing Shawn Touney said as of Jan. 21, 70%

of students, faculty and staff had uploaded their vaccination cards.

“Our expected vaccination rate for students is 65.6% who have received at least one dose, based on available information,” Touney 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 via myGate.”

Jackson said a majority of universities opted for in-person learning this semester.

“It is also important to note that 100% of Kentucky’s public universities are operating in-person for Spring 2022, along with a majority of colleges and universities nationally,” Jackson said.

Pat McCutchen, senior lecturer of sociology, said teaching during the pandemic has made her anxious.

“I think most of us are probably anxious about it,” McCutchen said. “I did teach the first semester and a half at home. They gave me special accommodations because I have an autoimmune disorder and I’m on chemotherapy



Rebecca Mertins Chodini/The News

The KN95 masks are available in residence halls and deans’ offices for each major.

which represses my immune system, so I’m in a very high-risk category.”

McCutchen said she chose to come back to in-person instruction in the fall because she finds it’s a better experience for her students, but she worries about her health.

“It was a scary choice,” McCutchen said. “I’m one of those people if I contract the virus my chances aren’t that good, so I’m trusting my students to look after me.”

McCutchen said her experience is different from most faculty and staff on campus but believes special accommodations should be made for those with at-risk family members.

“However, under these current conditions, I do believe that special accommodations for faculty and staff who have at-risk family members should also be accommodated,” McCutchen said. “I also believe we should be provided with more masks and sanitizers and students should be required to wear masks in all indoor settings on campus and gatherings should be suspended at least until this surge begins to wane.”

The next vaccine clinic will be held Tuesday, Feb. 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the first floor of the Curris Center.

Campus workers advocate for transparency

Petition sent to regents asks for communication, equal power

Dionte Berry

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The United Campus Workers of Kentucky chapter at Murray State is working towards highlighting the needs of faculty and staff amidst the tornadoes that swept through Western Kentucky and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Forty-nine faculty and staff signed a petition that was sent to the members of the Board of Regents on Dec. 20, 2021. Along with the petition, the local UCW Kentucky chapter has helped bolster the voice of the Faculty Senate and their concerns about teaching flexibility with COVID-19.

The Murray State Chapter of UCW Kentucky is a union open to all faculty, staff, student and graduate workers designed to give a voice to campus employees.

Antje Gamble is an art professor and founding member of local chapter. Gamble along with other leadership in the local chapter drafted the petition because of the lack of communication after the tornadoes, which has also been a growing issue throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The document itself focuses on the administration's response and how long it took for any correspondence after the tragedy, and then the seeming lack of compassion in the response," Gamble said. "Staff were asked to come back on Monday without any acknowledgement of the fact that some staff didn't have internet or power yet, and so probably didn't even get the email, let alone be able to come into work."

The petition further stated there were no official employee safety check-ins and faculty and staff were only contacted to be told that the grading period was set to be extended.

"We further highlighted how this was related to some other issues at the University," Gamble said. "The example we put in the letter, or the petition, was that the COVID committee was dismantled without any kind of recognition, even though the pandemic continues."

The goals of the petition are threefold. First, the local chapter wanted to make the Board of Regents aware of the issues employees are facing.

Second, the Board of Regents must give campus employees a voice with shared governance and give the Staff and Faculty Regent equal power to other Regents on the Board.

"Historically, Staff and Faculty Regent are figureheads," Gamble said. "They aren't asked to have real input on the Board."

Lastly, the local chapter is demanding transparency and clear communication from the administration.

Along with Gamble, postsecondary education administration professor Brian Bourke is an organizing member of the Murray State Chapter of UCW Kentucky.

When Bourke received the email about the provision of two KN95 masks being available for students upon their return to campus, he said he was thankful the University was providing them but wondered what else was being done to slow the spread of COVID-19.

"How many times can those masks be reused? Are we going to be getting more? Is this a one and done now you're on your own to get more masks," Bourke said. "That's just one example of some communication shortcomings around the pandemic. [The administration] continued to use basically the same weekly emails, 'We encourage you to get your shots, we encourage you to wear your mask.'"

Beyond encouraging, Bourke said he felt that there was not much else being done. There was not a sense of enforcement or an actual clear administration response. Bourke also found accommodations for teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic to be difficult to come by.

"When faculty and staff have brought up issues around working from home, flexibility and teaching or other work arrangements, the responses increasingly become, well, if you have a legitimate medical need, you the employee, need to work toward seeking accommodations through either the IDEA Office or Human Resources," Bourke said.

Although both the IDEA Office and Human Resources serve to help both students and employees, Bourke had found that they are more accommodating to University policy rather than those who need to be accommodated.

"We need leaders to recognize that we're all human and



Dionte Berry / The News
Faculty and staff petitioned the Board of Regents asking for clear communication and equal power.

we all deserve to be shown compassion. "We don't need to fill out an hourly log of the tasks that we complete. In the event that we do work from home, which was a mandate for us."

By issuing the petition to the members of the Board of Regents, Bourke said his ideal outcome from this would be to have a clearer, more open and compassionate avenue of communication between campus workers and the administration.

Associate mass communication professor and Faculty Regent Melony Shemberger has been the only Regent to respond to the Chapter's petition.

In her response to the Chapter, Shemberger said she appreciated being included in the reception of the petition and told them she would share it with the leadership in the Faculty Senate where she serves in an advisory capacity.

"I told them that I spoke a couple of weeks ago with President Jackson about the concerns that the faculty, including me, had regarding the lack of communication after the Dec. 10, tornado," Shemberger said. "I asked that they review their University's communication protocol that they follow when we have either inclement weather or any disasters on campus, anything that really would necessitate the need for some mass communication."

Along with her response to the Chapter's petition, Shemberger

signed a letter drafted by the officers of the Faculty Senate that was sent to President Jackson and Provost Tim Todd.

The letter addressed concerns about how COVID-19 cases were increasing over the winter break and asked for teaching flexibility for the beginning of the Spring Semester.

"There were some health reports coming from the CDC that even indicated that there could be a large surge in the next two to three weeks," Shemberger said. "Then, starting back the Spring Semester the protocol is to follow what we did last fall, which is still to have in-person classes and wear masks indoors. Well, that concerned us."

Shemberger said the additional flexibility would allow professors to pivot for two weeks to online learning. The letter also further raised concerns about the rise of COVID-19 cases and the lack of action toward protecting.

Todd responded to the letter denying the Faculty Senate's request for flexibility.

"Provost Todd responded on behalf of him and President Jackson, basically to indicate that they appreciated our concerns," Shemberger said. "Since we did well with what we had in place last fall, that would continue in the spring."

Shemberger said she understands the administration's concerns, but this flexibility was had in 2020 and 2021, so it can be done.

SEMINAR, from page 1

Peggy Whaley, director of the Center for Student Engagement, will provide the content and resources through Canvas and add instructors to the course.

Whaley said the decision was made because it was time for new and different programs for first-year students.

"I am working with research and instruction librarians to develop online content modules so that the same great content can be delivered easily through the 100T courses," Whaley said.

Brent Menchinger, transitions professor and chair of the Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts, said he was made aware of the change during winter break.

"For me, it means discussing with my co-teacher regarding

what he taught and taking over those lectures [sic] materials [for the] fall," Menchinger said. "I imagine this is different for every 100T team."

Whaley said some success seminar instructors may wish to continue to guest instruct in transitions courses, but the success seminar instructors will no longer be formally paired with transitions courses. Both Whaley and Special Education Assistant Professor Cindy Clemson will serve as guest speakers for classes at an instructor's request.

"If my time permits, I will be more than happy to visit any 100T class that wants me to teach on a certain topic, as I have been a success seminar instructor since we began the seminars in 2014," Clemson said. "Also, this was my dissertation research, so

I have lots of information in the area of student success."

Clemson said the data from her research demonstrated the effectiveness of success seminars.

"The topics taught in the success seminars have made a big impact on student retention in the last nine years," Clemson said. "However, as with all great ideas, they need to be revisited often to see if there are other more relevant strategies that can be helpful to assist students in being successful in college."

The development of an online module option is still in its early stages, meaning that specific changes in content have not yet been established.

Because instructors will still have access to the success seminar content through Canvas, the modules will not necessarily be independent virtual assignments. The amount of time spent

discussing each module will be up to individual instructors.

Though the format of transitions courses will change, they will maintain the same goal of promoting student success.

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Our View: Senate prioritizes filibuster over voters' rights

To be an American means playing a role in voting for candidates that represent towns, states and the nation as a whole. A bill supporting voter rights seems like it would be a shoo-in, but the bill failed in the Senate with a 48-52 vote.

The filibuster was prioritized over The Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act which would have served to universally restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and increase voting accessibility.

The bill would expand voter rights by requiring all states to have early voting for at least two weeks, national mail-in guidelines, accommodations for people with disabilities and election day as a legal public holiday.

Restrictive voter legislation has been on the rise since the 2020 Presidential election, where there were varying responses to same-day registration and the use of mail-in ballots.

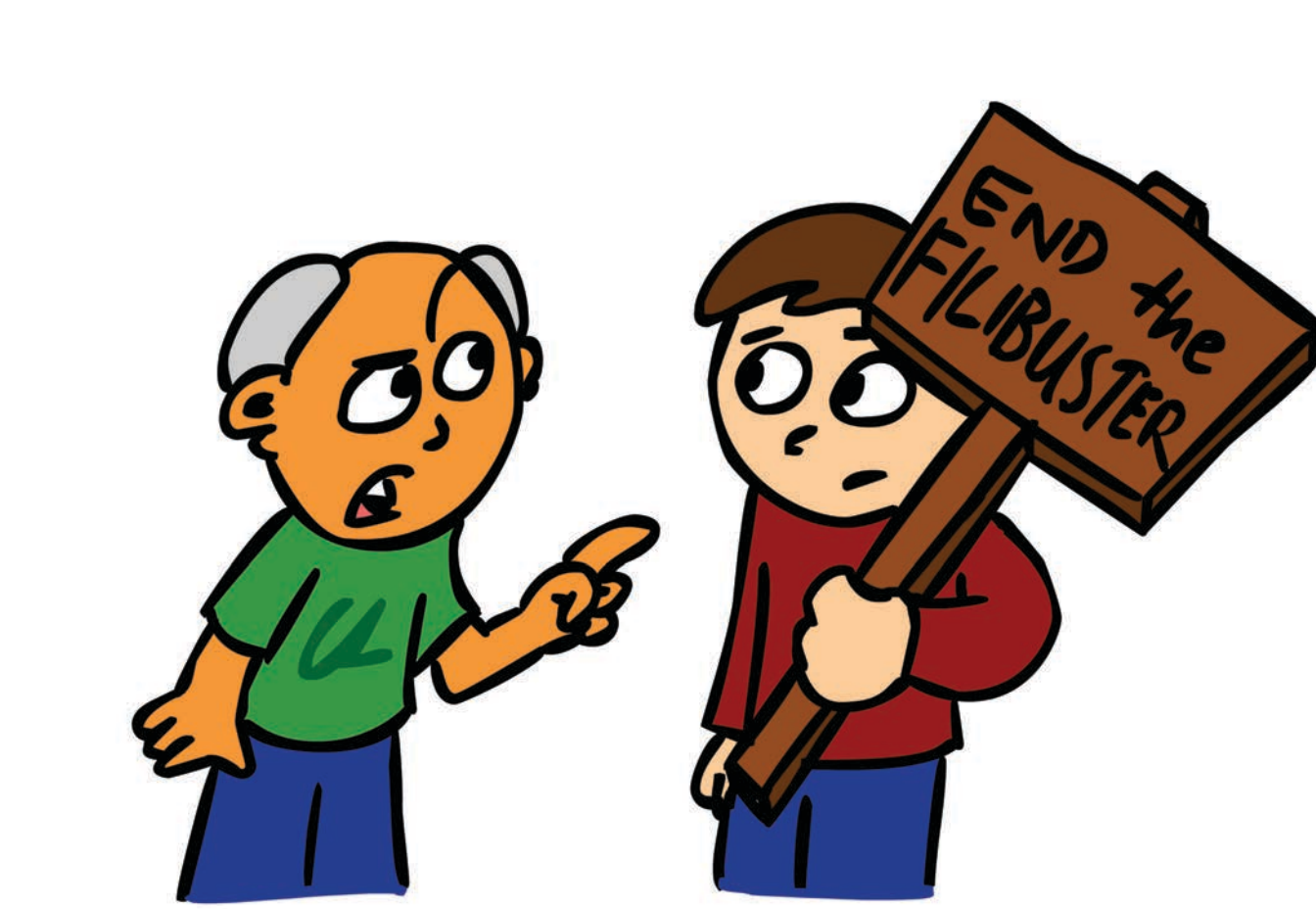
Republican-led state legislatures wanted to overturn the 2020 election by putting in place more restrictive voting laws to create a secure voting process in the aftermath of the 2020 election.

For example, according to an article by the NPR Station in Austin, Texas, KUT Radio there is a new law that creates added steps for people who want to apply for mail-in ballots. Applicants will have to provide their driver's license number or their social security number.

The John R. Lewis Act's failure is just one of the many symbols of how America is straying away from the idea of being a fair and democratic nation.

When it comes to voter accessibility, those who have less access tend to be lower class and people of color, who disproportionately making up the lower class. Both Republicans and Democrats fail when it comes to addressing the needs of the lower class; however, between them both, Democrats have done the most in addressing their needs.

A part of common Democratic policies are initiatives such as rais-



"Is 'filibuster' even a real word?"

Cade Utterback/The News

ing minimum wage and universal healthcare. Therefore, it is easy to assume the way citizens in the lower class may vote.

Republicans against the policies argue that the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act has a lack of security, but at the end of the day, it is just obvious that Republicans want voters to be from a demographic more likely to vote for them.

It nearly feels reminiscent of voting before the Voting Rights Acts of 1965. In the South, polling places created obstacles that prevented African Americans from voting.

These policies did not openly say that African Americans could not vote. Instead, they utilized "color-blind" techniques such as poll taxes literacy tests, when it was obvious that African Americans at the time were mostly lower class and less likely to have access to good education.

Although the policies we now see arising in places like Texas and other Republican-led states don't outright say, "If you are lower class and a person of color, you are not allowed to vote," it makes it obvious that their vote is seen as less valuable.

This type of voter law has existed in America since the right to vote was established. Policies made to not seem selective or target a certain community end up doing just that.

In the late-eighteenth century, the vote was only available to rich white men by disallowing people who did not own land from voting.

It is sad to see the same gerrymandering being used in the name of security to choose whose vote is valuable.

There are also errors in how the filibuster is being used. Designed

to give the Senate minority a voice, the filibuster has been weaponized to selfishly avoid and prolong the legislation process.

With Senators so willing to stray away from making America a stronger democracy, we at *The News* believe that those who are able to vote should use their privilege and elect people who will favor America's democracy before their party.

Along with the right to vote, we have the right to assemble and protest. Historically, activism has made a change and has helped the disenfranchised get the right to vote.

The American government system seems to continuously be sliding away from actually serving and representing Americans. Instead, our basic rights are questioned and at the mercy of people who seem to have lost sight of what it means to be a public servant.

"IT'S FUNNY 'CAUSE IT'S TRUE"

Written & Illustrated by Cade Utterback



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Photo courtesy of Dave Winder/Racer Athletics

Junior forward KJ Williams had a double-double with 21 points and 11 rebounds in the Racers win over Tennessee Tech on Monday, Jan. 24.

Men's basketball continues hot win streak

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The Murray State men's basketball team continued their winning season on Monday, Jan. 25, with a 79-53 win over the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles.

Junior forward KJ Williams had his second straight double-double in the game with 21 points and 11 rebounds. After the game, he said he just focuses on playing basketball and helping his team win.

"We just come out and play our game," Williams said. "I feel like I can score easily. Credit to my teammates, they get me open shots and know I can score well. If that doesn't work, I just pass it off to them so they can get points."

Tennessee Tech got off to a strong start with an 11-2 run over the first 4:28. Sophomore forward Daniel Ramsey led the Golden Eagles in that run with four points. Freshman forward Kenny White Jr. and sophomore guard Keishawn Davidson also contributed with two and three points, respectively.

After calling a timeout, the Racers answered with a 14-0 run of their own. The run began with a layup from freshman forward Nicholas McMullen, and junior Tevin Brown contributed with a three-pointer and a layup.

Williams said the team had to regroup after the slow start so they could compete in the game.

"We came out [kind of] sluggish," Williams said. "After the timeout, we came out and played hard, fed off of each other's energy and never looked back."

Sophomore guard Daquan Smith had the last points of the run with a three-pointer of his own, putting the Racers up 16-11.

Following their 14-0 run, the Racers kept their foot on the gas. Williams made a tough layup for the Racers, then followed it up with back-to-back dunks that got the crowd on its feet. Those shots put the Racers up 22-16 with 8:57 to go in the first half.

Brown was fouled and made one free throw to begin another 9-0 for the Racers that saw two more shots from Williams and a layup from sophomore guard Trae Hannibal.

Even after the run ended, Williams and McMullen continued their scoring with another layup each, and sophomore guard Justice Hill tacked on two free throws as well. This put the Racers up 37-20 with just two minutes to go in the first half.

The Golden Eagles shortened the lead with a jumper from White Jr. and a dunk from Ramsey, but a layup from Hannibal kept the Racers ahead by 15 at halftime. As the two teams went back to the locker rooms, the Racers were up 39-24.

After the 11-2 run to start the game, the Racers held the Golden Eagles to just 13 points the rest of the half and scored 27 points in that time. Williams led the Racers

in both points and rebounds at half with 14 points and five rebounds.

The Golden Eagles were the first to strike in the second half with a jumper from Ramsey and a layup from junior guard Junior Clay. Hill was quick to answer with a layup, but White Jr. responded with a layup of his own to cut the lead to 11.

Sophomore forward DJ Burns was fouled and hit two free throws to get the points back. Hill followed it up with a three-pointer to put the Racers up 46-30.

Later on in the half, Brown hit a contested three-pointer, and Hannibal followed it up with a driving layup to extend the Racers lead to 18. Ramsey and Clay kept the Racers from pulling away with a pair of layups to keep the lead at 14.

As the half went on, the Racers slowly began to pull away. Williams took the lead to 20 with a layup and a dunk that put him at 21 points on the night. Burns followed with a dunk of his own and McMullen got a layup to fall, putting the Racers up 71-49.

The Racers finished their scoring on the night with layups from Burns, Hill and freshman guard Dionte Bostick. With those last points, the Racers defeated the Golden Eagles by a score of 79-53.

Williams led the Racers with 21 points and 11 rebounds, followed by Brown with 14 points, six rebounds and six assists. Hill had 11 points, five rebounds and five assists.

White Jr. led the Golden Ea-

gles with 12 points and five assists, while Ramsey had 12 points, two rebounds and two assists.

The Racers outrebounded the Golden Eagles 46 to 29. They also scored 19 points off of 15 forced turnovers from the Golden Eagles.

The Racers won their sixth game in the last 12 days with the win over the Golden Eagles. Head Coach Matt McMahon spoke about the challenge of playing so many games in such a short time. He said it is certainly a challenge, but the team was up for it.

"We've got a tough group," McMahon said. "They work really hard. They will be ready to roll Thursday. I think it's just mental toughness, that's where it starts ... and it helps to have really good players, which we do."

Burns spoke postgame about the team's toughness on the court as the season progresses. He said it comes down to not just knowing the plays but having pride in your play.

"To me, it's all pride," Burns said. "Pride on your assignment, pride on the opponent that's in front of you. It comes down to, after the x's and o's and everything the coach tells you, to outworking your opponent and having pride."

Murray State improved to 18-2 overall and 8-0 in the OVC with the win. The Racers, who are on an eight-game win streak, will run it back against the Golden Eagles in Cookeville, Tennessee, on Thursday, Jan. 27, at 4 p.m.

Women's basketball wins with last-second shot

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A game-winning bucket gave the Murray State women's basketball team the win in Edwardsville, Illinois, as the Racers defeated SIUE 84-82.

After the Cougars scored five straight points to tie the game, senior guard Macey Turley scored the game-winning layup to put the Racers up with just five seconds left. Turley finished with 19 points and seven assists in the Racers' victory.

The game was a back-and-forth battle that neither team was willing to lose. In the first quarter, the Cougars struck first with a layup from graduate guard Allie Troeckler, but sophomore forward Hannah McKay quickly answered on the other end to make it a 2-2 tie.

The Racers began to take the lead with back-to-back layups from McKay and senior forward Alexis Burpo. Junior guard Jaida Hampton tied it back up at 10 with a three-pointer, leaving the teams stuck in a deadlock.

Later in the quarter, a pair of layups from Burpo and sophomore guard Bria Sanders-Woods put the Racers up three with 2:22 to go in the quarter. The Cougars were quick to answer as they went on a 6-0 run to go up 21-

18 at the end of the first quarter.

The Racers took the lead back in the second quarter with back-to-back shots from Burpo and sophomore forward Katelyn Young. The Cougars were quick to get the points back though with layups from Troeckler and senior guard Mikia Keith, putting the Cougars up 25-22.

Troeckler added to her point total with another pair of layups to extend the Cougars lead to five. However, the Racers were able to tie the game up as Turley made a driving layup and Sander-Woods hit a three-pointer to make it 29 all.

The Cougars weren't willing to give in as Keith and senior forward Prima Chellis each hit a three-pointer to extend the lead to eight.

As time in the half ran down, the Racers battled back. With a bucket from Young at the buzzer, the Racers went into halftime down 39-34.

Burpo led the Racers at halftime with 12 points and four rebounds on 5-7 shooting from the field. Young followed with eight points and three rebounds on 4-5 shooting.

The Racers came out firing in the second half, scoring eight of the first 10 points of the third quarter. It started with two layups from McKay, followed by a layup from Young and a second-chance basket from Burpo, putting the Racers up 42-41.

Keith quickly took the lead back



Photo courtesy of Dave Winder/Racer Athletics

Sophomore forward Katelyn Young grabbed a double-double in the Racers win over SIUE on Monday, Jan. 24.

for the Cougars with a three-pointer, but four straight points from Young kept the game in the Racers favor.

As the quarter continued, neither team was able to take a commanding lead. The Racers managed to keep control with four unanswered points from Turley, but the Cougars managed to stay on the Racers heels. As the third quarter came to a close, the Racers were up 61-59.

Senior guard Lex Mayes got the fourth quarter started with a three-pointer which was promptly followed with a layup from Young to give the Racers a seven-point lead. Despite free throws from Chellis and senior guard Gabby Nikitinaite, the Racers held on to their seven-point lead.

Throughout the quarter, the Racers slowly built onto their lead, with a mid-range jumper from Turley putting the Racers up by 11 with just 3:35 left in the game.

Following a three-pointer from Nikitinaite, the Cougars began to eat

away at the Racers lead. Two more three-pointers from Nikitinaite brought the Cougars within two points of the Racers, then a layup from Troeckler tied the game at 82 all with 10 seconds on the clock.

With time winding down, the Racers had to make a play. The ball was passed in to Turley, who made a move, drove into the lane and laid the ball up and in with five seconds left. Nikitinaite missed the last second shot by the Cougars, and the Racers walked out of Edwardsville victorious, defeating the Cougars by a score of 84-82.

Young led the Racers with 20 points, followed by Turley with 19, Burpo with 17 and McKay with 16. Young also grabbed 10 rebounds while Burpo had nine. Turley led the team in assists with seven.

The Racers improve to 14-6 overall and 6-3 in conference play. They return home on Saturday, Jan. 29, to take on Morehead State at 2 p.m. in the CFSB Center.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AWARDS

The Murray State University Student Government Association is now accepting applications for the following awards:

Jim Baurer Outstanding Staff Service Award

Established to honor and recognize a staff member who has gone above and beyond the call of prescribed duty and shown exceptional dedication with regard to the students of Murray State University. **Application deadline Noon, MARCH 9, 2022.**

Max Carman Outstanding Teacher Award

This award is given in recognition of the recipient's teaching excellence as evidenced by his/her effectiveness and ability to motivate and inspire students in the classroom and outside the classroom. **Application deadline Noon, FEBRUARY 9, 2022.**

Ralph H. Woods Memorial Award

Established to honor and recognize a student or students who have made an outstanding contribution in service and leadership to Murray State University. **Application deadline Noon, MARCH 9, 2022.**

Applications are available in the CSI office, *The Murray State News* and www.murraystate.edu/sga.

Please contact the SGA in the Center for Student Involvement office for additional information 270-809-6951.

Nomination for Student Government Association's

Form to be filled out by nominee or person making nomination and submitted to Jeanie Morgan, Student Government Association, Center for Student Involvement office, with three (3) letters of recommendation, no later than **NOON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022**

NOMINEE

Campus Address

Email Address

NAME OF NOMINATING ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL

ACTIVITIES

Ralph H. Woods Memorial Award Application

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Nomination for Student Government Association's

I, _____, would like to
(your name)
nominate _____ for the award.
(professor)

Please complete the following information:

1. What department does the faculty member teach in?

2. Have you had the professor in class? If so, what classes?

3. Is the professor available for assistance outside the classroom?

4. What qualities do you feel this professor has that would qualify him/her for this award for outstanding classroom performance?

Max Carman Outstanding Teacher Award Application

***REQUIREMENT FOR AWARD: FOUR (4) YEARS FULL TIME TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY**

Student's signature

Date

Major

Phone

Email address

DEADLINE - NOON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Nomination for Student Government Association's

I, _____, would like to
(your name)
nominate _____ for the award.
(staff)

NOMINEE

Campus Address

Campus Telephone Number

Email Address

Please complete the following information:

1. What area does the staff member work in?

2. What qualities do you feel this staff person has that would qualify him/her for this award?

Jim Baurer Outstanding Staff Service Award Application

***REQUIREMENT FOR AWARD: FIVE (5) YEARS FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT AT MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY**

Student's signature

Date

Major

Phone

Email address

DEADLINE - NOON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022

Marking 85 Years of Theater



Mary Huffman /The News

Tesla Like (top left); Tesla Like and Eli Borwick (middle); Massiah Johnson, Tesla Like and Emily Morehead (top right); Tesla Like, Andrew Bittenbender and Tessa Northcutt (bottom right); Tesla Like and sisters of 'Delta Nu' (Bottom Left) appear in Campus Lights production of 'Legally Blonde' - Jan. 21-23.

Campus Lights celebrates 85th annual production

Live theater returns with 'Legally Blonde' musical

Raleigh Hightower
Lifestyle Editor
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Murray State students have brought one of the University's longest standing traditions back to campus, the 85th annual Campus Lights production.

The Campus Lights productions are led by music fraternities Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Sigma Alpha Iota. These organizations donate the proceeds of Campus Lights toward music scholarships.

This year's production was "Legally Blonde: The Musical." The musical was staged in Robert E. Johnson theater from Jan. 21-23.

"Legally Blonde: The Musical" is an adaptation of the novel by Amanda Brown, which was popularized by the 2001 film.

The musical's plot, which closely follows the plot of the novel and film, stars Elle Woods who follows her ex-boyfriend to Harvard Law School hoping to win back his love. Elle Woods is played by senior theatre major, Tesla Like. But Elle, suprisingly, comes into her own at the school and

"Elle Woods is a woman for women . . . the high Malibu standard never mattered to her as much as being with her friends, wearing pink and loving her dog."

— Tesla Like, senior theatre major

becomes a successful student. "Elle Woods is a woman for women . . . the high Malibu standard never mattered to her as much as being with her friends, wearing pink and loving her dog," Like said. "I think that's something that girls of all ages can relate to and that's why she has become so iconic."

This year's Campus Lights production was run entirely by students and alumni, featuring 33 cast members, pit musicians and other stage staff.

The cast was directed by Wayne Shields-Hogue, a recent Murray State graduate who has participated in six different Campus Lights productions. Shields-Hogue has directed two Campus Lights productions and performed in four others.

"The cast has been beyond amazing to work with," Shields-Hogue said. "They have always been supportive of each other from cheering each other on at auditions to our final performance."

Live musicians from Murray State's Music Department performed the music featured in the musical. The production's instrumental director, Nic Hawkins, organized and rehearsed with the pit orchestra, synced the instrumental music with the vocalists and conducted the show.

The Song "Moon Love," which was played at the open and close of this production, is a Campus Lights tradition. "Moon Love" is a song adapted from Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony and was famously

featured on Frank Sinatra's 1966 album Moonlight Sinatra.

Hawkins, whose mother was the music director for Campus Lights in 1994, explained the significance this song has for anyone involved with Campus Lights.

"When she (Hawkins's mother) was involved, they

"Campus Lights is an experience I will never forget, and I hope more musicians and audience members will get to experience the same in the future."

— Nic Hawkins,
Instrumental Director

would use different numbers from many different shows to create their own story, and the song 'Moon Love' always made its way in," Hawkins said. "She came to the show Saturday afternoon and told me that our post-show 'Moon Love' made her cry."

For 85 years, the teams behind the Campus Lights productions have brought theater and music to the community of Murray, and hopes they will continue to do so in the future.

"Campus Lights is an experience I will never forget, and I hope more musicians and audience members will get to experience the same in the future," Hawkins said.

Murray State University

The Criminal Justice Society

Come be apart of The Criminal Justice Society.

Our club offers many opportunities and learning experience. We meet on the first Thursday of every month @ 5 p.m.

If you would like to join or would like information, contact us at:

msu.cjs@murraystate.edu



News Reviews: 'Kick iii' becomes highlight of Arca's album series

Dionte Berry
Editor-in-Chief
dberry11@murraystate.edu

Electronic artist, Arca released "Kick iii" a fiery sound-saturated industrial electronic album.

Alejandra Gherzi Rodriguez, professionally known as Arca, is a Venezuelan musician who has produced songs for artists such as Kanye West, Bjork and FKA Twigs.

Arca's "Kick" series focuses on different influences in her music such as reggaeton, experimental electronic, experimenting with vocals and instrumental tracks.

"Kick iii" was released on Dec. 1, 2021. The 12-track album focuses on a pillar of Arca's music which sees her experimentalism at its peak with aggressive hard hitting sounds, rapping in English and Spanish with hip-hop and club influences creating a sense of organized chaos, and playfulness.

"Bruja" is an explosive start to the album where Arca starts with a spoken word rap about her sexuality and identity over a fragmented beat. By the middle of the song, the beat erupts into a hellish howling noise with wavering synths and Arca shouting in the background.

The track climaxes with a series of hard-hitting percussion bangs which fizzle out the synths.

"Incendio" starts with a sudden gunshot followed by synths and the sound of guns reloading. Arca is rapping again, but this time she is doing so at a rapid-fire pace which is the highlight of the song.

After the rapping portion, Arca returns to echoing shouts over an industrial beat, creating a siren-like effect.

In the next track, "Morbo," Arca's

voice is autotuned to sound deeper. The beat stutters parallel with Arca's murky vocals. The beat evolves to shroud Arca's vocals and grows into a mostly instrumental track of zig-zagging sharp synths.

"Fiera" is a completely instrumental track that consists of large wavering synths mixed with percussion.

"Skullqueen" starts with a quick distorted clapping, quickly followed by Arca's vocals which are pitched higher. The urgency of the song slows down towards the middle where there are synths that resemble sharp breaths.

The end half of the song is led by isolated piano keys that end the song in something reminiscent of a lullaby. "Skullqueen" feels like a contained explosion compared to some of the more volatile tracks.

"Elektra Rex" is led with clanking instrumentals and has an overall dance vibe. Arca seems to want the listener to go wild with lyrics such as, "To the beat, let your hips go," and "Should I, blow?" which refers to blowing up.

"Ripples" contains repeating lines that could be compared to that of ripples, and it gets more intense with fast-paced instrumentals that makes a revisit to distorted club beats.

"Rubberneck" starts with a clapping percussion similar to that of "Skullqueen." The track has a calm beginning with Arca rapping along the distorted drumming, but it erupts in the middle with a tempo change and the introduction of distorted chords and piano keys.

"Senorita" starts with a club beat with an industrial mix. Arca is rapping again, but her vocals are clear.

Arca sounds confident while she raps about sexuality. In the middle of the track, the club beats halt and



Photo courtesy of Arca's Instagram

Arca was photographed by artist Unax La Fuente

grinding synths sort of takes the listener out of the song, but then a bouncing beat comes in and brings us back into the song.

The next two songs "My 2" and "Intimate Flesh" are dialed back compared to the rest of "Kick iii." Arca's vocals play a role in both songs, but her voice is used more so as an instrument rather than in a lyrical means.

"Joya" ends the album in a great way, feeling like a breath of relief after a challenging listen. Arca's singing feels tender compared to the rest of "Kick iii's" aggressive listen.

Overall, "Kick iii" is a one-of-a-kind experience. It's explosive, hellish and boundary pushing. "Kick iii" is also a risky project because some people may find the listen challenging or uncomfortable.

I enjoy "Kick iii" and its hair-raising harshness. A big stand out to me is Arca's rapping. I love her rapid-fire of lyrics on "Incendio" and her rapping on "Bruja" and "Senorita."

I also enjoy how Arca experiments with her voice. In "Seniorita" her voice is at the forefront, in "Skullqueen" her voice is distorted and seems to work as an instrumental tool and in "Intimate Flesh" her voice is used more so as an instrument.

For all of the risks taken, the unique approach to electronic music, diverse and stimulating track list and overall creativity, Arca's, "Kick iii" deserves an eight out of 10.

With the "Kick" universe seemingly at a close, I am excited to see what Arca will do next.



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Financial Aid Professional Judgment

Have you and/or your family member experienced a job loss or significant reduction in income, and you have already filed the 2021-2022 FAFSA?

If so, you can submit a 2021-2022 Professional Judgment Form located under the "Forms" section of the "Financial Aid/Scholarship" tab of myGate.



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