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Dionte Berry/*The News*
Dining Services hosts local restaurants in the Thoroughbred Room every Wednesday.

New dining option serves students locally made cuisine

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Following feedback from students requesting more culinary options, Murray State Dining Services will partner with local restaurants to bring new food options to campus. David Blank, field marketing specialist for Dining Services, announced Dining's Retail Takeover plan at a Residential College Association meeting on March 28. Blank said the Retail Takeover will involve different local restaurants coming to campus every Wednesday and taking over a dining location in the Thoroughbred Room, known informally as the "T-Room." He said the restaurants will offer meals from a limited menu to students who will be able to pay either with their credit cards, Flex money or with a combination of a meal exchange and Flex money. Flex is money included on a student's meal plan that they can spend at any dining location on campus.

see **DINING**, page 2



Students share hopes, worries about return to normalcy

Mary Huffman/*The News*

Students noticed a change in campus life after the mask mandate was lifted in February. However, if COVID-19 case rates returns to a "high" level, the mandate will be reinstated.

Campus aims to return to pre-pandemic lifestyle

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The University lifted its mask mandate in February after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a "medium" community level for COVID-19. As of today, the CDC reports Calloway County as a "low" community level. With this guidance, campus operations are returning to normal. Only three Kentucky counties are now in the "medium" level of COVID-19 cases: Floyd, Johnson and Magoffin, according to the Kentucky COVID-19 website. Murray State President Bob Jackson said the University will continue to monitor the CDC's guidance as well as other state and local healthcare guidance in relation to COVID-19.

"As noted in previous emails, the CDC is now using a COVID-19 Community Level tool (county tracker) to provide guidance regarding COVID-19 safety measures, which we are following," Jackson said via email. "The current COVID-19 community level for Calloway County is at the 'low' level, per the CDC Community Level tool." If the county were to return to the "high" level per the CDC Community Level tool, the University mask mandate would be reinstated. Junior engineering and physics major Hayden Smee said he was shocked when the mask mandate was lifted. "After nearly two years of wearing the mask, it started to feel like we would never go back to when they weren't needed," Smee said. "We weren't given a heads up before the mandate

was dropped, not that I necessarily expected one. I could tell a change was coming based on local and statewide case numbers." Smee said by saying campus is returning to "normal," it oversimplifies the transition. "What is normal?" has been asked numerous times throughout the pandemic in relation to pre-COVID life, but we have to consider what we're calling 'normal,'" Smee said. "We're simply seeing the beginning of recovery in the form of taking off our masks and holding events indoors and bringing back campus traditions that half our students have never even heard of." Smee said the University is in a complicated position where not only can administrators readopt pre-COVID-19 procedures, but also implement different plans to bolster University campus life.

see **COVID-19**, page 3

Shann Riley/*The News*

Staff survey says:

42.52%

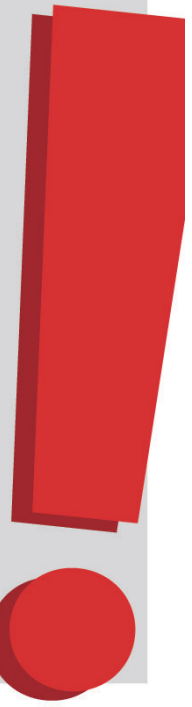
of staff members have considered leaving the University.

AND

Since 2010, the University has seen a decline in staff positions by

500 positions

According to results reported at the March 11, Board of Regents meeting



Nearly half of staff consider leaving, positions decrease

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The 2021-22 Staff Perspective Survey results reported at the March 11 Board of Regents meeting show 42.52% of staff have considered leaving the University. The University has seen a steady decline in staff by about 500 positions since 2010. The annual survey, administered to all staff at the University, aims to gain insight on potential areas of improvement and boost staff retention rates. Staff Congress leaders President David Wilson, Vice President Matthew Jones and Treasurer

Trish Lofton presented the issues staff members raised in the survey. Wilson said his job was not to give his own opinions but to report those of his constituents. "One of Staff Congress's most important functions ... is that we are charged to keep the president of the administration informed of issues that impact the staff, and we take that seriously," Wilson said. The Staff Congress leaders began by discussing the preservation of tuition waiver benefits, which over 18% of staff comments specifically referenced.

see **SURVEY**, page 3

Staff expresses concerns with inequity in remote work as well as preservation of tuition waiver benefits.

MURRAY STATE RELATED COVID-19 CASES

Students (April 11 - April 17)	Faculty and Staff (April 11 - April 17)	Weekly Total (April 11 - April 17)	Overall Total (Since Jan. 17)
1	0	1	201

Students compete with fluid-powered bike

Engineering students create hydraulic bike for Fluid Power Vehicle Challenge

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Student volunteers from the Electromechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Technology student organization traveled on Wednesday, April 20, to compete in the National Fluid Power Association's Fluid Power Vehicle Challenge. The competition in Ames, Iowa, is being held in person for the first time in three years. The competition will end on Friday, April 22.

"[The Challenge] strives to promote original thinking in a competitive setting by combining two technology platforms that are not normally associated with one another—human-powered vehicles and fluid power," according to NFPA's website. "The Vehicle Challenge hopes to create an environment that results in uncommon connections and breakthroughs, while supporting learning and the growth of fluid power industry knowledge."

Murray State's group is competing with a hydraulic bicycle that uses a pre-built frame. Electromechanical engineering and technology major Boaz Burnett said the bicycle can be powered by the pedals, like a traditional bike, but the

action of pedaling pumps fluid in order to turn the wheels.

This concept is known as "regenerative braking," which captures kinetic energy and stores it as potential energy. This can be used for a speed boost.

"The electronics are controlled using a programmable logic controller, which is one of the main focuses of our degree," Burnett said.

Electromechanical engineering and technology major Nate Heady said this energy is stored in accumulators, a pressure storage device that contains a compressible gas. The "charge" of the hydraulic fluid compresses the gas and starts storing potential energy.

Potential energy is the energy an object has in relation to objects around it. For example, a book on a top shelf has more potential energy than a book on a bottom shelf because it has farther to fall.

"We can also simply pedal the bike, which spins the wheel, and that will also start storing energy," Heady said. "With this energy, we can do a lot. We can go very fast, very far or somewhere in between."

Program Coordinator for the Electromechanical Engineering and Technology Program Jake Hildebrandt was the adviser several years ago. He said hydraulics is a fluid, generally an oil, used to perform work based on



The bicycle pictured above uses hydraulics, which will be tested for its speed and endurance in the Challenge. Photo courtesy of Nate Heady

Pascal's law. The law states that an object immersed in fluid experiences pressure from all sides.

Hildebrandt said hydraulics is very common in the industry sector to move extremely heavy loads. More commonly, hydraulics is used in farming and in braking and steering systems in most cars.

"This is a great exercise for projects that students will have to face in industry," Hildebrandt said. "It is also a great opportunity to network with industry professionals. One of the advisers for our students this year is actually an EMT graduate who received his job from relationships that he created when he competed in the NFPA hydraulic bike competition a few years ago."

The hydraulic bike will compete in three races: a speed race, an efficiency race that will test how far the bike will go on a single charge without pedaling and a relay race, where participants can pedal the bike if wanted.

Hildebrandt said the biggest change was when the sponsor of the competition changed from Parker

Hannifan, a motion and technological corporation, to the NFPA.

"Murray State won first place nationally in 2014 and 2018 and second place several of the other years," Hildebrandt said. "We are competing against some of the largest engineering schools in the nation at this competition. Some of the regular engineering programs that compete are from Purdue, Akron, Milwaukee School of Engineer, Cal Poly."

After the competition, students can win cash prizes. Heady and Burnett both cite goals of wanting experience and recognition for their hard work.

"I'm very proud of what our team has done," Heady said. "Despite being the most senior member, I've been outdone by a lot of team members that have never competed before ... No matter who wins the competition, I'm confident in saying I worked with some of the most talented people around on this project."

For those interested, contact Burnett at bburnett5@murraystate.edu.

Tell Everyone!

Members of the Murray State UCW Chapter have just voted to approve their platform to fight for better working conditions!



Graphic courtesy of @ucwkmurray

Campus union approves worker advocate platform

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After making their presence known at the beginning of the semester with petitions concerning COVID-19 and communications, the Murray Chapter of the United Campus workers of Kentucky have voted on and approved a new platform.

The platform sets the Union's objectives, which will focus on the needs of campus workers. The platform outlines three steps: living wages and affordable healthcare for all campus workers, support for parents and caregivers on campus and respect and safety for all campus workers.

Associate Art History Professor and Union Chapter member Antje Gamble said the work toward approving a platform started last semester.

"We have been working on the platform, basically, since September.

We were hoping to have the platform set before we officially launched, but we decided to launch before the platform was totally settled," Gamble said. "That also allowed us to get more feedback. The initial group of members was fairly homogenous. It was mostly faculty, and this is not a faculty union."

The extra time allowed for more staff and student workers to become well-needed voices as part of the Murray Chapter. Gamble said she further appreciates the added voices because out of all campus workers, faculty members are the least at risk in terms of having their employment threatened by poor conditions or a lack of flexibility.

On the Murray Chapter's social media, they have posts targeted at student workers and their needs. Gamble said this is because they are the most vulnerable and lowest paid on campus.

DINING, from page 1

Freshman English education major Sadie Boggs shared positive feedback on the idea for this new program.

"I think the idea of local restaurants catering food every now and then sounds great," Boggs said. "It would mean more future business for them and a lot of delicious variety on campus."

Retail Takeover is the most recent addition to a string of pop-ups Dining has been offering students in an effort to bring new flavors to campus.

One of Dining's latest pop-ups included a partnership with the International Student Office in which dishes from Spain, Japan, South Korea, India and Saudi Arabia were available for dinner at Winslow Dining Hall.

Blank said Retail Takeover was designed as the next logical step in expanding these pop-up opportunities.

"We want to find opportunities to give the students more," Blank said. "We've done all of these great things on campus, such as bringing in all of these new retail locations, reimplementing the Pony Express and having events here at Winslow."

Blank said that when Retail Takeover events are happening, one of the T-Room restaurants will close, letting their space be used by the visiting restaurant. He said he understands this might cause some confusion and recognizes how important communication will be in the first few weeks of Retail Takeover.

"We will be promoting, so people will know if Sub Connections is going to be closed next Wednesday," Blank said. "If someone wakes up really wanting a sub, they'll know that we will have something a little bit different but still a good offering."

To get students familiar with the format for Retail Takeover, Dining hosted the first Retail Takeover itself, taking over the Tres Habaneros location in the Curris Center to offer Vietnamese noodles prepared by Dining employees.

Dining transitioned into its schedule of visiting restaurants with one of

its Retail Takeovers, which was hosted by Goldenrod Cafe on April 13.

Blank said partnering with chain restaurants is not the goal, and Dining's chef is working with the marketing department to find local Murray restaurants that would benefit from more patronage, especially from the University's student population.

"We want to support the local Murray community, so we are trying to increase their pool of influence and get the knowledge out about those places," Blank said. "We are working to bring some local offerings from the community that students may not be aware of."

While students seemed to appreciate the new culinary options, they did have some concerns after attending the first Retail Takeover.

"I was incredibly excited to learn about the ... Retail Takeover at Tres," said freshman Spanish major Erin Fairweather. "It was a fun, unique change from the somewhat repetitive meals on campus. I'm definitely glad Dining is bringing more options to campus. However, the event could've been designed to be purchased by a meal exchange alone, not requiring Flex."

Blank said while feedback wasn't completely positive, the opportunity for students to speak their minds and outline what they'd like to see changed at future events can be extremely helpful.

"We're always open for suggestions, exhibiting that we are listening to students and hearing their feedback," Blank said. "They wanted to see new things, and we're acting on that."

Blank said he encourages students to reach out anytime to share feedback and suggestions for improvement. He said student input will be key in planning future Retail Takeover events.

For more information about Retail Takeover, contact Blank at david.blank2@sodexo.com. For more information about upcoming RCA meetings, contact Vice President of Leadership and Development Nicholas Novotka at nnovotka@murraystate.edu.

COVID-19, from page 1

COVID-19 not only impacted relationships between students and faculty members, but it also impacted teaching and learning styles. “As far as learning goes, it just felt like the online—Zoom and asynchronous—courses forced upon me were a challenge,” Smee said. “In-person classes were a challenge, too. Spreading 20 students out in a lecture hall made for 100 also prevented a proper student-faculty relationship, as well as relationships with other students.” Smee said he saw his grades decline during the months heavily impacted by COVID-19. With the added stress from the pandemic, Jackson has emphasized the Counseling Center’s availability to students, faculty and staff. “The Psychological Center also provides in-person counseling sessions for students, faculty and staff, as well as walk-in crisis sessions,” Jackson said. “Please call 270-809-2504 to schedule an appointment. Faculty and staff are also provided counseling services through the

University’s Employee Assistance Program at 800-441-1327 or Wayne Corp. This is a voluntary confidential program available at no cost.” To schedule an appointment with the Counseling Center, email msu.counselingcenter@murraystate.edu. Jackson said COVID-19 policies for the fall semester are still being developed in consultation with the CDC and state and local healthcare providers. Jackson said he encourages those who are not vaccinated to consult with their healthcare providers about getting the COVID-19 vaccine. “We have been pleased with the availability of weekly vaccines, booster vaccines and testing opportunities held in the Curris Center by Kentucky Care, as well as through MSU Health Services on campus and in other locations by outside providers throughout our region,” Jackson said. “We encourage everyone to visit the Racer Restart page for additional information, including vaccine and booster vaccine opportunities and other testing locations.” The next and final vaccine clinic will be Tuesday, April 26, on the first floor of the Curris Center from 10 a.m to 2 p.m.



Mary Huffman/The News
For students who wish to seek psychological or counseling services because of COVID-19-related issues, call the Psychological Center at 270-809-2504 or email the Counseling Center at msu.counselingcenter@murraystate.edu.

UNION, from page 2

“We want to make sure the most marginalized voices are being heard...and I’m really happy with the platform that we put out,” Gamble said. Each of the three items have demands, according to the platform. The demands are aimed at the administration. The first item, living wages and affordable healthcare for all campus workers, demands a Cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase along with a \$15 minimum wage for all campus workers within the next five years. The first demand also addresses the wage discrepancies between related positions. “Murray State must set up a pay scale that is relational between workers and their direct supervisors that does not exceed twice the salary of the lowest-paid employee,” according to the platform. “When supervisor/manager’s pay is disproportionately higher than worker pay, there creates further imbalances within the workplace that add to issues of inequity and even exploitation.” Concerning healthcare, the platform demands for the increase of health benefits for all regular full-time, part-time and student workers. For the second item, support for parents and caregivers, the Murray Chapter’s platform said the lack of support for caregivers could interfere with employee retention. In order to garner more support for caregivers the platform recommends following a proposal made by the Gender Equity Caucus (GEC). The proposal argued for more flexibility concerning course delivery, a change in the way course evaluations are used and how research and creative activity are assessed. Required COVID-19 vaccination for all those on campus is also among the Chapter’s demands. It is included as an item serving to ensure campus workers can protect family members unable to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The third item, respect and safety for all campus workers, addresses ending workplace harassment, bullying and discrimination. “This affects every job class on campus (Faculty, Staff, Graduate Student

Workers, and Undergraduate Student Workers),” according to the platform. “The reporting of harmful behavior is met with pandering, gaslighting, and inaction by managers through upper-administration.” Overall, the item demands for the protection of campus workers, and to have working avenues of reporting if offenses are made. “We have members, who have reported stalking, harassment and sexual assault of varying degrees, that is basically even if officially reported, very little consequences happen,” Gamble said. “They don’t feel safe even if all the legal consequences have taken place, that is often the case.” In the face of these issues, the platform calls for an ombudsman, a neutral party who will investigate the workplace issues and work toward what is best for both parties. Murray Chapter member and Associate Professor of Higher Education Brain Bourke said he believes there needs to be a more structured approach when it comes to navigating workplace issues. “Currently in the way our system as an institution is set up, if a worker has a complaint, and they feel that it’s not been taken seriously and not been addressed adequately, their only recourse if they want to continue to pursue that is to find an attorney,” Bourke said. “That’s a drastic step.” Bourke said the platform announcement came at a good time after campus surveys have reflected the dissatisfaction many campus workers already feel. “Forty-two percent of staff members have considered leaving the University,” Bourke said. “That’s pretty big.” The Murray Chapter has yet to receive a formal response from administration concerning their petitions earlier in the Spring 2022 semester. Although there has not been formal upfront communication between the two bodies, Bourke said he does see improvements based on the requests made in the prior petitions. “I think that we’ve seen a little bit of improvement in communication that can be seen with the closures that we’ve had recently for anticipated severe weather,” Bourke said. Unlike the previous petitions the platform is serving as a tool to show people what the Murray Chapter is about and why there is a Union at Murray State.

SURVEY, from page 1

“It’s important that all employees full-time, part-time, retirees and their dependents have the opportunity to utilize the full breadth of the tuition waiver benefit,” Jones said. The survey also addressed the University closure policy, prompting some respondents to request flexible and remote work options in the case of a closure. Two questions in particular covered work experiences during the pandemic. Of the respondents, 86.03% reported they performed remote work in the last year. Among those who worked remotely, 71.62% said they strongly agree, or tend to agree, they had a favorable experience. However, some reported inequities in remote work. “Issues of unequal workload and a lack of adequate tools to perform their job remotely were reported,” Lofton said. “Technology was not available for some staff because they just couldn’t afford it.”

“ Issues of unequal workload and a lack of adequate tools to perform their job remotely were reported. Technology was not available for some staff because they just couldn’t afford it. ”

— Trish Lofton, Staff Congress treasurer

For the statement that vacancies are filled in a timely manner, 39.74% of respondents indicated they tend to disagree, while 22.71% strongly disagree. Jones said the timely filling of vacancies across Murray State has been at the forefront of the conversation for a long period of time. “It often takes months to fill a vacant position on campus, whether that’s on the faculty side or the staff side,” Jones said. “This puts a new pressure and strain on remaining staff members as they’re often asked to complete their original duties, plus the duties of the vacant position, often without additional compensation for the increased workload.” Additionally, Jones said the University has a critical need to reevaluate its hiring practices.

Staff Congress leaders discuss survey

- Staff reports inequity in remote work, as some could not afford needed technology
- Staff cites concerns with preservation of tuition waiver benefits
- Staff raises issues with the filling of vacant positions in a timely manner

Emery Wainwright/The News

“With the slow hiring practices, we miss out on some high-quality staff members because they’ve either accepted another position at another organization or they’re no longer interested in a position here at Murray State,” he said. Lofton also revealed staff dissatisfaction with advancement opportunities. Among respondents, 29.60% answered they strongly disagree, and 21.52% answered they tend to disagree, that advancement opportunities are adequate. “Staff comments reflected their dissatisfaction, citing feelings of stifled ambition and frustration with the inequitable opportunities from promotion, transfer and a lack of salary increases due to position changes,” Lofton said. Finally, Wilson addressed staff pay, as 39% identified pay raises as a major concern. “We understand that providing raises is not easy,” Wilson said. “As a budget manager in a department, I completely understand it is not easy to come up with 1%.”

“ I just feel strongly that we have an obligation to let you know that the staff is here to support ... but they just really feel that they need to have some of these dialogues. ”

— David Wilson, Staff Congress president

While acknowledging the difficulty of the issues, Wilson maintained it is necessary to confront them. “I just feel strongly that we have an obligation to let you know that the staff is here to support you, but they just really feel that they need to have some of these dialogues,” Wilson said. Though this year’s survey is closed, staff members can report comments, concerns and suggestions by visiting murraystate.edu/staffcongress

Our View:

We are losing the race against the climate crisis

Earth Day is the one day each year where people come together to celebrate the Earth and all that it has to offer.

“Invest in our planet. What will you do?” is the theme for Earth Day 2022. The theme was decided by earthday.org, the global organizer for Earth Day events. This theme was created to call for change among people and our environment.

Despite the uplifting motto, many people don't know what to do when it comes to our planet.

The first Earth Day was held in April 1970 before the Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act existed. Despite the lack of these organizations, people still had concern for our environment, but it seems that we need to be concerned now more than ever.

Earth Day itself is a campaign run by several organizations around the world that work on initiatives such as global clean-up efforts, sustainable fashion, climate education, and conservation efforts. Despite the prevalence of this organization and others like it, global climate change continues to persist.

Climate change is becoming more prominent as time goes on. Weather patterns are continuing to break records worldwide, but in a detrimental way.

Many people think of climate change as “global warming,” but climate change is far more than that. Although we are seeing rising temperatures during normally warmer months, we are also seeing more extreme winters in areas that normally get little to no snow or winter weather patterns.

One example of this is the winter storm that hit Texas in February 2021. This storm caused considerable damage,

including power loss, and even death, for citizens that had never seen patterns like what occurred during that weather event.

Additionally, we are facing drastic weather conditions in Kentucky. The EF4 tornado that hit our state in December 2021 broke records for being the longest-running tornado in history. Aside from the record-breaking tornado, more than 50 other tornadoes hit our state and many others over the course of the night.

Unfortunately, we are not safe from the impact of climate change in our community of Murray. The city of Mayfield is less than 25 miles from our town, and we could have been the unfortunate victims of the underlying impact of climate change.

Climate scientists work to study the impacts of climate change and how to “reverse” it. According to the United Nations website, we are reaching a point of no return. Reversing it may no longer be possible, but we could at least learn to live with it or manage it in new ways.

At *The News*, we believe many citizens and scientists alike think the threat is not imminent and is not going to cause issues right now. Unfortunately, the threat of climate change has many impacts that aren't being seen, but are being felt.

One issue is the presence of flooding in major cities. Flooding can lead to disease spread in many ecosystems and major loss of crucial land for farming and other infrastructures. Additionally, climate change is leading to a decline in health among our population because of lack of food availability and resources in poverty-stricken areas.



Cade Utterback/*The News*

Another impact, of the exact opposite nature of flooding, is drought. Drought contributes to a major loss in food sources and often leads to lack of clean water.

Droughts impact the ecosystems surrounding human life as well. Many animals will lose access to food sources and habitat land since humans will begin taking those over.

Although humans continue to have a massive impact on climate change, we can take steps to work toward a positive future.

One way to positively impact this is to consume less meat. Beef production alone requires 145,000 gallons of water per ton, and pork production requires around 121,000 gallons of water per ton. These are just some of the meats produced that require more water than some people will ever have access to.

As citizens, we can also push for cleaner energy. Corporations like ExxonMobil seem to have a global impact on production,

but this global impact can also be felt in a negative way. Oil spills and explosions from Exxon and other oil companies can be detrimental to our environment and ecosystems.

We have to work toward a goal of knowing how to live with the effects and improve in newer ways.

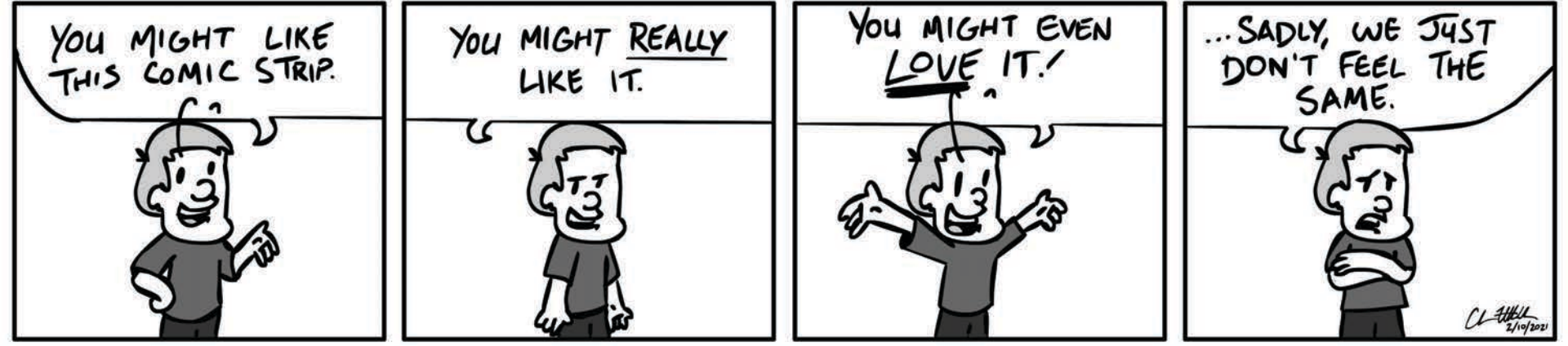
A focus on our carbon footprints will be the a large impactor. Switching to sustainable products will aid this dilemma.

Most importantly, companies willing to focus on their environmental impact rather than the cost of necessary changes are companies that should be supported.

At the point we are at, we have to consider the idea that we may not be able to reverse climate change in time, and research needs to be done about how to live with drastically changed climate.


We might not be able to fight the changes, but we can have the ability to control how we respond to the changes.

"AN UNREQUITED COMIC"



Written & Illustrated by Cade Utterback

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Baseball loses back-to-back non-conference games

Game one was lost in walk-off fashion at Memphis

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After sweeping UT Martin the series before, Murray State baseball dropped back-to-back games against University of Memphis on Monday, April 18, and North Alabama University on Tuesday, April 19. The Racers road trip took a bump in Memphis, Tennessee, when they allowed the Tigers to walk it off in the ninth inning, losing 5-4. They took another loss when the North Alabama Golden Lions held off a potential comeback to defeat the Racers 6-4.

VS. MEMPHIS

Taking the bump to start the game for the Racers was junior left-handed pitcher Alex Jarrell, entering the game with a 6.16 ERA. He allowed just one hit in the first two innings and the Racers' offense went into the top of the third trying to add some insurance runs for Jarrell.

Graduate second baseman Jordan Holly started the third inning with a single. The following two batters struck out, but Holly took advantage and stole second base to be in scoring position.

Senior third baseman Bryson Bloomer followed it up with a walk, with Holly then stealing third. Sophomore shortstop Drew Vogel came up and hit a double to bring home Holly, and Bloomer scored on a wild throw that put the Racers up 2-0.

The Tigers had an answer in the bottom of the third as sophomore third baseman Logan Kohler hit a single that brought in graduate right fielder Blake Daniels to cut the Racers' lead in half. Each team added a run to

their tallies in the fourth inning. The Racers struck in the top half of the inning as junior right fielder Seth Gardner singled to bring in freshman left fielder Carson Garner for a run.

Memphis kept the Racers' lead at one run as Daniels hit a double to bring sophomore second baseman Austin Baskin around to score, cutting the Racers lead to one run.

The fifth inning was scoreless for both teams. However, the Racers tacked on another run in the top of the sixth as graduate center fielder Jake Slunder doubled into the outfield and junior outfielder Brennan McCullough came home to score, putting the Racers up 4-2.

The Tigers didn't back off as Kohler doubled to right center and brought in senior center fielder Zach Wilson to make it 4-3.

They then tied the game up in the bottom of the eighth inning as senior first baseman Chris Swanberg singled to center field and brought home Baskin.

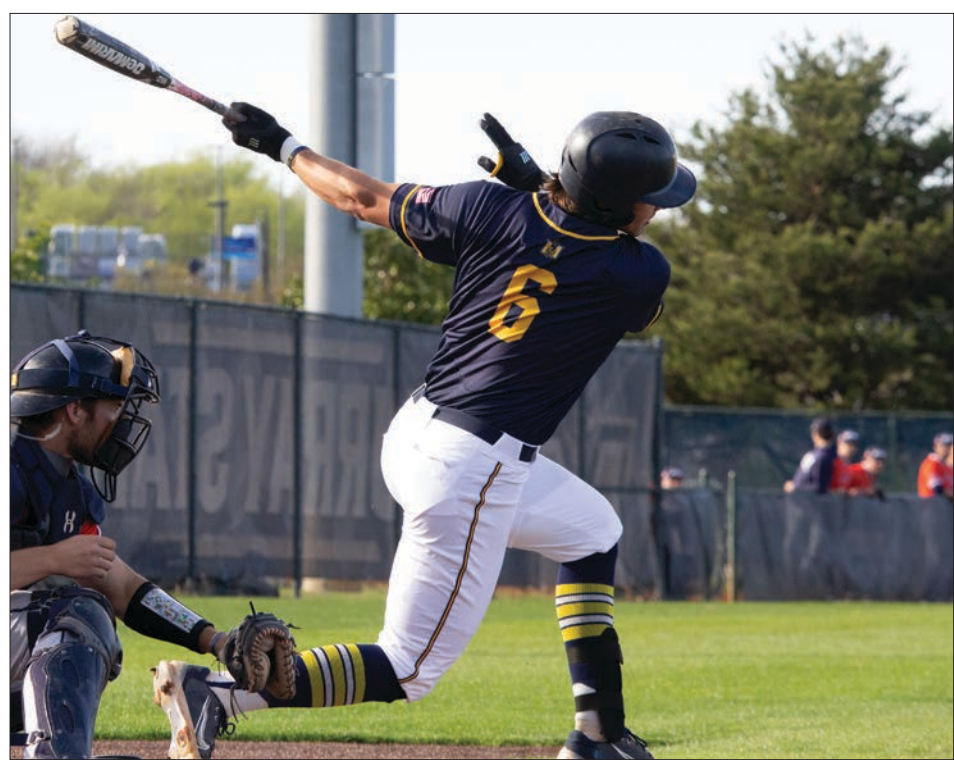
As the bottom of the ninth inning came around, the Tigers were looking to walk it off. After the lead-off hitter grounded out to start the inning, Wilson smacked a home run to left-center on a 2-1 count, giving the Tigers the 5-4 win.

The Racers left eight runners on base in the game, striking out 11 times through 34 batters. They managed three RBIs on seven hits overall.

The Tigers had 10 hits and five RBIs on 33 at-bats, striking out seven times and leaving seven runners on base.

VS. NORTH ALABAMA

The Lions were quick to score in the bottom of the first



Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Senior third baseman Bryson Bloomer hit a home run in game two against North Alabama on Tuesday, April 19.

inning. Freshman third baseman Jonathan Lane reached base on an error, which allowed senior catcher Luke Harper to score from third base.

Another run was added in the first inning as junior second baseman Drew Hudson doubled to the outfield, bringing in Lane for the Lions second run of the game.

Bloomer had an answer in the top of the second inning as he hit a home run that also brought home sophomore second baseman Riley Hawthorne. The homer tied the game at 2 runs apiece.

Both teams went quiet until the bottom of the fifth inning as sophomore left fielder Garrett Smith doubled and brought in Hudson for a run.

Another run came in the bottom of the sixth when senior shortstop Reid Homan doubled and brought home Haper to put the Lions up 4-2.

The Racers responded in

the top of the seventh with a double from Gardner that brought home Hawthorne and Vogel to tie the game at 4-4.

The last two runs came for the Lions in the bottom of the seventh as Harper was walked with the bases loaded, bringing home freshman right fielder Zak Major. Smith then scored on a passed ball, and that was all the scoring that came in the game. The Lions defeated the Racers 6-4.

The Racers managed four hits and four RBIs through 31 batters, with 14 striking out. The Lions had nine hits and five RBIs through 33 batters, with 13 striking out.

Murray State dropped to 18-18 on the season, with the conference record remaining at 4-8 as both games were non-conference games. The Racers travel to Charleston, Illinois, from Friday, April 22, through Sunday, April 24, as they take on the Eastern Illinois Panthers. First pitch on Friday is set for 1 p.m.

2022 WOMEN'S GOLF OVC CHAMPION

Shann Riley/ The News



- Season average of 75.5 strokes per round
- At OVC scored 71 - 70 - 73 for a total score of 214 (-2 under)
- 8th Woman in Athletics history to win an OVC title



CONGRATS PAYTON CARTER

Weather delay forces a tie in extras for softball

Jakob Milani

Sports Editor

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Murray State's softball team had its game on Wednesday, April 20, against Southern Illinois University rained out in extra innings.

The game was tied at six runs apiece heading into the ninth inning until the rain was deemed too much to continue playing.

Sophomore right-handed pitcher Jenna Veber took the mound for the Racers, entering with a 1.49 ERA. She held the Salukis scoreless through the first four innings, giving the Racers time to take the lead.

The Racers first struck in the bottom of the first inning as sophomore first baseman Lily Fischer doubled up the middle to bring in junior third baseman Gracie Osbron and senior right fielder Logan Braundmeier.

Senior shortstop Sierra Gilmore added on in the bottom of the third inning with a home run over the center field fence to put the Racers up 3-0.

Later in the third inning, three more Racers managed to get on base as Osbron singled up the middle. Then, both Fischer and sophomore designated hitter Yanna Marrow were hit by pitches to load the bases.

Another run crossed as freshman left fielder Erin Lackey drew a walk to bring Osbron home and put the Racers up 4-0.

The Racers' final two runs came in the bottom of the fourth inning. First, Braundmeier bunted down the first baseline to get an infield single. Gilmore then doubled, bringing Braundmeier to third base. A wild pitch from junior right-handed pitcher Sarah Har-

ness brought home Braundmeier and moved Gilmore to third. After drawing a walk, Osbron stole second base, which allowed Gilmore to score and put the Racers up 6-0.

The Salukis finally got on the board in the top of the fifth inning when sophomore first baseman Elisabeth Huckleberry hit a sacrifice flyout to left field with sophomore left fielder Elizabeth Warwick tagging up and scoring on the play.

The biggest inning for the Salukis came in the top of the sixth inning.

The inning started with a double from senior shortstop Ashley Wood, followed by a double from graduate second baseman Jenny Jansen that brought Wood around to score.

Senior catcher Danyelle Eilers came in to pinch run for Jansen. With a single from Warwick to center field, Eilers came in to score and make it 6-3 Racers.

Junior right fielder Tori Schullian was then walked and Huckleberry reached on a fielder's choice, which loaded the bases.

Freshman designated hitter Emma Austin stepped up to the plate and singled to Gilmore, which allowed Warwick to touch home plate and score.

Finally, junior center fielder Aubree DePron stepped up and singled up the middle, which proved enough to bring both Schullian and Huckleberry around to score and tie the game at six runs apiece. Wood came back up in the order and flew out to end the inning.

The Racers had no answer in the bottom half of the sixth inning as two of the three batters struck out.

The final inning of regulation came around. In the top of the seventh inning, all three Salukis grounded out, giving



Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

Junior third baseman Gracie Osbron accounted for two of the Racers hits in the game against SIU on Wednesday.

the Racers a chance to walk it off. But it was a "one-two-three" inning as two of the three batters went down swinging.

Rain had made its way into the area, threatening to stop the game as it went into extra innings. The Salukis had one hit in the top half of the eighth as Schullian hit a double with one out, but it was all that the Salukis could muster in the inning. Gilmore started the bottom half of the inning with a single, which was followed up by a single from Osbron. Then, despite a two-out walk from sophomore catcher Tay-

lor Jackson, Lackey hit a flyout to Schullian to end the inning.


Following this, the game was called because of inclement weather, with the teams remaining tied at six.


Murray State's record sits at 30-11-1 overall following the tie, with its 14-3 conference record remaining intact.


The Racers' conference schedule picks back up with a three-game homestand against SEMO, with game one on Saturday, April 23, and games two and three on Sunday, April 24. First pitch for game one is set for 3 p.m. at Racer Field.

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MURRAY STATE ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

APRIL 22 - 27

Shann Riley/The News

April 22:

Women's Track at 2022 Kentucky Invitational

@ Lexington, KY *All Day*

Women's Track at 2022 Illini Invitational

@ Champaign, IL *All Day*

Baseball at Eastern Illinois @ Charleston, IL *1 p.m.*

April 23:

Women's Track at 2022 Kentucky Invitational

@ Lexington, KY *All Day*

Women's Track at 2022 Illini Invitational

@ Champaign, IL *All Day*

Baseball at Eastern Illinois @ Charleston, IL *1 p.m.*

Tennis vs. Austin Peay @ Murray, KY *1 p.m.*

Softball vs SEMO @ Murray, KY *3 p.m.*

April 24:

Men's Golf at Ohio Valley Conference @ Cape

Girardeau, MO *All Day*

Softball vs SEMO @ Murray, KY *1 p.m., 3 p.m.*

Baseball at Eastern Illinois @ Charleston, IL *1 p.m.*

April 25:

Men's Golf at Ohio Valley Conference @ Cape

Girardeau, MO *All Day*

April 26:

Men's Golf at Ohio Valley Conference @ Cape

Girardeau, MO *All Day*

Baseball vs. Alabama A&M @ Murray, KY *5 p.m.*

April 27:

Men's Golf at Ohio Valley Conference @ Cape

Girardeau, MO *All Day*

Softball at Austin Peay @ Clarksville, TN

2 p.m., 4 p.m.

For more information
visit **GoRacers.com**



Sophomore student launches weekly podcast

Ava Chuppe
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After a group of students missed out on a Racer basketball game, their disappointment led them to put their creative talents to use.

After some brainstorming, sophomore hospitality and tourism major, Jayden Hayn and others decided to start a podcast.

"We said that we wished there was one place that we could go to hear about all the things that were happening on campus in the upcoming week instead of hearing about things after they had already happened," Hayn said.

The podcast, called Racer Report, debuted April 4 and covers five categories: sports, weather, University events, student organizations and "Out-N-About," or off-campus events in the wider Murray community.

Racer Report is available on Apple Podcasts and Spotify. The podcast is available for free, with a new episode released every Monday morning. Contributors record the cast in the new Makerspace area of Waterfield Library.

Anna McGreevy, a freshman communication disorders major, discovered Racer Report was holding reporter auditions when Hayn

mentioned to her that she was starting the organization.

McGreevy said she had immediate interest, as she thought it was a great opportunity for involvement. As the reporter for student organizations and University events, she said she aims to help students plan out their weeks.

"But it wouldn't be possible without the writers," McGreevy said. "They let me know what I need to talk about when I go to record."

Hayn said she was able to start the podcast after finding an adviser and interested students.

"Murray State has such a great system for starting new student organizations," Hayn said. "We have had a great response so far from our listeners."

Hayn said the podcast was a great asset because of its accessibility.

"We keep it short and simple, about five minutes, so that it doesn't drag on for too long and lose the interest of our audience," Hayn said. "We release it on Monday mornings, so that students can listen to it on their walk to class."

McGreevy said Racer Report fulfills some limitations of conventional news.

"Rather than the news, which often focuses on reporting past events, our podcast is reporting on



The Racer Report podcast, published every Monday, offers information about campus events. Photo Courtesy of the Racer Report Spotify Page

things to come," McGreevy said. "I know that when I first came to campus, I missed a lot of events just because I didn't hear about them. Our podcast is trying to change that."

Hayn said while positions are not paid and just for fun, having a published piece of work can boost a resume.

"If you're looking for a way to support our podcast, feel free to leave us a review on Apple Podcasts or Spotify," Hayn said. "It is very

helpful for us to reach more people on campus."

While Racer Report is still seeking more reporters, they are not looking for more writers until the fall semester begins.

Interested students can follow @msu.racerreport on Instagram for updates on when interview processes will begin again. Anyone with a tip about an upcoming event is encouraged to visit the link on their Instagram page bio and submit it to the podcast.

Legacy Event honors students, explores issues

Raleigh Hightower
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Celebrating the legacy of Harry Lee Waterfield, the Department of Political Science and Sociology hosted its 44th annual Waterfield Distinguished Lecture.

The lecture was hosted on April 14 in the Curris Center Ballroom, and recognized students within the Political Science and Sociology Department, awarded the Waterfield Scholarship and featured a guest lecturer.

Waterfield was elected the 42nd and 44th Lt. Gov. of Kentucky. He also served in the Kentucky House of Representatives and founded the Investors Heritage Life Insurance Company in 1961.

Among the students recognized were those in the Mock Trial and Model United Nations Clubs. Both Clubs recognized a "MVP" and gave out a "Spirit Award." Junior political science major Hutch Williams was recognized as Model UN's MVP.

"Being a part of Model United Nations has been such a fun, educational experience that has affected me in a profound way," Williams said. "It was a true honor to receive the MVP award for Model UN, I can't wait to see what happens with the Club next year."

Awards were also given to outstanding political science, sociology and international studies seniors, and the Dr. Choong Nam Kang awards for best student paper for both undergraduate and graduate students were awarded.

The Department also awarded several students with its annual Harry Lee Waterfield Governmental Studies Scholarship. Recipients of the scholarship must be a junior, senior or graduate student with American citizen-

ship majoring in political science, criminal justice or public administration.

Junior political science/pre-professional legal studies major Ashlyn Tracy was one recipient of the Waterfield Governmental Studies Scholarship.

"Receiving this scholarship was such an honor for my fellow recipients and myself," Tracy said. "It was inspiring to receive a scholarship in the name of Harry Waterfield because of his and his family's accomplishments and dedication to public service."

The Waterfield Lecture has selected a special guest lecturer who works in public service every year since 1977. The first guest lecturer was 52nd Gov. of Kentucky Louis Nunn. Other notable lecturers include the 59th Gov. of Kentucky, Paul Patton; 61st Gov. of Kentucky, Steve Beshear; and Murray State alumnus Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Kentucky, Bill Cunningham.

This year's guest lecturer was Dr. David Lewis, a professor in the Department of Political Science at Vanderbilt University. Prior to his time at Vanderbilt, Lewis was an assistant professor of politics and public affairs at Princeton University.

Lewis's discussion topic was titled "Can the Government Solve Big Problems? Politics and the Infrastructure of Governance."

Lewis began his lecture by discussing how simple governmental responsibilities such as maintaining infrastructure like roads, bridges and buildings can be neglected due to the nature of politics.

Lewis specifically mentioned the Forbes Avenue bridge in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as an example of this neglect.

"City officials and county officials had known since 2011 that the bridge was in poor



David Lewis gives guest lecture at the 44th annual Waterfield Distinguished Lecture held April 14. Dionte Berry/The News

condition," Lewis said. "To fix the bridge it would have cost \$1,500,000. There are 175 other bridges in Allegheny County that are in poor condition. Why didn't local officials in this area spend money to fix this bridge?"

Lewis also discussed how the massive amount of political appointments can slow the work and effectiveness of the government's bureaucracy.

"Political appointees are coming and going at the top of organizations," Lewis said. "The Senate and the president have been unable to consistently staff some of these positions."

Lewis said he believes this is similar to how many governmental organizations are operating and might explain why they are struggling to complete key tasks.

"Imagine the effect on the University, if every four years the president departed, the provost departed, the deans departed and the chairs departed," Lewis said. "We would have some concerns, in fact, you might want to transfer."

The Waterfield Lecture concluded with optimism from Lewis who urged that the problems in the government's bureaucracies are solvable.

"I am an optimist," Lewis said. "I believe if we increase the transparency, we might create the right types of incentives to generate momentum."

Senior art students display BFA exhibitions

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Murray State's Clara M. Eagle Gallery is displaying an exhibit from April 15 to April 21 with work by senior students pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree.

Reception held on April 15 celebrated the opening day of the exhibit where students had the opportunity to discuss their art with attendees.

Senior BFA students begin preparing for these exhibits at the start of their senior year. Then the semester of graduation, students take the BFA class and work at creating their pieces, developing an artist statement and mounting their pieces in the gallery.

Amanda Cohoon, a graduating BFA senior with an emphasis in painting and printmaking, titled her exhibit "Roots to Ridges."

"The idea behind this is kind of about the roots we put down when we pick our forever home and also the roots we put down for agriculture," Cohoon said. "And then the ridges refer to the ridges that are livestock grown and that we also explore."

Cohoon said she was inspired to make this collection of art because of her appreciation for her home state, Kentucky. She said she wanted to make the viewer aware because she feels that people get distracted because of the bustling nature of society now.

River Skipworth is a graduating

BFA senior with an emphasis in painting and ceramics, and he titled his exhibit "Out From Amongst the Brood."

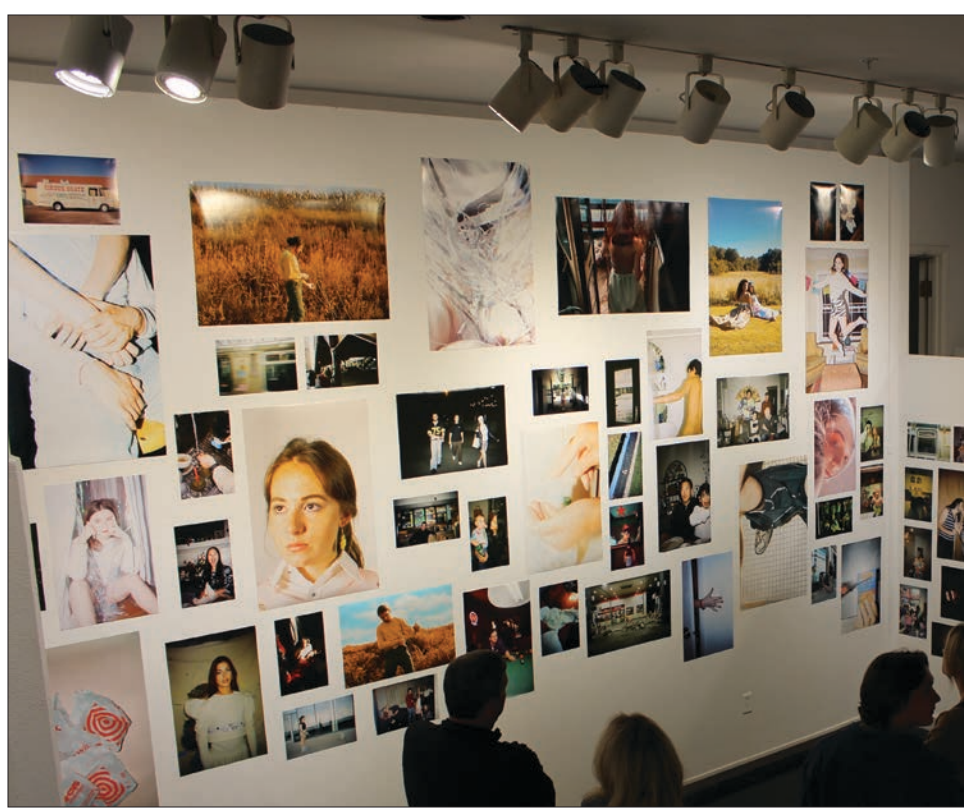
"My work focuses on worth and value and how we all sort of assign those things and how individual that is," Skipworth said.

Keleigh Mabry, a graduating BFA senior with an emphasis in printmaking, called her exhibit "Sonder." In her talk at the reception, Mabry refers to the Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows by John Koenig, which defines sonder as the realization that each random passerby is living a life as vivid and complex as your own.

Mabry's collection of screen prints depicted people doing daily tasks, but all of them had objects instead of heads.

"I thought it could be something really special to replace it with an object that kind of tells you about their state and about their situation a little bit more," Mabry said. "I also think it's really impactful to kind of be able to tell where they're at psychologically without being able to read it on their facial expressions."

Cassandra Carroll is a graduating BFA senior with an emphasis in woodworking and sculpture and her exhibit is called "Efflorescence." Carroll said "efflorescence" refers to the beginning of the growth of a flower, but also a type of growth that happens on top of concrete and slowly breaks it down.



Dionte Berry/The News
Accumulation by John Gee on display in the Eagle Gallery during the April 15 BFA reception.

"The majority of my show is based around growth and decay," Carroll said. "So, a lot of my works, whenever it gets down to it, are talking about those cycles between growth and decay and how they work together."

A graduating BFA senior with an emphasis in graphic design, Shann Riley said her exhibit, "Richmond Apparitions," was inspired by her life as an athlete.

(Editor's Note: Shann Riley is graphic designer for TheNews.)

"Meshing my love for graphic design and hockey, I created my BFA exhibition, 'Richmond Apparitions,'" Riley said. "Creating my own hockey team was very fascinating, learning what goes into

making an eye-catching logo, team branding and overall personality proved to be a lot of hard work."

This is just the first round of exhibits by seniors, according to the Gallery's Facebook page. They will transition to a new round of senior exhibits on April 22.

Moving forward, students are responsible for taking their work down before the next group of BFA students set up their exhibits. Seniors also will receive feedback from professors about their exhibits.

For latest updates on the exhibits, check the Gallery's Facebook page at The Clara M. Eagle Gallery. <https://www.facebook.com/EagleGallery>.

Alumnus returns to campus with EDM Concert

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The end of the semester is right around the corner with final exams and projects deadlines approaching. To give the campus body a break from their workload, the Music Business Program is hosting Murray State's first EDM concert.

Music Business Program Director Karen Kane tasked students in her live performance and concert production course with the responsibility of coordinating and promoting a concert on campus.

With Lovett Auditorium still under construction Lovett Live, a traditionally annual concert hosted by the Music Business Program, has once again been put on hold. In its place music business students have invited back alumnus, Tanner Bertram, professionally known as DJ Tanner, who to host The Finals Countdown Concert.

Bertram graduated in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in music business and now works as an open format DJ based in Nashville.

"I'm absolutely honored to be coming back and working with my old department," Bertram said. "I started DJing in college, and all the opportunities that the University gave me, definitely has helped get me on the right path to where I'm at today."

Bertram began his career as a DJ at Murray State putting together the music for the basketball and football games.

With Murray State serving as his launch pad into the music world, Bertram said he is happy

to give back to his community.

"Being able to do something to kind of give back to my old program and show them that everything I've learned and took from my college town that I've been applying it to the real world," Bertram said. "And so it's really cool."

When Bertram started his music journey at Murray State, he did not know he would end up DJing. Bertram said as a child he thought he would end up as a drummer, inspired by the drummers he saw on Broadway in Nashville.

"I always thought that the guys on Broadway in Nashville were the coolest, they sat there in the windows, people walked by, they twirled their sticks and they smiled," Bertram said.

During his freshman and sophomore years at Murray State, Bertram played drums in Racer Band and for the Jazz Orchestra. Bertram said opportunities for DJing started to pop up, and he eventually made the switch from drummer to DJ and fulfilled his dream of being a musician in Nashville.

Now that he is in Nashville, Bertram said he doesn't have a clear route for his career, and has been taking it one day at a time.

"I'm just kind of just seeing where it goes from here," Bertram said. "And it's been really fun."

Although his goals are not clear cut, Bertram continues to practice DJing techniques, experimenting with different sounds, as well as consuming new music. Bertram said the next major step for his career is working on original music.

"A lot of the names that you hear associated with DJing don't



Photo courtesy of @djtantheman on Instagram
Murray State alumnus, Tanner Bertram, returns to campus May 2nd to perform at the Curris Center.

get known for their ability to scratch on a record, they're known for the tracks that they are producing," Bertram said.

He said when DJing, his music has electronica, house and LoFi hip-hop inspiration, something that's more relaxed and not too heavy.

Despite leaning toward a more relaxed sound, Bertram said he looks forward to bringing a harder sound to The Finals Countdown Concert.

"I'll be featuring some heavier hip hop, and layering that over top of ... like tech house kind of stuff and a little bit of dubstep will be to trap," Bertram said. "I want to see some head banging and want people to go all out."

Senior music business major Isaac Gray has worked on the promotion for The Finals Countdown Concert and said he is happy to be bringing something new to campus.

"We know we needed a change because Lovett Live wasn't going to happen," Gray said. "Lovett Live has already always been a country

music event, it is rewarding for us as a class to bring new music to campus."

Being on the promotional team, Gray and their fellow classmates are responsible for designing the posters and just spreading the word about the event.

"Before promoting, we had to think of a target demographic, and with the EDM concert we are happy to see that we are engaging with and doing something that gets the interest of more students," Gray said.

Although Gray has been happy to deviate from the traditional live music, they do recognize the risk.

"We as a class put a lot of work into making this happen, so please come," Gray said.

The Finals Countdown EDM concert will be on Monday, May 2, in the Curris Center Ballroom. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and tickets will be sold at the door at \$5 for students and \$10 for faculty, staff and guests.