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Photo courtesy of Carrie McGinnis
Members of the Pink Ribbon Racer photographed. From the left: Lori Roe, Carrie McGinnis, Lisa Schmidt and Marcie Hinton.

Breast Cancer support group forms on campus

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Pink Ribbon Racers began as a support group among friends and is now a campus organization supporting those who have been impacted by breast cancer. Carrie McGinnis, director of Alumni Relations, is one of the founding members of the group. McGinnis said she was made aware of the need for the group after two breast cancer diagnoses of her own. "I had people, who were also newly diagnosed, come to me and say things like, 'I've been diagnosed with breast cancer,'" McGinnis said. "Do you have any advice?" The support group meets on the second Tuesday of every month for lunch. McGinnis said she hopes newly diagnosed people will see a group of survivors on campus who have been through diagnoses and treatments and will know they are not alone.

"I had people, who were also newly diagnosed, come to me and say things like, 'I've been diagnosed with breast cancer. Do you have any advice?'"
— Carrie McGinnis, director of Alumni Relations

McGinnis said the group is also important because it allows individuals to share information they may not have gotten from medical professionals—experiences and information only cancer survivors would know. "We need to be able to just talk to each other so that we can inform each other about unique experiences that may end up happening to you at some point," McGinnis said. McGinnis was diagnosed with breast cancer in May 2018. At that time, it was caught early through a regular screening, and she went through a lumpectomy and radiation. McGinnis' treatments and surgery were initially successful and she had two months free from treatment. But in December 2021, the cancer returned.

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Dionte Berry/The News

The annual report ensures the University stays in compliance with the Clery Act which requires campuses to disclose crime statistics.

Stalking cases up, drug infractions decrease in annual crime report

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Stalking cases on campus have increased from 2020 to 2021, while drug law violations have decreased over the past three years, according to the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report. The University released the report to the public on Sept. 26, as required by the Clery Act, the Michael Minger Act and the Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act. The report includes statistics for campus crimes during the previous three calendar years, excluding 2022. It also covers certain off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by the University, as well as public property in close proximity to campus.

Incidents of stalking jumped from four in 2020 to 10 in 2021, including four at residential facilities. Seven rapes were reported in 2021, including five at residential colleges. The report covers sexual offenses related to rape, fondling, incest and statutory rape. It does not include the 2021 indecent exposure incident outside New Fine Arts, when a man was seen fondling himself outside of a classroom window and was later apprehended. However, all crimes are listed on the Crime Log. Arrests related to drug law violations have decreased significantly over the past three years, with 43 in 2019, 20 in 2020 and eight in 2021. While arrests related to liquor law violations have remained steady, disciplinary referrals related to liquor law violations have increased from seven in 2020 to 17 in 2021.

Crime and fire statistics were released for the campuses at Murray, Fort Campbell, Henderson, Madisonville, Hopkinsville and Paducah, as well as the Hancock Biological Station at Kentucky Lake and the Breathitt Veterinary Center on the Hopkinsville campus. With the exception of one fondling and one drug law arrest made on public property near the Madisonville campus in 2019, crime and fire incidents have only occurred at the main Murray campus during the past three years. After stove fires in Clark College, White College and College Courts in 2019 and two kitchen fires in College Courts in 2020, no fires occurred in residential colleges in 2021.

see **SECURITY REPORT**, page 2

Homecoming set to celebrate the Centennial

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With Murray State celebrating its centennial year, this year's Homecoming is set to be even bigger than previous years to commemorate this milestone. Homecoming will be held Oct. 27 through Oct. 30. It is a collaboration between the Office of Alumni Relations, the Office of Development, Campus Activities Board (CAB), Racer Athletics and others on campus. The theme of this year's Homecoming is "Forever Blue and Gold." Carrie McGinnis, director of Alumni Relations, said this year's Tent City is planned to be the biggest in years, with high attendance expected because of the University's centennial year. Tent City has been a Racer Tradition for more than 30 years, according to murraystate.edu. Tents will line the interior of Roy Stewart Stadium prior to the football game, representing Murray State student and alumni groups, Greek organizations, academic units and residential colleges.



Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

The 2021 Homecoming theme was, '99 years and counting' and the 2022 theme is, 'Forever Blue and Gold.'

This year, the Alumni Association is partnering with the Murray Environmental Student Society, a student organization that focuses on environmental consciousness and sustainability, to provide recycling centers near each of the entry gates. McGinnis said the office has planned an incentive program to reward organizations. "We plan to reward participating student organizations who make

the effort to recycle by giving those with the best effort priority placement for Tent City 2023," McGinnis said. "We hope this incentive will allow this Tent City and future large-scale events to highlight sustainability efforts while making it easy to take good care of our surroundings."

see **HOMECOMING**, page 2

Japanese major set to discontinue after the 2022-23 academic year

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Students majoring in Japanese received an email informing them they can finish their degrees. However students who had yet to declare their major or incoming freshmen will no longer be able to declare Japanese as a major thanks to an announcement from the Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts.

Students who began their majors before the 2022-2023 academic year will still be able to complete their degrees within the next 2-3 years. Japanese classes will still be offered at Murray State.

Junior Sam Kincer is a Japanese major. Kincer said Japanese is an important language to learn and is desirable for government jobs.

Japanese is in high demand for companies along with other major Asian languages, including Mandarin and Korean, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“[Murray] was one of the only places in Kentucky where you could get a degree in Japanese,” Kincer said. “With the education and

certification tracks also no longer available, it will hurt high schools which desperately need foreign language teachers in general.”

Kincer said Professor Yoko Hatakeyama fought hard to keep the Japanese major at Murray State.

Hatakeyama is an instructor of Japanese for Murray State and the director for KIIS Japan Program. Hatakeyama said she is disappointed the major will no longer be available.

She said there is a large interest in the Japanese language and culture at the University. The Japanese Club, which discusses Japanese culture, and the Japanese Table, which invites students and faculty to converse in Japanese, each has at least 50 members at their meetings.

Murray State Japanese students also have participated in the Bluegrass Area Japanese Speech Contest. This year, three Murray State students ranked first, second and third in the level five category—the highest level—and one student ranked first in level four.

“The students this year and in past years have been so enthusiastic and participate so well,” Hatakeyama said. “We will



The Japanese Club hosted Japanese Table at the Curris Center which allowed for those in the major and those interested in the language to practice their speaking skills.

continue to make Japanese accessible by offering individual classes.”

Hatakeyama said the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program is a good opportunity for Japanese language students to gain real-world experience. The JET Program allows graduated students to work in Japan as assistant language teachers (ALTs) and coordinators for international relations (CIRs).

ALTs help teach English to students in Japan. They are assigned a city or township that could be located anywhere in Japan. ALTs also serve as cultural ambassadors by teaching students about American culture. ALTs are recommended to have some fluency in Japanese for the position.

CIRs serve in local governments with internalization efforts. They are expected to translate official documents, interpret for official guests and plan and implement international

exchange programs. Fluency in Japanese is required for the position.

Tye Ebel, JET program coordinator for the consulate-general of Japan in Nashville, Tennessee, said the program looks for applicants who have a deep interest in Japanese culture. He said the program allows its workers to connect with Japanese people and immerse themselves in the culture.

“It is a selective program,” Ebel said. “Only 25% of applicants are accepted. Murray’s strong track record with its students being accepted is a testament to the sway and good work Hatakeyama does promoting on and off campus.”

Since 2019, 13 Murray State graduates have been accepted into the JET Program. Professor Hatakeyama said 12 Murray State graduates are currently working in Japan.

Although the Japanese major is set to be discontinued, Murray State will still offer a Japanese minor.

SECURITY REPORT, from page 1

The report includes descriptions of each residential facility’s safety system and the number of fire drills held at each facility in 2021.

The report also provides reminders about institutional policies concerning campus security and information about fire safety systems, among other resources. Throughout each year, the Murray State Police Department conducts crime prevention and community relations programs, including active shooter and workplace violence training, alcohol awareness education and orientation sessions for new students, faculty and staff.

One student, who wishes to remain anonymous, said she regards campus as generally safe.

“I feel like Murray State is a safe campus for a variety of reasons,” she said. “It’s pretty well-lit, and the campus police are really great. I feel like

if something did happen, then they would actually help... I mean, I’ve never really felt threatened by anyone.”

The student feels safety measures in the residential halls could be improved.

“I think that there should be cameras in public areas, like study spaces and kitchens and stuff, in the residence halls,” she said. “Especially in places like the laundry room or something, where some of those areas are kind of small and often shared by both genders.”

Another anonymous student, who commutes to campus, said parking lots and walkways are very open so she can see around at all times.

“I think having more accessibility to the emergency call buttons would be helpful,” she said.

Sophomore elementary education major Danielle Poole said she feels very safe on campus.



The Murray State Police Department is located at 1511 Chestnut Street.

“I am aware of where all the emergency call buttons are,” she said. “I honestly can’t think of any improvements that could be made. I have never experienced any situations where I’ve felt unsafe on campus.”

In addition to the annual report, the University keeps a daily Crime and Fire Log accessible to the public as required by law. Incidents that occurred

in 2022 may be found at murraystate.edu/publicsafety/crimelog/.

The annual report can be accessed digitally at murraystate.edu/about/Offices/police/media/Annual_Security_Report.pdf.

A printed copy may also be obtained by contacting the Murray State Police Department at 270-809-2222 or in person at 1511 Chestnut St.

PINK RIBBON RACERS, from page 1

Initially, McGinnis went through a type of treatment in which radiation therapy is given directly to the tumor area. Instead of going once a day for six weeks as many patients do, McGinnis went twice a day for a week.

The second treatment included a bilateral mastectomy and reconstruction. Because of a family history of breast cancer and the fact she had gotten it twice by the age of 46, McGinnis said she and the doctors decided a double mastectomy was the best option.

McGinnis had the mastectomy surgery in 2021 and just finished her reconstruction surgeries a few months ago.

Both times, regular, precautionary exams helped catch the cancer early.

Although treatment and diagnosis is different for everyone, McGinnis said the camaraderie among members of Pink Ribbon Racers is super helpful.

Lisa Schmidt, the coordinator of Dual Credit and Special Population for Racer Academy, also belongs to the support group. She said she started meeting informally with other women who had breast cancer on campus, and from there, it grew into more.

Schmidt was officially diagnosed in January 2021. Before that, she had a benign tumor in her 20s.

“[The surgeon] said, ‘You have cancer.’ He was surprised because he kept saying, ‘You’re so young. You’re so young.’”

— Lisa Schmidt, coordinator of Dual Credit and Special Populations

A surgeon recommended she remove the tumor and come back every few years for follow ups.

When she went for a mammogram in 2019, the scan looked suspicious, so the medical staff told her to follow up with a surgeon. The surgeon told her it was not a reason for concern.

Later in 2021, she went for another mammogram, and they told her again it looked highly suspicious. After a biopsy, she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

“[The surgeon] said, ‘You have cancer,’” Schmidt said. “He was surprised because he kept saying, ‘You’re so young. You’re so young.’”

After the diagnosis, she decided to get a lumpectomy because the doctors warned her there was a higher chance the cancer would come back because she was young at the time.

However, the cancer spread to her lymph nodes, so she needed chemotherapy treatments and surgery.

Schmidt needed four chemotherapy treatments, and after each round of treatment, she felt like she had a bad case of the flu. She started losing her hair after the first treatment, so she shaved it all off.

Finishing her radiation treatment a year ago, Schmidt says she will still have to continue various treatments for the next several years. She said the doctors prescribed a Lupron shot for the next few years and hormone blockers for the next 5-10 years.

“I will say cancer just steals little bits and pieces away from you constantly, and on the surface, the little things don’t seem that big, but once you just keep stealing, stealing, stealing—it’s like I just want to scream,” Schmidt said. “You almost have to mourn your body. You have to mourn your previous self because your body will never be the same again after cancer.”

Both Schmidt and McGinnis control what they can about their health, such as eating healthier foods, exercising, maintaining a healthy sleep schedule and going for regular checkups.

Schmidt said she finds the support group valuable because of the shared experiences among the members.

“I think whenever you go into that room, you can just breathe,” Schmidt said. “Everybody there knows exactly what you went through.”

Dena Weinberger, an associate professor of biology, said she has only attended one meeting with the group so far.

Weinberger said the group is larger than she thought it would be on a campus this size. It also skewed younger than she expected.

Weinberger was diagnosed young as well at 34 years old. She found a lump and went to the hospital for testing, and all the noninvasive tests showed the lump was benign. She had two choices: a check-up every six months or removal of the lump.

She chose removal, and afterwards, the medical staff did a routine pathology and found the lump was not benign after all. Weinberger said she then had to go to the oncology ward and ended up being treated with chemotherapy.

Less than a year after Weinberger finished those treatments, she was diagnosed with another type of breast cancer.

Weinberger said the first cancer treatment she went through is only effective on certain types of cancer. This second diagnosis was a different type of cancer that the chemotherapy treatment was not effective against.

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Björk leads listeners on funky fungal trek in 'Fossora'

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Even though her career spans over four decades, Björk isn't done exploring new auditory combinations, telling different stories and crafting worlds with her music, which is evident in her tenth studio album "Fossora."

From Iceland, Björk Guðmundsdóttir, professionally referred to mononymously as Björk, debuted with an Icelandic alternative band, The Sugarcubes, in 1986. She later went on to release her first solo album "Debut" in 1993.

Since her solo beginnings, Björk has grown to be an internationally known name for her ambitious projects, blending electronic, orchestral, jazz and many other genres with her creative lyricism.

In her 2017 album, "Utopia," Björk continues sharing the aftermath of the end of her 13-year relationship, which was more heartbreakingly explained in her 2015 album, "Vulnicura." Björk focused on finding happiness again, though she was isolated.

In "Utopia," Björk collaborated with Venezuelan electronic artist and producer Arca to create an orchestral sound with flutes and harps with electronic elements threaded in between. Overall, "Utopia" has a more ethereal and abstract sound in comparison to its successor, "Fossora."

In an interview with Apple Music, Björk calls "Fossora" her "mushroom album" and describes it as heavy, messy and low-definition. Unlike "Utopia," "Fossora" has well defined, grounded sounds that have less complex production and focuses on family and togetherness, which had been taken for granted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Björk focuses on the usage of clarinets, percussive drums and jarring harmony, which is exemplified in the first track and lead single, "Atopos." "Atopos" starts the 13-track album with a striking harmony between clarinets and drums, juxtaposed with Björk's streaming vocals, which sing about human harmony, union and connecting to others.

I enjoy the bizarre combination that devolves into a headbanging drum outro. Overall, it feels



'Fossora,' Björk's tenth studio album, was released on Sept. 30.

Photo courtesy of Spotify

very minimal in comparison to what Björk has done in the past.

"Ovule" continues with the minimalist approach, backed by repeating harmonies of horns, drums and vocal humming. Björk sings about shedding old habits and recovering from a past that hurt her.

"Sorrowful Soil" is a standout track completely made of vocals and feels like a choir of Björk's voice. She sings about motherhood and the sacrifices mothers make for their children, both biological and emotional. Overall, the track carries on a sullen and elegiac tone.

"Ancestress" also focuses on womanhood but in a more personal sense, with Björk singing about her female ancestors as they grow old. To further tie in the sense of motherhood, Björk is joined by her son Sindri Eldon.

Unlike the previous songs, "Ancestress" is more serene and orchestral backed. Björk's vocals parallel the instrumentation, and while interesting, it allows for some awkward pauses and vowel stretches.

"Victimhood" starts with a droning horn intro that makes for an ominous

atmosphere that slowly picks up with clarinets and drumming. Björk sings about sacrificing herself to save a relationship, most likely referring to her own.

The song's instruments swell until there's only a drum that parallels a heartbeat, and it grows more intense, until it devolves into vocal harmonies. I wish it grew into something more intense, rather than dissolving into quietness.

"Allow," featuring Norwegian singer Emilie Nicholas, abandons the droning drums and is more flowery and uptempo, with a collection of wind instruments. Björk sings about elements of nature and humanity, blurring the lines between what she is describing.

"Fungal City," featuring American artist Serpentwithfeet, begins with a choppy and cheerful clarinet. Toward the middle of the song, a sharp synth starts punching through, adding intensity. The intensity dissipates but returns toward the end, along with an orchestral uptake.

"Freefall" feels very like classic Björk. She sings about wanting to freefall into another's arms but only if there is

trust present. The song starts on a sorrowful note, but the meandering violin becomes quicker and choppy.

"Fossora" is a mindblowing and headbanging standout. The combination of clarinets and drumming feels full and cohesive, not as if it's missing an element. The song speeds up and leaves with an aggressive electronic drumming outro. I love the instrumental intensity. It's an element from Björk's arsenal that she hasn't used in a while.

"Her Mother's House" features Björk's daughter Ísadora Bjarkardóttir Barney, furthering the theme of family and togetherness. The pair's singing complements each other with Barney responding to Björk's lyrics.

In the song, Björk compares a house to a heart—a mother's home (heart) has space for all of her children. The song closes "Fossora" on a serene and optimistic note.

"Fossora" is a solid work with a great story and unique harmonies, but in terms of what Björk has done in the past, I don't think "Fossora" is as strong and complete.

Because of the jarring musical combinations, I felt like some elements needed rearrangement in order for the songs to feel complete. Björk has done minimal works in the past, but they still felt complete.

Though the instrumental feels lacking in certain areas, Björk's lyrical strengths are on display.

After having the career she has had, it's hard for me to not have high standards for Björk because she is someone who has inspired so many current artists and is a cultural phenomenon. At the end of the day, Björk doesn't have anything to prove to the music world that she hasn't already proven, so I'd love for her to lean more into experimentalism, to explore the unexplored.

"Fossora" deserves a 6.5 out of 10. Solid—but pales in comparison to what Björk has done in the past.

Having such an expansive career, whether Björk decides to produce another project or not, her influence, talent and experimentalism has left its mark on the music world.

PINK RIBBON RACERS, from page 2

"One of the things that I think is hard for people to get when they're not a part of it is that every cancer is different... you're never going to be able to cure it in the way that we think of curing most diseases because the collection of mutations that led to my disease was different than the person next to me who has the exact same diagnosis," Weinberger said.

Weinberger had a surgery recently and said she will have at least one more surgery before her treatment is complete.

"I will say that sometimes the uncertainty can be harder to deal with because you don't know what you're going to do," Weinberger said. "You don't know when it's going to happen. You don't know what you're going to need."

Although people wanted to help her, Weinberger said she often did not know what to ask for. In the support group, though, she doesn't have this dilemma.

"It's sort of a place to air grievances and just let it out to people who understand," Weinberger said.

As a private person, Weinberger hesitated to join a support group. "I'm glad that [Pink Ribbon Racers] does not match my fears of a pity party," Weinberger said. "It's much more of, 'This is what happened to me. This is what I've learned. Let me complain about this for a while. I just need to get it out to someone who knows.'"

McGinnis said the group is open to the campus community. Anyone who is interested in joining the group can email her at cmcginnis2@murraystate.edu.

HOMECOMING, from page 1

The Commercial Music Ensemble, a student-led rock band formed as part of a course within the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, will perform live music near the scoreboard during Tent City.

A Centennial Gala will take place on Oct. 29 in the CFSB Center. This event is a centennial celebration with a 1920s-themed dinner and dance, including 1920s cars and performances by Director of Jazz studies Todd Hill's 20-piece swing band.

A cocktail hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner starting at 7 p.m., according to murraystate.edu.

Executive Director of Development Tina Bernot said the gala will be an important event to commemorate the centennial.

"The idea was born that we needed to have a significant celebration of our 100 years to reflect on our past, assess our present and to lay the groundwork for the future and the century ahead," Bernot said.

Bernot said past Board of Regents members and past and current Alumni Association presidents will be in attendance.

Registration for the Centennial Gala will close on Oct. 21.

Taste of the Arts is an annual fundraising event during Homecoming that funds scholarships in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Sponsored by FNB Bank, this event will showcase and support the talents of Murray State art and design, music and theatre arts students, according to murraystate.edu.



Homecoming will be celebrated from Oct. 27-30.

Rebecca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Kala Allen-Dunn, director of development for the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, said this year's event has exciting items up for auction.

Students also will be performing throughout the event to showcase their talents.

Allen-Dunn said the items up for auction are not typically available to the general public, including a Mandalorian figure donated by Murray State alumnus W. Earl Brown.

The Murray State Photo Club will be in attendance with a photo booth to take pictures of guests in their masquerade attire.

Taste of the Arts will be held in Lovett Auditorium on Oct. 27 at 5:30 p.m. Registration for the event closes on Oct. 17.

A 50-year Golden Reunion event will be held for Murray State alumni who graduated in 1972.

Other special events are planned during the duration of Homecoming, including a campus tour, Golden Anniversary reception at the Easley Alumni Center and reserved seating at the Homecoming parade, according to murraystate.edu.

McGinnis said this event is an opportunity for alumni to connect with each other.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for lifelong friends or long-lost friends to reconnect and reminisce about their shared Murray State experience and catch up on all that has happened since they graduated five decades ago," McGinnis said.

McGinnis said Homecoming is important for a lot of alumni because it holds special memories.

"You started your adult life here, some of your best and longest lifelong friends," McGinnis said. "I think that for our alumni, they want to revisit those friends, revisit those places, revisit memories, and they want to feel like they did when they were first getting into adulthood."

McGinnis encourages everyone to attend this year's Homecoming to celebrate the Centennial.

To find out more information about Homecoming or register for any of the events, visit murraystate.edu/homecoming.

Our View: Trans students deserve governmental protection

Transgender students' rights across the U.S. are under attack. A bill was introduced in July that would lead to decreased rights for transgender children and place schools in a position to forcibly out students to their parents.

This new bill, House Bill 8170, was introduced by House Republicans and would withhold federal funding from any K-12 school that affirms a trans child's gender without parental consent, supports a trans child's decision not to come out to their parents, respects a trans child's wishes not to out them to their parents or encourages a trans child or the child's parents to pursue any sort of gender-affirming treatment.

Although the bill is titled the "Empower Parents to Protect Their Kids Act of 2022," it does anything but allow children to be protected. The facets of this bill allow schools to out students to potentially abusive parents who will offer no support—or even harm their children as a result. School can be a safe haven for many children in abusive homes, and this would take that away.

At *The News*, we believe these children will fall behind as a result. These legislators are willing to allow a child's education to be interrupted rather than offering them support. Because some schools receive such little federal funding to begin with, these children will be at risk of either losing education or being forced to come out to their parents when they don't feel safe doing so.

Withholding school funding is completely absurd. Allowing necessary funding to be taken away because some students want to feel safe in their identities is completely outside the scope of what we elect our representatives to do. All children deserve to feel like they have a safe space to learn in.

Although sacrificing a child's education is terrible enough,



Wesley Hammer/*The News*

allowing children to face danger each time they leave school is even worse. While the schools can avoid consequence this way, they may be forced to send children home at the risk of abuse and increased suicidal thoughts and attempts.

According to the National Library of Medicine, 82% of transgender individuals have considered dying by suicide and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicide being highest among transgender youth. These numbers are staggering and could continue to grow if HB 8170 were to pass.

Another issue with this bill is the threat of conversion camps and therapy. Many children will not only be subject to abusive homes but also the potential threat of conversion therapy. In some cases, if a parent sues a school board for affirming their child's gender identity, the school may also

be subject to paying for the student to attend conversion therapy.

This form of "therapy" is used in attempt to change an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression in order to align with heterosexual norms and values. The notion that someone needs to be "fixed" through the process of conversion therapy leads to declining mental health and contributes to suicide rates. According to Statista.com, around 28% of U.S. LGBTQ youth who had experienced conversion therapy had attempted suicide in 2021.

One of the most important things we can all do is educate ourselves. Parents especially should learn how to create a safe space for their children and welcome them with open arms if their child feels comfortable enough to open up to

them. It is important to offer support to all children and demonstrate a safe and loving environment.

We also must advocate against this bill. While there hasn't been much movement since June when it was referred to the Education and Labor Committee, if it does pass, we have to stand against it. Contacting legislators and showing them we do not support the bill. We have to vote because our votes make a difference in situations like this.

Allowing a bill like this to pass would not only go against the wishes of the majority of American citizens—it would blatantly contribute to declining mental health and an increase in the suicide rates of trans children. Why should it be acceptable for the government to risk their safety and live in volatile conditions at home?

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Sophomore quarterback Jayden Stinson (No. 8) threw five interceptions in the Racers' 45-16 loss to UT Martin on Saturday, Oct. 8.

Photo courtesy of Dave Winder/Racer Athletics

Football's struggles continue at home

Jakob Milani

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Murray State's football team continued its downward slide, dropping to 0-6 on the season and 0-2 in OVC play after its 45-16 loss to 14th-ranked UT Martin Skyhawks on Saturday, Oct. 8.

The Racers' blowout loss to the Skyhawks occurred despite having homefield advantage and holding the Skyhawks to a 14-9 lead at halftime.

UT Martin had the ball to start, but after making its way up to the Murray State 1-yard line, sophomore running back Zak Wallace fumbled the ball away. Senior linebacker Darnell Victor recovered it, giving the Racers the ball.

However, despite the momentum seeming to swing their way early in the game, the Racers suffered a turnover on downs after sophomore quarterback Jayden Stinson threw the ball away.

The Racers' defense didn't back down and forced a turnover on downs by the Skyhawks after just four plays. Neither defense gave in during the first quarter and the two teams remained tied at 0.

The Skyhawks were back to moving the ball in the second quarter, as graduate quarterback Dresser Winn completed passes to sophomore wide

receivers Zoe Roberts and Devonte Tanksley, moving the ball up to the Murray State 6-yard line.

Three plays later, Wallace took the handoff 3 yards for the Skyhawks' first touchdown of the game. With the extra point up and good, the Skyhawks led the Racers 7-0.

UT Martin scored again on its next drive, as Winn kept the ball and rushed 1 yard for the touchdown. With 9:37 left in the first half, the Skyhawks were up 14-0.

Once the Racers took over, they took the drive slow, moving the ball up the field at their own pace. After 10 plays and two UT Martin penalties, freshman running back Jawaun Northington took the handoff 3 yards for the Racers' first touchdown.

After the touchdown, Murray State's kickoff team pinned the Skyhawks at their own 2-yard line. Just one play later, the defense got into the backfield and forced a safety, giving the Racers another 2 points. The Skyhawks still led 14-9.

But, with the ball back with the Racers, Stinson threw it right into the hands of a Skyhawks' defender, giving them another chance to score before halftime.

Murray State's defense held strong, though, and for two more drives, it didn't allow anymore points. As the game went to halftime, the Skyhawks were up 14-9.

After Murray State couldn't get the ball moving on its first drive, the Skyhawks moved the ball with ease. After two short passes from Winn, he found Tanksley open up the middle for a 37-yard gain, moving the ball up to the Murray State 28-yard line.

Two plays later, freshman running back Sam Franklin rushed 28 yards for the touchdown, putting the Skyhawks up 21-9 early in the third quarter.

A couple drives later, the Racers were in possession of the ball. On the first play of the drive, Stinson dropped back and threw up a bomb to sophomore wide Taylor Shields for a 78-yard touchdown, keeping the Racers in the game as the third quarter came to an end.

Stinson didn't start the fourth quarter well, throwing another interception and gave the Skyhawks a good field position for their next drive.

The Racers' defense held them out of the end zone, however, and UT Martin was forced to settle for a field goal. With 3 more points on the board, the Skyhawks led the Racers 24-16.

Two drives later, Winn found Tanksley for a 26-yard pass, which led to four straight Wallace rushes, including a 17-yard rush and a 3-yard rush for a touchdown. The Skyhawks' lead kept growing at 31-16.

On the Skyhawks' next drive,

Franklin took the first hand-off 66 yards for another Skyhawks touchdown, putting them up 38-16 with 5:23 left to play.

The Skyhawks got one more drive late. Franklin took back-to-back rushes for a combined 40 yards, then sophomore running back Jordan Castleberry took a handoff 23 yards, putting the Skyhawks in the red zone.

In the next play, Castleberry got the ball again and took the handoff 4 yards for the Skyhawks' final touchdown.

When time expired, the Skyhawks left Murray, Kentucky victorious, defeating the Racers 45-16.

Winn completed 27 of his 47 passes for 439 yards but threw one interception and did not have a touchdown. Tanksley had nine receptions for 220 yards. Franklin led the Skyhawks in rushing with 160 yards and two touchdowns on just eight carries.

Stinson completed just 10 passes for 168 yards and a touchdown but threw five total interceptions in the game. Shields had 112 yards and a touchdown on four receptions. Northington rushed 20 times for 88 yards and a touchdown.

The Racers, still in search of their first win, travel to Clarksville, Tennessee, to take on Austin Peay in the Battle of the Border. Kickoff is set for 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Soccer dominates ISU at Cutchin Field

Ronan Summers

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The Racers dominated on Sunday, Oct. 9 as they defeated the Illinois State Redbirds 7-3 in a big conference win.

Two members of the Murray State soccer team were recognized for their success during the game.

Senior defender Saraya Young was awarded MVC Offensive Player of the Week after scoring one goal and earning three assists in the matchup against Illinois State.

Freshman forward Sydney Etter was awarded MVC Freshman Player of the Week after her performance against Illinois State as she scored three goals on five shot attempts.

Etter started the scoring onslaught early for Murray State as she scored her first goal of the matchup in the eighth minute after stealing the ball from a Redbird to give the Racers a 1-0 lead.

Etter struck again in the 13th minute, putting the ball into the top right corner, thanks to an assist from Young.

A long pass by freshman

defender Megan Wilson set up Young to score and put the Racers up 3-0. Illinois State's junior forward Haley Glover scored the Redbirds' first goal in the 24th minute, giving the Redbirds hope they'll stay alive.

Senior midfielder Katharine Ashley helped the Redbirds inch closer after she scored a penalty kick in the 35th minute to make the score 3-2 in favor of Murray State.

The Racers closed the first half of the game strong as freshman midfielder Mary Hardy scored in the 40th minute to give the Racers a 4-2 lead going into halftime. Hardy's goal was assisted by Young and Wilson.

Redbirds' senior midfielder Katherine Fulton brought Illinois State back within one score in the 50th minute 4-3.

The Racers began to run away with the game in the 68th minute as Racers' senior midfielder Lauren Payne continued Murray State's scoring spree, bending the ball around the goalie to increase her team's lead 5-3.

Etter earned her third goal of the matchup to complete the hat trick in the 75th minute. Young added another assist to her stat line on the goal.



Freshman forward Sydney Etter scores a hat trick in the Racers' win on Sunday, Oct. 9.

Photo courtesy of David Eaton/Racer Athletics

The Racers put the game even further out of reach in the 82nd minute when senior midfielder Grace Bodker set up senior midfielder Parker Greer for the Racers' last goal to make the final score 7-3.

Illinois State shot the ball seven times with five of those shots being on goal. The Redbirds finished the matchup with four saves, four corner kicks and 10 fouls.

Murray State took 15 total shots and 11 of them were on goal. The Racers had seven corner kicks and committed 12 fouls. Senior goalie Jenna Villacres saved two shots on target, both of the Racers' saves.

Etter finished with three goals on five shots. Young totaled three

assists and a goal on three shot attempts. Hardy, Payne and Greer finished with one goal each. Wilson had two assists. Bodker and Henry had one assist each.

The Racers are now 4-7-3 on the season and 3-1-2 against conference opponents. Although Murray State is climbing the conference standings, Racers Head Coach Matt Lodge isn't thinking too far ahead into the future.

"We've just got to take care of one game at a time," said Lodge in an interview with Racer Athletics.

The Racers will continue their conference play and host the Valparaiso University Beacons at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 16 on Cutchin Field.



Photo courtesy of David Eaton/Racer Athletics

Freshman outside hitter Federica Nuccio had nine kills, 16 digs and two assists across the two games on Friday, Oct. 7 and Saturday, Oct. 8.

Volleyball loses back-to-back games

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The Racers have struggled so far in their first year in the MVC as they face unfamiliar opponents. These struggles continued as the Murray State volleyball team lost two conference games over the weekend, both by a score of 3-0.

These losses place the Racers 6-11 on the season and 2-5 in the conference. The Racers are currently ninth in the MVC.

The Racers hosted the Valparaiso University Beacons on Friday, Oct. 7 and the University of Illinois Chicago Flames on Saturday, Oct. 8.

vs. Valparaiso

The Racers had a 9-7 lead early on in the first set, but the Beacons put together a five-point rally to gain a 12-9 lead. The Beacons continued to apply pressure as they completed a six-point rally shortly after

to give themselves a 20-12 lead.

Valparaiso would go on to take the first set by a score of 25-16.

Down 10-8, Murray State got rolling thanks to a kill by freshman outside hitter Federica Nuccio. Junior outside hitter Jayla Holcombe continued the rally with another kill.

Sophomore setter Bailey DeMier then earned a service ace, and the rally was completed after a Valparaiso attack error. This gave the Racers a 12-10 lead.

The Racers held the lead 20-17 before the Beacons went on a five-point rally, giving them the lead and ultimately the second set 25-22.

Valparaiso started off hot in the third set, going on a five-point rally. Murray State attempted to gain control, but the Beacons' hot start was too much, and the third set went to Valparaiso 25-11.

The Beacons won the matchup by a score of 3-0.

Holcombe finished with eight kills as DeMier totaled two aces, 17 assists and 14 digs. Junior libe-

ro Dahlia Miller had 16 digs and five assists. Freshman outside hitter Ella Vogel had seven kills and a block, and Nuccio finished with four kills, two assists and nine digs.

vs. UIC

The University of Illinois Chicago Flames were up 16-12 in the first set before the team committed three attack errors. A service ace by Murray State freshman outside hitter Julia Fullop tied the game up at 16 apiece.

A five-point Flames rally helped UIC to go on and win the first set by a score of 25-18.

The second set was tied at 8 apiece before the Flames went on a nine-point rally to give them a cushioned lead.

The Racers were not done though, as they went on a rally of their own. It was initiated by a pair of kills by Vogel. DeMier then earned a service ace, and Holcombe followed with another pair of kills.

DeMier earned another service ace, and Holcombe followed

up with a kill. UIC committed an attack error to conclude the eight-point Murray State rally. Despite the Racers' rally, the Flames still had a 19-18 lead.

UIC would go on to win the second set by a score of 25-21.

Murray State earned 3 free points after UIC committed three errors in a row to give the Racers a 3-0 lead to start the third set. After the errors, the Flames went on a four-point run to gain a 4-3 lead.

The Racers were able to tie things up at four apiece, but the Flames went on a three-point rally to regain control.

UIC did not let Murray State get back within striking distance, and it won the third and final set 25-19, winning the matchup 3-0.

Vogel finished with 10 kills as DeMier had 16 assists, three aces and two blocks. Nuccio totaled seven digs and five kills.

The Racers will travel to Springfield, Missouri to take on the Bears of Missouri State at 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 14.

Shann Riley/The News

MURRAY STATE ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 13 - 19

- **OCT. 13** Soccer vs. Southern Illinois @ Carbondale, IL **6 p.m.**
- **OCT. 14** Cross Country vs. Bradley @ Peoria, IL **ALL DAY**
Volleyball vs. Missouri State @ Springfield, MO **6 p.m.**
- **OCT. 15** Rifle vs. Ole Miss @ Murray, KY **9 a.m.**
Football vs. Austin Peay @ Clarksville, TN **3 p.m.**
Volleyball vs. Southern Illinois @ Carbondale, IL **5 p.m.**
- **OCT. 16** Soccer vs. Valparaiso @ Murray, KY **1 p.m.**
- **OCT. 19** Tennis vs. Intercollegiate Tennis Association @ Knoxville, TN **ALL DAY**

For more information
visit **GoRacers.com**



Student group organizes for reproductive health

MacKenzie Rogers
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Striving to advocate and fight for reproductive freedom and foundational justice for all, The Planned Parenthood Generation Action Group partnered with Planned Parenthood aiming to raise public awareness on reproductive health and rights.

The organization is new to campus this semester.

Secretary of the Murray State University Generation Act Nathalie Perry said these organizations have been active on college campuses across the country for years.

“With the extensive legislative attacks on sexual and reproductive freedom and LGBTQ rights, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates have been looking to expand chapters in college campuses across Kentucky,” Perry said. “The past two legislative sessions have really highlighted the need to organize around the state.”

After the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, Kentucky’s trigger law went into effect, initiating an almost complete abortion ban, along with 13 other states. This makes Kentucky one of the states with the strictest abortion laws.

“These are highly coordinated and targeted attacks to put an end to a full range [of] reproductive healthcare options,” Perry said.

Though Kentucky’s trigger law, initially passed in 2019, had taken effect, it was temporarily blocked per court order. However, the trigger law has since been reinstated, combined with a six-week ban.

The trigger law makes it a felony for anyone to perform a procedural or medical abortion. The only exceptions involve preventing the pregnant patient’s death or permanent injury.

With the current laws in place,



(From Left) Planned Parenthood Generation Action president Julian Lamson and treasurer Nathalie Perry tabling in the Curris Center on Sept. 22.

the organization stressed its worries for the upcoming future.

“Kentucky State Representative Nancy Tate has expressed a desire to ban oral contraceptives and other types of contraceptives by mail and prescription to public universities and through university health centers,” Perry said. “This would be extremely dangerous.”

The organization has plans to host events about sexual education and what will be on the upcoming Kentucky ballots regarding abortions and reproductive rights. They also plan on coordinating activities with the Alliance group and Pride Center in the future.

“This semester, we want to focus education around the Kentucky amendment, but

overall we want people to learn what reproductive rights mean beyond abortion,” Perry said. “We are here to educate and to connect as a community.”

In the upcoming state election on Nov. 8, Kentucky Constitutional Amendment 2, No Right to Abortion in Constitution Amendment, will be on the ballots. If passed, the state Constitution would be altered to declare nothing in the state Constitution creates a right to abortion or requires government funding.

“Sponsors of this bill had the opportunity to change the wording of the bill to include exceptions for the life of the pregnant person, rape and incest, but they voted down the changes before its final passage,”

Perry said. The organization hopes to make a positive impact on the campus community but is aware of the potential controversy its organization could face.

“We are hoping for a positive response from the student body, but it is more likely that we will get a mixed response,” Perry said. “We just want everyone to be understanding of others.”

The organization plans to have weekly meetings at 6 p.m. on Mondays. The next meeting will be on Monday, Oct. 17 at the Women’s Center in Suite C102 of the Oakley Applied Science Building.

Anyone interested in joining the organization or participating in its meetings can do so by going to @msuppgenaction on Instagram.

Scavenger hunt celebrates Hispanic heritage

Raleigh Hightower
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In an effort to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) created a scavenger hunt featuring the flags of 21 different Latin American countries.

The scavenger hunt consisted of the flags of Latin American countries hidden across the three floors of Alexander Hall.

Finance, Business and Administrative Manager for COEHS Tamela Darnell decided to lead the project after Dean David Whaley brought up celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month at a meeting.

“We wanted to do something that would be fun and bring awareness to our Latin American neighbors,” Darnell said. “I think it is important to celebrate the contributions of the Latin American people in our community and celebrate a diversity of history and culture.”

The scavenger hunt was relatively straightforward in the planning process. The flags were hidden around Alexander Hall, an answer key was developed and a worksheet was designed for participants to write down the locations of the flags after finding them.

Darnell said one of the main

motivations behind the scavenger hunt project was to bring awareness to the diversity and cultures of nearby Latin American countries.

The scavenger hunt was complemented by a Hispanic Heritage Month music playlist, developed by Assistant Dean Susana Bloomdahl, which played in the Alexander Hall atrium.

The playlist featured music from Latin American artists across several genres, such as cumbia, salsa and rap, in both English and Spanish.

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 each year. Hispanic Heritage Month originally began as “Hispanic Week,” which was signed into law by former President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968.

The week was expanded into a month under former President Ronald Reagan in 1988. The start date of Sept. 15 was selected because five Latin American countries celebrate their independence on this date. Since 1988, every president has issued a proclamation celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

Other departments also celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with activities across campus. The Office of Multicultural Initiatives (OMI) released a video about Hispanic Heritage Month as part of its



One of 21 flags on display in the faculty offices located on the second floor of Alexander Hall.

YouTube series “OMI Social Media Minute.”

The OMI YouTube video described the development of Hispanic Heritage Month, the push for further recognition of the Latinx community during the civil rights movement and the significance of Hispanic Heritage Month’s start date.

OMI also collaborated with

Assistant Professor of Spanish Robert Fritz to host a discussion titled “Latino Literature” on Zoom.

To stay updated with future events, follow the Office of Multicultural Initiatives’ Facebook @msu.multiculturalinitiatives. To stay up to date with events hosted by the COEHS follow @murraystcoehs on Facebook.

NEW IN ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIES

Halloween Ends: *In theaters and on Peacock October 14*

Black Adam: *in theaters October 21*

All Quiet on the Western Front: *on Netflix October 28*



Photo courtesy of imdb.com

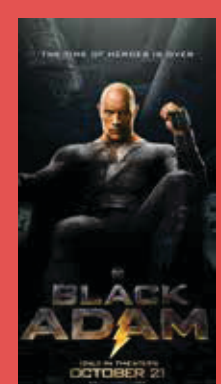


Photo courtesy of imdb.com



Photo courtesy of imdb.com

MUSIC

Dirty Femme by Tove Lo:
October 14

Being Funny In a Foreign Language by The 1975: *October 14*

Midnights by Taylor Swift:
October 21



Photo courtesy of thelineofbestfit.com



Photo courtesy of metacritic.com

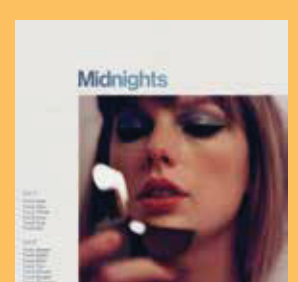


Photo courtesy of elle.com

BOOKS

Colleen Hoover's It Starts With Us:
October 18

Jodi Picoult's Mad Honey: *October 18*

Veronica Roth's Poster Girl: *October 18*

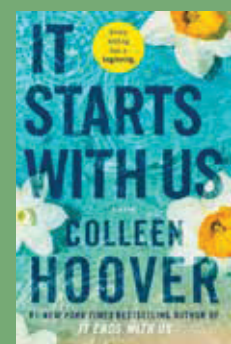


Photo courtesy of barnesandnoble.com

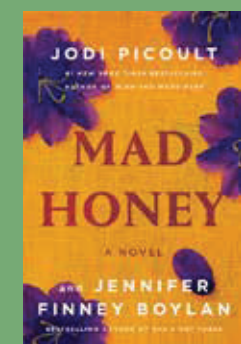


Photo courtesy of jodipicoult.com

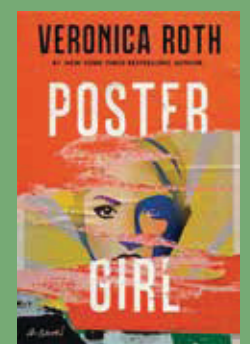


Photo courtesy of today.com

Shann Riley/The News

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH Crossword Puzzle Answers

ACROSS

- 4. Roberto Clemente
- 5. Jennifer Lopez
- 6. El Salvador
- 7. Franklin Chang-Diaz
- 9. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
- 11. Bad Bunny
- 12. Texas

DOWN

- 1. Cesar Chavez
- 2. Sonia Sotomayor
- 3. Joseph Marion Hernández
- 8. Dia De Los Muertos
- 10. Ranchera

Shann Riley/The News

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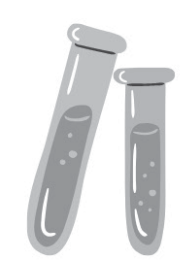
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