

INSIDE

NEWS/OPINION
 Hearts break in brevity on 'Smithereens'
 page 3

OPINION
 The first amendment should not inhibit information
 page 4

SPORTS
 Basketball dominates in home opener
 page 5

LIFESTYLE
 LGBT Prom helps students create new memories
 page 7

NEWS BRIEF



Photo courtesy of murraystate.edu
 The water pipe burst in RH White College causing damage to the east end of the building.

Temperature drop causes pipe burst in residential hall

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Residents of RH White College were evacuated following a water line burst at 5:06 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11. The incident occurred on the east end of the third floor of the residential college. This burst was caused either by the transition from cooling water to heating water, which can cause expansion of the pipe, or the age and potential deterioration of the pipe said Jason Youngblood, director of Facilities Management. Students were notified of the incident by text and email alerts. The University also posted updates to their social media pages throughout the night. The building suffered no major damage, but students living on the east end of the third floor will be without heat until the pipe is repaired. Housing arrangements were made for students affected by the water leak said Shawn Touney, executive director of Marketing and Communication. Cleanup took about three hours, with fans being set up in affected areas over the weekend. On the University's Facebook page, several commented that this incident is a "rite of passage" for students. Youngblood said with the size of campus, this happens more often than he would like. "Generally, we have a slower transition in temperatures and have more time to change over from cooling to heating," Youngblood said. "However, when we go from 80 degrees to 30 degrees in a 48 hour period, it makes the transition much more difficult, especially on a weekend when fewer staff are available on campus." Youngblood said every situation is different, but the University has someone working 24/7 in the event of an incident.



Students abroad experience scholarship delay

The study abroad scholarship was due the first week of February along with the general scholarship application.

Photo courtesy of msu.studyabroad on Instagram

Study abroad students receive scholarship notices following fall semester payments

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The Financial Aid Office recently alerted students studying abroad during the fall 2022 semester of what scholarships they have received on Tuesday, Nov. 15, just weeks before the end of the semester. Study abroad scholarship notices are typically sent around a month after the February deadline, which would have been nine months earlier. Although students have now received their scholarship notices, it comes at a time where students abroad have nearly paid off their entire fall semester. Some students did not plan to cover their entire semester on their own.

Senior professional writing major Danica Fuerst is one of those students. Currently studying abroad in Regensburg, Germany, Fuerst factored in scholarships in her budget, and without them, she has found herself worrying more about money. "I really wanted to go on this trip to an Abbey that's existed for, like, 1,000 years, but I just wasn't able to go there because I don't have the money for it," Fuerst said. "I've also felt pretty food insecure—I've been skipping meals and eating somewhat unhealthily because I need to stretch my budget as much as possible. My worries about money are definitely taking away from my experiences abroad." Fuerst has had repetitive correspondence since the beginning of summer with the Financial Aid Office. Over

the summer, she said the office would tell her they still needed to have a meeting to figure out the scholarships.

“The University is aware of how expensive studying abroad is for us students...I think the worst thing is how they keep kicking it down the road rather than being clear with us.”
 — Danica Fuerst, senior professional writing major

The meetings would keep being rescheduled until the middle of August, when the office told Fuerst to enroll in a payment plan.

see **STUDY ABROAD**, page 2

Voters reflect on state, national election results

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Results from midterm elections indicate the majority of Americans are supportive of the Democratic party, regardless of expectations of a red wave. Despite the blue majority nationally, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives seats for Kentucky remained Republican. In the Senate race, incumbent Rand Paul won against Democratic candidate Charles Booker by a margin of 23.6%. Incumbent Rep. James Comer defeated Democratic running mate Jimmy Ausbrooks by a margin of 49.8%.

“I don't think that you should just terminate every single pregnancy you have, but it should be the woman's decision, not an outside entity, because it's a private affair to begin with.”
 — Risa Perry, Calloway County Democrats member

This election cycle, voters were faced with a number of issues on the ballot as more Kentuckians went out to vote. "Pretty sure we're going to hit or surpass 50% turnout," Kentucky Secretary



Voters lined up to the road at the CFSB Center on Election Day.

Mary Huffman/The News

of State Michael Adams Tweeted on Nov. 8. This hasn't happened since the 1990s, according to Fox 56 News. Voters rejected Amendment 1, which would allow legislators to call special sessions without the governor's approval. Amendment 2, which would amend the state constitution to say there is no right to abortion, was also rejected. In Calloway County, both Paul and Comer won the majority vote. Both amendments were voted "yes" by the county's majority. Members of Calloway County gathered during the midterms to voice their opinions on key issues affecting them.

Calloway County Democrat member Bucky Erwin said while he is a lifelong voter, the issues presented in the midterms were much more important to him. "I'm 65 years old, but the division in the country, the turn to hatred, the violence, the things that are going on and the means that people are using to stay in power just got to stop," Erwin said. "We have a democracy, and you've got to protect it."

see **ELECTION AFTERMATH**, page 3

M-Club returns to unite former, current athletes

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Racer Athletics department revives the M-Club to stay connected with former and current student athletes.

Athletics Director Nico Yantko said this club is for any letter winner at Murray State, present and past. A student athlete is awarded a letter after a specified level of performance on their varsity team, earning their letterman jacket.

Yantko said the department brought back the M-Club to stay connected with their former and current athletes. “It gives us the ability for us to really put our arms around them, allow them to get reengaged with the University, let them know we care,” Yantko said.

The M-Club will come with several benefits, including an invitation to all letter jacket ceremonies, access to the Dennis Jackson Racer Room before football games, on-field recognition at homecoming and athletics events, invitation to other exclusive Racer Athletics events and regular communication from MSU Athletics on upcoming events and happenings according to goracers.com.

Yantko was a letter winner when he played for the Murray State football team from 2007-2009. Because of that connection, he is especially excited for the M-Club.

“Reviving the M-Club was important for us to showcase, display and create some opportunities to help get folks back here and get involved,” Yantko said.

Beyond involvement, Yantko said he hopes this club will provide a way for former letter winners to mentor student athletes. Yantko said the athletics club wants to support students from recruitment through retirement, and involvement from former athletes helps that process.

One of Yantko’s specific goals for the club is to invite previous letter winners to participate in the letter award ceremony for student athletes.

“One thing that we wanted to create here was a part of that experience that really allowed them to understand the magnitude of that moment,” Yantko said. “That will be a part of their journey for the rest of their lives.”

Another goal of the club is to be informative to former student athletes about events in the athletics department.

“We want to be transparent about all the great work that’s going on here and celebrating our student athletes,” Yantko said. “We have over 320 student athletes right now on our campus. It’s important for us to tell that story and al-

“**We want people to know that, you know, you played here, and we still remember you, and we want to keep you in the family.**”

— Dave Winder, assistant athletic director

low folks to understand the great things that are happening here.”

The M-Club is free to join. Yantko said student athletes have earned the right to enter the club already through their hard work.

“You already paid your dues through blood, sweat and tears,” Yantko said. “That’s why we wanted to get folks back involved and just to show our appreciation and a level of connectivity deeper than just having your jacket at your house. We want this to be a meaningful, living, breathing part of our organization.”

Dave Winder, the associate athletic director for communications, was a former baseball player at Murray State from 1983-87.



Graphic courtesy of Racer Athletics

The M-Club is free to join and serves to unite former and current student athletes.

“This is basically my dream job, so for me to keep in touch with people who played here — all sports — that’s probably one of the most satisfying things I do in my job,” Winder said.

Winder said the club is another way for former athletes to stay in touch with each other.

“I feel like in the past, former student athletes have had a growing way of keeping in touch through modern technology, and we were just looking for a way to start developing a database of our former student athletes so that we can all stay in touch with each other,” Winder said.

Winder said they will try to do some on-field recognition during games for former letter winners and keep them informed about athletic events at Murray State.

“Then we will be able to stay in touch with them about other athletics and [make] sure that they know, ‘Hey, this is going on. We’d love to have you there if you can make it,’” Winder said.

Yantko and Winder said they have had a good response to the M-Club since they started the revival.

Winder said part of the drive behind the club and staying involved with former athletes is the motto of “Once a Racer, always a Racer.”

“Here, a lot of times we talk about Racer family, and that’s what this is all about,” Winder said. “We want people to know that, you know, you played here, and we still remember you, and we want to keep you in the family.”

STUDY ABROAD, from page 1

“They finally admitted that they weren’t making progress, and told me to sign up for a payment plan because they weren’t going to be able to make decisions until September,” Fuerst said. “Keep in mind that there’s a \$30 fee to sign up for a payment plan, so this is costing me extra money.”

By the time of Fuerst’s interview with *The News*, September had passed, and by press time, she would have already paid off her entire fall tuition.

“I just think this is all ridiculous,” Fuerst said. “The University is aware of how expensive studying abroad is for us students...I think the worst thing is how they keep kicking it down the road rather than being clear with us, so we could plan to have no scholarship money. They kept saying that they’d meet tomorrow, or next week, or in September. Now, they tell some of us to be ready to receive the money after the program is over. I need that money now, while I’m abroad and unable to work.”

Graduate history student Bran-

“**I’ve spent a lot of my time dealing with this when I should be spending it experiencing the culture and everything.**”

— Danica Fuerst, senior professional writing major

don Hamilton has been caught in the same situation while studying abroad in Regensburg, Germany.

Similar to Fuerst, Hamilton said he applied feeling as though he was at least guaranteed to receive something.



The Education Abroad Office is located in Blackburn Science Building Room 131.

Dionte Berry/The News

“I planned on using [scholarship] money for some of my expenditures in Germany,” Hamilton said. “Instead, I just received a notification yesterday, Nov. 15, that I was given a scholarship. ...Although I appreciate the money, being here has been a lot more difficult because of the lack of funds.”

Without scholarships, Hamilton has relied solely on his own funds and has received some help from his parents.

The Education Abroad Office was also waiting to hear back from the Financial Aid Office. Being a point of contact for students, Steven Guns, director of Education Abroad, said he has communicated with students about their scholarships.

Guns said students told him and his fellow adviser’s they wished they could have received scholarship notices earlier, so they

could have done more financial planning before they departed.

Although he said nearly 95% of study abroad scholarship applicants receive aid, they should plan as if they may not.

“We, of course, advertise the fact that 95% of students, luckily, are able to get some sort of award, but we also emphasize that there is no guarantee,” Guns said. “That also depends on the amount of students that are studying abroad, how much funds we have that year.”

Despite students having to pay for their entire semester by now, the scholarships will roll over to next semester. Although she’s now been notified, Fuerst said the delay still distracted her from being able to fully experience studying abroad.

“A good amount of our awards are refundable scholarships, so

students have been able to receive an award even if they have a zero balance and in a way to pay themselves back for what they put down for their program already,” Guns said.

Director of the Financial Aid Office, Wendy Cain responded to *The News*, but failed to address the study abroad scholarship delay. Instead speaking to the nearly eight-month notice delay, Cain outlined the scholarship application and committee reviewing processes.

Although she’s now been notified, Fuerst said the delay still distracted her from being able to fully experience studying abroad.

“I’ve spent a lot of my time dealing with this when I should be spending it experiencing the culture and everything,” Fuerst said. “I haven’t really been able to do that and kind of worried about things costing too much.”

Hearts break in brevity on 'SMITHEREENS'

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Heartbreak and longing are melded into sorrowful laden lyrics and stripped acoustic instruments on Joji's brief third album "SMITHEREENS."

From the comedy content creator Filthy Frank to mononymous musician Joji, Japanese singer-songwriter George Miller burst onto the music scene with his EP "In Tongues." This lifted up the curtain, showing an emotional and serious side of Miller.

Released on Nov. 4, "SMITHEREENS" is a nine-track album with a 24-minute run time split into a side A and side B. "Glimpse of Us" begins the festival of sorrow outlining side A of the album. Being the lead single, it was released on June 10, nearly five months before the album's release, which feels too far apart.

Those months gave the track enough time to have a trend cycle on TikTok, bolstering the song's popularity, but sadly, it did age the song quickly.

However, "Glimpse of Us" does deliver in the melancholy category. Miller sings about being with someone, but when he'd look into their eyes, he'd imagine himself with an ex-lover he still longed for. Backed by a lonely piano, Miller's lyricism shines through brilliantly.

"Feeling Like The End" incorporates an acoustic guitar and soft trap beat combination that is more lively than the previous track. Miller reflects on a relationship that was promised to last forever, but of course, it didn't, and moving on proves to be painful.

Just as the track feels as if it is going to take off, it ends. "Die For You" feels like a lyrical continuation of the previous track with a dreamy pop aura, but Miller is trudging further through the process of moving on with life. Although he has learned to let go and hope his ex-lover is happy without him, he says he'd still die for them.

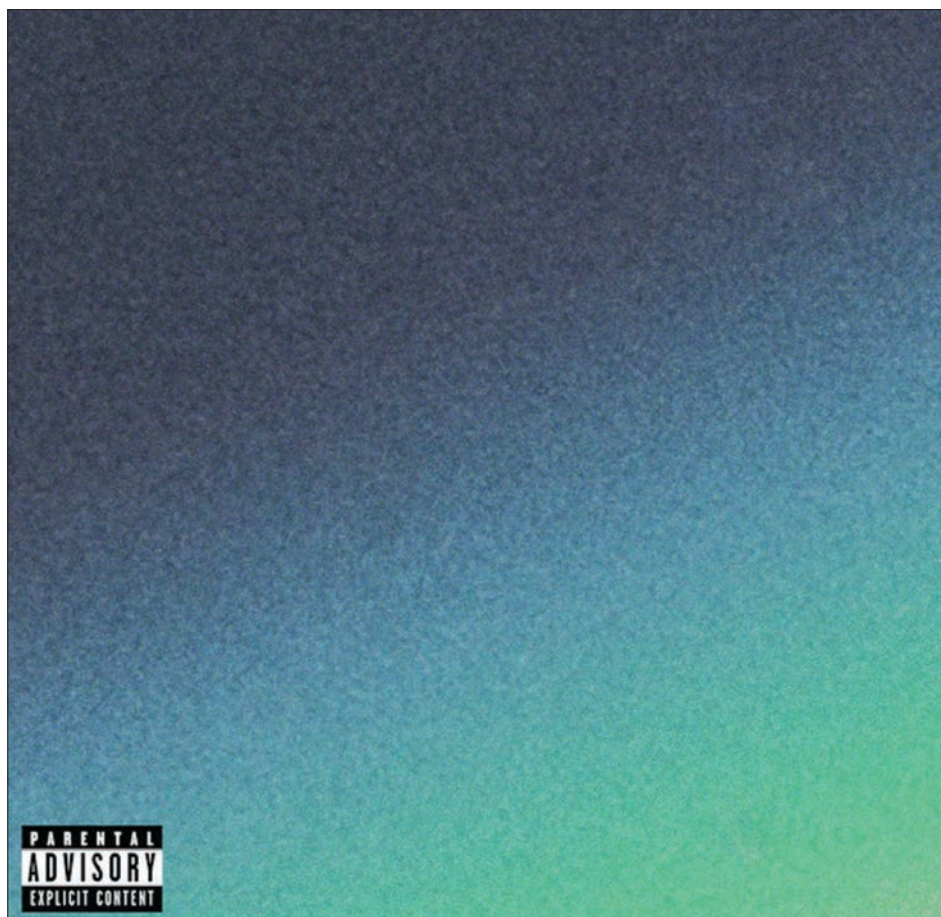


Photo courtesy of Apple Music

'SMITHEREENS' release was announced on Joji's Instagram on Nov. 4.

This track is more lively with contrasting instrumentals. After the chorus, comes a contained electronic crescendo, but I wish it was more aggressive.

The piano makes a return in "Before The Day Is Over." Miller is in a limbo space where he knows his relationship is over, but the end hasn't been spoken aloud.

Toward the end of the song, a soft trap beat lifts up the song. However, he uses it as an outro, and I wish it was more integral to the song.

"Dissolve" ends side A with a jarring blend of acoustic guitar and auto-tuned vocals. In the beginning of the song, Miller's lyricism has the same depth as an angsty high school poem, which does not set up the song well.

Side A does not feel resolved. "Dissolve" doesn't really do anything to respond to the heartbreak and longing nor does it give it a conclusion.

"NIGHT RIDER" starts side B, and Miller leans more toward a

trap beat and rapping, which I enjoy. I think he should rap more because of his calm and smooth flow. Miller says he's "burning" and "waiting," and that may lead listeners to think he's waiting for a lover who is wasting away as he does.

I don't know why "BLAH-BLAHBLAH DEMO" is on the album. Being such a brief album, how is there time for a demo? Why wasn't the demo made into a finalized song? Is it for aesthetic reasons?

The track fits the sound of the album, but lyrically, Miller feels a little lazy here, reaching for simple rhymes and flows that don't further the album's story.

"YUKON (INTERLUDE)" is not in the right spot for an interlude. If Miller wanted an interlude, he should have put it in between sides A and B. Interludes on an album are meant to represent a transition or an introduction, especially if there is only one on the album.

call the governor or hold the legislation [in] session whenever somebody breaks their leg, so why would we do that over our reproductive rights?"

The News reached out to Republican voters for their response to the midterms, but they did not respond by press time.

Claire Uhlik, a sophomore psychology and criminal justice major, said she wanted to vote for a number of reasons but urges young voters to become involved in future elections.

"We're the ones that are making the change, and we're the ones that are gonna end up in the office someday with our presence on social media," Uhlik said. "We need to represent those opinions and put them into action, and the best way to do that is to go out and vote."

Durrett said it's important for voters to research before Election Day to ensure they are making informed decisions.

"I think how confusing the wording of Amendment 1 and 2 [was] goes to show the importance of looking up what is on the ballot before you go," Durrett said. "An informed voter is a powerful voter, and no one should be embarrassed to ask anyone at the polls what something means, or Google search before you go."

The Associated Press reports Democrats control the Senate and Republicans control the House of Representatives, as of Wednesday, Nov. 16.

ELECTION AFTERMATH, from page 1

Senior political science and legal studies major Ali Durrett said she wasn't too surprised when she heard the results.

"We're the ones that are making the change, and we're the ones that are gonna end up in the office someday with our presence on social media."
— Claire Uhlik, sophomore psychology and criminal justice major

"Media and right-wing news outlets had predicted a 'red wave,' but in actuality, there was little shift due to the strong opinions around the overturning of Roe," Durrett said. "When it comes to our local electives, I was also not surprised."

Women's issues and Amendment 2 led others to the voting booth.

Risa Perry, a member of the Calloway County Democrats, said women should have control over their bodies without the government intervening.

"I don't think that you should just terminate every single pregnancy you have, but it should be the woman's decision, not an outside entity, because it's a private affair to begin with," Perry said. "We don't

Newsbrief

Ally Hour serves to make campus more inclusive

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Ally Hour is a new initiative from the Pride Center that aims to collaborate with faculty and staff on campus to create safe spaces for LGBTQ+ students on campus.

This program began during the 2021-22 academic year as a follow-up for faculty and staff who completed Safe Zone Training.

Safe Zone Training provides students, faculty and staff with the opportunity to explore their understanding and perceptions of the LGBTQ+ community. The training also provides individuals with a safe space to ask questions, according to murraystate.edu/lgbt.

Abigail Cox, director of the Pride Center, said Ally Hour started offering this program to faculty and staff to engage in an ally-centered conversation.

"Previously, additional training would focus on special topics," Cox said. "As a means of opening up the conversation, we shifted to the Ally Hour model, which would allow for

Miller should take "interlude" out of the title, because in comparison to some of the previous tracks, it feels far more full. The song is more upbeat, and he sings about being in a truck, but the song ends with two interesting lines: "My voice will be their voice until I'm free/My hands will be their hands until I'm free."

I am not sure what Miller means, but I do think this is worth exploring.

"1AM FREESTYLE" sounds as if it would be rap led, but no. Miller is singing. He sings about not wanting to be alone and being victim to his own thoughts.

Soft trap beats make a reappearance in the song and make it feel as if the song would have a more climactic ending, but it doesn't. The ending is abrupt — which can be a tool in song crafting, but being under two minutes, I can't be a fool for expecting more to the song.

Overall, "SMITHEREENS" is very half-baked and does not feel like a fully conceptualized album. It sounds more like a mixtape, and maybe that's something Miller needs to make in order to better flesh out this new sound he's going after.

Brevity is neutral—neither good nor bad—but it depends what the artist does with an album's brevity. Miller meanders far too much during this small project for it to feel whole and concrete.

Miller's lyricism does shine through on this album; however, I don't think his vocals are strong enough to carry the weight of an album. I feel as though his vocals on "BALLADS 1," his first album, surpasses that of "SMITHEREENS."

"SMITHEREENS" deserves a five out of 10.

In the future, I would like to see some more complex musical compositions from him and something that is less sleepy. I would also like to see him rap more.

Hopefully, "SMITHEREENS" is a speed bump in Miller's discography because he has a unique sound, and I hope to see him have a strong comeback.

conversations amongst peers and a safe space to brainstorm and ask questions."

These conversations are designed for faculty and staff to share strategies on how to address specific barriers or implement specific ideas.

Cox said the sessions are not topic based and does not strive to create a safe space.

"The goal of Ally Hour is to create opportunities for Murray State employees to collaborate in creating an environment that encourages students to engage and participate because they feel valued and welcome," Cox said. "While our focus is specifically on creating this environment for students who identify as LGBTQ+, we hope that the conversation encourages reflection on the overall campus culture that we each help to create."

Sessions are open conversations guided by attendees, and more than one topic can be discussed, depending on the participants.

Ally Hour will continue to meet on a monthly basis on Zoom.

To sign up for one of these sessions, visit murraystate.edu/lgbt.

Our view:

The First Amendment should not inhibit information

The First Amendment has been cited throughout our history since the 1700s. Because of its importance, many people may use it in cases regarding social media usage, prayer at public schools, state funding of religious campaigns and peaceful protests across the United States. Although the examples mentioned above can happen relatively anywhere, Murray State recently cited the First Amendment as reasoning for denying an open records request.

Former 42nd Circuit Judge Jamie Jameson has been under fire for several charges of judicial misconduct, all of which the Judicial Conduct Commission found him guilty. Jameson's appeal with the state Supreme Court is pending, but he was disqualified from presiding over criminal cases in the 42nd Judicial Circuit.

The charges regard his activity and behaviors in the courtroom. His reported misconduct includes pressuring attorneys, retaliatory behavior and trying to use his position to manipulate media coverage, according to the JCC's report. In addition to the blatant misconduct, alleged video footage shows him walking around the courthouse "in [his] underwear."

In early April, WKMS 91.3 filed an open records request seeking this footage of Jameson. The request was denied, and news director Derek Operle decided not to appeal, according to WKMS.

Despite his decision not to appeal, Jameson contacted former station manager Chad Lampe, saying he "had already spoken" with both MSU President Bob Jackson and Provost Tim Todd regarding the request and "the President was not happy," according to the JCC's report.

As a result, Jameson was charged for using his influence in an attempt to pressure WKMS to remain silent. The JCC maintained

their charges because they believed Jameson had been using intimidation tactics such as this to exert his influence and use his power as a judge to make things go in his direction, according to WPKY 103.3.

Once this came to light, WPSD News Director Perry Boxx filed an open records request for the communications between Jameson, Jackson, Todd and others. The University denied the request overall and cited the First Amendment as one reason for denial.

Although the First Amendment was used, many people believe Murray State should have accepted the request in order to provide transparency within the university setting.

At *The News*, we believe the University was correct to say the request may have been burdensome. The request itself was not entirely narrow and ultimately left out specific information such as important dates.

Despite the request being broad, the University should not have cited the First Amendment as grounds for denial. *The News* believes the citation of the First Amendment was unfounded.

"The First Amendment does not implicitly or explicitly prohibit the disclosure of public records or information," according to the Kentucky Open Government Coalition. Based on this information, the University was not within the grounds to use the First Amendment since it does not provide protections for public records and information.

It can still be questioned why the request itself was ultimately denied. Releasing the request would have made all parties look less guilty depending on the content of the communication, but it certainly looks more suspicious when the records are heavily redacted.



Wesley Hammer/*The News*

By denying the request, the University is giving into personal interests and looking to protect themselves. The biggest question is what exactly they are trying to protect.





Attorneys on behalf of Boxx and WPSD filed an open records appeal that could lead to an opening of the case. If the records are accessed, they could contain information crucial to the Jameson case. In addition, these records could reveal significant contact between University officials and Jameson.

When we think of journalistic suppression, we tend to

think of national cases, but this is proof of suppression happening on a local level. Journalistic suppression denies local journalists freedom of the press, infringing on their First Amendment rights.

At *The News*, we call on the University as a public institution to uphold the five freedoms of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Withholding these records from WPSD goes directly against the First Amendment right to freedom of the press, contradictory to the University's argument.



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Basketball dominates in home opener

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Men's basketball returned to the CFSB Center on Saturday, Nov. 12, when Murray State hosted the Lindsey Wilson College Blue Raiders for the first home game of the regular season.

A 20-point performance from junior forward DJ Burns propelled the Racers to a 90-53 win, with junior guard Rob Perry following close behind with 18 points.

The 20 points was the most Burns has scored in a game while at Murray State. Burns said after the game, "It was just my night." "All I can do every night is do what I can do and control what I'm able to," Burns said. "Just trust that my teammates and the coaches will put us in the best position to win. If that's me scoring, rebounding, whatever."

The Racers as a team assisted on 20 of their 34 made shots. Head Coach Steve Prohm spoke after the game about the team's efficiency and how well they move the ball.

"This is the level we wanna get to and how we want to play," Prohm said. "If we can do that, that's a good thing. That's over 50% of shots assisted on. If we're in that range, we're sharing the ball well."

The Racers got out to a quick 9-2 lead with baskets coming in from Perry, Burns and sophomore guard JaCobi Wood with a 3-pointer from sophomore forward Kenny White Jr.

Senior guard Payton Cundiff answered with a 3-pointer for the Blue Raiders, but the Racers came right back with a 9-0 run that included two 3-pointers from freshman guard Justin Morgan. Morgan spoke after the game about the feeling he got when he made his first 3-pointer. He said it was something he's never had the chance to feel before.

"It felt amazing," Morgan said. "In high school, I didn't have a home gym, so to go out



Junior forward DJ Burns led the Racers with 20 points in their win over Lindsey Wilson on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Photo courtesy of David Eaton /Racer Athletics

there and hit that 3 and get the crowd going—it was awesome."

Senior guard Jamyus Jackson and junior guard Jackson Harlan each hit a 3-pointer for the Blue Raiders, but a 3 from Perry shortened the Racers' lead to 9 points.

The Racers' lead extended to 14 points with a layup from White Jr. and yet another 3-pointer from Perry.

The Blue Raiders continued to hang around until Wood made a pair of 3s to put the Racers up 18. To end the half, senior guard Quincy Anderson made two free throws, and Wood made another free throw to have the Racers up 46-27 at halftime.

Despite a 3 from Jones, the Blue Raiders continued to fall behind as Burns and Perry scored the Racers' first 11 points of the second half, extending the lead to 25 points.

More points from Wood, Burns and Anderson put the Racers on a 13-0 run. A 3 from

Cundiff ended the run, but the Racers were still up 68-35.

The rest of the second half was back and forth, but the Racers' lead continued to grow, reaching 41 points with a layup from freshman guard Braxton Stacker.

The final buzzer hit, and it was official: the Racers had defeated the Blue Raiders 90-53 in their first home matchup of the season. Cundiff was the lone double-digit scorer for the Blue Raiders with 10 points, shooting 3-6 from the field and 2-5 from 3-point range.

While Burns and Perry led the way with 20 points and 18 points, respectively, Wood and Anderson followed with 13 points and 10 points, respectively. Wood led the team in assists with five while Burns led the team in rebounds with nine. Anderson had a team high five steals.

Being one of the only returners from last season, Burns took on a leadership role for the Racers this year. He said he's thankful the

“This is the level we want to get to and how we want to play...”

— Steve Prohm, Head basketball coach

new people on the team have made it easy for him to take on the role.

"Coach Prohm was able to help get [me] to the physical and mental standard I needed," Burns said. "Having conversations with him helped me learn what I needed to do. One of the key things Coach told the guys is that 'DJ isn't gonna be perfect, but he's gonna try his best, and he loves Murray State.'"

Murray State improves to 1-1 on the season. The Racers travel to Conway, South Carolina, to play in the Myrtle Beach Invitational as part of their next matchups.

The Racers' first game of the tournament will see them take on the Aggies of Texas A&M University. That game will be at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 17.

Women's basketball falls at Purdue 90-61

Ronan Summers

Staff Writer

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The Murray State women's basketball team went head to head with the Purdue University Boilermakers, who compete in the Big 10 conference, on Sunday, Nov. 13.

The Racers fell to the Boilermakers 90-61 and are now 1-1 on the young 2022-23 season. The Boilermakers' defense proved to be tough for the Racers as Purdue held Murray State to a 40.4% field goal percentage in the matchup.

The Boilermakers got on the board first after junior guard Madison Layden scored a fastbreak layup. Racers red-shirt senior forward Alexis Burpo responded by hitting a jumper in the paint after redshirt senior guard Jordyn Hughes passed the ball to her.

The Racers kept the score close at the beginning of the first quarter as they were down 9-6 three minutes into the game. The game started to shift Purdue's way, though, as the team went on a 9-point run to take the 18-6 lead.

Murray State junior forward Hannah McKay ended Pur-

due's run when she received a pass from junior forward Katelyn Young to score on a layup. Purdue senior guard Abbey Ellis hit both of her free throws on the next possession to increase the lead back to 12.

The Racers ended the first quarter with momentum. Red-shirt senior guard Macey Turley hit a 3-pointer and made both of her free throws on the following possession to make the score 20-13 at the end of the first quarter.

The Boilermakers started the second quarter hot, scoring the first 9 points of the quarter. Within the first three minutes, they more than doubled the lead they had at the end of the first quarter, leading 29-13.

The Racers scored once in the first six minutes of the second quarter. The majority of their points came in the final three and a half minutes of the first half. McKay hit a 3-pointer, junior guard Bria Sanders-Woods made both of her free throws and sophomore guard Cayson Conner made a fastbreak layup.

Young was fouled as she scored in the paint and made the free throw and Sanders-Woods made a layup to give the Racers some offensive production before the end



Senior guard Jordyn Hughes scored 11 points in the Racer's loss against Purdue on Sunday, Nov. 13.

Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

of the first half. Purdue had a 40-27 lead going into halftime.

Murray State was able to get within 11 points at the beginning of the third quarter after a 3-pointer by Hughes, but the Boilermakers' lead would continue to grow from that point on. Purdue did not allow the Racers to get back within 10 points for the remainder of the game.

Purdue coasted to the win over the Racers after obtaining a game-high lead of 32 points in the fourth quarter and ultimately won the game 90-61. They had a 50.7% field goal percentage in the win and went 11-12 on free throws.

McKay led her team in scoring with 13 points. She had

five rebounds and an assist as well. Hughes had 11 points, two rebounds and an assist. Burpo finished with 10 points, six rebounds, a block and an assist. Young totaled 7 points, five assists and six blocks in the loss while Turley ended with 7 points, six rebounds, four assists and a rebound.

Murray State scored 24 points in the paint, 9 second-chance points and 6 points off turnovers in the loss. The Racers were able to corral 27 rebounds in the game, and they totaled 17 assists as a team.

The Racers will host the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Mocs at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19 in the CFSB Center.



Photo courtesy of David Eaton/Racer Athletics

Freshman running back Cortez Jones breaks a tackle on his way to one of his two touchdowns against Robert Morris on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Football scores another win at home

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Another game went in favor of the Murray State football team on Saturday, Nov. 12, as the Racers defeated the Robert Morris University Colonials 27-9 in the final home game of the season.

The Racers were up at half, but after the Colonials took a 9-7 lead through three quarters, the Racers responded with a 20-point fourth quarter to win the game.

Murray State's rushing offense was a force to be reckoned within the game as the Racers rushed for 249 yards and three touchdowns in the game. Sophomore running back Demonta Witherspoon and freshman running back Cortez Jones combined for 155 yards rushing.

Head Coach Dean Hood gave a lot of credit to Robert Morris after the game but said the Racers had to get through a lot of adversity to win the game.

"With the season we've had, this was just a blessing," Hood said. "I mean, we missed three field goals, had some

bad turnovers. But in the end, we prevailed, and I'm proud of these guys for that. We were truly blessed in the end."

The first quarter started slow for both offenses as both teams punted on their first possessions.

It was the Racers who got on the board first as sophomore quarterback Jayden Stinson moved the ball up the field with multiple short passes. However, Stinson looked deep for sophomore wide receiver Taylor Shields who got in the end zone for a 28-yard touchdown reception.

After another punt from Robert Morris, the first quarter ended with the Racers on top 7-0.

The second quarter wasn't all great for the Racers, though, as senior kicker Aaron Baum missed back-to-back field goal attempts in the quarter. Those missed field goals would have had the Racers up 13-0 at halftime.

Instead, the Racers were unable to get any other points but held the Colonials scoreless as well. At halftime, Murray State was up 7-0.

The third quarter was off to a rough start for the Racers as senior punter Lewis Halton's punt was blocked in the Racers' territo-

ry. That gave the Colonials the ball at the Murray State 22-yard line.

Murray State's defense held strong, though, and forced the Colonials to make a field goal, making it 7-3 in favor of the Racers.

More trouble hit the Racers when freshman running back Jawaun Northington fumbled the ball away on the first play of the next drive, and the Colonials recovered it at the Murray State 24-yard line.

It took three plays for freshman quarterback Zach Tanner to rush 17 yards for a touchdown. But the Colonials missed the point-after attempt, leaving them with a slight lead to end the third quarter 9-7.

Senior defensive back Quinazz Turner made a highlight in the third quarter as he grabbed his fifth interception of the season. He said the rest of defense really helped set up his interception.

"I gotta give it to the defensive line," Turner said. "They had a great rush all day and provided a lot of pressure. We just stuck to what we've been doing all year, and it's really started to pay off for us."

Jones started the fourth quarter off

with a 24-yard rushing touchdown but a missed point-after attempt from Baum kept the Racers at 13 points.

On the Racers' next drive, Witherspoon took a rush 20 yards for a touchdown, and with Baum's point-after kick going through the uprights, the Racers were up 20-9.

On their last drive of the game, the Racers got in the end zone one last time as Jones rushed for another 24 yards to get his second touchdown of the game. Without another score from the Colonials, the Racers ended their final home game with a 27-9 victory.

Senior wide receiver LaMarte Brooks spoke after the game about the turnaround for the team this late in the season. He said despite the losses this year, it's nice to get the wins now.

"It just feels good as a team," Brooks said. "We're all just bought into what Coach Hood is preaching to us, like staying together and leaning onto your brother. That's, like, a big thing to us."

Following the win, Murray State's record sits at 2-8 overall for the season. The Racers end their 2022 campaign at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 19 when they travel to SEMO to take on the 17th ranked Redbirds.

Volleyball prepares for MVC Tournament

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With an 8-10 conference record, the Murray State volleyball team is prepping for the MVC Tournament. The Racers, who have a 12-16 record overall this season, currently sit in seventh place in the conference.

Despite the losing record, the Racers have plenty of positives to take into account as they near tournament time.

Freshman outside hitter Federica Nuccio leads her team in points with 379 this season. She has the 11th most amount of points in the MVC. 338 of those points came from kills, the eleventh most in the MVC. Junior libero Dahlia Miller has 464 digs this season, the sixth most in the MVC.

Sophomore setter Bailey DeMier leads the Racers in service aces with 39, tied for the fifth most in the MVC. DeMier also leads the Racers in assists with 1008, the seventh most assists in the MVC this season.

Murray State has out-killed its opponents 1,447-1,361 this season. The Racers also have more assists than their opponents this year, out-assisting the opposition 1,334-1,239.

One obstacle for Murray State this season has been errors. They have committed 159 more errors than their opponents—684-525.



Photo courtesy of David Eaton/Racer Athletics

Junior outside hitter Jayla Holcombe (#27) and graduate middle blocker Elisa Dozia look to keep the Racers defense tight in the MVC Tournament.

If the Racers are able to clean their game up a bit and turn those possessions into points, they could find themselves on a run in the MVC Tournament this year.

As things stand now, the Racers will be competing against the sixth seed in the tournament, the Valparaiso Beacons. The Racers have played the Beacons twice this year.

Valparaiso took the first matchup, winning it 3-0. The Racers won the second time around in the fifth set 3-2. With the series record split at one apiece, both teams will look to earn bragging rights over the

other, but more importantly, the winner moves onto the next round.

The winner of the sixth seed vs. seventh seed match will advance to compete against the third seed, UIC. Murray State has played UIC twice this season, losing both matchups 3-0. If the Racers are able to advance to the second round, this will be a tough battle.

Whoever wins in the second round goes on to the semifinals to go head-to-head with the second seed, Drake University. Murray State has played Drake once this season, losing the matchup 3-0.

The winner will go onto the championship match to compete against the first, fourth, fifth or eighth seed. As things stand, UNI is the first seed, Evansville is the fourth seed, SIU is the fifth seed and Missouri State is the eighth seed.

The tournament is set to take place from Saturday, Nov. 20, to Tuesday, Nov. 23.

The Racers will travel to Evansville, Indiana to compete against the Valparaiso Beacons at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20 in the Meeks Family Fieldhouse.

LGBT Prom helps students create new memories

Ava Chuppe
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Students gathered for the first in-person LGBT Prom event in three years in the Curris Center Small Ballroom on Thursday, Nov. 10.

The event was held by Alliance, the LGBT student organization, and featured music and a taco bar. While Alliance used to host the LGBT Prom each year, it has been canceled for the past two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alliance President Julian Lamson said they experienced LGBT Prom as a freshman.

“It really shaped my college experience, so I decided it would be a great idea to bring it back with the help of my wonderful executive board,” Lamson said.

Alliance wanted to reinstate the event to make up for the “less-than-stellar” Prom experiences some LGBT students had, Lamson said.

“**We hoped to replace those memories with a prom that was safe, supportive and lots of fun.**”

— Julian Lamson, Alliance president

“It’s really hard being young and queer, and many grew up in conservative areas where going to prom with their partner or simply being themselves was not a safe option,” Lamson said. “We hoped to replace those memories with a prom that was safe, supportive and lots of fun. Everyone was allowed to be themselves, hold their partners and enjoy themselves without fear of repercussions.”



Photo courtesy of Julian Lamson
Alliance members voted Julian Lamson (left) and Jocie Pry (right) as their LGBT Prom royalty.

Lamson and sophomore mathematics major Jocie Pry were crowned royalty at the event. Pry said it was nice being crowned queen.

“Everyone was just so excited, and it felt wonderful,” Pry said. “Obviously, it wasn’t the same as a prom you’d have in high school. Instead of a crown and scepter, I got a cowboy hat and Furby, but I don’t think it needed to be just like high school.”

Bec Cahoe, vice president of Alliance, reported having a great time at LGBT Prom.

“Lots of our current

members, myself included, also missed senior or even junior prom amidst the pandemic,” Cahoe said. “We wanted to give people that classic prom experience but in a place and with people they could safely express themselves around.”

“**I think people seemed to have an awesome time, and they loved the voting and crowning of prom royalty at the end of the night**”

— Bec Cahoe, Alliance vice-president

Cahoe said they are grateful to everyone who attended the event.

“We danced to classic songs like the ‘Cupid Shuffle’ and ‘Cotton Eye Joe,’ as well as pride culture anthems such as ‘Dancing Queen’ and ‘Born This Way,’” Cahoe said. “I think people seemed to have an awesome time, and they loved the voting and crowning of prom royalty at the end of the night.”

Lamson thanked the Pride Center Director Abigail Cox and the Alliance executive board for their work in making the event happen.

“**Alliance will always be a safe space on this campus for LGBT students...**”

— Julian Lamson, Alliance president

“We prepared for this event for a while,” Lamson said. “It’s wonderful that so many people turned out and had an amazing time. Alliance will always be a safe space on this campus for LGBT students, and we will continue to work hard to provide fun, positive experiences for them.”

While the decision has not yet been confirmed, Alliance is considering holding another LGBT Prom event toward the end of the spring semester.

Alliance will hold its final meeting of the semester, a potluck, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 17 in the Women’s Center at C102 Oakley Applied Science. Interested students can follow their Instagram @msu_alliance for future updates and meeting details.

Author explores racism, identity in Reading Series

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The creative writing program hosted Forward INDIE Bronze Winner and International Book Award Finalist Donald Quist on Nov. 9 as the final Reading Series author of the semester.

Quist is the author of two essay collections, “Harbors,” and “To Those Bounded,” as well as a linked story collection, “For Other Ghosts.” His publications have appeared in North American Review, AGNI, Michigan Quarterly Review, The Rumpus and Poets & Writers.

At the event, Quist read one of his fictional essays titled “Lalita Rattapong’s New Microwave” from his linked story collection, “For Other Ghosts,” and a nonfictional essay titled “Heathers” from his most recent essay publication, “To Those Bounded.”

“**I found both his class visit and his reading to be thought-provoking and inspiring...**”

— Carrie Jerrell, associate professor of English

The essay “Lalita Rattapong’s New Microwave” spoke of themes involving self-significance and reality, as the character discovers that her microwave can create time-space anomalies that

leave her questioning her own life and its importance. In the essay “Heathers,” the themes of racism and conflict are shown as the character intervenes in a racism-fueled fight. Both essays hinted at the theme of self-importance, as both stories had characters who were unsure of the role they played in society and sought significance.

Quist currently is working on a new novel about a nonbinary character returning to the United States to attend their estranged sister’s wedding during the American Civil War. The official name and release date have yet to be released.

Carrie Jerrell, coordinator of the creative writing program, said the program was excited to host Quist as a part of the Reading Series.

“Donald is an accomplished fiction and nonfiction writer whose work explores racism, loneliness, globalization, identity and pop culture, all while also experimenting with form and genre,” Jerrell said. “He gave a wonderful talk about craft during his class visit and answered a lot of great student questions. I found both his class visit and his reading to be thought-provoking and inspiring, and I know other attendees did as well.”

In addition to the evening reading, Quist also gave a lecture to a nonfiction creative writing class.

Department of English and Philosophy
READING SERIES

Donald Quist

“Into the cacophony steps Quist with the fierce voice and loving, but critical eye of a 21st century James Baldwin.”

— Sophronia Scott, *Assay Journal*

“In his essays, and now in his fiction, Donald Quist has made it clear that he’s a writer to watch.”

— Martha Southgate, author of *Third Girl from the Left*



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9
FACULTY HALL 208 @ 7:30PM

Photo courtesy of @murraystateenglish on Instagram
Donald Quist spoke about his published work and his in-progress novel in Faculty Hall on Nov. 9.

Jerrell said the Reading Series would return for the spring semester but the dates have yet to be determined.

“We invite writers from various points in their careers from those who’ve just published their first book to those who’ve been publishing for decades and they represent the diversity of literature that’s being written today,” Jerrell said. “The series gives students majoring or just interested in creative writing

the opportunity to learn from them in a classroom setting, and it provides the entire campus and the greater community a chance to meet and hear from some of the best writers of our day.”

For more information about the future Reading Series events, visit @murraystate-creativewriting on Instagram or the Murray State Creative Writing Program and Reading Series page on Facebook.

Speech and Debate finishes second at tourney

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After a semester of preparation, the Murray State Speech and Debate Union finished in second place at the 13th annual Porch Swing Invitational debate tournament.

The tournament was hosted by Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City, Tennessee. It featured a dozen schools, including Walter State, Marshall University, Marian University and Cleveland State.

The team prevailed in the conference despite facing a key disadvantage against the other schools, according to faculty adviser Ryan Goke.

“With only three competitors at this tournament, Murray State placed second overall in debate,” Goke said. “For comparison, most of the other schools had six to eight competitors and have a distinct advantage in numbers for overall sweepstakes awards.”

Participants in the tournament are guaranteed four rounds of preliminary debate. In these rounds, participants are evaluated by one judge who determines if they advance to qualifying rounds. In the qualifying rounds, three judges evaluate the participants.

“ Did you speak well? Was your argument clear? How did you present yourself? Did you make a better case than your opponent?”
— Case Thomason, Speech and Debate Union president

Speech and Debate Union President Case Thomason explained judges evaluate participants on a variety of factors. “A judge graded you on several different factors,” Thomason said. “Did you speak well?



Photo courtesy of Ryan Goke
From left, Kyle Heideman, Case Thomason and Garrett Kieser hold their awards.

Was your argument clear? How did you present yourself? Did you make a better case than your opponent? To win this competition, you must work hard and impress your judge in a manner beyond that of your competitors.”

In addition to Thomason, Murray State’s three participants included senior economics majors Kyle Heideman and Garrett Kieser. The competitors were split among two teams. Heideman and Kieser formed one team, while Thomason and a student from Cleveland State formed the other.

Heideman and Kieser won the tournament with all four of the judge’s ballots in the preliminary rounds, all three of the judges ballots in the quarter and semifinals and two of the three ballots in the final round.

The Porch Swing Invitational was the Speech and Debate Union’s sixth tournament of the semester. The group attended

three virtual competitions and traveled to the University Southern Mississippi and Middle Tennessee State University for in-person tournaments.

“ We are already preparing for next semester ... we plan to make a strong showing on behalf of Murray State University.”
— Ryan Goke, Speech and Debate Union faculty adviser

The group also had some noteworthy performances at these tournaments. At the University of Southern Mississippi, Kieser and Thomason finished in first and second place, respectively, in extemporaneous speaking.

Participants in extemporaneous speaking are given 30 minutes to

prepare a seven-minute speech about a given topic.

Students also spent their time preparing for the competition by attending practice sessions three times a week in which they participated in mock debates and analysis of each other’s speeches.

Goke said while the team’s traveling may be done this semester, their sights are set on next semester’s national tournament.

“We are already preparing for next semester,” Goke said. “Nationals will be hosted at West Chester University in the spring, and we plan to make a strong showing on behalf of Murray State University.”

Students from all majors are encouraged to get involved with the Speech and Debate Union. Goke said forensics, the combined term for both speech and debate, teaches students important skills.

“ I have also learned what loss feels like and how to strive for better, becoming a more refined and better person along the way.”

— Case Thomason, Speech and Debate Union president

“Speech and debate provides educational value and relevant skills to all the competitors, which is why so many lawyers, politicians and presidents got their start on the forensics circuit,” Goke said.

Thomason said in addition to developing skills, speech and debate helped him grow as a person.

“I have learned how to communicate effectively and best prevail in an argument,” Thomason said. “I have also learned what loss feels like and how to strive for better, becoming a more refined and better person along the way.”

Anyone interested in joining the Speech and Debate Union can email Goke at rgoke@murraystate.edu.

Calendar of Events



Pet Therapy

Today (12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)
Waterfield Library Main Entrance

Come de-stress with dogs, cats and other animals in the Waterfield Library breezeway.

Murray Art Guild Holiday Sale

Nov. 19 (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
Springhill Suites

The Murray Art Guild is hosting a “Holiday Sale” featuring a variety of art and crafts at Springhill suites at 1512 N. 12th Street.

Murray Bank Ice Skating Rink

Dec. 2-4 (4 p.m. - 9 p.m.)
Murray Square

The Murray Bank Ice Skating Rink will be open from Dec. 2-4 in downtown Murray.

Iphigenia in Aulis

Today (7:30 p.m.)
Robert E. Johnson Theatre

The department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts is presenting this Greek classic free for students with a student ID.

Festival of Lights

Nov. 25 - Jan 2 (5 p.m. - 10 p.m.)
Murray Calloway County Park

Starting Nov. 25 central park will be lit up nightly from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. with the Murray Bank Festival of Lights.

Main Street Merriment

Dec 2 (5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.)
Murray Square

Holiday Merriment will feature the annual lighting of the Christmas tree, ice skating and pictures with Santa.

BFA Exhibitions

Nov. 18 (5:45 p.m.)
Clara M. Eagle Gallery

The department of Art and Design will be hosting its BFA reception for the exhibitions of seven senior art students.

Christmas at the Homeplace

Nov. 26 (11 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
1850s Working Farm Land Between The Lakes

Smell the pine needles and learn how to make traditional holiday treats at the Homeplace 1850’s Working Farm.

Fall 2022 Commencement

Dec. 10 (10 a.m. - 12 p.m.)
CFSB Center

Celebrate the academic achievement of the centennial graduating class of 2022.