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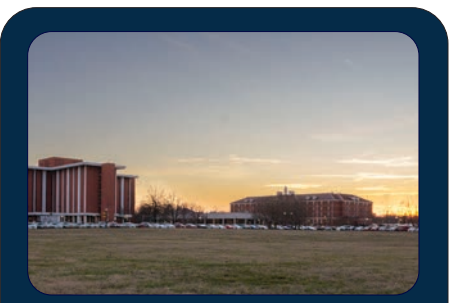
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NEWS BRIEF



Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News
Phase 1 of the P3 housing plan was set to start by Jan. 2023, but was halted because of pricing.

Inflation halts housing updates

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University administration announced plans to halt the public-private partnership (P3) at the Dec. 2, 2022 Board of Regents meeting, citing inflation and labor shortages. President Bob Jackson said COVID-19 led to a number of issues, ultimately leading to the decision to halt the project. Vice President of Finance Jackie Dudley said some risk factors are involved, including supply and labor chain issues and interest rates. Dudley said the University and its partners quickly learned the cost of construction would be more than anticipated, as interest rates have increased dramatically. According to CNBC, interest rates and inflation often move in the same direction, whether it is up or down. In July 2022, the economy saw the inflation rate increase as the prices of goods and services went up. The rise in inflation and interest rates was caused by several factors, including the war in Ukraine. "The war in Ukraine led to a spike in energy prices, while supply chain shortages affected the prices of other goods, such as cars," according to CNBC. "In other words, high prices are being caused by having too little of a supply of goods and services and, at the same time, having too much of a demand for them." The current inflation and interest rates have led some development companies to reevaluate projects with their business partners. Rise Development LLC, the company approved to execute predevelopment plans, has requested the board extend its predevelopment agreement from June 30 to Dec. 30. Dudley said the administration plans to monitor the project and meet regularly with Rise to determine when it would make sense to advertise bids again. The next quarterly Board of Regents meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 24. Stay tuned into The News as we follow this story for updates.



A feeder pipe to the sprinkler system in Waterfield Library burst resulting in flooding on the south side of the building on Christmas Day. Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Frozen pipes cause campus flooding

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Subzero and single-digit temperatures swept through most of Kentucky during December 2022, and Murray, Kentucky was not an exception. As a result of the severe weather, multiple campus buildings' pipes burst or froze. On the academic side of campus, Waterfield Library and the Jesse D. Jones Science Building were flooded. On the residential side of campus, Regents, Hart and Hester colleges and four College Courts apartment rooms were affected. The CFSB Center also suffered flooding. Despite the wide range of buildings, Shawn Touney, the executive director of branding, marketing and communications, said Facilities Management responded quickly to flooding reports.

"Our Facilities Management workers, SSC [Building Services] staff, and MSU police responded on Christmas Day and continued to respond during the holiday break to ensure our campus facilities were in good order," Touney said. "All water has been extracted and was done so very quickly. The drying process began shortly after the removal of water. There are miscellaneous repairs that will take several more weeks to finalize." The miscellaneous damages Touney includes are carpet, ceiling tile and sheetrock replacements. Touney said preventative measures were taken to avoid water pipe issues as far below-freezing temperatures approached. "The heat was turned up in many buildings to help prevent freezing in interspatial areas that do not receive direct conditioning," Touney said.

A feeder pipe to the sprinkler system froze and burst in Waterfield Library, flooding the southeast quadrant of the second floor.

On the first day of classes we were fully prepared to open the building and have students in here. — Cris Ferguson, Dean of Libraries

The south quadrant houses multiple offices and classrooms, as well as the Racer Oral Communication Center. Dean of Libraries Cris Ferguson said the flooding in Waterfield Library happened on the afternoon of Christmas Day.

see FLOODING, page 2

Lecture series set to honor late professor

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When faculty were looking for a way to honor the late Robert "Doc" McGaughey, who was passionate about press freedom and responsibility, some thought a lecture series would best commemorate his legacy. The inaugural McGaughey Lecture on Press Freedom and Responsibility will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 14. Robert Valentine, retired lecturer in advertising, worked under McGaughey when he was the department chair for the Journalism and Mass Communications department. Valentine was the chair of the lecture's planning committee. Valentine said when McGaughey was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame in 2012, he reflected on the beginning of digital mass communication. "[He said] when the medium does not require you to take responsibility for what you say, nor does it assume responsibility for the consequences of what you say, everything that has defended the free press up until this time falls apart," Valentine said. "And he was, as it turns out, spot on."



From left, Robert Valentine celebrates "Doc" McGaughey's entry into Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame. File photo

Kyser Lough, an assistant professor of journalism at the University of Georgia, is one of the board members for the organizing committee Valentine put together. He studied under McGaughey during his undergraduate years at Murray State. The committee decided to have Marc Murphy be the guest speaker for this inaugural lecture. He is a lawyer and political cartoonist, who often appears in The Louisville Courier. Lough said he thinks political cartoons are an interesting and

powerful part of journalism, acting as a way to hold those in power accountable. "I think it's such a unique way to kick off this lecture series on press freedom and responsibility because the opinion pages are one of those important areas where we have been able to express ourselves, especially as citizens," Lough said. Lough also spoke about his excitement to have Murphy speak at the lecture.

see LECTURE, page 2

State Humanities Council elects history professor as chair

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Brian Clardy, associate professor of history, was unanimously elected as the new chair of the Kentucky Humanities Council Board of Directors.

Clardy, who was first appointed to the council by Gov. Andy Beshear in 2020, previously served as vice chair of the organization.

Under former Gov. Steve Beshear, he also served on the Center for Renewable Energy Research and Environmental Stewardship.

“One of the things that I wanted to do was to serve on a board in his administration as I had done for his father,” Clardy said.

The Kentucky Humanities Council, though not a state agency, is a nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C. Both the Endowment and private donations fund the group’s goal to promote civic engagement and literacy across the state.

Because of Clardy’s past work in sustainability, he did not expect his appointment to the Humanities Council.

“When I got the call that Friday and I found out that I was appointed to the Humanities Council, I just remember feeling very, very honored because Kentucky Humanities has always done a lot of great things in the community and promoted a lot of great programs,” Clardy said.

Clardy first joined the council during the beginning of the pandemic and did not experience an in-person meeting for a year and a half.

“When we met in person... it felt like working with familiar friends,”

Clardy said. “It felt like being a family and that was a great opportunity.”

A year after his appointment, Clardy was elected as vice chair.

“The whole board does vote,” Clardy said. “They get a slate of folks. They can nominate people if they’d like or self-nominate, but there’s usually a slate that’s approved by rules and bylaws.”

When he was asked to stand for chair in August 2022, Clardy said he knew there was a lot of work in his new role. Before his new position took effect on New Year’s Day, he attended several events to gain a sense of his future duties. One of these events was the Kentucky Book Festival.

“We had some great writers there — local writers,” Clardy said. “We had some great luminaries, like Wendell Berry and Crystal Wilkinson.”

The event also hosted Barbara Kingsolver, who lectured on her novel “Demon Copperhead,” and Yale University’s David Blight as the moderator for a discussion with Jon Meacham, author of “And There Was Light.”

Clardy said he also had the opportunity to attend the National Humanities Conference in Los Angeles. There, he listened to writers like Natalia Molina and Viet Thanh Nguyen, which he called an “unbelievable” experience.

At the conference, he had lunch with the president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. He also met Jane Kaminski, the major author and editor of the history textbook he frequently uses.

Now as chair, Clardy plans on attending another conference in Indianapolis this coming fall.

He added he wants Murray State to have a seat at the table during the next Kentucky Book Festival, which plans

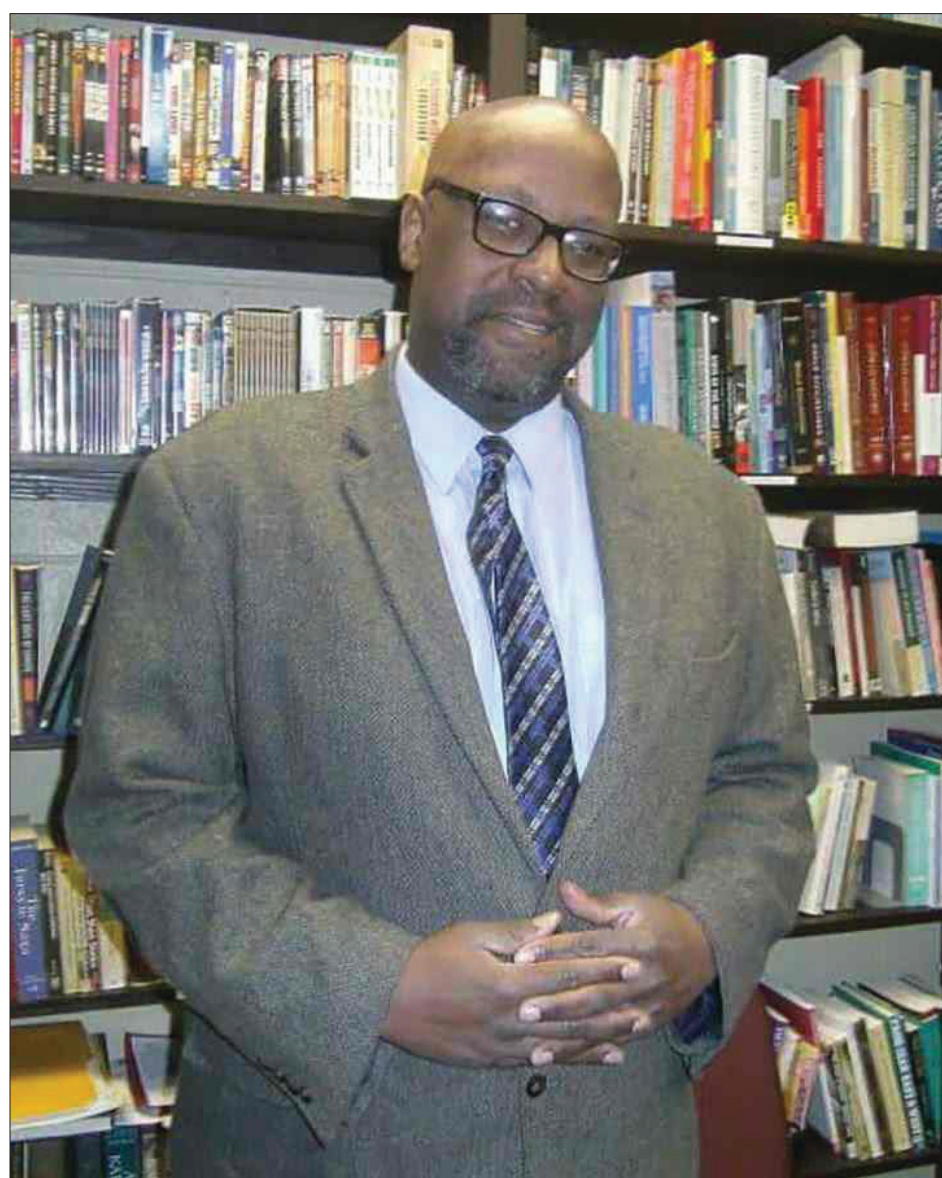


Photo courtesy of murraystate.edu

History Professor Brian Clardy serves as chair of the Kentucky Humanities Council.

to establish by keeping faculty members in the know about application deadlines for awards and opportunities.

“I can’t promise anything, but I’d like to see a lot of Murray State people apply, and I’m going to try to get one of the meetings in this area,” Clardy said.

Clardy will speak on Thursday, Feb. 2 to the Paducah Chamber of Commerce about the importance of humanities. He said he wants to be a spokesperson

for the humanities in general and for Kentucky humanities in particular.

“If we meet students at the basic level—elementary school, junior high, high school—and get them involved in reading, get them involved in these discussions... When they get older, they will still want to be engaged, and they will want to contribute to the life of Kentucky Humanities and keep it going for the next generation,” Clardy said.



Emma Fisher/The News

Hart College is one of the buildings that requires repairs following the flooding.

FLOODING, from page 1

We had about 2 inches of water all along the south side of the building and...then some water leaked through cracks and crevices into the lower level of the library,” Ferguson said.

The pipe burst at around 3:48 p.m. on Christmas Day, and by 4:30 p.m., the water had been shut off.

“Right now, we’re pretty back to normal,” Ferguson said. “It took about two weeks. There was a disaster remediation company that came in and put in fans and continued to do extraction and did a thorough carpet cleaning and disinfecting.”

After the cleaning, Ferguson said she was not aware of any lasting damage to the carpet, which took the hardest hit.

“On the first day of classes we were fully prepared to

open the building and have students in here,” Ferguson said.

For the flooding in the residence halls, the Housing Office emailed residents who had their personal property damaged.

In a screenshot posted to the Murray State Parents Facebook page, Hart College facilitators emailed the affected residents of the damage to their rooms. Beyond damage to specific rooms, common areas and hallways also received damage.

Some of the residents’ area rugs were damaged and discarded, and for other damages, the residents were advised to contact their personal insurance carrier.

“Students with concerns should direct those to the Housing Office,” Tourney said. “The nature of the weather front that came through our area during the break does create an inevitable situation of frozen water lines.”

LECTURE, from page 1

“He [Murphy] is a tremendous political cartoonist,” Lough said. “His work is very impactful and powerful. Being able to have him come in and talk about that, I think, is going to be a really wonderful way to kick off this series.”

Ann Landini, a retired professor of journalism, knew McGaughey during her student and professional years. He was made chair of the department when she was a graduate student, she studied under him and she was later hired by him.

Landini said she thought McGaughey would appreciate this lecture.

“I think Doc would be quite honored to have this lecture done in his honor, memory—however you want to phrase it,” Landini said. “He was a true proponent of a free and fair press. Very supportive of student media. I think he would be flattered to have a lecture named for him.”

“ Without a free press, you could not have an informed populace. ”

— Ann Landini, retired professor of journalism

McGaughey spent much of his career at Murray State.

McGaughey completed both his undergraduate and graduate degree at the University. His undergraduate degree was in history and journalism. He received the first journalism Master of Science at Murray State. He was also an adviser to *The News* starting in 1969.

He obtained his doctoral degree at Ohio University before coming back to work for Murray State and eventually becoming the department chair.

“He [McGaughey] was an outstanding teacher,” Landini said. “He was a fantastic classroom teacher,” Landini said.

She said he had a way of breaking up his lectures with topics that were related to the class and gave the students a chance to take a break and stay engaged.

“ He was a phenomenal teacher who cared about the profession. ”

— Kyser Lough, assistant professor of journalism

“It kept you on your toes because it was usually funny, it was usually insightful and it was something that you always remembered when you left class,” Landini said.

McGaughey won multiple awards for his teaching over the years.

“He was a phenomenal teacher who cared about the profession,” Lough said. “He cared about his students. He cared about teaching.”

McGaughey was the chair of the department for 23 years. Landini said McGaughey demanded a lot from his faculty, but he also made the department a fun place to work. Landini said McGaughey was the one who led to the journalism department becoming nationally accredited. She said it was important to have an accredited department because they were trying to train students to be the best of journalism.

Landini said she thought the topic of press freedom and responsibility was an important one for journalism students.

“Without a free press, you could not have an informed populace,” Landini said. “We’re fortunate in our country that we do have a free press, but with that freedom comes responsibility, and I’m afraid that in today’s environment, we have some media organizations who don’t take the responsibility they have to the public as seriously as they need to.”

The lecture will be in Lovett Auditorium at 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

SZA dwells in heartbreak's aftermath on 'SOS'

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After five years, she's back, she's ambitious and she's dominating the charts. SZA's sophomore R&B album "SOS" dives into avenues of rap, punk and alternative, while diving into life after Solana Rowe known professionally as SZA is an R&B artist from St. Louis, Missouri, who became popular for her unique take on R&B. "SOS" hit streaming platforms on Dec. 9, 2022, nearly five years after her debut album "CTRL" and nearly 10 years after her self-released debut EP "See.Rowe.Run," which caught the eye of her current label, Top Dawg Entertainment (TDE). She became their first female artist.

This would fuel her boost to stardom but also feel like a lasso around her waist, hindering her from artistic agency and freedom, but we can talk about that after we discuss the highlights and lowlights of Rowe's momentous music return.

"CTRL" was an album detailing the feelings of someone in a toxic relationship, and in "SOS," we see the same woman but in a different situation. Rowe has cut the ties to her relationship, but her feelings can't help but linger.

Although she is freed from this relationship, Rowe is still grappling with its aftermath. Rowe goes in between confident highs and insecure lows, while wondering if she can ever trust someone again.

The 23-track long album—yes, 23 tracks—begins with "SOS," which starts with a Morse code distress signal, SOS, and the shooting of a flare. After a brief moment of silence, horns and choir powerfully burst through.

Rowe goes in between singing and a raplike flow that exudes confidence and spite. She sings about donating swag to her former partner and wanting it back. Rowe doesn't want to see him use what she gave him. In the end, although she is still angry, she still wants to be desired.

"Kill Bill" is the biggest hit on "SOS," becoming popular on TikTok and currently ranked second on the Billboard Hot 100.

Rowe sings about the boiling negative feelings she has for her former partner. She hates seeing him be able to move on with someone else and sings about possibly killing him in an act of revenge, much like the movie with the same name.

"Low" swerves into a subtle lane of hip-hop, with Rowe being supported with ad libs by rapper Travis Scott. Rowe sings about treating



Album cover courtesy of @sza on Instagram
'SOS' was released Dec. 9, 2022, with TDE and is currently ranked No. 1 on the Billboard top 200 chart.

toward an early 2000s singer-songwriter mood. Rowe really experiments with her sound on both songs, making them standouts, and I love seeing a Black musician take this direction.

"Shirt" was one of the lead singles on "SOS," and it feels like a Rowe classic because of its sound. It feels as if it could be a "CTRL" outtake, but I enjoy its inclusion on the album.

Rowe closes the album with "Forgiveness" featuring American rapper Ol' Dirty Bastard, and it ends the album on a rap note with Rowe's confidence shining through. It feels as if Rowe is warning the next person who wants to take advantage of her.

"SOS" is a powerful return for Rowe, but a large album is always a risky move that doesn't pay off. Having 23 songs on one album means there might be many songs that are hits but also many that fall through the cracks and are often skipped by listeners.

Among these songs are "Conceited," "Too Late" and "I Hate U," which feels a little half baked since it only contains the lyrics, "And if you wondered if I hate you (I do)," the snippet that popularized the song before its formal release.

Although these songs don't stand out as much compared to the others, they are still solid tracks that deserve love. However, at the end of the day, I think "SOS" could have been boiled down to a solid 16-track album, and then, there could have been extra room for a deluxe edition similar, to what Rowe did with "CTRL."

But to continue the conversation regarding Rowe's record label, TDE, it almost feels as though Rowe needs to be saved from her label. "CTRL" is a widely enjoyed album. In an interview with "The Guardian," Rowe said TDE stole her flash drive, forcing her to release "CTRL."

TDE seemed to have forced the release of "CTRL" but then continuously put off the release of a sophomore project, as if they did that because they wanted to milk "CTRL" dry before they let it be overshadowed by another project.

Sadly, "SOS" did not go off without a hitch either. In an album teaser Rowe posted on Instagram, a song, "PSA," was teased along with visuals for the song, but it did not make it to the final project.

Rowe claims it was her team that hindered it from being on the album, and at this point, it seems as though TDE has a tighter grip on Rowe than they do their other artists, such as Kendrick Lamar, Jay Rock or Isaiah Rashad.

Beyond the pigeonholing from her label, "SOS" marks a strong and confident return for Rowe, and I think it deserves an 8.5 out of 10.

I hope Rowe can find a stronger sense of agency over her career.

partners as if they are replaceable and all of her moves being on the low.

"Blind" was teased in a snippet of Rowe's "Good Days" music video. The gentle guitar and Rowe's cascading vocals really make this song a standout. Rowe sings about avoidance. Sometimes it's better to pretend the elephant isn't in the room than to address it.

"Used" is a R&B and rap blend featuring American rapper Don Toliver, and the title is self explanatory of what Rowe is trying to convey. Rowe reflects on the fact her past partner used her and seems as though she's come across some post-relationship clarity.

"Gone Girl" feels as if Rowe is realizing she needs to focus on herself rather than whatever relationship she is plagued by. When Rowe says "Gone Girl," it's not like an Amy Dunne kind of "Gone Girl" but instead the kind of girl that will avoid your calls and unadd you on social media.

"Smoking on my Ex Pack" is a spicy rap interlude where Rowe reflects on why she wasn't satisfied

with a relationship. I wish this song was longer than a minute because Rowe rolls through so confidently that it feels like an anthem.

"Ghost in the Machine" is the song that is least like the others with the most surprising feature, American alternative artist Phoebe Bridgers. I really like the idea behind this song, with a ghost being the memory of an ex-lover but the machine being the body of another, someone Rowe sees as a distraction.

Rowe and Bridgers work in different musical lanes, but they come together well, with Bridgers taking over the bridge and building tension in the song. I was apprehensive about their collaboration and thought it may feel like another Lana Del Rey "Don't Call me Angel" scenario, but it works, and Bridgers' verse doesn't bring the song to a standstill.

"F2F" and "Nobody Gets Me" are Rowe's furthest dives into alternative, with "F2F" feeling more punky and "Nobody Gets Me" leaning

'SOS' by SZA

"SOS" is SZA's sophomore album and comes nearly five years after her debut album "CTRL." "SOS" has 23 tracks with a runtime of an hour and five minutes. Beyond SZA the album also features, rapper Travis Scott, rapper Don Toliver, singer Phoebe Bridgers and rapper Ol' Dirty Bastard.

Calendar of Events



Jumpstart January

Jan. 30, (5 p.m. - 7 p.m.)
Waterfield Library Reference Room

Visit the Waterfield Library Reference Room to enjoy food and fun games while getting tips on how to jumpstart the spring semester.

Cinema International: Delicious

Today, (7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.)
Faculty Hall 208

"Delicious is a French movie set in 1789, just before the Revolution. The movie will be in French with English subtitles.

Concert Choir and Vox Lumina

Feb. 9, (3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.)
First Presbyterian Church

The choirs will be performing at the church in Murray, Ky.

Guest Artist Recital

Jan. 29 (2 p.m. - 3 p.m.)
Performing Arts Hall

This event will feature pianist, Alex Thome.

Admitted Student Kickoff

Feb. 4, (7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.)
Lovett Auditorium

A free event for admitted students that will include information about campus services and registration for orientation.

McGaughey Lecture

Feb. 14, (7 p.m.)
Lovett Auditorium

This lecture is named for Robert "Doc" McGaughey and will be on Press Freedom and Responsibility.

Our view:

Lawmakers aim to ban TikTok under weak privacy guise

In the social media hierarchy, TikTok is one of the fastest growing social media platforms and the most recent platform to find its way into political crosshairs. Nearly 25 states have banned TikTok on government devices, citing security concerns because of the platform's Chinese parent company.

A recent state that joined the roster is Kentucky. The ban was issued through the latest update of the employee handbook made by the Personnel Cabinet in January, according to *The Lexington Herald-Leader*.

Some states have taken the ban much further than just government-owned devices.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott invoked a TikTok ban on all government devices and went as far as to make the app inaccessible for those connected to public university WiFi networks, according to *The Texas Tribune*. The technology adviser for the University of Texas at Austin said TikTok obtains vast amounts of data from their users, which could be a threat to privacy if it got into the hands of the Chinese government.

As of right now, the Kentucky ban applies to executive branch employees, but there are also bills on the table that would beef up the ban, including Senate Bill 20 and House Bill 124.

Both could go as far as banning TikTok on government-owned or operated networks, which may affect public universities.

TikTok is owned by the Chinese company ByteDance, which has become grounds for lawmakers' concerns with the platform. Beyond TikTok, the most recent social media platform to be placed under the microscope was Facebook regarding a data breach and user privacy.

However, lawmakers did not ban Facebook, yet they are going as far as to ban Tik-



Wesley Hammer/*The News*

Tok usage for those simply connected to a government network. The only difference between the security concerns around the platforms are their origin—Facebook was founded in the U.S.

Another difference between the two platforms is the proven concerns surrounding Facebook. The concerns surrounding TikTok seem like hearsay and just stem from the application being founded in China.

Georgetown University law professor Anupam Chander found there is no substantial proof supporting these concerns, according to NPR. However, an article from *Forbes* by Emily Baker-White did find ByteDance was planning to use TikTok to track certain American users.

It is not specified why the parent company was trying to track users or how they were going about picking users to track.

Although this does seem fishy, we at *The News* find it

similar to how other social media platforms work; other social media platforms, such as Facebook and Instagram, may track users.

FBI Director Chris Wray said TikTok does pose national security threats, according to the *Associated Press*. Beyond being concerned about security, Wray is concerned about the app's algorithm and believes China can control it to push certain content.

We find it disappointing Wray thinks of TikTok as some Chinese brainwashing tool. These concerns surrounding TikTok are more so political rather than out of a genuine concern for national security.

The U.S. should bring its focus to internal threats to national security as much as they do external threats. But then again, politics tends to negate common sense.

For example, if TikTok is banned on government-owned devices, then Facebook should pull up a chair to the banned table.

Politicians are condemning TikTok before they have condemned the free speech forum, Parler, which played a role in disseminating plans for the Jan. 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol attack.

Sadly, politicians might try to crucify TikTok to make it seem as if their delusional and power-hungry campaigns truly stand for something other than hollow promises.

Since both Kentucky bills have only been introduced so far, there is time for people to speak out and write to their representatives, but we can only hope our words don't fall upon deaf ears.

If lawmaker's concerns over TikTok are sincere then a hearing should be had, similar to what was done regarding Facebook's security concerns. It is not fair for these laws to be made without giving the social media platform a fair trial.

Laws should not be made on the basis of hearsay, solid evidence needs to present in order to prove if TikTok is threatening national security.



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The News strives to be the University community's source for information. Our goal is to present that information in a fair and unbiased manner and provide a free and open forum for expression and debate.

The News is an independent weekly student-run newspaper published at Murray State. The content does not reflect the opinions of the Murray State Journalism and Mass Communications Department.

Murray State vs SIU: a rivalry reborn

Jakob Milani

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MVC basketball can bring out the most in fan bases, and those words had never seemed more true than when the Southern Illinois Salukis hosted the Murray State's men's basketball team on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

While the Racers had three players with double-digit points and a lead with just under 3:30 left, the Salukis shot the lights out with 10 3-pointers, giving them the 68-64 win.

Sophomore guard Brian Moore Jr. led the Racers with 19 points and no turnovers, while junior guard Rob Perry had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and junior forward Jamari Smith had 15 points. Senior guard Lance Jones, who had a season high 21 points against the Racers in their previous meeting, finished with 19 points for the Salukis.

The two teams have a long, rivaled past, with the first meeting between the two programs dating back to 1929 and their last meeting in 2019. Going into the game Tuesday, the teams were deadlocked at 19 wins apiece over their history, and the Racers were a 7.5 point underdog heading into their 39th game against the Salukis.

After losing to SIU at home earlier in the season, the Racers lost their home win streak of over 20 games in the CFSB Center.

Following the Racers' win Saturday night over Indiana State, Head Coach Steve Prohm said the team felt more prepared to go against the Salukis the second time around.

"We know how good they are," Prohm said. "They're older. They're experienced. I think Brian [Mullins] has his best team since he's been there. This is a team they think can compete for a championship...it really comes down to if you can out-tough them on both ends of the floor. This is a great rivalry that is starting to get renewed. We know it'll have to be our best game."

The Racers have struggled to start halves so far this season, and that was

no different in this game, with the Salukis going up 8-0 just 3:04 into the game, forcing Prohm to call a timeout.

Just over five minutes later, Moore made a layup to tie the game at 12. Moore, who was starting over sophomore forward Kenny White Jr., had been elevating his play over the last handful of games, scoring double-digit points in five of his last eight games heading into Tuesday.

He proved to be a big part of the Racers' offense in the game, scoring 5 points in the first nine minutes of the game.

After tying the game at 12, the two teams went back and forth, trading baskets on what felt like every possession. After a jumper from Perry and a free throw from Moore, the Racers took a 17-14 lead with 9:08 left in the first half.

Despite taking a 3-point lead, the Racers' defense was no match for the Salukis' 3-point offense. Jones made a 3 to tie the game at 17 on the Salukis' next possession, then senior guard Jawaun Newton hit a 3 on the next possession to put the Salukis up by 3.

As the Racers went up by 3 points again with 4:16 left in the half, senior guard Xavier Johnson hit a 3 to tie it at 28. After a scoreless last two minutes of the half, the Salukis led the Racers 34-30 at halftime.

While Moore and Smith combined for 18 points in the first half, scoring 10 and 8 respectively, the Salukis shot 7-15 from 3-point range and 50% from the field in the first half.

The game proceeded to get chippy almost instantly in the second half, as junior forward DJ Burns and sophomore forward Clarence Rupert were each given technical fouls for an argument after just 13 seconds of play in the second half.

The Salukis took advantage and went on a 7-0 run to start the half, going up 40-30.

After 4 points from Moore to get the Racers within 6, Burns picked up his fourth foul and lost his temper, leading to him being benched for the remainder of the game.

The lack of Burns' defense wasn't



Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Sophomore guard Brian Moore Jr. scored 19 points against Southern Illinois on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

much of an issue for the Racers, as Smith buried a 3 to bring the Racers within 3 points. From there, it was back-and-forth basketball, with junior guard Dalton Banks making a layup to put the Salukis up 50-44 with 9:34 left to play.

That was all SIU could muster up over the next couple minutes, as the Racers went on a 10-0 run to take a 54-50 lead, thanks to shots from Moore and Perry, as well as free throws from junior guard Quincy Anderson.

But similar to the first half, 3-pointers were a thorn in the Racers' side. Senior forward Marcus Domask, who entered the game leading the Salukis in points, rebounds and assists, made a 3-pointer to bring them within 1 point of the lead. Then, after a layup from Anderson, Jones made his fourth 3-pointer of the night to tie the game at 56.

It was a dog fight to the very end, as the Racers kept battling to hold their

lead, but Johnson was fouled and made three free throws, and the Salukis took a lead the Racers would never get back. The Racers came up short, losing 68-64 Prohm said after the game despite fighting till the end, the Racers just couldn't get it done and emphasized how much this loss means to them.

"We really competed, but you gotta compete, and you gotta finish, and we didn't do that," Prohm said. "We left some opportunities around the basket. Some tough turnovers late. It's frustrating, the way it ended. We needed this one for a lot of reasons. Screw the race. Forget trying to get first. We just needed it, and we didn't get it."

The rivalry between Southern Illinois and Murray State is alive and well with the Racers now a part of the Valley. Murray State fell to 11-10 overall this season with a 6-5 record in the crowded Valley standings. The Racers host Missouri State on Saturday.

Women's basketball looks to bounce back

Ronan Summers

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Murray State has come to quickly realize the MVC is a different atmosphere, as four of the Racers' six losses this season were against conference opponents.

The Racers are in sixth place in the conference and will have plenty of opportunities to improve to a better seed. The Racers still have the fourth best win-loss ratio in the conference. Three-time MVC Player of the Week, junior forward Katelyn Young, has been a very large reason as to why the Racers are where they are at this season.

Winning MVC Player of the Week three times in a career is an accolade worth noting and shows her perseverance. Young averages 20.9 points and 7.9 rebounds and leads her team in assists this season. Even more impressive, Young is doing this in Murray State's inaugural season in the MVC, so she hasn't faced many of these teams before this season.

Young's 39 total points in the two games played over the weekend against SIU and Missouri State were not enough, though, as the Racers dropped the pair of conference games and fell to 11-6 on the season. The Racers are now 4-4 against conference opponents.

The Racers hosted the SIU Salukis on Friday, Jan. 20. The Salukis picked up a conference road win after beating the Racers 81-73. SIU

graduate guard Ashley Jones led the way for her team putting up 20 points, six assists and two steals.

The Salukis outscored the Racers in the paint 38-24. Murray State shot 43.9% from the field and 36.4% from behind the arc, compared to SIU's 50.8% from the field and 56.3% on 3-pointers.

Young led the Racers in scoring, finishing the matchup with 26 points. She also had 15 rebounds and a steal. Junior forward Hannah McKay put up 16 points, 10 rebounds, an assist and a steal. Redshirt senior Macey Turley had 14 points and two assists, while junior guard Bria Sanders-Woods finished with 10 points, four assists and a rebound.

This was the first meeting between the two teams this season. Their next matchup will be on Feb. 19 in Carbondale, Illinois. Tip-off time is TBA.

The Racers then hosted the Missouri State Bears on Sunday, Jan. 22. Murray State struggled in the matchup, especially inside the paint. The team scored 26 of its 61 points from in the lane. The Racers lost the game 77-61.

The Racers shot 39.6% from the field in the loss, compared to the Bears' 54%. It got worse from behind the arc, as Murray State shot 27.8% on 3-pointers, compared to Missouri State's 36.4%.

Young led her team in scoring, finishing with 13 points. She had five rebounds, a block and an assist. McKay finished with 9 points, five rebounds



Jayden Hayn/The News

Junior forward Katelyn Young leads the Racers in scoring, averaging 20.9 points per game so far.

and an assist. Turley had 9 points, two steals and an assist. Redshirt senior forward Alexis Burpo had 10 points and five rebounds, while sophomore guard Cayson Conner totaled 7 points, two rebounds and an assist. Both Burpo and Conner came off the bench.

This was the first matchup between Murray State and Missouri State this season. The Racers will have a chance to even the series at 6 p.m. on Feb. 17 when they travel to Springfield, Missouri.

The Racers will now look ahead as they embark on a four-game road trip. The first game on the road trip will be at 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 27 against the Evansville Aces. The Aces are 8-8 on the season and 3-5 against conference opponents.

Murray State will then travel to Terre Haute, Indiana to take on the Indiana State Sycamores

at noon on Sunday, Jan. 29. Indiana State is 8-9 on the season and 3-5 against conference opponents.

The Racers' next game will be in Nashville, Tennessee as they will travel to play Belmont University at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2. The Bruins are 9-10 overall and 5-3 against MVC opponents. They currently sit one seed ahead of Murray State, thanks to their better conference record.

The final game of the road trip will come at 2 p.m. on Feb. 5 when Murray State travels to play Illinois State in Normal, Illinois. The Redbirds currently sit at the top of the conference standings with a 13-5 overall record and a 7-1 record against conference foes.

Finally, the Racers will play a game in the CFSB Center again at 6 p.m. on Feb. 10 when they host the Indiana State Sycamores.

Murray State remains in tight MVC race

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With the college basketball season more than halfway over, conferences typically start to see the true competitors for the championship around this time.

But in the MVC, it's still a rush for the top for many teams on both sides of the conference.

For the men's side, Murray State sits tied for seventh seed with Indiana State at 6-5, and Southern Illinois leading the pack at 9-2, just three games ahead of the Racers. The four teams below Murray State sit at 3-7 in conference play or worse, with Evansville at 0-10 so far.

On the women's side, Murray State has a 4-4 conference record, tied for sixth in the conference with Southern Illinois. Illinois State leads the Valley at 7-1, also three games ahead of Murray State.

The Valley expanded from 10 to 12 teams this season, with the additions of Murray State, Belmont and University of Illinois-Chicago. While the catchphrase of "the Valley runs deep" was true last year, it seems to be even more so this year.

Murray State men's basketball Head Coach Steve Prohm spoke on the Valley so far this season after a win against Indiana State on Saturday, Jan. 21. He said while the team is halfway through, anything is possible with how close the standings are.

"Now you know at the halfway point who's in the mix," Prohm said. "It's about eight of us. It's about two or three games separating everybody with a few to go, and it's a brutal schedule. We just gotta be ready to go and play our best basketball over the next couple of weeks."

Statistically for the men's side of the conference, Indiana State sits atop the conference offensively, averaging 77.5 points per game. Murray State, who scores 70.9 points per game, sits at fifth offensively in the Valley. The Racers defeated Indiana



Freshman forward Justin Morgan puts up a three pointer against Indiana State on Saturday, Jan. 21. The Racers defeated the Sycamores 82-73. *Rebeca Mertins Chuodini/The News*

State at home in their only meeting so far this season by a score of 82-73.

Defensively, SIU has been the best in the Valley, allowing just 60.68 points per game. Murray State sits at seventh defensively, allowing 69.57 points per game. SIU defeated Murray State in both games they played against each other.

Murray State women's basketball Head Coach Rechelle Turner spoke after a 77-61 loss to Missouri State on Sunday, Jan. 22 about the team's performance so far in the new conference. She said it's a new league, and it's been a tough transition, but they have to continue to play tough. She also cited the teams' trip to Towa, in which they lost to Drake and Northern Iowa.

"I thought the Iowa trip was eye opening to our team that we're in a different league now," Turner said. "You don't just show up and beat people cause you're better. There's not a lot of teams that we are bigger or better than in this league. So we can't back down."

Turner went on to say while most people say it will take time to get to the top of a new league, she

believes they don't need all that time.

"We're in a new league," Turner said. "This is the hand we've been dealt, and we have to be ready to go right now. And we have been, for the most part. We better put our work boots on and go to work. It's not gonna get any easier. You either fight or you fold in this league."

One aspect both coaches can agree on, though, is the Valley is a challenge, but that's part of the fun.

After the win against Indiana State, Prohm went on to say he lives for the competition the conference has brought.

"This league isn't easy," Prohm said. "It's what we signed up for. It's fun though. We gotta keep growing and keep getting better. You can't look back at your losses and say you should've won. It's how to put ourselves in a position to win. I think there's still strides we've gotta make here. We've gotta maximize these last 10 games and put ourselves in the best position to win."

Turner gave praise to the rest of the teams after the Missouri State loss. She said it's an amazing conference, but the challenge will

“There's not a lot of teams that we are bigger or better than in this league. So we can't back down.”

— Rechelle Turner, Head women's basketball coach

always be there no matter who it is.

"This is a great conference with a lot of great teams," Turner said. "Obviously, there's a lot of great players and a lot of great coaches. It's where we are. The challenge is before us, and we can either step up to the challenge or take a step back. And I'm not one to step away from challenges."

Nine games remain for the men's team before the conference tournament in St. Louis, Missouri, and with so many teams still fighting for the top spot, it's truly a toss up for who runs away with it.

As for the women's team, 12 games are what remain of the regular season before the conference tournament in Moline, Illinois. And while the records may not show it, it's a similar race on that side.

Shann Riley/ The News

Murray State ATHLETICS SCHEDULE



JAN. 27

Track vs. PNC Lenny Lyles Invite @ Louisville, KY	ALL DAY
Tennis vs. Southern Indiana @ Hardin, KY	11 a.m.
Tennis vs. Cumberland @ Hardin, KY	4 p.m.
Women's Basketball vs. Evansville @ Evansville, IN	6 p.m.

JAN. 28

Track vs. PNC Lenny Lyles Invite @ Louisville, KY	ALL DAY
Rifle vs. Memphis @ Memphis, TN	9 a.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Missouri State @ Murray, KY	1 p.m.

JAN. 29

Women's Basketball vs. Indiana State @ Terre Haute, IN	Noon
Tennis vs. Libscomb @ Hardin, KY	Noon

For more information
visit GoRacers.com

Photo courtesy of David Eaton/Racer Athletics



State leaders honor Murray Art Guild's outreach

MacKenzie Rogers

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After decades of service to the community, the Murray Art Guild was awarded the Governor's Award in the Arts, an honor given to those who have made substantial contributions to the arts of Kentucky.

The Kentucky Arts Council annually recognizes individuals and organizations in one of the nine award categories: Milner, Artist, Business, Community Arts, Education, Folk Heritage, Government, Media and National.

The award for Community Arts, the category for which the guild won, is given to those who have made a positive impact on the community through the arts.

The guild was honored to receive the award, says Debi Danielson, executive director of the Murray Art Guild.

"The award really validates what we do, which to me, then, is just encouraging that you're doing the right thing," Danielson said. "Receiving this award at this time, I think it is good to help create an understanding or appreciation—awareness—of what the arts can do for the community and what the needs of the arts are in the community."

The Murray Art Guild is a local nonprofit organization established in 1967 by a small group of Calloway County residents with the goal of promoting artistic growth throughout the community.

"The award really validates what we do, which to me, then, is just encouraging that you're doing the right thing."

— Debi Danielson, executive director of Murray Art Guild

The guild actively serves as an exhibition gallery for local and regional artists, an individual and



Murray Art Guild Executive Director Debi Danielson (middle) receives the Kentucky Arts Council Community Arts Award from Secretary of Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Mike Berry (left), and Gov. Andy Beshear (right). Photo Courtesy of @MurrayArtGuild on Facebook

community studio and an Art Market. In addition to the two community studio spaces and five individual spaces, the guild has studios for both weaving and clay sculpting.

"When the guild was formed in 1967, it was created by a group of artists, and their real interest was creating a place to make work, create work and exhibit work," Danielson said. "We do a lot of programming here at the guild, trying to do things in the community."

The guild hosts exhibitions for small groups and solo artists, including two annual student exhibitions, and offers year-round workshops for both children and adults in areas such as painting, drawing and poetry. There are many ongoing groups for photography, life drawing, painting and poetry.

The guild does several workshops and projects with the community, partnering with local organizations like Watch Inc. and Playhouse in the Park.

Playhouse in the Park held a workshop with the guild that focused on hat-making for their upcoming production "Crowns," a play exploring Black Women's history and identity.

The guild and Watch Inc., an organization that assists adults with disabilities, created Watching Art Work, in which seven to 10 clients from Watch Inc. visit the guild twice a month to create art pieces. Those pieces are then sold at the guild's Art Market to sustain the program's future.

"I think that's one of the favorite parts of enriching community artistic abilities," Danielson said. "Art can be used in so many different ways. It can tell a story. It can provide an opportunity for people to be around each other."

The Art Market currently has over 40 Murray-connected artists who sell their handcrafted work, from paintings to jewelry.

The guild is currently in the process of submitting a grant application to fund the creation

of a new building better suited for the community's artistic needs.

"Art can be used in so many different ways. It can tell a story. It can provide an opportunity for people to be around each other."

— Debi Danielson, executive director of Murray Art Guild

"I'm really excited about that possibility of building a facility that is specific to art and exhibiting art," Danielson said. "I think that the community really deserves that kind of facility."

The guild is hosting a reception from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 27. In addition to the reception, there is also an exhibit of the pottery and paintings of Mary Jane Littleton. The guild's plans for the new building also will be available for viewing.

Monthly event series promotes success, fights stigma

Raleigh Hightower

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In an effort to celebrate the beginning of the spring semester and equip students with the skills necessary to succeed, the Center of Student Engagement and Success is hosting Jumpstart January.

Jumpstart January will be held on Monday, Jan. 30 in the reference room of Waterfield Library, and includes food, games and information to help students succeed in the spring semester.

Director of Student Engagement and Success Peggy Whaley said students can expect to find bingo, a gratitude and relaxation station and a student success information table at the event.

In addition to these activities, the center is also planning to play "Five-Second Summaries," a game played on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon." Participants are given a specific topic and have five seconds to describe it to another player who attempts to guess the topic.

Whaley said the goal of Jumpstart January is to welcome students back to campus and ensure

they have resources and information to help them have a successful spring semester.

Jumpstart January has been hosted since 2020 and is part of a series of monthly events in the Racers Empower Initiative.

The Racers Empower Initiative aims to share resources, connect students with support services, promote a healthy mind and body and encourage students to share and talk about their own experiences to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness.

In addition to Jumpstart January, the Racers Empower Initiative has three other events planned for the spring semester: Friendship February, Mindful March and Active April.

The Racers Empower Initiative web page explains the next Racers Empower event, Friendship February, will be hosted Feb. 27 in Alexander Hall. The event will focus on friendship, feeling good about one's self and mental and emotional well-being.

At the Mindful March event, students will learn how to review their midterm grades and meet with their academic advisor. The Active April event stresses the importance of exercise for a healthy



Jumpstart January is the first event in a monthly series hosted by Racers Empower. Photo Courtesy of Peggy Whaley

mind and gives students a chance to celebrate the end of the semester.

Both Mindful March and Active April will be held in Alexander Hall on the last Monday of their respective months.

In addition to other activities, Friendship February,

Mindful March and Active April all will feature pet therapy.

To learn more about Jumpstart January and other Racers Empower events this semester, visit the Racers Empower web page on the Murray State website.



Clockwise from left, Campus Lights cast; Carter Parks and Jamie Lemay; Quinn Coursey, Mack Slack and Kristina Belt; Chantell Day appear in Campus Lights' production of 'Big Fish' on Jan. 20.

Photo Courtesy of Jeremy McKeel

Campus Lights celebrates 86th annual production

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The beginning of the spring semester saw the 86th installment of one of Murray State's longest standing traditions.

The annual Campus Lights production was held the weekend of Jan. 20-22. This year's production is titled "Big Fish," based on a 1998 novel by Daniel Wallace. Wallace's novel also served as inspiration for both the film and Broadway adaptation of "Big Fish."

The story follows the relationship between Edward Bloom and his son, Will, who is preparing to become a father himself. The story features a split timeline in which a teenage Edward's past encounters with a witch, giant and mermaid are detailed.

Senior co-director Davin Belt said "Big Fish" was ultimately selected from a list of student suggested productions, with the help of music fraternities Sigma Alpha Iota and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

"[We] chose this show from a process of narrowing down suggestions from anyone to 10 shows, and then we narrowed those down to our top three choices," Belt said. "Once we got a top three, we presented them to the fraternities and voted on our top show."

Belt explained the final Campus Lights product is the result of months of effort by those involved in the production.

"We started working on this show officially back at the beginning of the fall semester," Belt

said. "It is very hard to put on a full scale musical in this amount of time, but the production staff, the board of producers and the cast and crew have been running nonstop."

“Regardless of wherever Campus Lights takes place, it is always a joy to watch, put together, and/or be a part of...”

Nic Hawkins
Instrumental director

The production also featured a pit orchestra, which contained 17 musicians. Along with the cast, the pit orchestra began rehearsing music under the leadership of instrumental director and Murray State 2022 alumnus Nic Hawkins in early January.

Hawkins explained the cast and musicians of Campus Lights operate on a shortened timeline compared to other musical productions.

"So the pit orchestra started rehearsing just three weeks ago, the same time everyone else started working on this show," Hawkins said. "For context, musicals usually take a couple months to put together...Three weeks seems like a miracle in perspective."

The musicians of the pit orchestra also faced an unusual challenge with the music of this production, Hawkins said.

"For our production this year, 'Big Fish,' we had quite a bit more music to prepare, mostly because the composer wrote a lot of music to be played under dialogue," Hawkins said. "I'd be

lying if I said this wasn't a new challenge for me, but it has all come together really nicely, and I think everyone who's worked on it is really happy with the results."

The ticket sales from Campus Lights are used by the Sigma Alpha Iota and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternities to fund scholarships for music students.

Campus Lights is traditionally held in Lovett Auditorium, but ongoing construction led the board of producers to

schedule the event in Robert E. Johnson Theater.

While Campus Lights may not have been hosted in its traditional venue, the team behind the event says it is a Murray State tradition that transcends location.

"Regardless of wherever Campus Lights takes place, it is always a joy to watch, put together, and/or be a part of, and Murray State is lucky to have such a fun, long-standing, student-run tradition on its campus," Hawkins said.

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Bull Blowout

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