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Calendar of Events

Christian Faculty Network Coffee Break
Thursday, Feb. 16 (11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)
Jesse D. Jones Chemistry Building, Clocktower Conference room

Christian Faculty Network is hosting an informal coffee break and fellowship for fellow Christian faculty members.

Brummer Psychology Colloquium
Thursday, Feb. 16 (5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)
Freed-Curd Auditorium

Michael Nadorff, associate professor at Mississippi State University, is giving a colloquium about the negative effects of nightmares.

Cinema International
Thursday, Feb 16 (7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.)
Saturday, Feb. 18 (7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.)
Faculty Hall Room 208

Cinema International is hosting a showing of the German film "Cleo."

Friendship February
Monday, Feb. 27 (Noon - 1 p.m.)
Alexander Hall Atrium

Friendship February is a Racers Empower event focusing on friendships and mental and emotional wellbeing.

Presidential Lecture
Tuesday, Feb. 28 (7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.)
Lovett Auditorium

Alumnus W. Earl Brown is giving a lecture regarding the career success he has had following his time at Murray State.

Free HIV Testing
Wednesday, Feb. 28 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
Oakley Applied Science Room C102

LivWell Community Services is hosting free HIV testing and free safe sex items.

Nonprofit Connections
Thursday, March 2 (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
Curris Center Ballroom

Students, faculty and staff will have an opportunity to connect with nonprofit organizations in the region.
Source: murraystate.edu/calendar



'Work done in secret ... needs to be exposed to the sunlight by the press'

Lawyer and political cartoonist Marc Murphy speaks during the inaugural Doc McGaughey lecture.

Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Political cartoonist speaks on press freedom, responsibility

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Press responsibility is essential in order for journalism to operate freely, said political cartoonist Marc Murphy at the inaugural Doc McGaughey lecture. 'Journalism done well, in its questions and in its pursuit of facts, can be an accidental act of dissent,' Murphy said. Murphy works as an attorney but is also a cartoonist for multiple newspapers, including the Courier Journal. Journalism and newspapers were important to Murphy even as a child, he said, because they helped him feel more connected to the world.

'Growing up in eastern Kentucky where I was, it was easy to feel ... like you were out of the main activities that were taking place in the world,' Murphy said. Murphy said he was both excited and nervous when he was asked to present on press freedom and responsibility for this lecture. He has made presentations on his cartoons and on politics, but he said this lecture is different because it's such an important topic. 'They've invited me here as part of this really important brand new program to give a lecture, and that makes me really, really not want to disappoint anybody,' Murphy said. 'It is a big deal. They want to make it a big

deal, not for me, but going forward as part of the lecture series.' Murphy began his lecture talking about the importance of communication. 'To be a great communicator, you have to communicate,' Murphy said. 'What I mean is in order not to simply be in a tree falling in the woods that no one hears, you have to communicate in a way it's published, it's broadcasted and it's amplified.' Throughout the lecture, Murphy spoke about the problems and dangers of hindering the free press. He highlighted the importance of having journalists present to ask questions and report on local governments and municipalities throughout the states.

see MCGAUGHEY LECTURE, page 2

Abroad Office extends Regensburg application

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As COVID-19 restraints become less intense, domestic and international travel have resumed and so has studying abroad. But the Education Abroad Office has yet to see pre-COVID-19 applicant numbers. The Regensburg, Germany, semester study abroad program is one of the longest standing study abroad opportunities offered to students, dating back nearly 30 years. The Education Abroad Office has extended the application deadline for the fall 2023 program to March 1. 'Historically, our [Regensburg abroad trip] cap has been around 25 students, and we'd normally gotten around 18 to 20 students before,' said Education Abroad Office Coordinator Rebecca Wylie. 'Coming after COVID-19 ... we're not surprised that the semester programs are taking a little bit longer to get back up to where we were.' The study abroad application was extended to give students more time to finish their applications and ensure full class and faculty availability on the Regensburg trip. Nine students are still working on their applications, and



Assistant Professor of English Ray Horton leads students on an excursion in Berlin, Germany. Photo courtesy of Ray Horton

two more applicants are needed for all of the intended classes to be taught, Wylie said. 'Students will spend the first six weeks of the program doing intensive language courses, so they're going to be taking German with a lot of other international students, with your Murray people,' Wylie said. After the first six weeks, students will have a week-long Fall Break, and then the Murray State faculty will arrive and start teaching classes. The fall 2023 Regensburg trip will offer University studies and other courses such as art, biology, engineering, history and honors.

Beyond the course opportunities, Regensburg, Germany is in close proximity to many central European travel destinations. 'We encourage students to get out and travel, get a train ticket and go to a different country because ... you're able to travel in Europe so easily,' Wylie said. Assistant Professor of English Ray Horton was part of the fall 2022 Regensburg study abroad trip. This was Horton's first time traveling abroad since traveling to Ireland during his senior year as an undergraduate student.

see STUDY ABROAD, page 3

Attorney General declares open records decision

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Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron has made a decision in the appeal filed by Paducah news station WPSD Local 6 regarding the University's denial of their open records request, saying the University violated the Open Records Act.

In the decision distributed to General Counsel Robert Miller and WPSD attorney Michael Abate on Feb. 2, Cameron declared the University violated the act by withholding an email describing past events and denying a request that "sufficiently described the records sought."

Cameron determined the University did not violate the act by withholding other emails, which were exempt as preliminary drafts and records that did not address the main matter.

WPSD made the initial request in October 2022 after the University denied a similar request from WKMS, the public radio station at Murray State. WPSD's request sought WKMS correspondence regarding alleged video footage of former 42nd Judicial Circuit Judge Jamie Jameson

roaming the Marshall County Judicial Building in his underwear.

The University rejected the request from WPSD, calling it "unduly burdensome." The appeal followed, challenging the University's claim correspondence with WKMS was protected under the First Amendment.

WPSD's request covered two types of records. The first was "correspondence, including but not limited to emails and attachments, responses and threads, letters and other forms of communications" between

five individuals regarding the solicitation of video footage by WKMS. The second was "correspondence...regarding WKMS news" between nine individuals.

The University denied the second request on the grounds it was burdensome and did not specify the desired correspondence. However, Cameron decided the University violated the Open Records Act in doing so because WPSD's request was reasonable and "sufficiently described the records sought."



Photo courtesy of kentucky.gov

The University also claimed the first request would require additional time to meet, requiring examination of "thousands" of records. Cameron called this figure speculative and concluded it failed to prove the request was unreasonable.

Cameron determined some University emails were rightfully redacted under KRS 61.878(1)(i), which protects short correspondence that directs recipients to other sources and does not constitute meaningful communication in itself.

However, the decision noted one redacted email was not protected under the statute because it "described a past event and the author's justification for his past actions" rather than pointing to further correspondence.

In the request denial, the University previously stated WPSD's request violated the First Amendment and infringed on the press freedom of WKMS. Cameron's decision rejected this claim, declaring the First Amendment does not prohibit the disclosure of any records.

Though the University argued the request would have a "chilling effect" on the press, the argument did not prove state-funded organizations like WKMS were exempt.

from MCGAUGHEY LECTURE, page 1

Murphy quoted Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, who said "sunlight is the best disinfectant," to emphasize how journalists need to operate in a way that exposes the government to the sunlight.

"Work done in secret, or in the dark corners and hallways of government, needs to be exposed to the sunlight by the press, by journalists, to ensure those affairs are conducted honestly and in the interest of the community," Murphy said.

While speaking about the importance of press freedom, Murphy relayed his own first hand experience in Panama where he was stationed as an army lawyer. He says the president at the time was Manuel Noriega, who closed the presses during his time in power.

"The first thing [Noriega] did when things got hot or messy, or when people started asking too many questions ... he closed the presses," Murphy said.

Noriega also arrested some of the journalists working. Murphy described his experience observing this.

"Living there then as I was and not being used to it, I can tell you it was terrifying," Murphy said. "It was like a total eclipse of the sun. The sky went dark and the birds stopped singing because the ground was taken out from under your feet."

Murphy said he had never before that time imagined what it would be like if the press was removed.

"Because with no press reporting ... there was no one to place limits on the police," Murphy said. "There was no one to place limits on the judiciary. There was no one to place limits on the president."

Murphy said sometimes journalism can be uniting and sometimes it can be unintentionally divisive. He pondered whether being divisive was always bad.

"For instance, there really are fascists, and you can't argue with them because they don't accept the facts," Murphy said. "But what's the option, and how do you avoid being divided? This begs the following question whether there are times when you don't want to be the uniter, times when being a



uniter is exactly what the fascists, the authoritarians, the white supremacist and the common political croaks wants you to be because your uniting, in that circumstance, is a form of acceptance."

"It's the kind of subject that ... never loses its importance or relevance."

— Robert Valentine, Professor Emeritus

When working in the field of journalism, Murphy said it's important to be fair because journalism is a record for people to see what has happened.

"I don't need to remind this audience that the journalists have been called the first draft of history," Murphy said. "Journalism and journalists have to be supported and have to be protected, but in the end, you protect yourselves."

Professor Emeritus Robert Valentine, chair of the planning committee for the lecture, said he felt the lecture was a significant success.

"The audience reaction was very gratifying," Valentine said. "I have heard rarely an academic lecture during which the audience made no noise whatsoever. The comments we have received are very



Political cartoonist Marc Murphy shows cartoons throughout history during the Doc McGaughey lecture. Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

pleasing and helpful, and Mr. Murphy was able to spend time with student groups who have a particular interest in the subject. Time well spent by everyone involved."

"Because with no press reporting ... there was no one to place limits on the police."

— Marc Murphy, Political Cartoonist

Valentine said he was impressed with Murphy's familiarity with McGaughey and the Murray State campus.

"It was also fascinating to see how the cartoonist, who could be fired any day for crossing a line that is invisible to the eye, copes with the kind of passion needed to create an effective message and the political realities of popular media," Valentine said. "I thought I knew something about editorializing, but I learned a great deal from his unique perspective."

Valentine said the journalism and mass communications faculty hope to see this topic revisited at future McGaughey lectures.

"It's the kind of subject that evolves over time but never loses its importance or relevance," Valentine said.

Students receive scholarship to study abroad

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Two Murray State students are recipients of the Benjamin A Gilman International Scholarship, which will help fund their trips abroad in the spring to study language and culture in Ireland and Japan.

This scholarship is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education.

Megan Yocum is a senior communication disorders major studying abroad in Ireland and Tamryn Woolfork is a junior psychology major and Japanese minor, who is traveling to Japan for a semester.

Woolfork said she will study at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan because of her interest in the language and culture.

"I am also interested in going to graduate school in Japan and eventually doing research and clinical psychology in Japan," Woolfork said. "At Doshisha, I will only be studying Japanese language, so I hope to be able to achieve a Japanese level closer to fluency while abroad."

Yocum said she is looking forward to learning more about the cultural perspectives she will see and hear while in Ireland.

"We will be studying the difference between the Irish English dialect and the Standard American English dialect, but we'll also be observing and asking questions to speech language pathologists in Ireland," Yocum said. "With Ireland, they still speak English, but it's a different dialect, so that is something I can bring back here and apply whenever I'm working in the field."

Yocum said she applied for this scholarship because of financial reasons.



Junior psychology major Tamryn Woolfork (left) and senior communication disorders major Megan Yochum (right) received the Benjamin A. Gilman International scholarship.

"I've never really been abroad before, and I knew that it was going to be a big financial job," Yocum said. "Applying for the scholarship was just to cover the financial basis. That way, I didn't have to worry about it as much because I really wanted to travel, but I just couldn't ever find the means to do it."

Woolfork said she applied for this scholarship because she wanted to find a way to fund her study abroad experience.

"I applied for the Gilman scholarship because I am a first-generation college student of color from a single-parent, lower-middle-class household," Woolfork said.

The application process for the scholarship consists of three essays where students detail why they want to study abroad, explain what being American means to them and the cultural experiences they believe they will have while abroad and write a service project proposal.

Yocum said she plans to create an informational brochure for the communication disorders department at

Murray State, specifically promoting their study abroad programs.

"[The department] really needed something to say there is an opportunity to study abroad here," Yocum said. "I was going to talk about some of my experiences in Ireland, but then tie it back to how the Gilman kind of made it possible for me."

Yocum said she hopes to submit her brochure to the Education Abroad Office once it's complete.

Woolfork is taking a different approach to her service project and is partnering with the Office of Multicultural Initiatives to provide students of color resources on studying abroad and funding their experience.

The Gilman scholarship website said when awarding scholarships, preference goes to first-generation students, racial and ethnic minority students, students with disabilities and veterans.

Yocum encourages anyone wanting to study abroad to apply for this scholarship.

"I would definitely say applying for the Gilman Scholarship

is a hundred percent worth it," Yocum said. "Even if you get just a little bit of the scholarship, it helps going towards [the cost], but especially if you've excelled in your academic studies, that's another experience that you can add onto the things that you do learn here at Murray State."

Woolfork said she is glad she took the chance and applied for this scholarship.

"For anyone else who may feel the same way, just go for it," Woolfork said. "It's true that the worst they can say is no, but there are also so many other scholarships out there as well to help you on your journey."

The Diverse International Women of Color is offering scholarships for summer 2023, fall 2023 and spring 2024.

These scholarships are intended for women of color who excel in their academics and are in need of financial assistance.

To see a full list of scholarships still accepting applications, visit murraystate.edu/studyabroad.

STUDY ABROAD, from page 1

On returning to Europe, Horton says he enjoyed the ability to travel easily.

"Our schedules are designed to kind of facilitate individual travel, so we had a few students who went to Vienna, a few students who went to Venice, who passed on Prague," Horton said. "I think one person went to Switzerland at one point and Brussels. "Everything's so accessible in Central Europe. It's pretty easy to get anywhere by train and relatively inexpensive."

Along with independent travel for the students and faculty, every Thursday was an excursion day. The 2022 program offered four excursions: Nuremberg, Berlin, Munich and Bamberg, Germany.

"You could spend 10 weeks exploring Regensburg by itself, but there were so many opportunities for the whole group to get out and around and see more of Germany," Horton said.

For students who might be overwhelmed by traveling abroad, Horton says he found Regensburg to be one of the most inviting study abroad programs to take students out of their comfort zones and help them become accustomed to a different culture and language.

"I went to Ireland right when I was an undergraduate," Horton said. "Everybody speaks English there. I wouldn't have to worry about adjusting to a new language. I barely spoke and still barely speak any German. If you learn enough German to kind of find your way around the train station or to ask somebody for help, then you are well off."

Senior creative writing major Abigail Moore traveled with the fall 2022 Regensburg study abroad group. Moore says she was attracted to



David Pizzo, professor of history, shows touring students around Regensburg, Germany.

the program because she has family who are from Regensburg, Germany.

"There were a lot of other people in the program who had German ancestry," Moore said. "You can get in touch with your roots, which is fun."

During her time abroad, Moore went to Venice and Florence, Italy for Fall Break. Similar to Horton, Moore said she enjoyed how easy it was to travel.

Before setting off for Regensburg, Moore checked what scholarships were offered and the affordability of the program. As a Pell Grant recipient, Moore received the Gilman scholarship and said it made her idea of traveling abroad into a reality.

"I got \$4,000, which is indispensable," Moore said. "I mean, if you need financial assistance, like studying abroad, then there are great options. If you're a Pell Grant recipient, and you think, 'I can never study abroad,' that's not true."

Fall 2022 study abroad students experienced a scholarship delay, which forced some students to set up payment plans instead of being able to rely on their scholarships. The scholarship application process is now part of the overall study abroad application.

"We have been changing our process," Wylie said. "So we have moved our scholarship application in house, so it's in our [racersabroad.

via-trm.com] application system, the same place where the students apply for the program. It gives us a little bit more control of when we're able to review the applications and send them out to our committees."

Students interested in having a semester in Regensburg, Germany can learn more about the program at murraystate.edu/studyabroad. The application closes on March 1.

"My time abroad has definitely made me see America in a different way—just differently, you know, not necessarily better or worse," Moore said. "Getting to experience and live in a different culture for four months is definitely a transformative experience."

Photos courtesy of Rebecca Wylie

Our view: LGBTQ+ students deserve to feel safe at school

Kentucky schools once again have found themselves as the target of Republican politicians in the new legislative session.

The Kentucky State House and Senate Education Committees introduced three bills on Feb. 7 targeting “wokeness” in schools. Their solution to “wokeness” is involving parents in the curriculum when discussing sexuality and gender expression.

House Bills 150, 173 and 177 all introduce restrictions on our educators that would require them to inform parents if their child decides to use different pronouns or dress differently from their gender assigned at birth. These bills also introduce bans on the discussion of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sexual expression.

Sen. Max Wise, R-Campbellsville, the sponsor of HB 150, told Kentucky Today “woke ideologies are creating a barrier to student education.”

Wise was announced in September 2022 as the running mate to Kelly Craft, former ambassador to Canada under the Trump administration, in the 2023 Kentucky governor’s race. Craft and Wise are running on a campaign promise of fighting the “woke” agenda and dismantling the Kentucky Department of Education.

Wokeness in schools has been a controversial topic for Republican politicians around the United States, especially after the passing of HB 1557 (“Don’t Say Gay” law) in Florida. This law, passed under the label of strengthening parental rights, banned all discussion of gender identity for students until the third grade and severely limited what can be discussed by the teachers. This law was highly publicized and protested by students across Florida as the first blow in a series of anti-LGBTQ+ legislative acts. Kentucky teachers do not need more restrictive legislation; they need better funding and less restriction.

The sponsors of the proposed-



Wesley Hammer/The News

bills ignore the dangers their bills, if passed, can cause for LGBTQ+ students in Kentucky. Forcing teachers to report to parents if their child decides to use different pronouns can open these students to hostility or even danger from family members and schoolmates. By making teachers mandatory reporters of LGBTQ+ students, our legislators are negatively affecting how students can interact with their teachers on a daily basis. A classroom becomes a police state.

Kentucky students have also decided they have had enough suppression of LGBTQ+ discussion. On Tuesday, Feb. 14, hundreds of students from Atherton High School in Louisville staged a walkout in protest of HB 173 and 177, and as we get further into the legislative session, we will definitely see similar displays of frustration with upcoming legislation. Our politicians should be listening to the people their policies affect.

This new wave of anti-LGBTQ+ and “anti-woke” legislation is being pushed through the Ken-

tucky legislature under the guise of providing parents with more rights in determining what their children are allowed to learn and discuss in their classes. A majority of us at *The News* believe our lawmakers should be focusing on more pressing issues than outing transgender students and regulating the discussion of LGBTQ+ topics in school.

Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner Jason Glass was criticized several times by the education committee members for his views regarding the teacher shortage. In testimony before the committee, Glass argued one of the reasons why teachers are leaving the profession is because of “the politicization of education over the past few years.” Our Kentucky schools should not become the battlefields for the political warfare of our legislators. Students should be able to attend school to learn and not be bombarded with more rules and restrictions than the ones already set by the Kentucky Department of Education.

The current Kentucky De-

partment of Education website provides links for supporting LGBTQ+ students, like how to use preferred names and pronouns and supporting diversity and inclusivity. If the bill passes, the concepts presented on the Kentucky Department of Education’s website would have to be adjusted to require teachers to be mandatory reporters of their LGBTQ+ students and would disrupt the trust and confidentiality students have with their teachers. The pandemic brought focus to the mental health of our students, and this bill undermines the progress we have made in the fight for better mental health.

Our students should not be dragged into the political battle over “wokeness” that is happening in the United States. These bills have not been put into law yet, so contact your local legislators to express your views or concerns on HBs 150, 173 and 177. Students should only have to be concerned about the math test this week or whether the cafeteria is serving fries today, not their safety being jeopardized by their legislators.



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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.

Turley stands alone on all-time assist list

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Redshirt senior guard and Murray native Macey Turley became Murray State's all-time leader in assists on Sunday, Feb. 12, surpassing the previous record of 512 held by current Racers' Assistant Coach and Murray State Hall of Famer Amber Guffey.

Turley currently has 515 assists on the season, and the number are expected to grow. Turley has been playing meaningful minutes since her freshman year. Now, in her fifth year of the program, she has achieved another accolade that will allow her to be remembered long after her playing time.

What has Turley done in her time at Murray State? In just her freshman year, she started 30 games and won the 2019 OVC Freshman of the Year award, was named to the All-OVC second team and All-Newcomer team, was a seven-time OVC Freshman of the Week winner and became just the fifth freshman in Murray State history to record 30-plus points in a game.

This year, Turley is averaging 11.3 points, 3.1 assists and 2.7 rebounds a game. Although her time as a Racer is nearing an end, the imprint she has left on the program will be felt for years to come.

After a seven-game losing streak, the Racers entered the first quarter at their home game against the Evansville Aces ready to win. The Racers outscored the Aces 25-8 in the first quarter. Young scored 11 of the 25 first quarter points after making a layup and a trio of 3-pointers.

The second quarter was more evenly matched, but the Racers still outscored the Aces 25-21, giving the Racers a 21-point lead at halftime.

The Racers would continue to leave their foot on the gas and win the game 80-60. Racers Head Coach Rechelle



Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Redshirt senior guard Macey Turley blows by a defender on her way to 15 points against the Evansville Aces on Sunday, Feb. 12.

Turner said it was all about pressure.

"Today I thought we kept them off balance," Turner said. "I just thought we really got after them, pressured them. We did a really good job of making sure that they never really got comfortable in what they were trying to do."

Young finished with 29 points and four rebounds. Turley had 15 points, five assists and five rebounds. Sophomore forward Jaidah Black totaled 5 points, four rebounds, an assist, a block and a steal. Sanders-Woods ended with 10 points, a rebound and a steal while coming off of the bench.

The Racers shot 29-59 (49.2%) from the field and 10-22 (45.5%) on 3-pointers. They also made 12-13 (92.3%) of their free throws. The Racers had 30 points in the paint and 18 points off turnovers, and their bench scored a total of 24 points in the win.

This win snapped the seven-game losing streak that lasted almost a

month. Turner said it was a matter of time before they could stop the streak.

"Everybody's having their best offensive output against us because of the toughness, the effort, the energy and the heart just hasn't been there on the defensive end of the floor," Turner said. "Offense hasn't been our problem these last seven games. We've scored enough points to win the game. We're just giving up an astronomical amount of points."

Now, the Racers look to start a different kind of streak as they start their two-game road trip. The first game will be at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17 against the Missouri State Bears, who sit in third place in the MVC with an overall record of 16-7 and a conference record of 11-3.

Senior guard Aniya Thomas is the leading scorer for the Bears, averaging 14.2 points per game, while shooting 38% from the field and averaging 4.6 rebounds a game. Sophomore forward Kennedy Taylor

is averaging 11.7 points per game while leading her team in rebounds, averaging eight boards a game.

The second game of the road trip came against the SIU Salukis. Graduate guard Ashley Jones is the leading scorer for the Salukis, averaging 16.8 points per game. She is shooting 40% from the field and averaging three rebounds a game. Junior center Promise Taylor has averaged 9.9 points a game, six rebounds and 2.7 blocks per game this season.

The Salukis are currently one seed ahead of the Racers in the MVC standings with an overall record of 9-14 and a conference record of 6-8. Though Murray State's 12-11 record is better, their 5-9 record against conference opponents puts them behind SIU.

A pair of wins this weekend would significantly boost the Racers' chances of landing a top seed in the MVC Tournament. The game will be on Sunday, Feb. 19 at 5 p.m.

Men's basketball holds on versus Illinois State

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The final sprint to the finish line began in victorious fashion as the Murray State men's basketball team defeated the Illinois State Redbirds 76-75 on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Junior guard Rob Perry's 22 first-half points gave the Racers a 5-point lead at halftime, but the team's defense stepped up in the final minutes to give the Racers their second conference win on the road and third road win of the season.

Another three players finished in double digits for the Racers: sophomore forward Kenny White Jr. (16), junior guard Quincy Anderson (15) and junior forward Jamari Smith (11).

The Redbirds were quick to take the lead, going up 11-0 to start, thanks to three buckets from behind the arc from fifth-year guard Seneca Knight and a jumper from junior guard Darius Burford.

Perry ended the run with a 3-pointer of his own, but Burford answered right back with a turnaround jumper to make it 13-3 in favor of the Redbirds.

After another 3 from Perry, the teams began to trade baskets, with the Racers getting within 6 points off a jumper from Perry before junior forward Harouna Sissoko gave the Redbirds an 8-point lead with a layup.

The lead held at 8 points until a pair of free throws and a layup from senior forward Kendall Lewis made it 24-13

with 10:39 left in the first half.

After stretching the lead to 10 points with 6:12 left in the first half, the Redbirds began to fall apart as the Racers began their climb back.

Perry continued to score at a high clip with a pair of layups and a 3-pointer before Lewis answered with a layup to keep the difference at 8 points.

But the Redbirds went scoreless from there, and the Racers went on a 13-0 run to end the first half, with 3s raining in from Perry and Anderson and layups from Anderson and Wood.

When the buzzer sounded for halftime, the Racers led the Redbirds 40-35.

Perry led all scorers with 22 points at half and led the Racers with three rebounds. He shot 8-11 from the field and 5-8 from 3-point range. Anderson followed behind with 10 points on 4-5 shooting from the field. Wood was up to eight assists. Knight led the Redbirds with 11 points, 9 of which came off 3s.

The game remained close to start the second half as the Redbird scored 4 quick points to tie the game at 40 points apiece.

While Smith scored a pair of buckets to put the Racers back up, Burford made a layup and Lewis slammed down a dunk to tie the game again at 44 points.

After trading baskets back and forth, the Racers slowly started to break away with a layup from Wood, a 3 from Perry and a layup from White, putting the Racers up by 7 points. The Racers' lead extended



Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Sophomore forward Kenny White Jr. blocks a shot against the Redbirds in their previous meeting.

to 10 points with layups from Anderson and White coming in with 7:44 left to play.

Though White put the Racers up by 11 points with a 3-pointer, their advantage slowly began to deteriorate as the half began to close out.

Knight, Burford and junior guard Malachi Poindexter began to chip away at the Racers' lead with layups and jumpers, until the Redbirds were down by just 1 point with 43 seconds left, thanks to free throws from Knight.

It all came down to a defensive stand for the Racers with just 12 seconds left, and though Burford was able to put up a shot, it was just after the

buzzer, leaving the Racers victorious.

Murray State left Normal, Illinois with a 76-75 win over the Redbirds.

Perry finished with 25 points and six rebounds for the Racers. Wood finished with 8 points and 11 rebounds.

Knight led the Redbirds with 22 points and eight rebounds, while Lewis had 20 points of his own and nine rebounds. Burford tacked on 18 points and dished out six assists.

Murray State improves to 14-13 on the season, with 9-8 in conference play and 2-6 on the road. The Racers play host to the last-place Evansville Aces on Saturday, Feb. 18.

Osbron earns Player of the Week honors

Racers get out to 2-3 start after Wildcat invite in Texas

Ronan Summers

Staff Writer

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Softball season has just begun, and Murray State's redshirt senior infielder Gracie Osbron already is turning heads.

The first MVC Player of the Week award of 2023 was given to Osbron after she dominated the 2023 Wildcat Invitational. She finished the weekend going 8 for 15 at the plate, recording two runs, seven RBIs and a home run in five games.

Osbron is one of 12 players in the MVC named to the 2023 pre-season All-MVC softball team. She finished the 2022 season batting .361 and with 38 runs and nine home runs while posting a .970 fielding percentage.

Murray State is coming off the best season in program history and looks to carry that momentum over to this season. Starting the new season with a handful of wins is a good way to do that.

The Racers traveled to Abilene, Texas, to compete against a trio of teams in a five-game span over the weekend. The first day of the 2023 Wildcat Invitational on Friday, Feb. 10 did not go the way the Racers had hoped.

The first game of the tournament came against the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Islanders. The Islanders only gave up a single hit to the Racers. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi struck Murray State batters out 10 times while Racers redshirt junior pitcher Jenna Veber struck seven Islander batters out.

Veber earned the loss after allowing four hits and a run in the matchup. The lone score for the Islanders came from a single drive in a runner on base in the fifth inning. This led to the first meeting ending 1-0 in

favor of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

The second Friday game was against the University of Texas at El Paso Miners. UTEP won the matchup 3-0 after scoring twice in the third inning and then once more in the fifth. The Miners finished the game allowing three hits to their five. Of those three hits, Osbron hit two of them.

Redshirt senior pitcher Hannah James ended up with the loss for the Racers, as she allowed all of the Miners' hits and runs in five innings. She also struck out two Miners batters. Freshman pitcher Bre Haislip pitched for two innings, striking one batter out and not allowing a hit or run.

After being held scoreless in two games on Friday, the bats came ready on Saturday, Feb. 11, as the Racers had a chance to redeem themselves against the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Islanders. Murray State was able to get on the board this time around, ultimately winning the game 5-1.

The Racers' bats were hot as they finished the game with a total of 10 hits. Freshman utility player Adison Hicks, sophomore infielder Erin Lackey and redshirt senior infielder Lindsey Carroll all finished with two hits.

James had 10 strikeouts in four innings pitched. She did not allow a hit or run in those four innings. Haislip struck two batters out while allowing four hits and a run in three innings.

The second Saturday game was a shootout against the Abilene Christian Wildcats that went into extra innings. There wasn't much of a defensive presence on either side, as the Wildcats won the game 13-12. Osbron had herself a day going 4 for 4 with two runs and five RBIs. The Racers earned



Photo courtesy of Justine Ertl/Racer Athletics

Redshirt senior Gracie Osbron prepares to field a ground ball during the Wildcat Invitational.

16 hits and five walks, leaving an astounding 11 players on base.

Murray State's pitching struggled against the Wildcats. The Racers had to place four different pitchers on the mound to get through the eight-inning contest.

The final game came on Sunday, Feb. 12 in a rematch against the UTEP Miners. The Racers jumped out to a 6-0 lead in the fourth inning before the Miners' bats began heating up. Murray State was able to hold off UTEP and win 7-6.

The Racers finished with eight hits and five walks. Veber got the win for the Racers, allowing eight hits, two earned runs and a walk in four innings. Haislip pitched the other three innings, allowing four hits and three earned runs. She also struck out four batters.

Osbron led the way for the Racers over the weekend, but Lackey had a good invitational too.

She finished the weekend with seven hits and three runs. She has a .467 batting average. Carroll finished the weekend with a team-high five runs and a .286 batting average.

Murray State travel to Troy, Alabama, on Friday, Feb. 17 and Saturday, Feb. 18 to play in the 2023 Trojan Classic. They will play a total of four games against two teams.

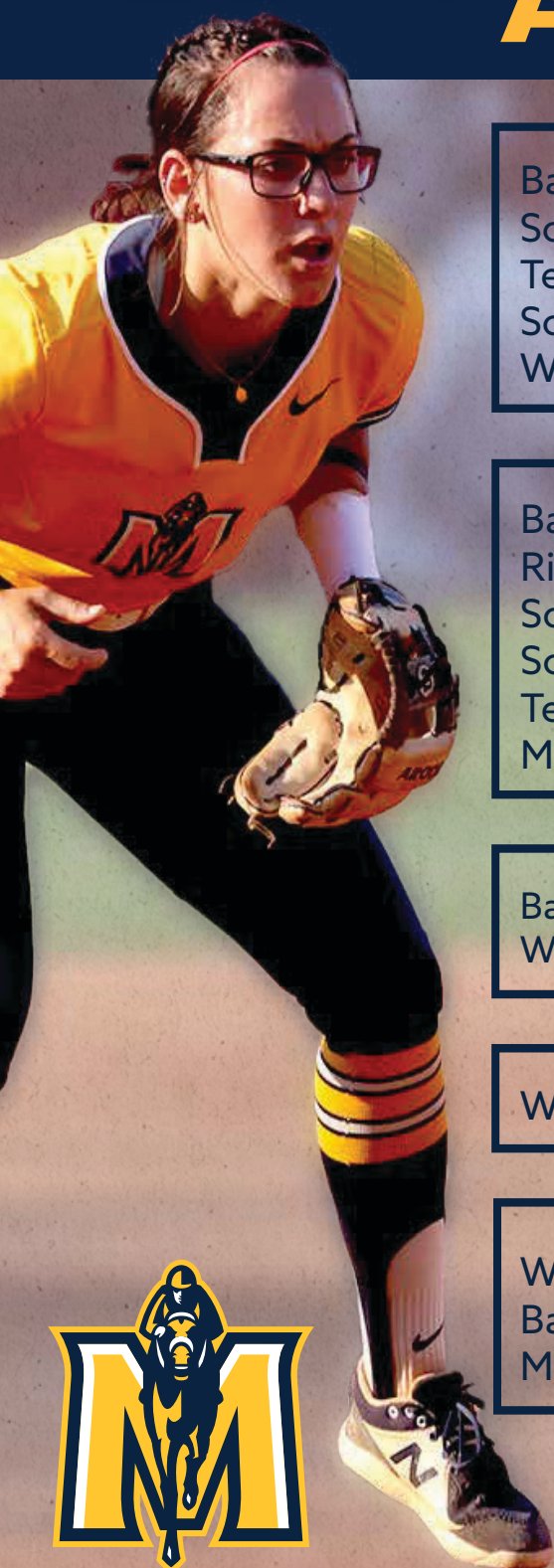
Murray State plays the Kennesaw State University Owls, who currently sport a 1-1 record, at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 17. The Racers will then play the Troy University Trojans on the same day at 5 p.m.

The Trojans are 2-2 on the season. Kennesaw State and Murray State will play once more at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18 to start the second day of the classic. The Racers will wrap the weekend up by playing the Trojans again at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 18.

Murray State

ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

Shann Riley/The News



FEB. 17

Baseball vs. North Florida @ Jacksonville, FL	TBD
Softball vs. Kennesaw State @ Troy, AL	11 a.m.
Tennis vs. Middle Tennessee @ Murfreesboro, TN	1 p.m.
Softball vs. Troy University @ Troy, AL	5 p.m.
Women's Basketball vs. Missouri State @ Springfield, MO	6 p.m.

FEB. 18

Baseball vs. North Florida @ Jacksonville, TN	TBD
Rifle vs. UT Martin @ Murray, KY	9 a.m.
Softball vs. Kennesaw State @ Troy, AL	11 a.m.
Softball vs. Troy University @ Troy, AL	2 p.m.
Tennis vs. Chattanooga @ Chattanooga, TN	3 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Evansville @ Murray, KY	3 p.m.

FEB. 19

Baseball vs. North Florida @ Jacksonville, FL	TBD
Women's Basketball vs. Southern Illinois @ Carbondale, IL	5 p.m.

FEB. 20

Women's Golf vs. Florida Atlantic @ Boynton Beach, FL	ALL DAY
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FEB. 21

Women's Golf vs. Florida Atlantic @ Boynton Beach, FL	ALL DAY
Baseball vs. UT Martin @ Murray, KY	3 p.m.
Men's Basketball vs. Missouri State @ Springfield, MO	6 p.m.

Redshirt senior Gracie Osbron, softball
Photo courtesy of Wade Event Photography

For more information
visit GoRacers.com

Student-run Journal opens for literary submissions

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The undergraduate literary journal "Notations" has returned for the 2023 semester and opened submissions up to all undergraduate students for the first time since before COVID-19.

"Notations" has been a Murray State publication for decades, with a few hiatuses over the years, including two pandemic-related. While "Notations" was formerly a physically printed journal, rising costs and sustainability issues have shifted the journal to a digital format. This will be the third year the journal will be published digitally.

"Notations" editor and junior Spanish and professional writing major Eve Jacobson says the editorial team is excited to get into the editing process.

Current undergraduate students can submit up to four poems and one or two pieces of fiction or nonfiction, with all prose pieces limited to 5,000 words. All submitted works must be original and previously unpublished.

"This year's edition of 'Notations' will be different from the past few because we will be accepting submissions from all undergraduate students," Jacobson said. "In previous years, 'Notations' only published work from other students in the English department, but this year we made the decision to give everybody the opportunity to submit something they're proud of."

The journal was created to showcase the works of students interested in creative writing, says Carrie Jerrell, creative writing program coordinator and "Notations" faculty adviser, "Notations" publishes fiction,

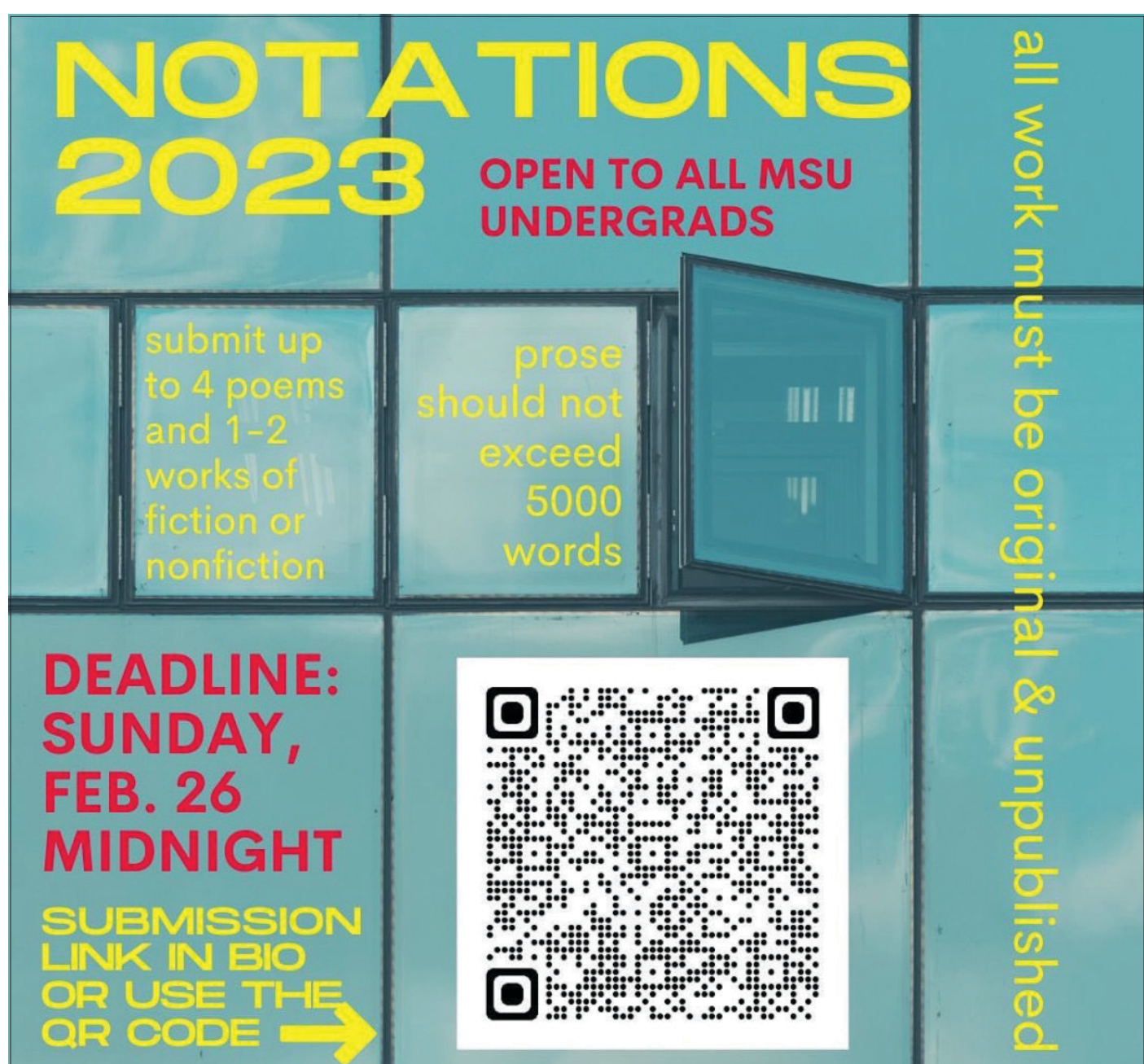


Photo courtesy of @murraystatecreativewriting on Instagram
The "Notations" journal is a student-run digital literary journal that publishes the work of Murray State students. Submissions are due by Feb. 26.

creative nonfiction and poetry. It also includes work from art students.

"Notations" is primarily run and produced by students from the Department of English and Philosophy for the ENG 448 Editorial Internship course. Jerrell's role as adviser is to ensure deadlines are met and to educate students on the journal's design process.

"Students in the class serve as editors for the semester," Jerrell said. "They read sub-

missions, make selections, edit the selections, create the layout and design and help promote its release. They also work on polishing and editing their own creative writing to send to journals elsewhere, so they learn about editing and publishing from both sides of the desk."

"I encourage anyone who is interested in submitting something they've written to fill out the submission form," Jacobson said. "I'm so excited to read this year's

submissions. I think it will be really interesting to read works from students both in and out of the English department."

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 26 at midnight.

Students who submit will receive further information regarding their piece's status from March 27 to April 1.

Anyone interested in submitting their works or reading previous editions can visit @murraystatecreativewriting on Instagram or scan the QR code on one of the flyers around campus.

Art sale aims to support new Mayfield art gallery

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On the night of Dec. 10, 2021, the Mayfield Graves County Art Guild and the 26 years of service it provided the community faced a difficult challenge: the destruction of their Ice House Gallery.

The Ice House Gallery served as the home of the Mayfield Graves County Art Guild since 1995. Hosting eight art shows each year, the Ice House was the location for all the art guild's programming.

After the tornado destroyed the Ice House Gallery, former Mayfield Graves County Art Guild Director Dana Heath donated two buildings from her father's oil business. The art guild then faced the challenge of funding the renovation of these historic buildings.

In order to assist with the costs, the Murray Art Guild is calling for artwork submissions for the Night of 1,000 Drawings art sale. The proceeds will be given to the Ice House Gallery.

The Night of 1,000 drawings sale will be featured as part of the Art Hop event. The sale will take place on April 15.

Submissions are open to anyone who is interested. Submitted works can be any medium, so long as they are 5.5" by 8.5" or smaller. The artwork can be submitted at the



Photo courtesy of @IceHouseGallery on Facebook
The original Ice House Gallery facility was destroyed in the tornado that came through Mayfield on Dec. 10, 2021.

Murray Art Guild until April 4.

The event's location has not been finalized, but Murray Art Guild Executive Director Debi Danielson says she hopes to host the event on Murray's court square.

The Art Hop event also features art exhibitions at Murray Art Guild, Murray Conventions and Visitors Bureau and the Clara M. Eagle Gallery.

Anyone interested in supporting the Ice House Gallery can do so in

several different ways.

The Mayfield Graves County Art Guild has a GoFundMe established to support the building fund. Art is also available for purchase at Mayfield's Regions Bank, where the guild is temporarily housed, and a raffle for a painting is being held. The painting also can be seen at the Regions Bank.

The painting raffle features the work of Jason Bailey who won Best in Show in the guild's Impressions

Art Show. The painting is titled "Under the Umbrellas."

Those interested also can sign up for a class with the Mayfield Graves County Art Guild, or individuals and businesses have the option of sponsoring the new Ice House Gallery directly.

To support the Ice House Gallery or view their GoFundMe, visit their website at icehousearts.org, and to learn more about the 2023 Art Hop, visit murrayartguild.org.

Alumnus set to bring comedy festival to campus

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In an effort to create a different kind of comedy experience in western Kentucky, Murray State alumnus Ben Wilson is bringing the Kentucky Comedy Festival to the University.

Wilson grew up in Paducah, Kentucky, and graduated from Murray State with a major in environmental engineering technology in spring 1999. After graduation, Wilson worked on various political campaigns, including the campaign of former Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton and the Kentucky Senate campaign for President Bob Jackson.

After graduating from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law in 2003, Wilson moved to Miami, Florida to obtain his Master of Laws in real estate development. Ever since then, Wilson has worked as a real estate attorney in Miami.

While Wilson says he has always been a comedy fan, it was not until his time in Miami he thought of hosting his own comedy event.

"When I lived in Miami, Comedy Central hosted the South Beach Comedy Festival that brought in a lot of the top comedians of the time, such as Dave Chapelle, Kevin Hart, David Spade to Miami Beach, and I went every year," Wilson said.

"The comedy festival was a big hit in Miami Beach, both from an entertainment perspective and also financially for Miami Beach."

Wilson began planning the event in 2020, and after careful consideration of the costs, he says he finally decided it was time to bring his passion for comedy back home to Lovett Auditorium.

"I felt that Murray State and Lovett Auditorium would be the perfect location for the Kentucky Comedy Festival because Lovett Auditorium is an amazing and classy venue," Wilson said.

Wilson says he has several goals for the Kentucky Comedy Festival.

"The goal is for the guests of the Kentucky Comedy Festival to have a really fun time at the event and then to make it an annual event at Lovett Auditorium featuring new comedians each year, if this year's event goes well," Wilson said.

Once he found his venue, Wilson faced the challenge of selecting a lineup of comedians. During the selection process, Wilson says he looked for comedians who were funny, had clean comedy acts and diverse stories to tell.

The festival's current lineup features eight comedians representing many different styles of comedy.

The festival is split between Oct. 19 and Oct. 20. The first night's lineup includes "White Trash Cinderella" Lace Larrabee, Eric O'Shea, Jasmine Ellis and "Kentucky Corp Jester" Mark Klein.

Larrabee, who will be the headliner, has a comedy style that blends observational humor with her Southern background. Larrabee's debut comedy



Photo courtesy of Ben Wilson

The inaugural Kentucky Comedy Festival comes to Lovett Auditorium on Oct. 19-20.

album, which was released in September 2022, took the No. 1 spot on the comedy charts.

Klein, who is a native Kentuckian, will open on the festival's first night. Wilson says Klein will provide a Kentucky perspective for audiences.

The second night's lineup will include Kevin Farley, Tammy Pescatelli, Brad Upton and Katherine Blanford.

Farley, who is the brother of the late "Saturday Night Live" star Chris Farley, will open.

"It is very special to me to be able to bring in Kevin Farley to the first Kentucky Comedy Festival because when I was on [Student Government Association] at Murray State I was pushing really hard to try to get Chris Farley to do a comedy act at Lovett Auditorium," Wilson said.

Farley will be introduced by Wilson's "special co-host," his English bulldog puppy who is named "Farley."

Blanford, who will follow in the lineup, has a special connection with Murray State: Blanford's mother is an alumna. Blanford and Larrabee also co-host a podcast together called "CHEATIES!" where they interview guests who have cheated or been cheated on in relationships.

That night's show will be closed by Upton, who left his job as a school teacher in 1986 to pursue a career in comedy. Throughout his 37-year career, Upton has been featured on "The Tonight Show," Comedy Central and a new comedy platform named Dry Bar Comedy.

In addition to his effort to make the Kentucky Comedy Festival an annual event, Wilson also will be using the proceeds from the comedy festival to provide funding for his "Living the Dream with Ben and the Bulldogs" scholarship for Murray State intramural sports.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Shann Riley/The News



DOWN

1. After overcoming polio, she went on to be the first woman to win three gold medals in track and field.

2. She was the first Black woman to earn a medical degree in America.

4. They were the first Black person to reach the North Pole and explore the Arctic.

6. They fought for gay and transgender rights and are celebrated as a veteran of the Stonewall Inn protests.

7. They were the first slave to sue for freedom and ended up unsuccessful.

8. They are known for saying, "The revolution will not be televised."

10. They were the first student to integrate into an all white elementary school in 1960.

ACROSS

3. Their cancer cells were harvested without their knowledge and were the only human cell line able to reproduce indefinitely.

5. They are best known for singing "Strange Fruit" an anthem of the anti-lynching movement.

8. This American poet became the first Black person to receive a Pulitzer Prize.

9. She is dubbed the Godmother of Rock 'N' Roll.

11. This Kentucky author and activist goes by a pen name written in all lowercase letters.

12. They were the first Black National Football League coach.

13. They were the first Black news anchor for a network newscast.

