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NEWS BRIEF



Dionte Berry/The News On Feb. 6, County Sheriff's uncover enough Fentanyl that could kill 57,000 people.

County sheriff finds fentanyl in Murray

Drayton Charlton-Perrin Contributing writer dcharltonperrin@murraystate.edu

Over a quarter pound of fentanyl was found in a Murray residence on Feb. 6 during the search and arrest of two women.

Police deputies from Calloway County, Kentucky State troopers and the Drug Enforcement Agency conducted the investigation. They executed a search warrant and entered the apartment of Jennifer Robinson, 40, and Jessalyn Redmon, 26.

According to a Calloway County Sheriff's Office news release, DEA statistics show the amount of raw fentanyl powder found at the scene is enough to kill around 57,000 people.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that currently leads the United States in overdose deaths. According to the DEA, Fentanyl is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.

The Justice and Public Safety Cabinet in Kentucky said fentanyl has the biggest role in the overdose crisis in Kentucky.

Around 2 ounces of methamphetamine was also found at the scene.

Calloway County Sheriff's Deputy Marian Cosgrove said the search warrant was executed at the Embassy Apartments.

Robinson was charged with trafficking in a controlled substance, carfentanil or a fentanyl derivative, Cosgrove said.

Redmon was charged with possession of a controlled substance for methamphetamine.

Kentucky law currently has a five-10 year prison sentence for trafficking fentanyl in any amount. If considered aggravated trafficking (28 grams or more in fentanyl trafficking) there is a 10-20 year sentence.

Kentucky law considers possession of methamphetamine a Class D felony with a prison sentence of one to three years along with a possible fine of up to \$10,000.

Both women are being held in the Calloway County Jail.



Student's TikTok sparks racial insensitivity concerns

Abbie Michalek/The News

The music department faculty plans to add sensitivity training for their professors after a student's TikTok highlights problematic teachings in class.

Professor's minstrel show lecture spurs discomfort amongst students

Dionte Berry Editor-in-Chief dberry11@murraystate.edu

A Murray State music class lecture garnered online attention after a student posted a TikTok of their professor discussing the impact of minstrel shows in America and seemingly offering praise to the discriminatory form of entertainment.

American minstrel shows were prevalent during the 19th and 20th centuries and were supposed to be a form of racial comedy based on the exaggeration and caricaturization of Black stereotypes, often with a white performer in blackface. "Jump

Jim Crow" was an early popular minstrel show, according to PBS, which later gave way to Jim Crow laws in the late 19th century.

"The one positive the minstrel show does is it unites American humor," said Director of Jazz Studies Todd Hill to his History and Analysis of American Popular Music course. "A lot of people see nothing wrong with wearing blackface. Otherwise, you couldn't tell jokes you wouldn't tell."

Hill went on to say the greatest minstrel performers were Black and "it was a better way to make a living, better than chopping cotton, sure as hell better than living in a sharecropper shack somewhere."

Sophomore music business major Mayson Phoenix recorded Hill's voice during his lecture and posted it to TikTok, receiving around 91,000 views.

Phoenix said they felt uncomfortable with the way Hill was discussing minstrel shows, which led to them recording the video.

"He had started talking about the positives with minstrel shows, and I was like, 'That is so weird that you said that,'" Phoenix said. "I had decided to pull up my phone and start recording myself on Snapchat because I originally just posted it to my story. Because I was just, you know, wanting to show some of my friends, like, 'Hey, this is really messed up.'"

see TIKTOK, page 3

Kentucky bill proposes period tax removal

Jill Smith Assistant News Editor jsmith194@murraystate.edu

Anyone in need of period products currently pays a 6% sales tax in Kentucky, but a recent proposal hopes to eliminate that extra cost for millions in the state.

House Bill 142, introduced by Rep. Lisa Willner (D-Jefferson), aims to remove the sales tax placed on period products such as pads, tampons and menstrual cups.

This bill has garnered bipartisan support and is cosponsored by Rep. Samara Heavrin (R-Grayson/Hardin) and Democratic Reps. Ruth Palumbo, Daniel Grossberg and Tina Bojanowski.

Currently, 23 states and Washington, D.C. have passed legislation making period products tax exempt, according to the Alliance for Period Supplies.

Recent U.S. Census data show 16.6% of Kentucky residents live below the poverty line, which is determined using the Official Poverty Measure. This measure compares income, before taxes, against a household's income that is set three times the cost of a basic food plan in 1963 and adjusted for family size.



Dionte Berry/The News

Kentucky is one of 22 states to still have a tax on menstrual products, HB 142 is trying to reverse that.

Removing the sales tax would make these products more affordable, says Ember Price, a sophomore theater major

"Menstruation is a natural body function and shouldn't be taken advantage of in an effort to get more money," Price said. "The average college student already has tuition, food, books and so many other costs to worry about and not all of them can afford that alone. Adding another tax into the mix just hurts their available finances even more."

Individual women can spend up to \$18,000 on period products in their lifetime, according to the National Organization for

Women In Kentucky, the average price for a box of tampons can range from \$5-\$8 while a box of pads can cost around \$6.

Former Rep. Attica Scott (D-Jefferson) introduced a similar bill in 2019, but the bill didn't receive a committee hearing and later died in a Republican-controlled legislature.

A student's mental health can be impacted by lack of period products, said Antje Gamble, associate art and design professor and treasurer of the Gender Equity Caucus.

see SALES TAX, page 2

Music students perform at KMEA Conference

MacKenzie Rogers

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Select students from the music department traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, to participate in the Kentucky Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference and play in the KMEA Intercollegiate Band, Choir and Jazz Band.

The KMEA conference occurs once a year. Students are nominated by their ensemble professors and applied teachers for the opportunity to participate. Junior instrumental music education major Jacob Glatczak said it was an honor to perform at KMEA with Michael Colburn, the 27th director of “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, as the conductor.

“I was pleasantly surprised and excited to be selected to perform with the KMEA Intercollegiate Band,” Glatczak said.

KMEA, affiliated with the National Association for Music Education, advocates and serves as a voice for Kentucky’s music educators and to enrich the lives of students through music.

Eric Swisher, professor with expertise in trumpet, said it was a great opportunity for students to be able to participate in KMEA. Students from multiple universities including Murray State, practiced together for a few days, then performed in concert at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts in Louisville, he said.

“We are very proud of these students for representing Murray State in this ensemble,” Swisher said.

To be selected to attend the Intercollegiate Band, students must be nominated and ranked among fellow Murray State students. Once nominated,

students must prepare for auditions at the University of Louisville, where they are then ranked among other students across the state. Once students are placed, they are required to attend four three-hour rehearsals to prepare for their musical performances.

After the performances, students are allowed to attend an array of workshops, masterclasses and events.

“Due to COVID-19 and the weather from last year, it’s been a long time since we’ve been able to make the trip to Louisville. I would label this experience as both rewarding and highly educational,” Glatczak said.

Four students received respective principal chairs in the band: senior Chloe Perry, trumpet; junior Gabe Cowles, tuba; senior Luke Weatherly, trombone; and junior Jacob Glatczak, alto saxophone.

The bands performed four pieces: a world premiere of “Over the Moon” by Frank Ticheli, “Nobles of the Mystic Shrine” by John Phillip Sousa, “Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor” by Johann Sebastian Bach and “One Life Beautiful” by Julie Giroux.

Glatczak said these pieces were very difficult, but he was honored to be offered a brief solo in the Ticheli piece.

“What made this music difficult were the different aspects of a musician that each piece required,” Glatczak said. “The Sousa march required technicality, dynamic awareness and style precedents given by the way the United States Marine Band performs it. The hardest of all of the pieces was the Ticheli piece. The 2023 KMEA Committee actually commissioned this piece for the Intercollegiate Band, so we were the first to ever see and premiere this piece.”

Outside of performing and attending their choice of workshops



Photo courtesy of the Department of Music
Music students attend the KMEA Conference and perform in Louisville, Kentucky, February 8-11.

and events, the KMEA conference offers students the opportunity to network and encounter professional development opportunities.

Murray State’s National Association for Music Education-Collegiate (NAfME-C) chapter fundraises and organizes the trip to the conference every year.

Luke Weatherly, senior music performance major, said everyone put on a great performance of a demanding concert that night.

“After another day of rehearsal, we put on a concert Thursday [Feb. 9] ... that was well attended, with Kentucky All-State high schoolers, parents and directors,” Weatherly said.

One of the students selected for the Intercollegiate Jazz Band, senior music major Aaron Beach, said he had been super excited to attend.

“The experience was phenomenal,” Beach said. “Getting to meet new people that have the same passion for music was refreshing, and I learned a lot. ... Performing in the

KMEA Intercollegiate Jazz Band was definitely one of the biggest highlights of my college experience.”

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SALES TAX, from page 1

“If you can’t go to class, you can’t go to work, you can’t go to whatever because then you feel like a failure when it’s a systemic problem,” Gamble said. “You should be able to get access to basic necessities.”

Students affiliated with the Pride Center received a survey, with 80% of respondents saying finances impact their mental health, according to Abigail Cox, director of the Women’s Center and Pride Center. Students can visit the Women’s Center on campus in C102 Oakley Applied Science for assistance acquiring period products—no questions asked.

Cox said this service relies on donations from sororities and residential colleges, which helps provide resources to students each semester.

“Each semester, we average around 30 students who visit the Women’s Center for period products,” Cox said. “This year, we also distributed over 300 grab-and-go packs to RAs who wanted to have products available to help their residents.”

During COVID-19, the Gender Equity Caucus worked with another organization to fill blessing boxes in the community with period products.

This organization, Clutch, was founded in 2018 by Murray State alumna Kristen Farley.

Farley said this organization started after she couldn’t find an internship for her Organizational Communication program.

“We started collecting pads and tampons throughout the community, and then we partnered with a bunch of schools and correctional facilities and homeless outreach facilities as well,” Farley said. “I think at our height, we were delivering feminine hygiene products to 12 middle and high schools and various other places as well.”

Farley said she received requests often from individuals in need of products.

“I think people didn’t realize how much of a need there was until we had implemented Clutch into schools because they either made it throughout the school day or had to borrow from a friend,” Farley said. “When it was available, we’re kind of depleted pretty quickly, which was completely fine by me.”

The stigma around periods and period products can be linked back to the patriarchy, Gamble said.

“I think people didn’t realize how much of a need there was until we implemented Clutch in schools...”
— Kristen Farley, Murray State Alumna

“It’s seen as a taboo topic, even today, which is pretty hilarious, and it’s structurally set up that way,” Gamble said. “When I was a kid, they separated the boys and the girls in this very binary way.”

Price said we should be able to have an open discussion about menstruation and period products.

“It isn’t nasty, and I don’t care what people want to hear about anymore,” Price said. “It needs to be spoken about. There are too many kids and teens—and even adults—who don’t know everything going on with them. There are many who don’t know if something is wrong or not, so they’re over here trusting Google is correct because they feel too disgusted to ask anyone.”

HB142 has been introduced in the House Committee on Committees and is awaiting a committee hearing. For further information, see legislature.ky.gov.

POLICE BEAT

2/02

8:53 P.M.

Elizabeth College

Someone reported a stolen wallet.

2/04

1:45 P.M.

Curriss Center

A person was arrested for theft and criminal trespassing.

2/08

10:48 A.M.

Pi Kappa Alpha

A person reported threats against someone else to the Murray PD.

2/08

10:48 A.M.

Hughes Avenue

Murray PD arrested someone for alcohol intoxication in a public place, disorderly conduct 2nd degree, and menac-

2/21

10:33 A.M.

Main Campus (Various Locations)

Campus security reported incidents of harassment. Clery Act: stalking. The initial incident happened in August, 2022.

Police Beat is compiled with material from the Murray State Crime and Fire Log.

Not all dispatched calls are listed.

Caroline Polachek pushes pop borders in new album

Dionte Berry

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Nearly five years after her solo debut, Caroline Polachek returns with her sophomore album, and it's bursting at the seams with energetic pop melodies.

Polachek is an American singer-songwriter and producer who debuted in the early 2000s in the indie-pop duo Chairlift. In 2019, Polachek debuted with her first solo album, "Pang."

Polachek became known for her potent voice and her delicate electronic instrumentation. On Valentine's Day, Polachek released her second full-length album, "Desire, I Want to Turn Into You."

Polachek's sophomore album takes her signature sound to a more up-tempo atmosphere. In an interview with Apple Music, Polachek said "Desire, I Want to Turn Into You" is her "maximalist" album.

"Songs like 'Bunny is a Rider,' 'Welcome to My Island' and 'Smoke' came onto the plate first and felt more hot-blooded and urgent than anything I'd done before," Polachek said to Apple Music.

"Desire, I Want to Turn Into You" is a 12-track journey kicked off by "Welcome to My Island." The song starts with Polachek's isolated vocals erupting like a flare illuminating the night, reminding listeners of the power and the range in her voice.

"Welcome to My Island" is a strong introductory track for what lies ahead, as if Polachek is showing listeners a new piece of herself. After her bursting introduction, Polachek's vocals devolve into a robotic autotune with a pitter-pattering synth, and overall, the song goes in between an electronic and indie-pop sound.

"Pretty In Possible" follows and has a similar start as the opening song with Polachek's bare vocals, but here, she sounds more delicate. Backed by a jangling beat, Polachek strings together a narrative about potentially pursuing a certain love in a jovial manner.



Album cover courtesy of Spotify

'Desire, I Want to Turn Into You' released on Valentine's Day under the Perpetual Novice music label.

Hearing "Pretty In Possible" as Polachek sings it, the lyric and title can easily sound like "pretty impossible," which makes this love sound sporadic and shifting.

"Bunny Is a Rider" dropped in July 2021, the earliest single from the album. It feels as if it exists somewhere in between "Pang" and "Desire, I Want to Turn Into You" sonically.

The song is springy, with a recurring whistle, chime and underlying bass. "Bunny Is a Rider" is one of the more minimal songs on the album, so it does not feel hot-blooded like Polachek said.

"Bunny Is a Rider" has a catchy tune, but feels extremely bare in comparison to the other songs.

"Sunset" sounds so distinct from all the other songs, and I love it. The song has a cheery flamenco-esque tune and feels like a hot summer day by the water.

Polachek sings about love being a risk and abandoning a safety net and diving in head first with no regrets.

"Fly to You" features Canadian electronic artist, Grimes and English singer, Dido, which is Polachek's first song to have features. This song has a faster instrumentation in comparison to her other songs, having a racing beat often paired with a guitar.

"Songs like 'Bunny is a Rider,' 'Welcome to My Island' and 'Smoke' came onto the plate first and felt more hot-blooded and urgent than anything I'd done before."

— Caroline Polachek in her Apple Music Interview

Having Grimes on this song, I was expecting a stronger electronic influence. Grimes' vocals were featured, but I wish more of her engineering influence showed because that could have brought a more diverse sound to the album.

In "Blood and Butter," Polachek sings about wanting to be so close to her lover: "Closer than your new

tattoo" and "Let me dive, through your face, to the sweetest kind of pain." Although she is singing about closeness, I love the grotesque sense of bonding she dives into.

This song feels like a classic Polachek song and the collection of small sounds makes it feel like a more holistic version of "Bunny Is a Rider." However, Polachek has acoustic guitar breaks and a bagpipe finale, which is unexpected but works with the song.

"Smoke" shows a punchier side to Polachek's lyricism. She compares the drifting of smoke to a lover drifting out of her life.

Despite this person's disappearance, she still feels strong and assertive, telling people to not worry about her.

The album closes on "Billions," which rings in with a scissoring metallic synth that brings an ancient feeling to the song, as if it was dug from an excavation site and dusted off.

"Billions" highlights the trickiness of love, but despite Polachek seeing the flaws in her lover, she can't help but remain by their side while seeking fulfillment. I enjoy the sweet choir ending. Although Polachek has these road bumps ahead of her, she seems as if she's taking it in stride.

"Desire, I Want to Turn Into You" further expands the potential of what pop music can be and is a breath of fresh air. I enjoy Polachek's signature sound, experimentation and the blend of pop with her dynamic vocals.

However, I would not regard Polachek's work to be maximalist. Some tracks hit that bar, such as "Welcome to My Island," "I Believe" and "Sunset," but others, such as "Bunny Is a Rider," feel simple and minimal.

"Desire, I Want to Turn Into You" marks a high-power return for Polachek and deserves an eight out of 10. From her debut to her sophomore album, Polachek has kept the bar extremely high for herself, and I look forward to whatever she dives into for her next project.

from TIKTOK, from page 1

After receiving a lot of attention on Snapchat, Phoenix decided to post the video on TikTok on Feb. 4. When Phoenix made their post at the time, they couldn't articulate why the lecture made them uneasy, but after posting the video on their TikTok page, witch.frown, Phoenix received around 3,000 comments helping them find the words to explain how the lecture made them feel.

"It wasn't until I posted it to TikTok that I got all the comments, saying, 'This is how he could have addressed it' and just talking about how this was wrong and borderline racist, and I agree," Phoenix said.

Following his praise for the impact minstrel shows have had in America, Hill said it was something he would never get involved with as an "empath" meaning he is someone who is understanding of other's emotions.

While Phoenix received a lot of support from fellow TikTokers, they have received some bullying and threats on YikYak, an anonymous chat app that allows users to interact with those within a 5 mile radius of them. Not only was Phoenix targeted but so was one of their friends who defended them.

"By the time I was looking through [YikYak], some of the worse ones had been taken down," Phoenix said. "There were still a lot of ones calling me stupid...and some people were making fun of the fact I was

homeless. I got screenshots of the ones that had been deleted before I saw them [that] were saying stuff, like, how people wanted to murder people like me."

Phoenix also talked about some speculation regarding the TikTok being taken out of context or Hill possibly reading, but Phoenix said this wasn't the case.

"I went to the section of the book that he was supposedly reading from, and it's nothing like what he was saying, like sure some of the topics that he was talking about are in the book, but they're handled in more of a polite manner and handled with so much more care," Phoenix said.

Phoenix shared the book with *The News* titled "American Popular Music, from Minstrelsy to MP3." Chapter Two, "After the Ball," talks about minstrel shows but does so in a neutral fashion to explain the history, not the "positive" impacts of minstrel shows.

In regards to what they'd want to see done in the future surrounding this topic, Phoenix believes if content like this needs to be covered, it should be done so by a Black professor.

"I personally don't think that a non-person of color should even be teaching that subject because of how sensitive it is," Phoenix said. "The department definitely needs to be educated on a lot of different topics. They need to be educated more on LGBT topics, more on [Black, Indigenous and people



Abbie Michalek/*The News*

The Music Department plans to introduce a new course to replace Professor Todd Hill's course.

of color] topics because they just kind of pretend they don't exist."

The News reached out to both Hill and Lucia Unrau, music department chair, regarding this matter. Unrau said the department would not be making a comment.

"This matter is being addressed in accordance with University policies and procedures," Unrau wrote. "Murray State University is a student-centered and inclusive university where all students are valued and respected. As this is a personnel matter, we will have no further comment."

The News also contacted the Institutional, Diversity, Equity and Access Office in regards to how this matter will be handled, but they deferred us to Executive Director of Branding

and Marketing Shawn Touney, who echoed Unrau's statement.

On Feb. 15, Phoenix posted an update on the matter. The class will not be taught for the remainder of the spring 2023 semester. Instead, it will be replaced by another course that will begin meeting during the second half of the semester.

The half semester class will not be taught by Hill. In addition to the TikTok update, Phoenix updated *The News* saying they had a meeting with a member from the IDEA office and the Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts David Balthrop.

Phoenix also said the music department will be going through sensitivity training every year following this incident.

Our view:

Legislation could have prevented the East Palestine Disaster

The spillage of hazardous materials in East Palestine, Ohio, exposed a major problem in the United States: we need more regulations on how hazardous materials and chemicals are handled.

On Feb. 3, a 150-car freight train from the multi-billion dollar railway company Norfolk Southern derailed in a small town in Ohio called East Palestine. Eleven of these train cars contained the hazardous chemicals vinyl chloride and butyl acrylate, which spilled into the town's waterways and contaminated the soil. There has been chemical spillage into the Ohio River as well, causing concern from other states in the area. Some of the chemicals were burned by local responders to avoid further contamination of the water, which released the chemicals into the air. The burning of the chemicals created clouds of dark smoke surrounding the town.

The chemicals released in this spill are known to cause liver cancer and respiratory issues, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Many of the citizens of the town reported having symptoms of the latter, according to CNN Health. The people of East Palestine are wary of drinking the town's water, even after Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine drank the water from an East Palestinian resident's tap. The Environmental Protection Agency's standards for risk of hazardous chemicals is based on safety, not what is healthy.

The conditions of East Palestine, although technically safe, is by no means healthy for its citizens. No one should have to worry about health risks from hazardous chemicals in their water and air.

These hazardous chemicals have shown to have dangerous effects on the wildlife surrounding the town. Director of Ohio's Department of Natural Resources Mary Mertz recently stated



Wesley Hammer/*The News*

over 3,500 fish have been found dead in local streams. This loss of local wildlife is completely unacceptable and could have detrimental effects on the ecosystems of East Palestine.

Norfolk Southern has been under fire for seemingly trying to suppress and hide stories about their failures in East Palestine. A journalist was even arrested for attempting to livestream an East Palestine town council meeting with Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, though the charges were swiftly dropped. We at *The News* believe multi-billion dollar corporations should not have the power to suppress news stories highlighting the company's failures.

Norfolk Southern has participated in a growing trend of a lack of concern for safety in favor of higher profits in the railway industry. Norfolk Southern, along with other large railway companies, has lobbied against safety legislation regarding the use of breaks and the number of employees required to be on the train. Since the 1990s, Norfolk Southern has spent around \$100 million in lobbying and paying federal legislators to support

profit-increasing legislation. This lack of safety concern is troubling and should be a priority for the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Obama administration attempted to address this issue by requiring rail cars transporting specific hazardous materials to use electronically-controlled pneumatic brakes. These brakes, while considered too costly by political opponents, allow trains to stop quicker and decrease the risk of derailment. This restriction was overturned in 2018 by former President Donald Trump and has not been reinstated under the Biden administration.

We at *The News* believe President Joe Biden needs to reinstate this restriction, and Biden should have done so when the Democratic party had a majority in both the House of Representatives and Senate.

In a press statement from the Environmental Protection Agency, Administrator Michael S. Regan says they will "ensure the company is held accountable for jeopardizing the health and safety of this community."

The Environmental Protection

Agency required Norfolk Southern to reimburse all cleanup procedures taken by the EPA and other local officials. This is a step in the right direction for Norfolk Southern to right its environmental wrongs, but the people of East Palestine deserve much better than what they've been given. Currently, Norfolk Southern has offered \$1,000 to every person living in East Palestine, but that amount is not even enough to cover the eventual medical bills from issues caused by the derailment. This payment is not meant to deter civil lawsuits against the company. At this point, multiple class action lawsuits are filed against Norfolk Southern on behalf of the people of East Palestine. The \$1,000 payout is a slap in the face to the people of East Palestine whose lives have been uprooted over the past few weeks.

This spillage should not have happened in the first place, so we must take steps to prevent another East Palestine. The citizens of East Palestine should not have to pay the price for environmental protections that have failed them.



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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.



Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Sophomore guard Brian Moore breaks down on defense against an Indiana State defender. Moore is averaging 8.5 points per game this season, including a career high against Belmont.

Basketball looks to finish season with win

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After a season of ups, downs, new faces, old faces and some history being made along the way, the Racers' first regular season in the MVC comes to a close on Sunday, Feb. 26, when they host Valparaiso.

In the first matchup between the two, all the way back on Dec. 4, 2022, Murray State left Valparaiso, Indiana, with a road win. The Racers defeated the Beacons 77-70 in overtime.

That win was just one of the Racers' three wins on the road this season, which is worse than seven of the 11 other teams in the Valley, including Northern Iowa who, at the time, had a worse overall record than the Racers.

Murray State has a few saving graces heading into its final matchup before Arch Madness. One being that the game is home in the CFSB Center, where the Racers are 7-2 in conference play and 10-2 overall this season.

Another factor is

sophomore guard Brian Moore Jr.

When the Beacons hosted the Racers in December, the Harlem, New York born guard played just 8 minutes for the Racers, shooting 0-1 from the field and not having a stat on the sheet otherwise.

Since then, Moore has gone from averaging 3.5 points per game to 8.4, thanks to 10 different double-digit performances, including a career high 25 points against the Belmont Bruins.

But it's not just a one-man show at Murray State. Junior guard Rob Perry has led the way for the Racers, averaging 14.4 points per game. He's one of just three guys who average 10 or more points this season.

Joining Perry on that list is junior forward Jamari Smith, who is averaging 11.6 points per game this year, and sophomore guard JaCobi Wood who sits at 10.7. Wood also leads the team in assists this season with 130, making him the only Racer with over 100 assists.

One last thing to note in the Racers' favor is the difference in records.

Murray State sits at 15-14 overall this season with a 10-9 record in conference play, good enough for seventh in the conference standings.

As for Valpo, they post an 11-18 overall record with a 5-13 record in conference play, good enough for a tie at ninth place in the conference and five games back of the Racers.

While it may appear that the Racers can run away with the game, one barrier the Racers will have to overcome is senior forward Ben Krikke.

In his last two seasons in the Valley, Krikke has been named to the All-MVC third team both times. Prior to the 2022-23 season, he was named to the All-MVC Preseason First Team.

So far this season, Krikke has averaged a team high in points per game with 19.6, as well as a team high in rebounds per game with 5.9. He also has the most blocks for the Beacons with 26, and the second most assists on the team with 59. He's currently shooting 54.8% from the field.

He's been named MVC Player of the Week, including the most recent Player of the Week title. He has also

set a career high in points twice this season after passing the 1000 career point milestone to start the season. His current career high is 34 points in a one point loss to UIC on Sunday.

Krikke's partner in crime this season has been fifth-year guard Kobe King, who has scored double digit points in all 29 games he's played this season, tied for the most games in MVC history. He averages 16.6 points per game on 43% shooting from the field.

Over the Beacon's last seven games, only one of them has been a double-digit point loss. The Beacons have scratched and clawed their way into the other games, including a double-overtime loss to Drake, who currently is first in the Valley.

Despite their record, the Beacons seem to be finding their groove just in time for the MVC tournament next week.

Murray State hosts the Beacons on Sunday, Feb. 26. Tip-off is set for 3 p.m. After that, the teams will head to St. Louis for the MVC Tournament, starting on Thursday, March 2.

Hot bats fail to save baseball from 1-3 start

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College baseball has officially started with Murray State's baseball team facing action with four games in five days. The Racers won just one of the games, starting the season 1-3.

After finishing with 30-plus wins in each of the last two seasons, the Racers were picked to finish ninth out of 10 in their first season in the Valley. So far, their schedule has not been kind through just their first four games.

First, in their trip to face the University of North Florida Ospreys, Murray State opened up the three game series with a 3-2 loss. But in game two, the Racers' bats got hot as they defeated the Ospreys 11-3. The Racers drew six walks and totaled 13 hits in the win,

In the rubber game of the series, however, it was the Ospreys bats that got hot. North Florida 17-7, totaling 20 hits and batting in 16 runners.

After the trip to Florida, Murray State returned to Johnny Regan Field for their home opener against UT Martin in a one game series. Junior right handed pitcher Malik Pogure took the mound for the Racers and quickly gave up a run to the Sky-



Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Sophomore infielder Carson Garner gives sophomore outfielder Dustin Mercer a high-five after scoring for the Racers against the Skyhawks.

hawks in just the first inning.

The Racers answered in the bottom half of the inning when sophomore infielder Carson Garner hit a sacrifice fly that allowed sophomore outfielder Dustin Mercer to score.

The Skyhawks put four more runs on the board in innings two, five and six, putting them up 5-1.

The Racers put one last run on the board in the eighth inning with a single from graduate first baseman Brennan McCullough that brought

Mercer home for the second time.

Both sides tallied just five strikeouts in the game, while the Skyhawks won the hitting battle 13-10. The Racers left 10 runners on base in the contest while drawing just 2 walks.

Murray State still has five multi-game series left and three single-game series prior to MVC play, including a one game series at University of Kentucky on Tuesday, March 7.

For now, the Racers hone in on their next opponent as they travel south to play the University of Alabama at Birmingham in a three game series. Game one will be on Friday, Feb. 24, with first pitch set for 2 p.m.

After the trip to Birmingham, the Racers will host back-to-back series, starting with a two-game series against Kent State University, then a three-game series against Northern Kentucky University.

Burpo reaches 1k; Young named Valley PoTW

Ronan Summers

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Redshirt senior forward Alexis Burpo, a Murray native, is just the 22nd player in the program's history to join the 1,000 point club on Sunday, Feb. 19, against the SIU Salukis.

Burpo's 4 points in Sunday's win gives her a total of 1,001 points in her career. The fifth-year senior has started 87 of the 143 games she has played in, averaging 7 points a game while shooting 47% from the field. Burpo has averaged 5.7 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game.

This is the second time in Burpo's basketball career she has joined a 1,000 point club. She also scored over 1,000 points in her high school career. Burpo has been named to the All-OVC Second Team twice in her career, first in the 2019-20 season, where she recorded six double-doubles, and once again in the 2021-22 season. She was also named to the 2021-22 OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll.

Burpo's teammate, junior forward Katelyn Young, was recognized for the fourth time this season as MVC Player of the Week. Young is averaging 21.9 points, 2.2 assists and 8.6 rebounds per game this year. She also has the most 30+ point games in the MVC with six.

Two of Young's 30+ point performances came from this weekend, which made the decision of who will get this week's Player of the Week award much easier. Young scored 34 in the Racers' 92-86 loss to Missouri State on Friday, Feb. 17 and 31 against SIU on Sunday.

Young's scoring frenzy only resulted in one win from the weekend, though. The narrow loss to the Missouri State Bears and the



Senior forward Alexis Burpo and junior forward Katelyn Young add to a historic season for the Racers in their win over SIU on Sunday.

83-69 win over the Salukis have the Racers in seventh place in the MVC with an overall record of 13-12 and a conference record of 6-10.

Murray State has had an up-and-down season, struggling mightily against conference opponents on the road, going 1-7. There is plenty to cheer about, though: the Racers have had an impressive first year in the new conference and are fully capable to upset one of the higher seeds come tournament time.

Before the MVC Tournament starts, the Racers have four more games to play.

Murray State's next game is at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23 as they host the Drake University Bulldogs. The Bulldogs are fifth in the MVC with an overall record of 16-8 and a conference record of 11-5.

The Racers fell to the Bulldogs 80-67 in the Jan. 8 meeting between the two teams. The Bulldogs shot 50% from the field in the matchup. Senior guard Sarah Beth Gueldner and senior forward Maggie Bair put up 18 points each in the win over Murray State.

Unless Drake loses all of its remaining games and UIC wins every game left in the regular season, the top five seeds are set. With four games left, the Racers have plenty to play for, though. Conference seeding is based off a team's conference record, and in the case of a tied conference record, their overall record plays.

The highest the Racers could climb in the MVC standings is the sixth seed. Murray State would have to win two games more than the Flames within the next four matchups to avoid a tie-breaker.

On the flip side, the Racers will have to win the same amount of games or more than the University of Evansville and SIU to stay in sixth place. These next four games will have a heavy influence on Murray State's seeding.

The Racers currently have the same conference record as Evansville and SIU. However, Murray State has two more overall wins than Evansville and four more than SIU. Meaning if the three teams all end up with the same conference record, the Racers would be the highest-seeded team in the MVC Tournament among the three.

It's crunch time in the college basketball world. This is the time of year that fans love. Teams go on Cinderella runs, get their hearts broken and everything in between.

Murray State ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

Shann Riley/The News

FEB. 23

Women's Basketball vs. Drake @ Murray, KY

6 p.m.

FEB. 24

Tennis vs. Samford @ Birmingham, AL

2 p.m.

Baseball vs. Alabama Birmingham @ Birmingham, AL

2 p.m.

Softball vs. Ball State @ Murray, KY

2:30 p.m.

Softball vs. Miami (OH) @ Murray, KY

4:45 p.m.

FEB. 25

Tennis vs. South Alabama @ Birmingham, AL

2 p.m.

Women's Basketball vs. Northern Iowa @ Murray, KY

2 p.m.

Baseball vs. Alabama Birmingham @ Birmingham, AL

2 p.m.

Softball vs. Ball State @ Murray, KY

3:45 p.m.

Softball vs. Loyola Chicago @ Murray, KY

6 p.m.

FEB. 26

Track vs. MVC Indoor Championship @ Chicago, IL

ALL DAY

Baseball vs. Alabama Birmingham @ Birmingham, AL

1 p.m.

Softball vs. Bellarmine @ Murray, KY

2:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. Valparaiso @ Murray, KY

3 p.m.

FEB. 27

Track vs. MVC Indoor Championship @ Chicago, IL

ALL DAY

Women's Golf vs. Long Beach @ Mission Viejo, CA

ALL DAY

FEB. 28

Women's Golf vs. Long Beach @ Mission Viejo, CA

ALL DAY

Baseball vs. Kent State @ Murray, KY

3 p.m.

Sophomore Carson Garner, baseball
Photo courtesy of Rebeca Mertins

For more information
visit GoRacers.com



Shakespeare Festival seeks to engage community

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Following a two-year hiatus during COVID-19, the Department of English and Philosophy will hold its annual Shakespeare Festival on March 9-10,

The festival, which began in 2000, aims to engage local K-12 students and the campus community through live Shakespeare performances.

English Department and Festival Chair Rusty Jones said he started preparing for the event eight months in advance.

"The trick to the whole thing was we were still coming out of COVID, really, when I started the planning of it," Jones said.

"The concern was that the high schools, the middle schools, the ones who bring large groups to the festival would still be a little bit shy about attending a large event."

But, Jones said he feels confident in the level of community engagement.

"Some schools are still really hesitant to go out and to join large groups," Jones said. "Others are seeing it as an opportunity to go back to the style of teaching and learning that they were doing pre-pandemic."

This year, Kentucky Shakespeare, a nonprofit based in Louisville, will perform "Hamlet" in Lovett Auditorium on March 8-9 at 10 a.m. and March 10 at 7 p.m. Tickets for students and staff with an ID are \$5, and general admission tickets are \$10. Tickets will be

The Murray State Shakespeare Festival and Kentucky Shakespeare present

HAMLET



\$5.00 for MSU students & faculty with ID

\$10.00 general admission

MARCH 8 & 9 @ 10AM | MARCH 10 @ 7PM

LOVETT AUDITORIUM

Questions? Contact Dr. Rusty Jones: wjones1@murraystate.edu / 270-809-2397

Photo courtesy of @murraystateenglish on Instagram
The 23rd annual Murray Shakespeare Festival features a performance of 'Hamlet' and several other events exploring the writing of William Shakespeare.

available in the box office of the auditorium before each performance.

A panel of four students from Jones' Shakespeare class will each present on a different topic related to "Hamlet." The panel is set for March 10 at 3 p.m. in the Waterfield Library Gallery.

Though the festival has never included a student panel before, Jones says faculty members are excited at the prospect.

"This is, ultimately, something that I think is going to become a tradition," Jones said. "I think it's going to open up a whole new avenue for students in our department...the idea is to start a movement in our

department to get more panels like this, where there are student interactions with professors, and the students are actually able to publicly present their ideas."

The festival also will include a psychology panel titled "Hamlet and the Best Methods for Coping with Grief." The panel, slated for March 9 from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Waterfield Library Gallery, will feature psychology professors Michael Bordieri and Gage Jordan, Counseling Center director Angie Trzepacz and Jones as moderator.

The panel will use "Hamlet" to prompt a discussion about mental health, Jones said.

"The goal is really not to talk

about Hamlet's problems but just to use him as a way to say, 'Here we see examples of depression and grief and suicidal ideation'...and what can the psychology department offer to people as ways to cope," Jones said.

After the panel, actors from Kentucky Shakespeare will lead an acting workshop called "Hip Hop Shakespeare" from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Playhouse in the Park Annex at 907 Arcadia Circle.

The festival began working with Kentucky Shakespeare because of the interesting work he saw them doing out of Louisville, Jones said.

"They were touring around that area in the east, and I was getting a lot of really good feedback from the tours," Jones said. "They do really strong work with a relatively small touring company, and they're really good at creating an accessible Shakespeare."

The festival has a tradition of placing chairs on the stage so students can watch performances intimately, Jones said.

"It's really an opportunity that students don't get that often, and they're not just sort of sitting in Lovett Auditorium quietly," Jones said. "We're really pleased to bring this back and to have it as an opportunity for both the students at Murray State and for the community."

For more information about the festival or to reserve tickets for a large group, email Jones at wjones1@murraystate.edu or call (270) 809-2397.

Research shows link between nightmares, suicide

Professor shares work in lecture

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A Feb. 16 psychology lecture shed light on the connection between nightmares and suicide.

The lecture titled "Sour Dreams: The Negative Effects of Nightmares and Interventions to Combat Them." featured Mississippi State University Professor Michael Nadorff, who specializes in suicidal behavior and behavioral sleep medicine.

His interest in studying suicide began because his grandmother ended her own life in 1976. This "family secret" motivated Nadorff to explore the psychological motivations behind suicide.

"It just made me really wonder, how does someone get to the point that they're so miserable that they think of ending their life?" Nadorff said.

Nadorff has over 90 peer-reviewed publications and \$8.7 million in grants. His research and clinical practice focuses on how to treat nightmares and consequently reduce the risk of suicide in patients.

Nadorff first encountered an association between nightmares and suicide in a 2006 study, which concluded nightmares are associated with suicidal ideation after controlling for depression. He said he was not impressed with the methods used in the study and decided to try similar research on his own.

To Nadorff's surprise, he found similar results, even after controlling for other variables like anxiety and



Dr. Michael Nadorff is an associate professor and the director of the clinical psychology Ph.D. program at Mississippi State University.

PTSD. He said this information was valuable for suicide prevention.

"I got thinking about it," Nadorff said. "Why don't we do nightmare treatments for those who are suicidal if they have nightmares?"

The lecture, part of the Brummer Colloquium Series, summarized the various studies Nadorff continued to conduct on the subject. One of these studies controlled for the Interpersonal-Psychological Theory of Suicide, the most popular theory for why suicide occurs. Nadorff said he thought was given too much importance in explaining suicide.

"There's a little ego when you come up with a theory, so the authors who came up with the theory thought they had fully explained suicide," Nadorff

said. "Controlling for that entire theory, nightmares were still significant."

Pharmacological and behavioral treatments can reduce nightmares. Nadorff said his clinical practice involves imagery rehearsal therapy, a type of cognitive behavioral therapy that asks patients to vividly imagine alternate endings for their recurrent nightmares.

"This treatment is so simple, you won't believe me that it works," Nadorff said.

Nadorff noted many people who suffer from frequent nightmares do not disclose the problem to their healthcare provider. He said he hopes to raise awareness about the adverse effects of nightmares through lectures like this one.

"One of the problems we run into is that people don't realize that either their nightmares are abnormal or that something can be done," Nadorff said. "I think one of the promising things about this isn't just that we know nightmares are important, but this is something we can do something about."

Held in Freed Curd Auditorium, the Brummer Colloquia are made possible by Gary Brummer and his wife, Sharon. The next event in the series will take place in Freed Curd Auditorium at 5:30 p.m. on March 16.

Anyone struggling with suicidal thoughts is encouraged to contact the national Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by dialing 988.



(Clockwise from left) 'Flourish 3' print by Marilee Salvator; 'Seussian Bloom' sculpture by Lauren Kussro; botanical inspired sculpture by Lauren Kussro and digital print, fiberglass and latex paint piece by Laura Berman appear in 'Meeting of Makers: Merging of Space' in the Clara M. Eagle Gallery.

Jayden Hayn and Brock Culp/The News

COVID-19 inspires collaboration in art exhibition

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After spending the early parts of their graduate studies in the isolation of COVID-19, two graduate students at Northern Illinois University co-curated an art exhibit aimed at exploring collaboration within the artistic community.

The "Meeting of Makers: Merging of Space" exhibit was displayed in the Eagle Gallery from Jan. 24 to Feb. 22, and was curated by Rachel Beer and Alex Bridges, both of whom are pursuing their Masters of Fine Arts Degree.

The inspiration for the exhibit came from a mutual desire to expand their network following the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Beer and Bridges joint curatorial statement,

"We realized we were longing to extend our circle beyond just ourselves," Beer and Bridges wrote. "After some thought, we came to the idea of bringing together the works of the artists who inspired and challenged us to continue making it through this difficult time."

The exhibit features the work of seven artists and explores a plethora of artistic styles, mediums and themes.

One artist featured in the exhibit is Marilee Salvator, Associate Professor of Printmaking and Design at Western Kentucky University. Salvator contributed a piece titled "Flourish 3" to the exhibit.

Salvator created the prints used in Flourish 3 while on sabbatical from WKU in two different art residencies in New Mexico. Salvator says her work was heavily inspired by nature and the colors of the desert landscape.

"My work has long been an examination of the natural world through the lens

of microbiology; I search for structural commonalities between invasive plants in ecosystems and invasive diseases in the human body," Salvator wrote in her artist statement.

The paper on which the prints appear also provides commentary into nature and the resilience of Earth, according to Salvator.

"The paper I use is translucent; appearing delicate and fragile, but its long fibers make it resilient to manipulation," Salvator says. "Its strength is a commentary on how strong our Earth has been; yet it is desperately in need of our protection and intervention."

Nature plays a key role in the work of another featured artist, Lauren Kussro. Kussro, an assistant professor of art and design at the University of Houston Clear Lake, explores botanical imagery through her work.

"At the heart of my work is a love and appreciation of nature from the micro to the macro, and a desire for the natural world to be renewed and restored from its current state," wrote Kussro in her artist statement.

Kussro contributed both prints and sculptures to the exhibit. Some of her work featured includes "Azure Chrysalis," "Whirligig I" and "Seussian Bloom."

Many of the works contributed by Kussro feature bright pops of color, which according to Kussro, is an integral part of her work.

"I find myself becoming increasingly sensitive to the nuances of colors, the way they interact, and what they can communicate," Kussro wrote. "I see colors functioning much the same way notes do in music — the wrong color combination is like having an off-key note or a flawed chord."

In sharp contrast to the artists exploring nature, artist Masha Ryskin explores the human condition and the idea of displacement.

According to Ryskin's artist statement, the exploration of displacement stems from her growing up in the Soviet Union and immigrating to the United States.

"I employ printmaking

processes to investigate the idea of finding one's way and identity in unfamiliar settings while taking bits and pieces of my surroundings and assemble them into imaginary spaces," Ryskin wrote. "The works speak to the search for belonging and sense of connection."

Ryskin contributed a collection of prints titled "Timeless Passages" to the exhibit. The prints are on "imperfect," unsymmetrical pieces of paper, which Ryskin says, speaks on the fragile, fleeting nature of the

human condition.

In addition to the artists mentioned, the exhibit also features the work of Nandini Chirimar, Holly and Al Wong, Claire Whitehurst and Laura Berman.

These artists explore a variety of themes including daily life as a mother and homemaker, the relationship between the physical and the emotional and the beauty of discovery.

To stay up to date with future exhibitions in the Eagle Gallery, follow @murraystateartart on Instagram.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

DOWN

1. Wilma Rudolph
2. Rebecca Lee Crumpler
4. Matthew Henson
6. Marsha P. Johnson
7. Dred Scott
8. Gil Scott-Heron
10. Ruby Bridges

ACROSS

3. Henrietta Lacks
5. Billie Holiday
8. Gwendolyn Brooks
9. Sister Rosetta Tharpe
11. bell hooks
12. Fritz Pollard
13. Max Robinson



Shann Riley/The News