



THE MURRAY STATE  
**NEWS**

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# Welcome Back, Racers!



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY



# Editors herald changes at The News



Ed Rode

Jakob Milani  
Co-Editor in Chief/Sports Editor  
Senior, journalism major

The fall semester is officially underway, and we are so happy to be back.

A lot of changes are happening on campus this year. Students may notice a new look to the pedestrian bridge, and renovations to the Curris Center that took place over the summer.

As for us at The News, we've got some big changes happening this year as well!

First and most importantly, rather than our usual weekly print editions that everyone has come to know, we've opted to swap to a monthly print edition, in an effort to put our best writing out every month for everyone to read.

Along with this comes a change to focus more on our website (TheNews.org) as well. Stories will go up on the website throughout the week, highlighting news around campus, student life and activities, updates and announcements about events, and of course sports updates, previews and recaps.

The News also aims to produce more multimedia content that resonates with the Murray State community. This includes videos, photos and eventually audio.

We plan on being more active on social media by incorporating polls, showcasing photos and videos, and by sharing our stories with our followers. We want to highlight what Murray State students are doing and showcase their achievements.

This is a new era at The Murray State News. We are so excited to continue sharing stories important to the Murray State community.



Ed Rode

Jill Smith  
Co-Editor in Chief/News Editor  
Graduate student, mass communications

## Editorial Board

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The News welcomes commentaries and letters to the editor. Submissions should be 600 words or less, and contributors should include phone numbers for verification. Please include hometown, classification and title or relationship to the University. The News reserves the right to edit for style, length and content. No anonymous contributions will be accepted. All contributions should be turned in by noon on Monday of each week via email to msu.the-

news@murraystate.edu.

Contributions to *The News* are the opinion of the author and not that of *The Murray State News*. *The News* is a designated public forum. Student editors have authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval. The paper offers a hands-on learning environment for students interested in journalism.

*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.

# Meet the Fall 2023 Editorial Board



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Creative writing and journalism major



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Political science major



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# Campus gains facelift during summer

**Jillian Smith**

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As the fall semester kicks off, students will notice many upgrades around Murray State's campus that were completed over the summer.

Several notable projects occurred during the summer, including continued renovations to the Curris Center and fence repairs to the Chestnut Pedestrian Bridge.

Jason Youngblood, director of facilities management, said other projects included LED lighting upgrade to the CFSB Center, room renovations to the top three floors of Regents Hall, renovations in Sorority Suites, renovations to football offices, team rooms & showers, and indoor pitching/batting facility in Stewart Stadium; various exterior building cleanings to Wells Hall, Racer Arena, Wellness Center, CFSB Center, and Roy Stewart Stadium.

Youngblood said the bridge needed repairs to fix cracks and weak spots from years of water damage.

A new railing, walk surface and lighting were installed, in addition to brick columns located at each end of the bridge.

An estimated \$700,000 was spent on the bridge repairs and design.

The Curris Center will still be under construction during the fall semester, but students will notice immediate changes on the first and second level.

The Board of Regents approved a \$5.5 million budget for interior renovations in the Curris Center.

"The floors have been completely replaced with new polished concrete, there will eventually be inlaid MSU logos in the floor at the entrances, some new acoustic treatments to the ceilings and a new information desk on the first floor," Youngblood said. "There will soon be more color added with Murray State logos and branding throughout."

Youngblood said there is no current end date for construction in the Curris Center, but he expects major renovations to end later this fall.

Bobby Kohler, space and project planner, said outdoor seating will be added to the northside of Winslow dining hall.

"We're doing some outdoor seating with covered pergola type units,



basically to provide shade, not really rainfall coverage," Kohler said. "There's also a solar charging seating arrangement, and [students] can charge their phone or laptop."

Eight to ten of these outdoor seating units will arrive later in the fall semester.

Residents living on the eighth through tenth floors of Regents Hall will have additional storage. All rooms have a new vanity and two new closet spaces, with a hanging rod for additional storage.

Youngblood said Facilities will begin exploring design options for several projects, including mechanical projects that may begin in the fall.

"We are also beginning the design of the ADA upgrades to Applied Science and Mason Hall [and] options for new housing are continuing to be explored," Youngblood said. "There will always... be various repairs and improvements to our buildings and greater campus area."

There are no major construction projects to begin during the fall semester.

Youngblood will present a comprehensive update on campus construction during the next Board of Regents meeting on Aug. 25.



Jill Smith/The News

Curris Center updates include an E-sports lounge and updated ADA accessibility.

# How to Stay Safe on Campus

**Bri Hunter**  
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The Murray State Police Department would like to remind returning students and inform new students how to remain safe on campus with the fall semester underway.

Chief of Police Ryan Orr said the department would like to maintain an open communication between the community and the department.

“Please feel free to call us anytime you need us,” Orr said. “Don’t ever feel like you are bothering us, we are here to provide safety to our campus community.”

There are multiple services offered by the Murray State Police to create a safe environment for students, faculty and staff. Some of these services are educational, build a community rapport and ensure the safety of everyone on campus.

The department pays for an app called LiveSafe, which is available on both iOS and Android app stores. LiveSafe allows users to communicate through other means, texting, calling and sending photos or videos.

Users of LiveSafe can request a Safewalk, which invites officers or another contact to walk home with the user in real time. Users are able to stay completely anonymous unless they choose to

turn on their location during an emergency or when reporting an incident.

An escort service is also provided by Racer Patrol student workers between 7 p.m. and 1 a.m., and if the Racer Patrol isn’t available an officer will provide the escort.

Racer Alert is a communication system used to alert the community of campus emergencies through text message, email, social media and on campus sirens.

Educational services provided by the department include alcohol awareness training, active aggressor training, campus safety and department overview, weather awareness and other programs as requested. There is a Ride-Along program where community members are able to ride along with officers as observers of law enforcement duties during a shift.

The services are provided by the department to not only create a safe campus community but to avoid future serious situations. Emergencies are still able to occur no matter how many services are offered, so it is important for anyone involved to remain as calm as possible.

Orr said although emergencies require rapid action, it is important to take actions to address the situation.

“One mistake that I have experienced is students not calling the police when



Bri Hunter/*The News*  
 Officer Thomas Reynolds speaking to new students at Racer Nation Orientation.

something occurs,” he said. “Please, if you see or experience something occurring on campus that needs police attention, call as soon as safely possible.”

Callboxes, blue light phones, are available throughout campus property and give a direct way to contact law enforcement if someone is unable to use their cellphone.

Orr said don’t hesitate to start a conversation with a patrolling officer, they are very friendly and love interacting with students.

For further information about campus safety, visit [murraystate.edu/police](http://murraystate.edu/police) or call the department at (270) 809-2222.

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In particular and without limiting the preceding and pursuant to and consistent with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its regulations 34 CFR 100 et seq.; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its regulations 34 CFR 104; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC 1681 et seq., and its regulations 34 CFR 106 et seq.; and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and its regulations 34 CFR 110, Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its educational programs and activities. This non-discrimination in education programs and activities extends to employment and admissions and to recruitment, financial aid, academic programs, student services, athletics, and housing. Murray State is required by Title IX and 34 CFR part 106 not to discriminate on the basis of sex and the prohibition against sex discrimination specifically includes a prohibition of sexual harassment and sexual violence. Examples of prohibited sexual harassment and sexual violence can be found in the “Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment” which can be accessed via the link referenced in Appendix I of the Reporting Allegations of Discrimination and Discrimination Grievance Procedures.

Degree and Certificate programs available include: Accounting; Advertising; Agricultural Education; Agriculture; Animal and Equine Science; Animal Health; Art; Biology; Business Administration; Career and Technical Education; Chemistry; Civil and Sustainability Engineering; Civil Engineering Technology; Clinical Psychology; Communication Disorders; Computer Information Systems; Computer Science; Construction Management and Architecture; Counseling; Criminal Justice; Culture and Language Studies; Cybersecurity Analyst; Cybersecurity and Network Management; Cybersecurity Management; Diverse Student Populations; Dual Credit and Transitional English; Earth and Environmental Sciences; Economic Development; Economics; Education Administration; Electromechanical Engineering Technology; Elementary Education; Engineering Physics; English; English Pedagogy; Exercise Science; Finance; Fine Art Photography; Forensic Accounting; French Language and Culture; Game Design; General Experimental Psychology; General Studies; Geographic Information Science; Geospatial Data Science; German Language and Culture; Global Language; Graphic Communications Media; Health and Physical Education; Health Communication; Higher Education Assessment; History; Human Development and Leadership; Human Services; Industrial Technology; Information Systems; Integrated Studies; Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education; International Studies; Japanese Language and Culture; Journalism; Learning and Behavior Disorders; Library Media; Logistics and Supply Chain Management; Management; Manufacturing Engineering Technology; Marketing; Mass Communications; Mathematics; Medical and Health Humanities; Middle School Education; Museum Studies; Music; Music Business; Nonprofit Leadership Studies; Nursing; Nutrition and Dietetics; Occupational Safety and Health; Occupational Therapy; Organizational Communication; P-20 and Community Leadership; Physics; Political Science; Portuguese Language and Culture; Postsecondary Education Administration; Psychology; Public Administration; Public and Community Health; Public Relations; Reading and Writing; Research Design and Analysis; Respiratory Therapy; School Counseling; Social Work; Sociology; Spanish Language and Culture; Special Education; Speech-Language Pathology; Student Affairs; Sustainability Science; Teacher Leader; Teacher Leader, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages; Television Production; Theatre; Unmanned Aerial Systems; Veterinary Hospital Management; Wildlife and Conservation Biology; Wildlife Technician.

Admission criteria include, but are not limited to the following: For undergraduates: for unconditional admission, an accredited high school diploma or GED, ACT minimum of 18/SAT minimum of 960, high school class rank minimum of upper half or 2.75 GPA; and a pre-college curriculum. For transfers: a minimum cumulative GPA of a 2.00 on a 4.00 scale. For graduate students: unconditional admission, a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution to be admitted. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on a 4.00 scale, and a minimum combined GRE score defined by department. International undergraduate students must meet one of the following criteria to suffice English Language proficiency requirements: IELTS overall score of 6.0 (5.5 for full admission with condition), TOEFL overall score of 71 (61 for full admission with condition), SAT score of 960, GTEC overall score of 1190 (1100 for full admission with condition), PTE overall score of 51 (45 for full admission with condition), Duolingo English Test overall score of 100 or higher (90 for full admission with condition), TOEIC overall score of 790 or higher with 160 or higher speaking (700 with 140 or higher speaking for full admission with condition), Kaplan English Certificate Advanced Level (Higher Intermediate Level for full admission with condition), Admission to or Completion of the ESL Program at Murray State University, OR Degree from a secondary school located in a country where English is the native language\* OR British / Cambridge International Examinations: GCE, GCSE, IGCSE, AICE, HIGCSE certificate with five O-Level subject passes, or a level of B-2 or higher on the Cambridge English exam; Completion of one semester of full-time university level classes (minimum of 12 credit hours) with a 2.5 GPA or higher at an accredited US institution, OR students from the following countries are not required to submit English proficiency scores: Antigua, Australia, Bahamas, Belize, British Islands, Cameroon (University of Buea and University of Bamenda), Canada, Ghana, Ireland, Kenya, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, and the United Kingdom. International graduate programs may have higher admission requirements.

For more information concerning the application of these provisions may be referred to: 1) the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Access, Murray State University Title IX Coordinator, Murray State University, 103 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071 Telephone: (270) 809-3155 Fax: (270) 809-6887; TDD: (270) 809-3361; Email: [msu.titleix@murraystate.edu](mailto:msu.titleix@murraystate.edu); or 2) to the Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Education, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20202-1100; Telephone: 1-800-421-3481, Fax: 202-453-6012; TDD: 1-800-877-8339; Email: [OCR@ed.gov](mailto:OCR@ed.gov). For more information, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access, 103 Wells Hall, 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).

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# Fee to enhance student life

**Jillian Smith**

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Students may have noticed an additional \$100 added to their fall semester bill. This additional fee is here to stay, but promises to benefit student life on campus.

The Racer Experience Fee is a \$100 per semester assessed to students enrolled in all on-campus courses and enrolled in five or more credit hours, according to the Murray State's website.

Jackie Dudley, vice president of finance and administrative services, said the fee will support both student services and student life as well as aiding recruitment and retention.

"Some of these enhancements include an added mental health counselor for our on-campus Student Counseling Center, increased funding for Student Government Association programming, scholarship support [and] athletics student programming," Dudley said. "In addition, the University will be opening an eSports Center in the Curris Center in early fall and these funds will support the operations of this facility."

All Murray State students will have access to the E-Sports facility at no added costs.

Amber Mathis, a sophomore nursing major, said when she received her bill in July, she called the Financial Aid office asking about this fee.

"They had told me it was a fee for supporting things on campus like mental health services, and different services for students," Mathis said. "I believe that the fee is \$100, which is affordable, but I do believe that Murray State should be more transparent about where these fees are going."

Mathis said she believes the fee will benefit students but urges the University to be more transparent.

"I know several parents are upset that this 'random' unexplained charge was put on [student] accounts," Mathis said. "This charge could be a real problem for parents or students that are struggling to pay for Murray State out of pocket."

Prior to the Board of Regents meeting, the fee was discussed with the Student Government Association and supported by Student Regent Ellie McGowan.

Dudley said this fee was also presented to the University Budget Advisory Committee, which included two SGA representatives, and the campus-wide Town Hall meeting. Both meetings were held in April before classes ended for the 22-23 academic year.

The Racer Experience Fee was approved by the Board of Regents on June 2, 2023.

Mathis hopes this fee will benefit student support programs, like Student Support Services (SSS).

"I really hope that they end up giving the money to services like [SSS], and for tutoring," Mathis said. "Do I personally think that I will see my \$100 in action?...I'm leaning towards thinking that I will not, but after this year is over I do believe I will have a more clear answer to that."

Dudley said this fee ensures student services and programming continue at an increased rate.

"These are vitally important to ensuring the recruitment and retention of students and to ensure they have a quality college experience," Dudley said. "Murray State has the third lowest tuition in the Commonwealth, just above Morehead and Kentucky State Universities."

This fee will bring in an estimated \$1 million per fiscal year to help enhance student life and student life on campus.

## How is the Racer Experience Fee being allocated?

- Mental Health Counselor
- Scholarship Support
- Student Government Programming
- Athletic Student Programming
- E-Sports Lounge

The fee will bring in an estimated \$1 million.

Jill Smith/*The News*

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# Parking Services reminds of rules

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With the 2023-2024 academic year approaching, anyone wanting to park their vehicle on Murray State's campus will need to register their vehicle and purchase a virtual parking permit from Parking Services.

Vehicle registrations are valid for the fall, spring, and summer semesters. Registration is required for each new academic year and registrations are available through the NuPark Portal on myGate.

The process requires the student's name, Murray State ID or driver's license, home address, vehicle year, make, model and color, license plate number and the state and county the vehicle is registered.

There are four colored parking zones across campus that have corresponding permits.

Full-time Faculty and Staff can purchase a Blue parking permit. Students living in College Courts or the North Residential Complex can purchase the Yellow permit. Commuter students or residents in Regents or White can purchase the Red permit. Anyone wanting to park at Stewart Stadium, Hamilton Field, Hamilton North, Sorority Suites or West Farm can purchase a Economy/Purple permit for \$100. Yellow, Blue and Red permits cost \$200.

Students with any parking permit may park in Blue zones south of Chestnut Street after 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and all day on weekends.

Anyone with a Yellow, Red, or Blue permit can park in the Purple/Economy zone.

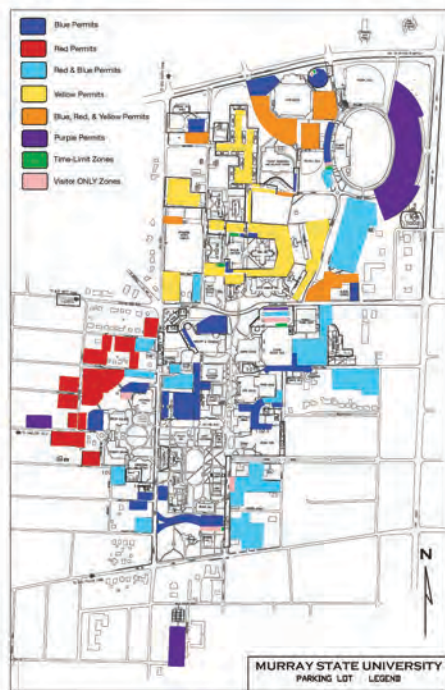
Parking is allowed at the Curris Center from 5 p.m. to midnight for all spaces with a valid V-Permit. Any color V-Permit can park in CFSB C Lot to access the Wellness Center Monday through Friday, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., unless there is a Murray State Athletic or special event.

While bicycles aren't required to register with Parking Services, it is encouraged in the event the bicycle were to be stolen or lost.

Needed for the registration process are the bicycle's serial number, frame size, wheel size and registration sticker placement on the longest bar of the bike's frame. The make, style, and color of the bike is not required but recommended.

Visitors to the campus can register for a free guest parking permit. However, multiple violations with no attempt to acquire a guest permit can result in visitor citations being sent for collection or towing of the vehicle at the owner's expense.

Parking is strictly enforced 24/7, with numerous rules and regulations for visitors, students, faculty and staff to follow. License plates must be visible at all times, as it will serve as your proof of permit.



Courtesy of Parking Services

While there were no price or regulation changes for the 2023-2024 academic year, any changes that potentially occur will be communicated to the campus.

Parking Manager Katrina Carr said she urges students not to park in accessible parking spaces unless accommodations have already been made with Student Disability Services.

Some notable violations include \$100 fine for fire lane blocking or parking, \$250 fine for obstructing disability access, \$100 fine for falsely registering a vehicle and \$90 fine for incorrect parking in a visitor parking space.

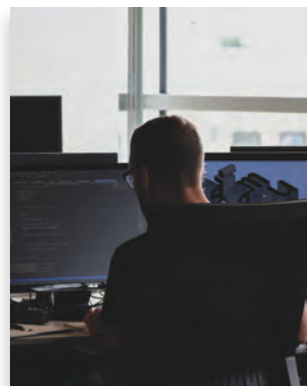
For some violations, Murray State offers an alternative way for individuals to pay fines.

The Pay It Forward program allows individuals to donate food and hygiene items instead of paying select fines, with the donations going to the Racers Helping Racers Food Pantry.

A limited number of violations eligible for this program include non-registration, obstructing traffic, parking in the wrong zone, improper license plate displaying, improper parking and parking against the flow of traffic.

Individuals can only participate in Pay It Forward once a semester with the donation made within 30 days of the citation issue date and not be actively pending an appeal.

More information about Murray States Parking Services can be found at [www.murraystate.edu/parking](http://www.murraystate.edu/parking) or by calling their office at 270-809-4812.



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If you have interest in our Southern Illinois Expansion visit us at the Saluki Job Fair August 23rd at 1:30 p.m. in the SIU Student Center.





Jill Smith/The News

Terrapin Station



Jill Smith/The News

Future Grounds



Jill Smith/The News

Bolin Books



Jill Smith/The News

Murray Art Guild



Jill Smith/The News

Downtown Farmer's Market

# 5 Fun Things to Do in Murray

Have you been looking for something fun to do around town? Well, look no further.

From student-loved coffee shops to fresh produce markets, here are five fun places you can visit in Murray.

By Ava Chuppe/Senior Writer

# 1

**T**errapin Station has served as Murray's local record shop since 1985. The founders opened it after touring the country and finding that Murray lacked representation of their newfound values after returning home. According to its website, the store "[draws] inspiration from the free spirit and progressive thinking of the West Coast" and sells DVDs, video games, VHS, clothing, incense and more.

# 2

**S**ince 2006, the family-owned Future Grounds has sold organic coffee near campus. In addition to their array of hot and cold coffee drinks, the shop also offers teas, smoothies, pastries and more. Customers have the option to place their orders online for in-store pickup, allowing for speeding coffee-runs. White College also voted Future Grounds as the best coffee shop in Murray.

# 3

**L**ocated downtown, the recently opened BolinBooks sells used, vintage and rare books, including fiction, nonfiction and children's sections. Wesley Bolin founded the shop with his wife, Whitney, after he and his father Dwane talked for years about someday opening a bookstore. Though Dwane Bolin passed suddenly in 2022, the owners "renewed [their] efforts to bring Bolin Books to life following his passing and have dedicated the store in his honor and memory," according to the store's website.

# 4

**T**he Murray Art Guild (MAG) has housed artworks from members of the community since 1967. As a nonprofit, it administers art programming to local residents, as well as hosting community studios and an art market. The MAG relies on volunteers, providing a service opportunity for students interested in art. It also hires one student intern each year. On Nov. 18, the MAG will hold its 42nd Annual Holiday Sale, where local artists can earn commissions from selling their works to the public.

# 5

**T**he Downtown Farmers Market, held on Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. from May until October, began in 1998. Initially, it featured only a few vendors of produce, crafts and animals but has since grown to become a community tradition. During its peak in the summer months, the market now hosts around 50 vendors. These vendors sell anything from sweet corn to handmade wood carvings, showcasing the green thumbs and artistic minds of the community.



# Welcome Racers!

With the Fall 2023 semester underway, the University is reporting near record enrollment for first time freshmen. Data shows the University's overall enrollment includes representation from all 50 states and 55 countries, according to a University press release.

Housing will also be near or at capacity, with the University securing additional off-campus housing for a small number of upperclassmen students.



Rebeca Mertins-Chidoni/The News  
Students are enjoying the beautiful day as they walk to classes



Rebeca Mertins-Chidoni/The News  
Students scrolling through posters at the annual poster sale

Rebeca Mertins-Chidoni/The News  
Students scrolling through posters at the annual poster sale



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# Preview: Fall sports get rolling

## Racer teams look forward to season

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There's never a break in action when it comes to sports at Murray State. With the fall semester starting up, many students and fans have turned their eyes towards the fall sports starting soon.

Whether it's volleyball, soccer and cross country, or the start of golf and rifle, sports fans can find joy in knowing there's plenty of events to attend.

## Football: New conference, new challenge, same goal

The big sport for many fans in the fall is football. This season, the Racers are headed to the Missouri Valley Football Conference (MVFC), taking on talent that tops the NCAA FCS every season.

After a 2-9 finish to an injury riddled 2022 season, the Racers will have to compete at a much higher standard in 2023. In preseason polls, Murray State was picked to finish second-to-last in the new conference. With five players earning Phil Steele Preseason All-MVFC nods and two players receiving honorable mentions in the official MVFC polls, the Racers look to flip the script.

On the offensive side, junior offensive lineman DJ Jones was named to the Preseason All-MVFC second team, while senior offensive lineman Jacob Frye was picked for the All-MVFC fourth team. Junior wide receiver Taylor Shields



rounds out the offense, also getting fourth-team honors.

For the defense, linebacker duo junior Cade Shupperd and sophomore Cody Goatley were both picked for All-MVFC honors, with Shupperd being named to the second team and Goatley being named to the third team.

In the polls for coaches, directors and media, Frye and Shields each earned honorable mentions for the All-MVFC team.

Murray State kicks off the 2023 season at home in Roy Stewart Stadium with a celebration for one thousand games played. The Racers host the Presbyterian College Blue Hose on Saturday, Sept. 2, for the first game of the season, with kickoff set for 6 p.m.

For week two, the Racers travel east on Thursday, Sept. 7, to take on the University of Louisville Cardinals at 6:30 p.m.

Conference play officially begins on Saturday, Sept. 30, as the Racers host Indiana State for Family Weekend. Kickoff against the Sycamores is set for 6 p.m.

Homecoming falls on Saturday, Oct. 14, this season. Murray State hosts Southern Illinois for the big day, with the game commencing at 2 p.m. To close out the season, Murray State hosts Youngstown State for Senior Day. Kickoff for the game will be at 1 p.m.

With big competitors like North Dakota, North Dakota State, South Dakota State and others being in the same conference now, Murray State has a large mountain to climb, but with a good amount of returning players, a fresh group of recruits and five players getting All-MVFC nods, the chance to make some noise is always there for the Blue and Gold.



Photos courtesy of Racer Athletics

Top - The offensive gets set for a play against Ball State University.

Above - Senior kicker Aaron Baum hopes for a field goal.

# Volleyball: Flipping the MVC script

**Ronan Summer**  
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After an 8-10 conference finish in 2022, the Murray State Racers volleyball team now understands what MVC competition looks like.

The Racers went 12-17 last year and their season ended in the first round of the MVC Tournament as they fell 3-0 to Valparaiso. Head Coach David Schwepker and his team will look to improve from last year's seventh place conference finish.

Murray State will also look to improve how the start of its season goes this year. Last year, they lost five of their first seven conference matches. With a better start to the year, the Racers' fortunes could look different this time around.

The Racers will host the first game of the season as they play the Evansville Aces at 6 p.m., Friday, Sep. 22. Murray State and Evansville played twice last year, splitting the season series 1-1.

Murray State will travel to Carbondale, Illinois on Friday, Oct. 6 to play the SIU Salukis at 6 p.m. The Salukis beat the Racers both of the times they played and

finished in fourth place in conference standings last year.

The Drake Bulldogs will travel to Murray at 6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 20. The Bulldogs had the best overall record in the conference as they went 30-8, but finished second in the standings as they had the second best conference record. The Racers fell to the Bulldogs 3-0 last year in the one game played between the two teams.

The Racers will then host the Northern Iowa Panthers at 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 21. The Panthers finished in first place in the conference standings with a 17-1 record and defeated the Racers 3-1 last year.

The final home game of the season will be at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 15, against Belmont University. Murray State and Belmont split the series last year 1-1. The MVC Tournament will be held from Sunday, Nov. 19 through Wednesday, Nov. 22.

Murray State's season officially starts on Friday, Aug. 25 where they face Cleveland State and Tennessee State in the Leatherneck Classic. The Racers go on to play the host of the tournament, Western Illinois University, on Saturday, Aug. 26.



Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

The volleyball team celebrates after a victory in Racer Arena.

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## Soccer: Repeat surprise success

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Despite finishing in eighth place in the conference last year, the Murray State soccer team had a postseason surge that landed them all the way into the finals of the MVC Tournament in 2022.

Led by Head Coach Matt Lodge, the 2022 Murray State soccer team played its first season in the Missouri Valley Conference, achieving a record of 7-12-3 with a conference record of 3-5-2.

The Racers sneaked into the tournament as the bottom seed. After defeating Drake 1-0 and SIU 2-1, the Racers were in the semifinals to face off against Valparaiso University. The Racers advanced, defeating Valparaiso University 1-0 thanks to sophomore midfielder Mary Hardy's goal that was assisted by graduate defender Saraya Young.

Murray State lost to Missouri State in the finals 1-0 to end their season, but there was plenty to be proud of to keep their heads held high.

Young led the Racers in points with 16 total points, the second most in the MVC. She will be returning in 2023, alongside Hardy. Hardy had 12 points last season, the second most on her team and tied for fifth most in the conference.

There were eight freshmen added to the roster this year to help make up for the five departing Racers from last year's team. Although there has been some turnover roster wise, most of last year's team that went on the tournament run is still intact. This creates higher expectations for 2023.

The first game of the season will be on Cutchin Field on Friday, Aug. 18 against Grambling State. The Racers will travel to play the University of Kentucky in their #FillTheHill game on Thursday, Aug. 24. Murray State will travel to play their rival UT Martin on Sunday, Sep. 3.

The Racers will play their first conference game at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17. It will be a meeting between the two teams that made the tournament finals last year when the Racers host the Missouri State Bears for Pups at the Pitch. The Racers defeated the Bears in the regular season last year 2-1 in Springfield.

Senior day will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 15, against SIU. The last home game of the season is against Drake University on Thursday, Oct. 19 at a time TBD. The Racers will travel to play Indiana State at 1 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 22, in their last game of the regular season.

The Racers made it all the way to the MVC Tournament finals in their first year in the conference, creating more excitement and expectations for this year.



Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

Freshman defenseman Reagan Tate (center) runs onto the pitch before the team's match.



Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

Junior McKenna Stahl stares down the hole while setting up a put shot.

## Golf: Teeing off with new faces

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The men's golf team had a very encouraging end to their season this past year, as junior Trey Lewis finished third at the Missouri Valley Conference Championship. As a whole, the team placed fifth in their very first try at the MVC championship, and they are only hoping to place higher as they gain more experience in the conference.

As for the 2023-24 roster, seven of the ten players on last year's team are returning, including two seniors: Walker Beck and Tyler Powell. There are three newcomers to the Murray State family, one of whom is the third and final senior on the team. Brady Haake comes as a transfer from the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs and was a two-time Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference selection before transferring.

On the other side of the program with the women's golf team, they are in the same boat as the men's team, as they finished fourth in their very first year in the Missouri Valley Conference Championship. The women's team also had a golfer

who impressed in the championship, and that player was senior Payton Carter. She was part of a three-way playoff to win the MVC championship, but she came up a bit short to Evansville's Kate Petrova. Despite that, Carter was named the MVC Golfer of the Year in her first year in the conference, and she looks to continue that success as one of the seniors on this year's roster.

The women's roster for this year has nine players from last year returning, and three newcomers to the program. These players include five seniors: Payton Carter, Lauren Gilchrist, Eliza Mae Kho, Emma Payne and Emily Shimkus.

The men's team will open their season on Sept. 10th, where they will visit Marshall University as they compete in the Joe Feaganes Marshall Invitational. The women's season will open at Paducah Country Club on Sept. 18th, where they will compete in "The Velvet," a tournament held to honor Coach Velvet Milkman and her career. Both teams will be looking to improve on their already impressive performances from their first year in the Missouri Valley Conference, and the seniors will be looking to lead their teams to the MVC championship, where the Racers can once again make waves in the conference.

Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

Sophomore Paola Paravatti stares down her target.



## Rifle: Shooting for the NCAAs

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The Murray State Rifle team has had much success in the past, as evident by winning their 17th OVC championship in February. Also, for the eighth time in the past nine seasons, The Racers were chosen as one of eight teams to compete for the NCAA championship, alongside the top-seeded TCU and two-time defending champions Kentucky.

Although the team ultimately came up short in the end, Murray State Rifle Team Head Coach Alan Lollar said in an article by Racer Athletics in March: “the margin for error at the

NCAA Championships is so small. It’s the difference of a couple of points here and there and it all adds up... We had a good year. We grew up a lot. I think we learned things about ourselves and what it takes to compete against the best that will be useful next year.”

This year, the team will be looking to carry over that success and growth, and translate it into even further improvement in order to add yet another conference championship to the already expansive trophy case that the program has.

The Racers have most of the team coming back for this season, as well as an important newcomer. That newcomer is Emma Lawrence, from Shelbyville, Kentucky, where she had a decorated career from 2019 to 2023. She and the rest of the Murray State Rifle team open their season on Oct. 1st against the Skyhawks of UT Martin at Pat Spurgin Rifle Range in Murray.



Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics  
Junior John Blanton lines up his shot.

## Cross Country: Making strides toward conference success

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The men’s Murray State cross country is coming off of a season that might not have been exactly what they were hoping for as far as the team as a whole goes, but with that said, that does not mean the season was without its upsides as well. For instance, at NCAA Regionals, juniors Jorge Ruiz, Vicente Correia and Jarrod Willis all improved their times and their finishing places from the year prior.

“The culture of the men’s team has made this season rewarding... Everyone is bought in and working hard for each other and I am happy with the season with everything that they’ve accomplished,” cross country Coach Jordan Johnston said.

The women’s team had a similar end to the year as the men’s team, but one good thing that the women’s team has going for them is that there were no seniors on the roster. This means that most will be

back, including their top finishers from this past year’s NCAA regionals, those being junior Ruth Kimutai as well as sophomores Samantha Tucci and Jocelyn Host. Based on the fact that this is a young team and that they can learn from this past season, they have the potential to make the necessary changes to improve going into next season.

“The women’s team is young and they have a unique opportunity to make the culture into what they want.. There were some positive things about this race and some things that we know we need to work on for next year. I see us walking away from this experience hungry to do better,” said Johnston.

Both the men’s and women’s Cross Country teams have the opportunity to do just that this season as they take what they learned from their first year in the new MVC and learn from it going into this season. Both teams will open their season on September 1st in Nashville against the rival Belmont Bruins.



Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

The women’s cross country team prepares for a race at the MVC Championships.



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