



2024 Election Analysis

- Coverage and opinions of national and local elections

Canvas Update Backlash

- Students unhappy with changes made to Canvas deadlines.

Proud to be Chahta

- Halito, Chahta ilefehnachi li.
(Translation: Hi, I'm proud to be Choctaw.)

Photo courtesy of Bianca Willson





The Murray State News is the award-winning student-run news organization at Murray State.

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Assignment due times may move to 5 p.m.

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Students' Canvas assignments could soon be due at 5 p.m., rather than 11:59 p.m. While midnight has been the default due time for assignments since 2013, a recent email from Student Services and Retention informed faculty that the default due time will soon be moved up.

Ashley Ireland, assistant provost and director of on-line learning, said the change is set to begin during the upcoming winter term.

"Ultimately, we see this as a real benefit for students," Ireland said. "However, it is important to clarify that this change affects only the default assignment time. Currently, the default Canvas due time is 11:59 p.m. when any assignment is created, unless instructors select otherwise. This change does not mean that all assignments will now be due at 5 p.m. This simply means that unless the instructor changes it when creating an assignment in Canvas, the due time will reflect 5 p.m."

The change comes at the recommendation of the University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) on student mental health committee and is intended to encourage more consistent and healthy sleep habits.

"The recommendation stemmed from discussions that late-night due times may encourage students to postpone sleep and other healthy behaviors; due times in a more regular hour of the day may help with time management," Ireland said. "We know that students tend to submit assignments in the hours leading up to when they are due. We also know that students tend to work on assignments up until they are submitted. Our hope is that for instructors that use this new due time, that those hours of productivity occur when students are doing their best work."

Ireland said the new default time is set at the end of the typical work day so that students will be finishing assignments during a time when instructors are more readily available to answer questions and offer support.

In addition, the Canvas support Help Desk is only available until 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, meaning students will be able to receive technical support if they encounter glitches or issues when trying to turn in assignments.

While the upcoming change aims to have a positive effect on student learning and health, some students said they are unhappy with the announcement, including Hannah Choate, junior public relations major who said she feels the new deadline is impractical for college students.

"It's kind of known that a lot of people like to stay up late at night to do homework, so to move that to 5 p.m. seems very unusual, especially because most college students have a job, so I don't really know how we're supposed to work around that," Choate said. "I'm kind of a night owl so I feel like this so-called 'encouraging positive sleep habits' will cause me more stress."

Stephanie Nica, senior business administration major, shares Choate's concern that this new deadline time won't be compatible with the work schedule of many students. She said the current due time of 11:59 p.m. gives students both more time and less stress.

Assign Access

Assign To

Everyone X

Due Date	Time
Nov 14, 2024	5:00 PM ▼ Clear
Available from	Time
	▼ Clear
Until	Time
	▼ Clear

+ Assign To

Photo provided

The default due date will change to 5 p.m. on Canvas for the winter term, but professors can edit the time in the 'assign access' box.

"Think about it; some students may have events or family gatherings," Nica said. "If something comes up, you may not have enough time to do your assignment until 11:59 p.m. ... So many of us have so much to do, and (the midnight) deadline gives us enough time. Why cut the day in half for your students?"

Nica said since students are used to the later deadline, they may not feel comfortable with the upcoming switch. She said she imagines it will deregulate her schedule.

"(The new change) may help in some ways, but it's going to increase stress for sure," Nica said. "Okay, it may help with sleep habits, but stress will be the main factor because I'll have to change so much throughout the day to fit assignments in by 5 p.m."

Olivia Hudgin, senior public relations major, has experience taking a class with a professor who's made the deadlines earlier in the day. While she said she loves the class, she sees the due time as a negative.

"I have a class that makes everything due at 5 p.m., and I think I stay up later the night before [an assignment is due] making sure it's done than I would if it was just due at midnight," Hudgin said. "Being a full time student and trying to work as much as I can, 5 p.m. is just a very inconvenient time to have things due, so I don't think [the change] will help me at all."

Hudgin said she doesn't see the point in making assignments due sooner if professors aren't going to grade them sooner. If assignments won't be graded that evening, then why cut the hours students have to work on them? Hudgin said nighttime is when she has the most freetime, making earlier deadlines difficult to meet.

"I just feel like I can have more time to do assignments and put more effort into them [when they're due later]," Hudgin said. "I've missed a lot of events trying to get stuff done by 5 p.m."

Ireland said there was student and faculty representation on the QEP committee and the President's Commission on Retention and Persistence, which informed the deadline recommendation. She said discussions leading up to the decision were positive and reflected broad-based support.

After the new default due time goes into effect, it will be up to professors to decide whether they want to keep deadlines at 5 p.m., per the QEP committee's recommendation, or alter the due times for their assignments to a later time.

Students are encouraged to check the due times of assignments on Canvas and check with professors to ensure they aren't caught off guard by the potential new due times next semester.

The News recognized nationally at Collegiate Media conference

Staff Report

The Murray State News won five national awards at the recent Associated Collegiate Press (ACP)/College Media Association (CMA) fall national conference in New Orleans.

The News won ninth place in the ACP Best of Show contest for newspapers and news magazines at schools with less than 15,000 enrollment. This award is given as part of an on-site competition.

The News won three Pinnacle awards from the College Media Association in Division II, a category for schools with enrollment between 3,000 and 9,999 students.

• 1st place, photo package, Rebeca Mertins Chiodini, for her photo gallery about the Racer Roundup rodeo

• Honorable mention, feature magazine of the year for 2024 Gateway magazine

• Honorable mention, best newspaper photo page/spread, MacKenzie Rogers and Rebeca Mertins Chiodini, for a feature page design with photographs from Campus Lights.

The CMA Pinnacle awards honor the best college media organizations and individual work. The Pinnacle awards attracted more than 3,000 entries from two and four-year schools across enrollment divisions.

Additionally, The Murray State News was recognized as an ACP Innovation Pacemaker finalist for a joint entry with ACP member newsrooms, The College Heights Herald at Western Kentucky University, The Kentucky Kernel at the University of Kentucky, The Eastern Progress at Eastern Kentucky University and The Northerner at Northern Kentucky University.

Non-ACP member schools that also participated were the Louisville Cardinal at the University of Louisville and the Thorobred News at Kentucky State University. The entry highlighted an editorial written jointly by student journalists at Kentucky schools about the need for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on college campuses.



Photo courtesy of ACP

Staff members from The Murray State News, along with staff members of College Height Herald from Western Kentucky University and The Kentucky Kernel from the University of Kentucky pose with Elizabeth Smith, president of the Associated Collegiate Press during the recent conference in New Orleans. The Kentucky papers pose with the Pacemaker finalist awards for last year's joint editorial about the need for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in Kentucky universities.

Jill Smith, a May 2024 graduate with a master's degree in mass communications/public relations from Murray, Kentucky, served as editor-in-chief last year. Bri Hunter, a senior journalism major from Murray, Kentucky, serves as editor-in-chief this year.

"Serving in a leadership role has given me an entirely different perspective of how news organizations operate," Hunter said. "I am grateful to be in this role to set a standard for myself and others. I was very excited that The News

received five national awards, and because of that we will work harder."

The News changed from a weekly printed newspaper with a website to a digital-first publication with a monthly newspaper in 2023. This change has allowed students to experience a digital-first news organization while still maintaining the tradition of a printed newspaper. The News also produces two magazines a year: Gateway, a glossy product that focuses on feature stories about western Kentucky, and Racer Guide, a print newsmagazine that serves as an orientation guide for new students.

"The Murray State News has a long tradition of excellence, and I'm thrilled to see us return to winning national awards," said Leigh Landini Wright, adviser and associate professor of journalism. "These student-journalists worked hard to rebuild that tradition during a challenging time."

Founded in 1927, The Murray State News is an award-winning student-led publication. The News is among the ACP Pacemaker Top 100 news organizations and has a long tradition of excellence.

The News employees about 20 students and provides them with hands-on learning opportunities.

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Murray State cuts French, German, Japanese

Shelby Bloomer

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Murray State is soon to lose three programs from its global languages department: French, German and Japanese. These language tracks are no longer taking new students and are currently being phased out entirely.

Programs to be discontinued by an institution are known as “sunset programs”; the French, German, and Japanese minors and language tracks are joining the list. Currently enrolled students majoring in Cultural and Language Studies with one of these tracks are still being taught to ensure they reach graduation.

Brent Menchinger, chair of the global languages and theatre arts department, said each program at a university is subject to an academic program review. The review evaluates a three-year period of the major or area’s headcount, number of degrees awarded, average for first-to-second year retention and average undergraduate credit hours taught. Menchinger said minors do not undergo the same extensive review; instead, the number of students is the main consideration.

Programs seeing low enrollment are evaluated for cost effectiveness. Chairs, deans and the Provost Office make the final decisions.

“Programs are under review every year at this time. If cost effectiveness is a factor, programs have a choice to (either) turn it around or sunset. A two-year window is allowed to turn it around,” Menchinger said.

A sunset program is one that an educational institution has determined should be retired for any multitude of reasons. Once the program “sunset”, it has officially begun phasing out before being cut completely. During the sunset process, remaining students who are considered to be far enough along in their courses (except for those in minor programs) are able to continue their education and graduate.

In addition to these evaluations, the language programs currently facing sunset have also recently seen the retirement of several professors, which has been another large factor in the decision to sunset. Menchinger said reactions from students and professors to the impending sunset of multiple language programs has been mixed.

“We are doing everything we can to ensure that those who were far enough along can finish by their expected graduation dates,” Menchinger said.

There is some good news, however, for students interested in taking American Sign Language (ASL) at Murray State. Menchinger said the Provost Office is currently supporting the global languages department’s ASL pilot program. Menchinger said with fewer languages being offered, better enrollment could be seen in the remaining language programs, such as Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese Studies and the ASL pilot program.

“No (department) chair ever wants to lose a program, especially a highly recognized one like Japanese,” Menchinger said. “However, if doing so makes our other programs stronger or can possibly lead to stronger language options like ASL, that is what we will work towards.”

Students who are members and executives of the Japanese Club have expressed disappointment in the loss of French, German and Japanese courses.



Leah Kirk, vice president of the Japanese Club, said it has been “heavy on (her) heart” and that she originally planned to complete the Japanese Language minor. She “fell in love” with the language and created many friendships because of it.

“After the retirement of our teacher, the language department seemed to have given up on (Japanese),” Kirk said. “I was terribly upset that I was promised a program that they were not willing to deliver. I really hope that with the views of the program members coming to light, (it) will give the directors a new incentive to find new teachers and continue the program (that) we all love. It breaks my heart to think of this program dying out.”

Anna Shane, treasurer of the Japanese Club, was a double minor in both French and Japanese. Shane said when coming to the University, she initially chose to minor in Japanese to fulfill her two-year language requirement from the honors college. Soon after, she became interested in French, but was unsatisfied with online learning options, leading her to also pursue the French minor program at Murray State.

As a member of the Japanese Club since 2021, Shane has witnessed the decline in attendance in what she considers to be a valuable mode of cultural exchange and language practice for Japanese exchange students and language learners alike.

“We had a lot of community engagement the first couple of years. (The) Japanese Club used to be massive. When I first started attending in 2021, I think we had over 80 people show up for the first meeting,” Shane said. “It was a lot easier to network and get people to come to the club if they were required to by the class. But now there is no credit to fulfill, and the Japanese language students are no longer required to go. So even though they might be taking the course online, they’re not getting that in-person speaking practice or any of the hands-on activities that we do.”

In an effort to offset the declining attendance and still offer ways for members to experience the benefits of the club, the executives are attempting to set up a conversation program with a sister school in Japan,



Photo provided by the Murray State Japanese Club. Members of the Japanese Club cook and play games at a club meeting.

where Japanese students and MSU students can interact and still get the cultural exchange and language practice that the club emphasizes.

“That is what we’re trying to work on right now,” Shane said. “We do have to do a lot of tabling just to get word out about the club. I think that some of the issue with attendance is that people hear that the Japanese track is being phased out, so they think (the) Japanese Club probably isn’t a thing anymore and they don’t know who to contact to find out. So, we will be tabling some more just to show that we’re still here.”

The Japanese Club holds meetings and events in room 320 in Blackburn every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Students interested in finding more information can search for the MSU Japanese Club on Facebook and Instagram.

Jackson plans busy ending to term

Bri Hunter

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The University is preparing to end its semester, just as Bob Jackson is preparing for his upcoming retirement next June. Jackson served as the 14th president of the University from 2018 to 2025.

“I have been here in some role for a long time,” he said. “I walked on this campus as a freshman 43 years ago this fall and for (my) entire adult life, I have had a relationship with Murray State in multiple different ways. (I am) ready and (I am) grateful, the University is in a good place. From 2018 to whatever my retirement date was, I wanted it to be in a better place than when I found it.”

Jackson and Karen, his wife, have built a love for the University, the place where they met and built a history. Their children live in Washington, D.C. and their first grandchildren will be born in February. Jackson said the job has been busy and a large commitment.

“Karen and I are both extremely grateful, this is the capstone of my professional career,” he said. “I am not seeking another presidential position at another university, we are blessed and fortunate to (be where we are). No one does these jobs alone, Karen is very good (at being hospitable) and has worked really hard as a first lady.”

Jackson will assist the presidential search committee in the search for the next candidate, as well as provide counsel and advice to the next president during his or her transition into the position.

Update on the veterinary school

Jackson said the vet school is continually picking up support.

“More people are calling constantly about ‘How can I help support?’- legislators, (agricultural) groups- ‘How can we support this to get it done?’” he said.

Mary Beth Imes, 5th district representative, has filed an initial bill request 232 (BR232) for Murray State to create a doctorate program in the veterinary school of medicine and enhance the vet tech program. The bill request contains the same language as House Bill 400. HB400 set out the parameters of the veterinary school of medicine and permits Murray State to offer a doctoral degree for professional practice and licensure in veterinary medicine.

Senate Joint Resolution 170 required Deloitte, a national accounting and advisory firm, to look at the doctorate of osteopathic medicine school at Eastern Kentucky University, a school of veterinary medicine at Murray State and to upgrade Western Kentucky University to a research two (R2) institution.

Jackson said the future of the veterinary school of medicine looks promising.

“(Deloitte) will issue a report (from their research) either on or before Dec. 1,” he said. “They have been on campus a lot and we have been answering a lot of questions in regard to the future school of veterinary medicine. We’ve been spending a lot of time with that and there are a lot of moving parts. Ultimately, I am confident about moving forward with the school of veterinary medicine.”



Bob Jackson rides in the Homecoming parade for the last time as the University president.

Kristopher Fister/ The News

UofL partners with Murray State for a doctorate program

Murray State and the University of Louisville signed a letter of interest on Nov. 8 for a collaboration and feasibility study of a regional four-year medical school campus.

The letter of interest leads the institutions to explore the commonwealth’s educational and healthcare needs of western Kentucky. A task force will be created to “explore the initiative” and “develop an educational model that is compliant with the governing bodies of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and Accreditation Council on Medical Educations.”

Jackson said this idea has been rolling around for the last couple of years and he is glad it is getting put into action.

“UofL has been a good and willing partner, I really appreciate President (Kim) Schatzel,” he said. “She has grasped the vision we’ve had here and enhanced it even further, and she is interested in advancing this initiative in a very positive way. This is good for the region, for our students, it’s good for Murray State and the University of Louisville.”

Mental health on campus

The University added another mental health resource for students to access this fall. TimelyCare was implemented to assist students with mental health and allow access to counselors 24/7.

Jackson said this addition was very important for the wellbeing of all students that are enrolled at Murray State.

“We put this in place because the Counseling Center and Psychology Center operate from 8 a.m. to 4:30

p.m. during the week,” Jackson said. “They can only see Kentucky students, and we have students from every state. Kentucky students aren’t the only ones who need this type of service. The (current on-campus services) are limited by time, and we have got to make sure we are accommodating to all of our students.”

Murray State’s goal with TimelyCare was to ensure that students have access to mental health services 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. TimelyCare is accessible via the app, Canvas and Murray State Student Resource website.

FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) was delayed for the second year in a row. Applications typically open on Oct. 1 but the last two years the application window has opened on Dec. 1.

Jackson said the university presidents and the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education have been in discussions for legislation regarding the FAFSA form.

“We met this week about FAFSA and discussed some possible legislation that would cause FAFSA to be required in the junior or senior year of high school,” he said. “We have got to promote FAFSA more and better, completion rates need to increase to increase the college going rates as well. Last year, in Kentucky, \$65 million dollars in Pell Grant dollars was left on the table that could have been awarded to students.”

As of June 30, 2024, the FAFSA completion rate has decreased 11.6% compared to the 2023 year according to the National College Attainment Network. Compared to last year, Kentucky has declined by 13% in completed forms.



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University staff encourages TimelyCare use

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A semester into TimelyCare's launch, student usage remains low. However, University staff say it still provides a helpful service for students.

TimelyCare is a telehealth company which provides free mental health services to University students. Services provided include scheduled counseling, psychiatric services and a 24/7 call line for students looking for immediate mental and emotional support. In spring of 2024, Murray State signed a \$275,000 contract with the company to provide access to its services to Murray State students.

TimelyCare services became available for students on Aug. 19. According to Angie Trzepacz, Counseling Services director, 40 students have used the service since the start of the semester.

Trzepacz said this number is small compared to the 195 students using campus counseling services. Though Trzepacz said it is unclear if this low usage is because students are uninterested in using it, or because they are not aware the service exists.

"We did all the possible media and promotion that we could think of this semester to try to increase awareness by students, faculty, staff, parents, everybody," Trzepacz said. "But I'm sure that a lot of students still have no idea that it exists."

Don Robertson, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management, said Murray State first looked at implementing TimelyCare services as a way of providing 24/7 mental health support to students in need. Robertson said the service could work as a supplement to the University's counseling and psychological services during after-hours and periods when those services are closed.

"More and more students have mental health concerns and issues," Robertson said. "We thought there

was a need to expand our services particularly in nights and weekends and over breaks, and also to be able to help our regional campuses more."

Both Trzepacz and Robertson said the introduction of TimelyCare services would particularly benefit those students studying outside the Murray State campus, and especially those out of state.

"One of the advantages of TimelyCare is that counselors are provided in all 50 states, so students that are not in Kentucky can access those services," Trzepacz said. "Whereas the Counseling Center, all of our counselors are only licensed in Kentucky, so we are not allowed legally to practice across state lines."

According to the numbers Trzepacz provided, of the 40 students who have used the service, only two have used it out of state, though she was unable to give the number for how many using it in Kentucky were outside of Murray. And of the 64 counseling sessions, only 12 were held outside of office hours for the Counseling Center. Of the 18 TalkNow calls held since the start of the semester, nine were held outside of office hours.

Robertson said he believes the use of TimelyCare services will become more common as the semesters continue and more people become aware of them. The number of people using the services is less important than making sure they are available.

"The word is getting out, and more and more folks know there is an alternative," Robertson said. "You know, there was no set number that we said, 'Well, we want to make sure X number were using it.' We want to make sure that we're giving everyone an opportunity to use it so that if they have a need, whether it be two in the morning or two in the afternoon, they can talk to someone."

TimelyCare also offers limited psychiatric care services to Murray State students, something Murray State's counseling services are unable to provide. These services include prescriptions for mental conditions limited to non-controlled substances.

The quality and accessibility of mental health services for university students has become an ever more important issue over the last few years. According to a 2023-2024 data report by the Healthy Minds Network, a research organization focused on adolescent and young adult mental health, 34% of students surveyed from participating universities showed symptoms of anxiety and 38% showed symptoms of depression. The same study found that 61% of students who tested positive on their anxiety or depression screenings had received counseling or therapy in the past 12 months.

According to the TimelyCare website, its service connects students with licensed counselors and "master-level mental health care professionals." The truth, however, may be more complicated. According to Trzepacz, TimelyCare's scheduled counseling always connects students with licensed counselors. However, their 24/7 care line called TalkNow may not be to the same standard.

"In terms of the licensing, with the scheduled counseling appointments those are all licensed counselors," Trzepacz said. "But with the TalkNow appointments, the ones that are kind of on call, those are not necessarily licensed counselors. (Some) may be, and some of them are the same people doing scheduled counseling. But some of them are not licensed."

Trzepacz said she didn't think TalkNow's counselor licensing was necessarily a problem. She made a comparison to 988, the suicide hotline, which does not always connect callers to licensed medical counselors. She said it is important students are made aware of the fact the individuals they speak with over TalkNow might not be licensed, and that this fact be made transparent.

For more information about TimelyCare and the University's mental health resources, visit the Murray State website at: <https://www.murraystate.edu/about/administration/StudentAffairs/departments/counseling/index.aspx>

Students react to Thanksgiving break housing closure

Jordan Spaulding

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Housing for students staying over Thanksgiving break will be limited as the housing department announces residence hall closures.

The Housing Office announced in an email that all residence halls will be closing at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27 and will not reopen until noon on Sunday, Dec. 1. Any student who wants to stay over the break must fill out an interim housing form and pay a one-time fee of \$72.

Hester and Regents Halls will be used to house people staying over the break. Residents of those halls may keep their current rooms if they sign the form and pay the fee. Limited housing options mean students staying over break must submit housing applications soon, as rooms may not be available for long.

Some students interviewed by *The News* expressed their concern that the housing closure may affect students who are unable to go home over the break, especially exchange students.

In an email to *The News* the Housing Department said it was working on making arrangements for these students, and students who need housing for the break should refer to the email sent on Nov. 4 for more information on the closure and access to the interim housing form.

"As is our usual practice, the University closes on-campus housing during breaks such as Thanksgiving, spring and winter break," the statement said.



Graphic by Bri Hunter

"We recognize that not all students are able to leave campus during breaks, and we continue to make arrangements for students in need of alternate housing."

Mondserrat Ruiz, an international student studying computer science, is among the students who will be affected by the Thanksgiving closure. Ruiz lives in White College and said she was not aware of the closure until receiving the email.

Ruiz said though she understands why the University is closing for Thanksgiving, the closure will affect her differently than other American students.

"I don't have family here," Ruiz said. "Or if I want to stay in someone's house, like my friends, they're going to be with their families. At first I was thinking about

going to another place, but we know that during the Thanksgiving break, all the prices for hotels or flights or whatever, it's getting expensive."

Davis Vessels, senior biology major, said he believed housing should stay open during the break.

"A lot of students don't really have a place to go during Thanksgiving break, and I feel like the dorm should stay open," Vessels said.

Emma Brown, junior wildlife conservation major, said she didn't like the University shutting down for Thanksgiving.

Brown said she had previous experience with a friend who was unable to travel back to her home state of Florida and had to stay with someone else off campus over the break.

"I think it's pretty ridiculous that we're already paying like thousands of dollars to live in the dorms and they're still making you pay extra to stay over holidays," Brown said. "It's not even like a long break either. I don't like it."

Savannah Cavitt, sophomore Chinese major, said she wished the dorms would stay open. Cavitt said because of being in foster care she had to find an apartment to stay in for two days during the previous Thanksgiving break.

"I personally don't agree with it," Cavitt said. "It is kind of like making them pay to stay as well, I feel like it's just a need for money. Not every student has a home to go to. So, I really don't agree with it. I wish they would leave the dorms open because it helps it be accessible."

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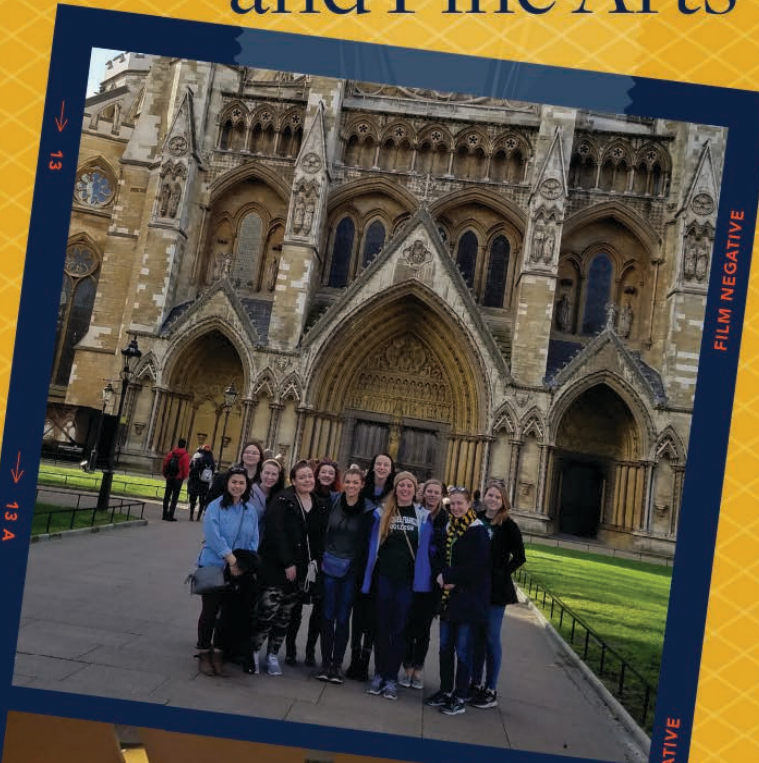
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Kentucky compensates student teachers

Bri Hunter

Editor in Chief

bhunter5@murraystate.edu

Student teachers in Kentucky may be eligible for up to a \$5,000 stipend starting this academic year.

The Kentucky legislature passed Statute 164.773 this past spring that allows for student teachers to receive a stipend during their final semester of college. Student teachers previously did not receive any assistance from the state, and this is a trend that is being seen nationally.

Other states that currently compensate their student teachers include Michigan, Colorado and Maryland. Kentucky's stipend currently caps at \$5,000 and requires the student teacher to be a Kentucky resident, approved for student teaching, not to have previously received a stipend for student teaching, enrolled in an approved educator preparation program and meets any other requirements set by the institution.

Madisyn Ransey, senior elementary education major, is wrapping up her student teaching journey this fall as she prepares to graduate. Ransey received the stipend from the state last month and said it helped out tremendously.

"One of the most difficult parts of student teaching for many years is working a full-time internship without being paid," she said. "We are highly recommended by the University to not work during student teaching. You must be at school all day, all five days a week. Although, many still have bills and rent to pay and not having an income for at least five months is extremely difficult."

The stipend currently goes to Kentucky residents for the 70-day training period. Ransey said the requirement to be a Kentucky resident could possibly cause a drop in enrollment from out of state students.

"I believe this stipend is based on the amount of students enrolled in the program," she said. "For many of my friends in student teaching, it was kind of a disappointment. Because (some of my friends) are originally from a different state, they were ineligible. I believe this could decrease the number of out of state students that come to major in education at Murray State."

The Kentucky Education Association (KEA) played a major role in advocacy for this stipend.

Matthew Callahan, senior English education major and president of KEA's Aspiring Educators' program, said with more advocating, the chance for change is greater.

"All of the information I have received about this has come through KEA Aspiring Educators, so I have been very involved in the advocacy work for getting this stipend," he said. "I am expecting other states to follow suit. This stipend is meant to ensure that student teachers are able to pay for and afford everything they have to, without the stress of having to work two full time positions."

Student teachers have a lengthy process to gain a student teacher position and even gain a position in the career field after graduation. Certification in Kentucky requires student teachers to pass the Praxis Subject Assessment and the appropriate Principles of Learning and Teaching test, completed all the computer literacy requirements, earned a bachelor's degree and apply for the certificate via the Kentucky Educator Credentialing System.

For more information about the requirements for the student teaching program at Murray State, scan the QR code on the right. For more information about the statute, scan the QR code on the left.



Student teachers may be eligible for \$5000 grant



Photo courtesy of Madisyn Ransey

Graphic by MacKenzie Rogers/The News

Student teachers in Ransey's class who received the stipend this year.

Requirements for the student teacher program at Murray State:



Link to Statute 164.773:



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Undergrads showcase research at Scholars' Week

River Murt

Staff Writer
rmurt1@murraystate.edu

thesis find an adviser with similar interests and feel they can work with.

"I've really enjoyed working with my adviser and my committee members," she said.

Minor said she recommends students make their thesis a time commitment and put in the work consistently throughout the semester, as this is more beneficial than if they put it off.

Gracie Thomas, senior English literature major who prefers they/them pronouns, is framing their thesis on how colonial language disrupts and damages indigenous ones.

Thomas is using the Irish play "Translations" by Brian Friel, as their primary text to analyze the process of anglicization of Irish place names and colonial mapmaking.

They've titled their thesis, "The Ritual of Naming: Linguistic Imperialism and Post-colonial Drama."

Thomas said the work is challenging but has always been important to them, and while it can be often overwhelming, it has been rewarding to be so invested in one topic.

"It's by far the biggest project I've ever worked on in undergrad," Thomas said.

Thomas said while the writing has been difficult, it helps to have the passion for the subject and it feels like the culmination of all the skills they've built over the years.

Thomas said they're nervous, excited, proud and a little nauseated about Scholar's Week.

"I've never really liked presenting or public speaking," Thomas said. "I'm hoping that I know enough and am passionate enough about this thesis to let that speak for itself. I'm a bit restless to get all of it written and polished, but thankfully the excitement is a little more powerful than nerves."

Thomas said they can't stress enough the importance of getting words on paper as soon as possible, describing themselves as an "Olympic-level procrastinator."

"It doesn't have to be good at first, but it has to get done," they said. "Also, sometimes it's hard to guess what you'll be excited about in four months, but try to pick something that you can stick with and not hate by the end of it."

In Thomas's experience, they said the process is more rewarding when you care. They advise students to take notice of the topics they learn about and gravitate towards, and to talk to professors about these subjects.

Thomas will present their thesis alongside others on Thursday in Waterfield Library, Nov. 14, 3:30-5 p.m.

Scholars Week: English and Philosophy Panel



Sadie Boggs, "The Search for Identity in Victorian Fantasy Fiction and Cultural Memory"



Ella Olds, "Chaucer's Unreflecting Characters Written to Prove a Need for Societal Reform"



Laura Seeberger, "Duolingo vs. Google Classroom: Comparative Study on Spanish Language Learning Growth"



Erin Tabler, "Mother Nature: Defining, Understanding, and Controlling the Female Mother in Shakespeare's Plays"



Gracie Thomas, "The Ritual of Naming: Linguistic Imperialism and Post-colonial Drama"

Graphic provided by Julie Cyzewski

English students will present their research at Scholars Week on Thursday.

Scholars Week for the fall semester is fast-approaching. During this week, which will run Nov. 11-15, senior students will display their scholarship of undergraduate research and creative work in a university-wide event.

Jeff Osborne, professor of English and assistant director of the Honors College, said the goal of this research is to take a deep dive into a narrow topic or issue in the field, potentially discover something new about it, and then produce new knowledge.

"It's also valuable because student research sometimes makes a contribution to existing knowledge in the field," Osborne said. "Universities aren't simply about handing out degrees so people can get jobs. They are about producing and publishing knowledge."

The research varies by discipline and mentorship with a faculty member. The research itself can consist of lab work, archival research, reviews of existing scholarship on a topic in the field, co-writing a scholarly paper, etc., according to Osborne.

He said students can already take the initiative to start reading scholarly work without the guidance of a professor.

Anna Minor, senior psychology major, is writing her thesis on a research study she's conducting on how our perspective of stress plays a role in stress management. Minor said she seeks to examine factors that may influence efficiency and productivity.

She titled her research "Stress as a Means of Success: Investigating the Effect of Stress Appraisals on Willpower, Ego Depletion and Physiological Responses in College Students."

Minor said she is excited and proud of the research. She intends to publish her findings in a scholarly journal with the time and effort she's put into it.

"I am presenting it at scholars week, but I'll say that the most exciting part of it is a tentative publication," she said.

Minor said she's looking forward to analyzing the results to be able to make a meaningful contribution to research and psychology.

"This research is extremely important to me," Minor said. "I will be applying to graduate school soon, and undergraduate research is essentially the most important thing that you can do with respect to getting into grad school (in the psych world, at least)."

Minor said her research was especially important because she had conducted this study alongside her adviser. She suggests students writing their own

SGA ANNUAL AWARDS



Student (Dec 2024/May 2025 graduate)

Ralph H. Woods Memorial Award

due 4/7/2025 by Noon

Faculty/Staff Member

Max Carman Outstanding Teacher Award

due 2/7/2025 by Noon

Jim Baurer Staff Service Award

due 3/7/2025 by Noon

All awards nominated by individual students.

We encourage each organization to nominate at least 1 nominee for each category.



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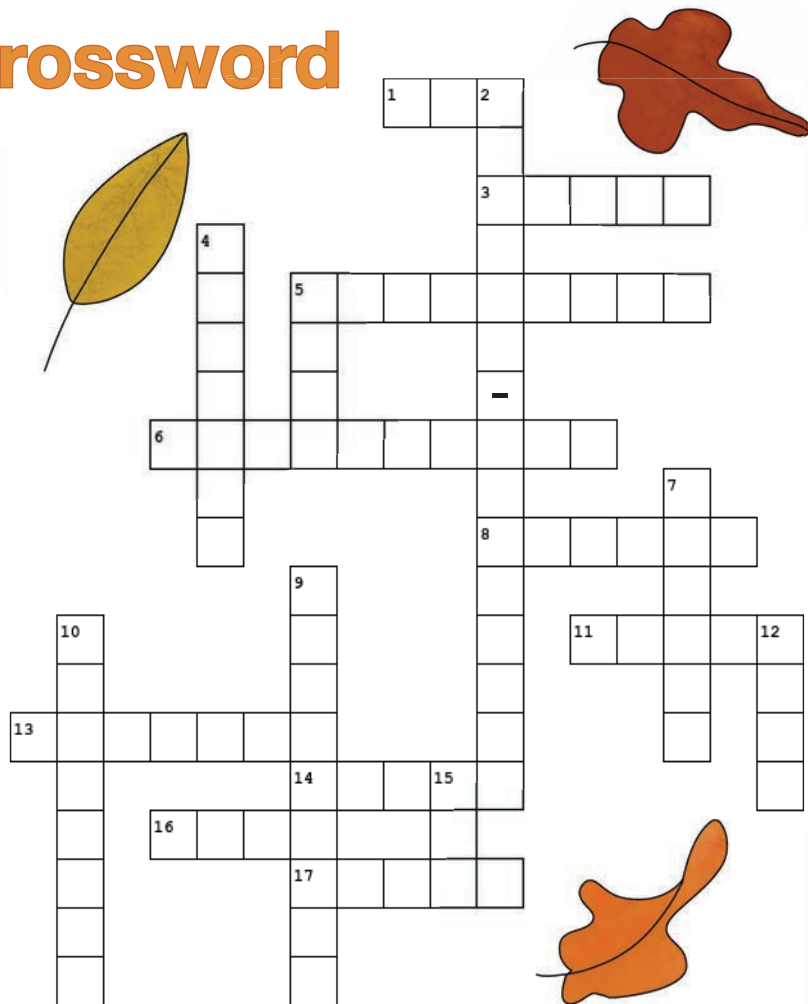
Holiday Crossword

Across

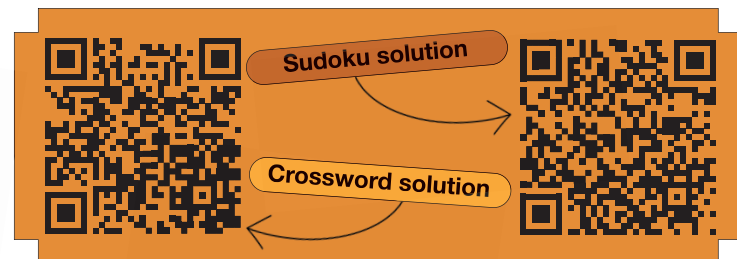
1. Cover me with pineapples and brown sugar
3. A bowl of greens to start the night
5. A mixture of foods baked; made from everything
6. A centerpiece worth remembering
8. I'll make you sleepy if you eat too much
11. Pour me over everything
13. One of the fall season's most popular pie flavors
14. There are many of me, but here I am green
16. The classy 21+ drink to adjoin the table
17. Buttery bread for all

Down

2. Creamy and buttery ground gold
4. Orange and crunchy
5. Small yellow kernels from a cob
7. If nuts are involved, you'll likely see me
9. A jello-like fruit with a red-dish hue
10. Bread and spices make me shine
12. The potato's orange cousin
15. Watch me as you dig into your food



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An adventure in New Orleans through unfiltered eyes

There were many firsts with my trip to New Orleans, Louisiana for a journalism conference. I have, like many, ventured into bigger cities before, like Nashville, Cincinnati, places of the sorts.

None of those compare to the city of New Orleans. If you asked me to describe the city in one word, I'd say it was alive. I'd talk about the vibrancy and motion, the constant movement of taxis and trams, of hundreds of people dancing mindlessly in the streets to the sound of hundreds of songs mixed together, of plastic colorful beads being flung from balconies to those below, of fluffy beignets and borderline-unbearably sweet pralines.

But that's the answer everyone would give if someone mindlessly asked, the indisputable highs. I could describe the highlights for pages, but thousands of blogs and reviews have already said the same things, referenced the popular hotspots, the best hotels and restaurants, the "must-visit" locations littered throughout the city.

There is more to the city than those overtly positive remarks, than the highs.

Beyond the endless streets and flashing signs, a haze fills the air, a mixture of marijuana and discarded trash, of sewage and vomit. Abandoned beer



MacKenzie Rogers
Lifestyle Editor

cans and plastic drinking cups lay in the divots between storefronts. Homeless people cuddle themselves atop flattened cardboards stained with unknown liquids as uncaring partygoers dodge them, wearing vibrantly colored Halloween costumes as they rush to Bourbon Street, where loud music and alcohol rules all.

Halloween in New Orleans showcased a distinct version of the city, as everyone fills the streets decked out in revealing costumes and flooded into bar after bar, walking in a direction with no destination. Police barricades kept cars from daring the street, as police sat off to the side, playing chess on a makeshift table to pass the time, uninterested in the normal chaos of partying drunk people, as the night was young and the people were only just beginning their night on Bourbon Street.

Merely walking to one of the many Walgreens located on the corner of busy streets could be dangerous as people banging drumsticks outside the store

call you an 'uptight bitch' for not giving them a dollar. I was only there to see if this specific Walgreens had acne patches in stock, as the first one we had tried did not. Security guards stand posted outside the store, prepared for someone to snatch a random item and run. Clerks behind the counter stare mindless at you as they process your transaction and refrain from bagging purchased items or providing a receipt. Almost every street has a Walgreens or a CVS, most of which have almost every medical product of value locked behind plastic cases requiring an associate to even get the item.

Graffiti covers random walls and boarded up storefronts that have long since closed. A poster of a young woman is plastered on a handful of walls. A dark cathedral looming over a locked park with tarot card readers with lawn chairs awaiting their next customer, guaranteeing their lineage based status as a fortune teller. A man urging another to sheathe an unseen knife, looking around urgently at nearby tourists as your friend urges us on before something happens. A man attempts to stop his female acquaintance from using her phone, wrapping his arms around her thin body. Taxi drivers coming too close

in an attempt to get you to pick them out of the many drivers to take you wherever you need to go.

Have you ever seen a homeless person dig through a blue trash can on the side of a street outside an expensive restaurant, where well-dressed diners sit in a dimly lit dining room, where the light is just bright enough to illuminate the crystal jewelry adorning their hands, neck and ears? I have.

A older woman made her recipe of pralines in a boutique next to an expensive antique shop with chandeliers worth more than my entire college education and one of many art galleries exhibiting the same type of paintings. We had wandered into the shop to kill time, I had made the unfortunate decision to wear the heels I had packed for sessions, and my feet were beginning to quiver in pain as each step sent sharp pain to my soles. It started to lightly rain, and a man had walked into the shop, a plastic cup in his hands, drunk. After dropping his cup and immediately touching their display of sunglasses, the praline maker rushed from behind the counter, forcing the man out of the shop, threatening to call the police with an elegance that indicated that they had done this routine before. A norm for them.

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Choctaw culture: A history of perseverance

Tradition keeps cultures alive. Languages keep cultures alive too. The Native American culture has been long preserved through museums, pow-wows, advocacy and reservations. November pays homage to Native American Heritage and serves as a reminder of the Indigenous people who were in the United States before it ever became the United States.

Native American Heritage Month is an honorable recognition to pay homage to the Indigenous peoples that were here before it became colonized and to those who continue that lineage. Yes, Native Americans still have a presence in this country and it is more important now than ever to preserve that history due to the dwindling population and recently uncovering a dark history with the residential schools.

My Heritage

Halito, Chahta ilefehnachi li (translation: Hello, I am proud to be Choctaw). My lineage comes from Mississippi Band of Choctaws. My heritage derives through my father's side of the family. I don't have a tribal card and I don't have tribal citizenship either. I am 1/8 Choctaw.

My great grandmother, Majorie Tubby, grew up speaking Chahta Anompuli.



Bri Hunter
Editor-in-Chief

Tubby is derived from Tubbee, and then T'abi, which means "to kill." This was her first language and Native language. It is commonly known that the Jim Crow era had a large negative effect on African Americans, when in reality it affected more groups than that. She grew up during the Jim Crow era and was harshly affected by the society of that time, which led to her never teaching her children the Native language due to heavy racism.

After my great-grandmother passed away, my father told me he felt as if we had lost a connection to our heritage and culture. He took it upon himself to read the history of our people, learn the language, learn how to cook Choctaw meals and even wrote a book titled "Oklama (My People) The Story of Our Ancestors and People," which is about the roots of our family.

History of the Mississippi Band

The history of the Mississippi Band of Choctaws is special because of how distinctive it was compared to other tribes.

The Choctaw tribe used to be matrilineal, as opposed to the Western tradition of patriarchal standards. Women were highly valued and often provided counsel for decisions regarding tribal affairs. Women were also recognized as the givers and supporters of life; men and women both held leadership positions in the tribe. If clan mothers didn't want to send their sons into a conflict, then the tribe would not go to war. Rather than fathers raising their own children, it was usually the mother's brother to raise the children.

Women would assist in wars by feeding arrows to the men as they were in active engagement. Even if the men were to fall during combat, the women would rush to pick up their arms and finish the fight. It was believed that it was better to die during a battle than to be enslaved.

Despite the language being "banned," the Choctaw Code Talkers can be considered saviors of the nation during World War I. Since Native American languages hadn't ventured much outside of the United States, it was utilized for communications of battle messages. The Navajo Code Talkers would later follow in their footsteps and help save the nation during World War II.

Native Americans were behind in obtaining rights in a country that was on their own land. Citizenship wasn't granted until 1924 and many didn't have voting rights until the 1960s.

The issue with blood quantum and the importance of preservation

Despite only being 1/8 Choctaw, I am still proud of my heritage. In my bios on social media, I have "Not your average tvshka" which means "warrior." I have been told on several occasions, "You don't carry a tribal card, then you aren't an Indian" or "If you aren't from a reservation, then you aren't Native." I grew up believing that I wasn't "enough" Choctaw to be seen as Indigenous, and it became easy to check off the Caucasian box on every demographic form I have filled out during my lifetime.

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Kentucky shows interesting divide

Nate Hunt
Opinion Editor
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The results from this election were completely unexpected.

Nearly every poll going into this election night showed Harris beating Trump or Democrats beating Republicans. As election night continued, it was easy to see that the night would be different than the expected plan.

The elephant in the room is Trump beating Harris. Trump had an unexpected victory going into the night. Not only did he win the Electoral College and all seven battleground states, he won the popular vote for the first time since he first ran in presidential campaigns.

Zooming our lens closer to Kentucky, we see surprising results across the state but unlike federal elections, Kentucky, Calloway County and Murray all voted in favor of many progressive ideas.

Kentucky voted in favor of Trump with an overwhelming majority of 64.6% voting for him. In Congress, Kentucky continued to vote mostly Republicans into the House of Representatives with four

out of five seats being held by Republicans. Kentucky Republicans still have a hold on the Kentucky legislature where the numbers for their super majority remain unchanged.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky had two amendments on the ballot. The first amendment was about whether only U.S. citizens were allowed to vote in Kentucky and the other was about tax vouchers for schooling. As expected for the state, Amendment 1 passed with 62.4% voting in its favor, which was not surprising. The unexpected was Kentucky voting “no” on Amendment 2 by an overwhelming 64.8%.

Amendment 2 proposed for tax vouchers to be given to parents, allowing them to use the vouchers on private schools. With Kentucky voting conservatively historically, seeing Kentuckians vote with such prejudice against this amendment was a very unprecedented outcome.

Looking towards Calloway County and Murray, the most surprising vote was over medical cannabis.

Calloway county and the city of Murray voted 63% to 37% in favor of allowing medical cannabis dispensaries



Elisha Butryn/*The News*

in their area. Medical marijuana has been legal in the state since Gov. Andy Beshear signed Senate Bill 47. Even after that bill was signed, many counties still put the allowance of dispensaries on the ballot.

Considering the re-election of Imes in Calloway county; they also voted very strongly in favor of allowing medical cannabis.

Many results of the election were expected but we did see strong support for many progressive ideas. This vote could signify a shift in ideals held by Kentucky voters over certain issues or it may just be votes over issues people cared strongly for. We won't see these results in the next election.



Photo collage by Kristopher Fister/*The News*

Waterfield celebrates international games

Gray Hawkins

Staff Writer

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Waterfield Library kicked off International Games Month with a week of diverse games and collaborations with campus organizations.

International Games Month is a program run by the American Library Association. Many corporate sponsors have helped fund it, sending free games to participating libraries to help them grow their collections and network with their communities.

Waterfield Library started its game collection in 2018 and has hosted events for International Games Month for several years. Megan Wilson, research and instruction librarian, has organized the program since its inception at Murray State, starting with a single day of international games and growing into a full week.

"It started out as a good opportunity to do programming since we weren't doing a whole lot of outreach at the time," Wilson said. "Also, I just like games, so it's an excuse for me to play them."

This year's International Games Week had a unusual start with Halloween trivia on Thursday, Oct. 31. With campus closed on Tuesday for Election Day and Fall Scholars Week beginning on Monday, Nov. 11, Wilson reinvented the program's usual trivia night with a holiday flare. The event took a digital turn on Nov. 1 with games on the Nintendo Wii. Student attendees competed in the popular "Wii Sports" and "Mario Kart."

Over the weekend, Wilson opened the floor for the longer-running games that are harder to schedule

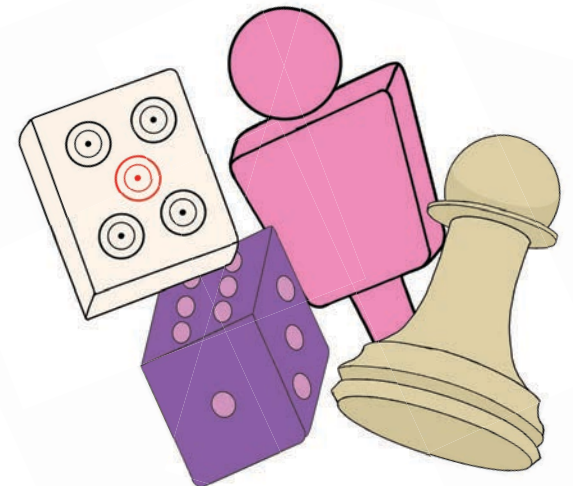
during the school week. Tabletop role-playing games were provided on Saturday for students of any experience level. Ash Stemke, professor of theory and composition, organized matches of "Magic the Gathering: Commander," a strategy card game.

Two student organizations hosted events on Monday, Nov. 4. Alpha Mu Gamma, a foreign language honors society, played "Bananagrams," a speed-based word grid game. SOMOS, a Murray State organization for Hispanic/Latinx students, shared a collection of Spanish and Latinx games in place of their weekly Language Exchange meeting in the Waterfield Library Gallery.

Events resumed on Wednesday with the Board Game Club. Kiera Taylor, founder and president, started the Board Game Club in February 2023 to help manage her own struggle with social anxiety and provide a fun social environment for other students. She said Wilson played a big part in getting the club started, so the Board Game Club has been a set part of International Games Week each year.

"I keep in theme with International Games Week," Taylor said. "I brought games that are set in other places internationally because that's what I have at home... of the games I brought, 'Hibachi' is my favorite."

Waterfield's International Games Week wrapped up on Thursday, Nov. 7 with "Around the World in 8 Games." Some of the games set out for the final event were part of Waterfield's collection, while games within the public domain were made in the Makerspace. The learning curve of a game is an important factor in what is and isn't displayed. Wilson said games that are easier to learn in a short amount of time, like the



Graphic by MacKenzie Rogers/The News

Japanese card game "Koi Koi," will be featured more than difficult ones like "Mahjong," a Chinese tile game.

"I actually have a list of about 20 games to pull from," Wilson said. "I try to pick games from different regions... Here's one from Japan, here's one from the Middle East, here's one that's traditionally played in Africa, here's one that's played in Europe."


While Waterfield's events for International Games Month have concluded, the library hosts another games week in the spring semester independently of the American Library Association. For programs run during either semester, Wilson said she is open to organizations reaching out with their own ideas for games week programs.


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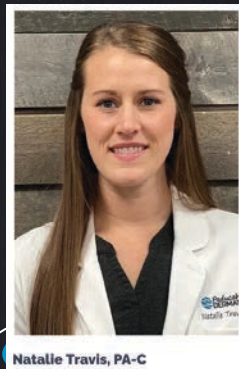
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Column: Democrats take massive L

River Murt

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Donald Trump's presidential victory is a moment of uncertain, undefinable triumph for the populist's voter base. Then mythical unease, unprecedented fear for everyone else. The victory has resulted in men online taking to social media and proclaiming in posts:

"Your body, my choice."

Symbolically, Trump's victory over Kamala Harris will be insurmountable for women in the United States. This man has beaten a woman in a race for the White House not once, but now twice. Not to mention, he's done it with a rap sheet of numerous convictions, as well as sexual misconduct and abuse trials as we saw with the E. Jean Carrol case.

Even if the Republican Party won't make a point of never living this fact down, their supporters will, and will always remember Harris's loss. Because of this, we may never see a woman in the White House, much less a position of power of that caliber for a very, very long time, if ever.

As Harris lost the White House, the Democrats lost the Senate, and still, the Republicans control the House. The government will soon be one solitary, red estate of the Republican party. The Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government are all red franchises of 725 5th Ave, New York, NY 10022, all owned by Trump.

This is an incredible upset, one that will be studied by historians for the years to come to try and understand how and what this Election Day will be the new mark of. America's "no going back" moment.

Similar to events such as the rise of the Internet and 9/11, for better or worse, we now exist in a new political era, crawling out from Ground Zero of a bomb that's culminated from the misfires of the Democratic party.

A most grave incompetence that has shaped the party for the last two years since the repeal of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, when the state of abortion in

America was left to the states. One by one, but a few, trashing reproductive rights entirely. While this was a Judicial move by the Supreme Court, other than some words about the risk it puts on American lives, President Biden ultimately did nothing to challenge or act in response on behalf of those lives. A misfire of defense or care for what is one of the party's most prominent interests. Since then has seen stories of women who have had to endure pregnancies they were not ready for, pregnancies that have killed them.

Another strike would be the Biden administration's approval of the Willow Project, an oil drilling operation in the plain of North Slope in Alaska. Another oil drilling that will result in further pollution and environmental damage to the world, contributing to the state of the climate crisis. An unpopular development that was protested by Americans, sparking ranges of online activism and petitions. However, the calls to President Biden to, for lack of a better phrase, "act accordingly" were deafly unanswered. Americans were ignored for the interest of oil production at the cost of adding damage to the planet and spoiling the future for the young and those not born yet.

While the third strike would be easy to place on Biden and Trump's first debate earlier this year, it should really be what Democrats have struggled the most with:

Their near unadulterated support of Israel.

In response to the Hamas attack, on Oct. 7, 2023, Israel retaliated with extreme prejudice against the Palestinian people. In what has since then been defined as a genocide. A slaughter of more innocent civilians than of Hamas terrorists and successful retrieval of Israeli hostages, which many democrats have supported with only a little hesitation. Democrats such as Vice-President Kamala Harris, Sen. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania, and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York.

Support from the Biden administration in the form of weapons and ammunition, and recently 100 American troops to



Graphic made by MacKenzie Rodgers/The News

arm a specific weapon named Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), according to CNN. In addition to bombing Yemen, and getting into more escalation with Iran, fighting and conflict in the Middle East, which the president supposedly said he was against when he took office.

This has been an overwhelmingly unpopular campaign for the president and Democrats to support and be an accomplice of. So unpopular amongst Americans, especially that it should not come as a surprise that Harris did not win Michigan, a state with the highest population of Arab Americans in the country.

While President Biden was at the wheel when these neglects of what make people vote for the Democratic Party occurred, we should not, we cannot ignore that the remainder of the party was next to him. When Biden finally stepped down from his re-election campaign, we should not have been surprised when he endorsed someone who would steer the ship in no other direction than the one it was already facing.

A direction that the passengers have expressed they don't like, one that Democrats are

now paying for as they have lost the government all across the board.

The party has always meant well, intending and claiming to provide a deliverance of action. Action for critical matters regarding the financial, medical, and environmental well-being of its voters. Similar to that, impressionist paintings that deliver soliloquies and symphonies inspiring new eras of life into those who hear.

Yet the joke here is that impressionist paintings don't do that. They don't speak. They're just paintings. They don't hear you, either. They just sit and hang on a wall, waiting for you to compliment them. Maybe grant them a legacy for them to retire with and be proud of.

While we experienced this moment, this loss for what a lot of students desired to be a win, a win for Harris, under a thunderous typhoon that swept over campus that night, we must take solace.

Some solace in the fact that Kentucky's governor is Andy Beshear for the next three years. Some solace despite Trump's victory, abortion rights won across several states and were enshrined in state constitutions. We must take solace

in being active. Being active means continuing to do what we do.

If you witness injustice on this campus, then be the justice to remedy. If you witness or experience malpractice on this campus, then be the better example this campus needs. If you understand that someone needs help, your friends, your fellow students, someone you don't even know or maybe don't care about, help them.

Because when we walk down the tunnel of darkness, we are often obliterated by the trains of that same darkness.

But when the train passes, we must find our legs and our arms, so we may continue to find our light which shines, brightly, as we may someday, at the end of the tunnel.

In these uncertain times, we cannot sit down in our grief and fear of what's to come.

For that, if we do, we may never stand again. Do not sit down, my friends. Stand, and walk bravely on the path of doing good things.

Be unafraid of the times, so that the times will be afraid of you. If we succeed in this, then it does not matter who sits in the White House or on Capitol Hill.

Canvas deadline will hurt students' school-life balance

Nate Hunt
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Murray State wants to help us by changing our due date times but didn't consider asking faculty or students how they felt about this.

By the winter term, the campus deadline times for assignments will be automatically set at 5 p.m. Changing the deadline time is supposed to incentivize students to go to bed at a better time rather than staying up till midnight to do an assignment. This decision comes from the recommendation of the Quality enhancement plan (QEP) and not from professors or students.

This decision comes with no consideration for how students feel. The 11:59 p.m. standard deadline is a staple in student life. Changing this deadline only hurts students and makes their lives even harder.

Many students have lives outside of going to classes and doing homework. Some have jobs going into the latter half of the day or clubs that run until the

sun sets. Some students are still in class when the 5 p.m. deadline comes around.

This decision aims to improve students' sleeping habits, but, in reality, it provides even more stress for students, who now have to change their entire schedule to fit around a deadline that is in the middle of the day. If you have an event that is around 5 p.m., instead of being able to do your homework afterward, you have to finish it beforehand which lines up with most classes.

Students won't have time for clubs or activities held by residential colleges anymore because they are losing hours of homework time to some people in suits who say it will help them.

Students are now left with an even busier workload just because some people who haven't been in school for more than 20 years decided to "help their sleep schedule."

This decision could have been made at the discretion of professors or people who interact with students regularly. Most professors never had an issue with the 11:59 p.m. deadline either because



Graphic by MacKenzie Rogers/*The News*

they could grade the assignments another day.

Instead of that, the turn-in time for assignments was decided by people who have no idea how hard a student's life can be.

With all the mental health changes trying to be made on campus, you would expect the University to listen to student's needs. Instead of that, we end up with awful decisions that will make students' lives even worse.

We at *The News* find this decision ridiculous and uncalled for. No one on this campus complained about the 11:59 p.m. deadline.

Rather, if a professor changed the time from anything other than 11:59 p.m., it was looked down upon by students.

If the people who made this come to their senses, please reverse this decision not just for the sake of *The News*, but for the sake of every student on campus.

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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.thenews@murraystate.edu.

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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 monthly student-run newspaper published at Murray State. The content does not reflect the opinions of the Murray State Journalism and Mass Communications Department.

Letter to the Editor

Professor urges campus community to report worrying viral trend rhetoric

In James Baldwin's novel "Giovanni's Room," a book I teach nearly every semester in my survey of American literature since 1865, a character named Jacques offers the narrator, David an important lesson: "There are so many ways of being despicable it quite makes one's head spin. But the way to be really despicable is to be contemptuous of other people's pain" (55). In the wake of several stories I have heard following the Presidential election, I want to urge all of us, as members of the Murray State community, to resist the temptation "to be contemptuous of other people's pain" and to vehemently reject two especially sinister types of "despicable" behavior if we ever encounter them on our campus.

Two days after the election, a student told me about a worrying trend going viral online, one which, according to a recent report by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, has already made its way into many communities and schools across the country. Inspired by an infamous white supremacist Internet troll named Nick Fuentes, young men across the country have begun replying to women's social media posts, and even shouting at them in person, "Your body, my choice." This

vile repurposing of the pro-choice slogan "my body, my choice" explicitly revels in the re-election of a President who just one year ago was found liable by a jury of his peers for sexual abuse. Worse, it brazenly insists that men have a right to women's bodies, perpetuating the consequence-free celebration of rape culture that characterizes the so-called "manosphere" which has scourged our increasingly deregulated social media landscape.

Let me say this as clearly as I can. Statements like "your body, my choice" must be treated as credible threats of sexual violence. If you hear someone say this, on campus or online, you should immediately use what you learned in your Title IX training about bystander intervention and threat reporting. This is not "ironic," it is not "funny," and it is not "political speech," even if those making such statements claim the re-election of their felonious commander in chief as a license to air whatever misogynistic grievances they please. There must be no tolerance for sexual violence or intimidation in our community.

In addition to the misogynistic rape apologists who have come out of the woodwork since November 5, the

Southern Poverty Law Center has reported a separate spate of racist harassment targeting African Americans, particularly on college campuses. According to NPR, numerous Black students have received anonymous texts telling them that, thanks to Trump's reelection, they have been "selected to pick cotton at the nearest plantation." I don't care who the President is or what kinds of reprehensible behavior he and his acolytes online might seem to condone: hate speech is hate speech, and it must be treated as such. Do not normalize it.

If you hear of this type of behavior happening on campus, you should report it, and you should make it abundantly clear that we will not tolerate it in our community. I, for one, refuse to make the slightest accommodation for the racism and misogyny that has been bubbling up in pockets across the country in recent days. I hope that everyone reading this will join me in reminding everyone here at the university we love that these despicable, contemptuous attitudes and actions will never be welcome.

Ray Horton
MSU English professor

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Sports Spotlight: Murray State Soccer

Sam Hunter
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In collegiate sports, the relationship between teammates frequently determines whether a season is successful or difficult.

Abbey MacDonald and Isa De Santos Gomez, two freshmen on the Murray State women's soccer team, are already leaving their imprint on the pitch even though their adventure has only just begun.

Both athletes have left their cherished hometowns to pursue their studies and sports careers at Murray State.

Moving from Brazil to the United States to play soccer has been both an exciting and difficult experience for De Santos Gomez.

De Santos Gomez, a native of São Paulo, Brazil, selected Murray's program because of its vibrant team atmosphere and the chance to further her soccer career at the collegiate level.

"When I first arrived, I was excited but also a little nervous," De Santos Gomez said. "I was coming from Brazil, where the style of play is different, and I didn't know what to expect. But the coaches

and my teammates made it easier to adjust. They welcomed me with open arms, and I felt like part of the team right away."

De Santos Gomez plays as a goalkeeper and has shown flashes of brilliance on the field, using her speed and reflexes to save shot opportunities by opposing teams. Yet, like MacDonald, she has also found that college soccer is more than just a physical challenge—it's about mental toughness, too.

MacDonald's journey from suburban Philadelphia to the heart of Kentucky hasn't been easy, but it's one she wouldn't trade. As a freshman majoring in exercise science with a minor in nutrition, MacDonald had to adapt to the pressures of college life, balancing the demands of soccer with the rigors of academics.

"Time management has been a big challenge for me," MacDonald said. "Between practice, school and everything else, I've had to learn how to balance my time. It's easy to get lost in the workload, so I make sure to take breaks and hang out with friends when I can."

Her solution? Find a way to unwind and recharge. Whether it's playing pickleball or volunteering at an animal

shelter, MacDonald knows how important it is to take time for herself. It's something she credits with helping her avoid burnout, a common issue among student-athletes.

"I think it's important to find things that allow you to step away from soccer," she said. "It's all about finding that balance so you can be your best on the field and in the classroom."

As freshmen, MacDonald and De Santos Gomez are still finding their way in the world of college soccer, but they've already developed a bond that extends beyond the soccer field. Both players share a sense of gratitude for the strong team culture at Murray State and the support they've received from their coaches and teammates.

"I've learned so much from my teammates," MacDonald said. "We all support each other, no matter what. It makes such a difference when you feel like you're part of a family."

De Santos Gomez agreed. "It's the same for me," she said. "Having a team that feels like a family is everything. It makes all the hard work worth it."

Together, MacDonald and De Santos Gomez represent the future of Murray State soccer—a team that's building

for success, one player at a time. With the bond they've forged through shared challenges and triumphs, they're ready to take on whatever comes next. Whether it's battling through a tough game or navigating the complexities of college life, these two freshmen are proving that determination, friendship, and hard work are the keys to making it in the world of college sports.

"We're still growing as players, but I know we have something special here," MacDonald said. "We're all in this together, and that's what will make us stronger."

For De Santos Gomez, the goal is simple. "We want to win, but we also want to make sure we're having fun and supporting each other along the way," she said. "That's what this team is all about."

With players like MacDonald and De Santos Gomez leading the way, it's clear that Murray State women's soccer is just getting started, and with a foundation built on teamwork, dedication, and a shared love for the game, their future looks bright.

SCORES AT A GLANCE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

NOV. 4: W, 113-37
NOV. 8: L, 68-83

UPCOMING GAMES

NOV. 16
NOV. 20

MEN'S XC

OCT. 18: 9TH OF 16

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV. 15

FOOTBALL

OCT. 19: L, 32-40
OCT. 26: L, 6-59
NOV. 2: L, 6-52
NOV. 9: L, 31-59

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV. 16
NOV. 23

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

OCT. 30: W, 98-66
NOV. 7: W, 104-60

UPCOMING GAMES

NOV. 15
NOV. 23

WOMEN'S XC

OCT. 18: 4TH OF 16
NOV. 1: 11TH OF 11

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV. 15

SOCCER

OCT. 17: L, 0-1
OCT. 20: W, 2-1
OCT. 24: L, 1-3
OCT. 27: T, 1-1

VOLLEYBALL

OCT. 18: L, 1-3
OCT. 19: W, 3-1
OCT. 25: W, 3-1
OCT. 26: W, 3-2
NOV. 1: L, 0-3
NOV. 2: L, 1-3
NOV. 8: W, 3-1
NOV. 9: W, 3-0

UPCOMING GAMES

NOV. 15
NOV. 16

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November 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

NOV. 15TH: VOLLEYBALL @6PM

NOV. 16TH: VOLLEYBALL @5PM

NOV. 20TH: MENS BASKETBALL @7PM

NOV. 22ND: MENS BASKETBALL @7PM

December 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

DEC. 3RD: MENS BASKETBALL @7PM

DEC. 7TH: WOMENS BASKETBALL @2PM

DEC. 8TH: MENS BASKETBALL @3PM

DEC. 19TH: WOMENS BASKETBALL @6PM

DEC. 29TH: WOMENS BASKETBALL @2PM

Boggess looks to inspire younger generation of fans

Ethan Alexander
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Trey Boggess may not be a five-star recruit or a highly touted transfer, but the Murray State basketball walk-on may be one of the most important players on this year's team.

Boggess was born and raised in Murray, and grew up idolizing Murray State basketball players such as Isaiah Canaan, Cameron Payne and Ja Morant. These players defined collegiate athletics in Murray during the 2010s, and for Boggess they were role models for his own basketball journey.

After a successful high school basketball career, Boggess looked forward to potentially playing in college.

"Recruiting didn't go the way I thought it was going to go," Boggess said. "Senior year (of high school) I kind of just accepted that I wasn't going to play anywhere."

He eventually enrolled at Murray State as a regular student, and it wouldn't be until his sophomore year when he became involved with the athletic department. He signed as a manager for the women's basketball team before the start of the 2023-24 season, and during the season he strengthened his relationships with both the women's and men's basketball programs.

After the season ended, men's basketball coach Steve Prohm approached Boggess. Prohm asked if

Boggess was interested in becoming a walk-on. It was a no-brainer decision for Boggess.

"This whole opportunity with the men's team has been such a cool opportunity and has been a dream come true," Boggess said. "Every day I walk into the facility, and I'm just reminded that I literally wished and prayed when I was a little kid that I could be on the Murray State basketball team."

The decision to walk onto the team was made even easier because of the relationships Boggess had built during his time as a manager. During that time, he built a strong friendship with redshirt sophomore guard Patrick Chew.

"It means a lot to me to have one of my best friends join the team," Chew said. "I feel like it will only grow our relationship along with playing the sport that we love."

Boggess said this new era of college athletics has given him a clearer role on the team as a culture setter and chemistry builder.

"My biggest role is to be the best person, the best encourager, a person that all the guys want to be around. I really try to be a leader off the court," Boggess said.

"People don't realize how much [walk-ons] mean to the team," said junior guard Justin Morgan. "Helping us in practice with drills and being on the scout team benefits us in so many ways. They do all of the little things that most people don't notice."



Photo courtesy of Spencer Smith
Trey Boggess runs down the court against Bethel.

Boggess said he hopes he can inspire kids like him, who are growing up as Murray State basketball fans. He's hopeful that his connection with the community will provide a stronger relationship between himself and Murray State supporters.

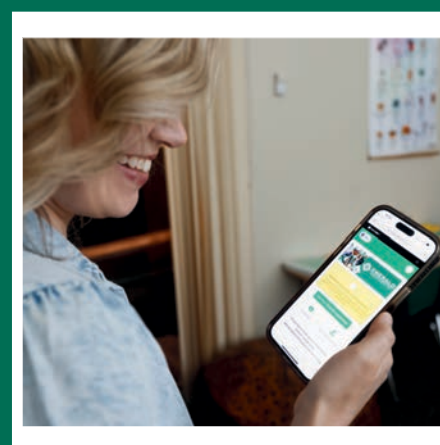
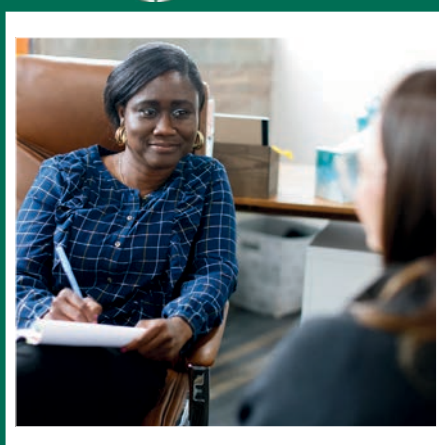
Boggess said while he may not be the player to watch on the court, he wants to use his situation as an example for people to follow and achieve their dreams.

On Nov. 4, during Murray State's season opening game against Bethel University, Boggess checked in late in the game and scored his first collegiate points on a pass from fellow walk-on, Mason Schubert, finally fulfilling his childhood dream.

"You can do whatever you put your mind to," Boggess said. "If you work hard enough, and you meet the right people and you really go about life in a great way, your dreams can somewhat come true."



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