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THE MURRAY STATE NEWS

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NEWS

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President Ron Patterson shares upcoming plans

Gray Hawkins

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Murray has livened up since the return of the student body and the arrival of the class of 2030, but with students come plenty of questions about what's going on around campus.

Murray State University President Ron Patterson spoke with The Murray State News about his plans for the 2026-2027 academic year and ongoing changes on the campus.

Q: What do you expect to be your primary focus this semester?

Patterson: I think it's pretty much the same from last year. I think listening is very vital and important. Because of our ability to listen, we have been able to begin a season of doing in terms of decision making for our campus community. That's students, faculty and staff. I think you will continue to see me doing those types of things: listening and informing my decisions to move the university forward. It's going to continue to be students first, Murray State always, Racers forever.

Having said that, investing in our people (is a priority). We know we have some low wages and salary rates we are trying to deal with campus-wide for faculty and staff. We also know we have to address some of our aging infrastructure and facilities on campus. Hence, the Campus Master Plan that is underway.

Q: What is the Campus Master Plan and how does it affect the campus community?

Patterson: We are working very diligently with BHPD Architecture, the firm working with us to explore space utilization in 47-50 buildings on campus, mainly our academic enterprise, identifying what buildings we need to invest in and how much that is going to cost us. We are looking at the campus footprint from Wilson Hall where the mall begins all the way through the residential college space. What should that walk look like? How do we enhance and expand that to carry all the way over to the CFSB Center in terms of some of the design?

This plan gives the administration a roadmap to make some of these opportunities priorities for the current administration and future administrations in terms of how to implement and enact the plan in a timely manner.

We are also looking at some of the residential college spaces, meaning we are bringing on board the new Living and Learning Commons, a 250-bed, four-story facility. However, we know we have three aging facilities: that's Hart Hall, RH White and Regents. What's going to be our plan to take those offline but also bring new facilities on board? We are talking about all those things right now. We decommissioned College Courts for this fall. At some point, we will communicate with the campus regarding when we will raze those facilities.

At some point, roll the plan out to the campus community. The campus will get a finished product of where we are taking the campus over the next 10-30 years.

Q: When should we expect to see the Campus Master Plan rolled out?

Patterson: It will be in the current academic year either later this fall or in the spring. Right now, they are still compiling data, and we are still giving feedback from the executive committee regarding the options they have presented to us. We are also still diving into the data.

Q: Can you tell us about the decision to close



Aly Adler/The News

University President Ron Patterson speaks with The Murray State News' Editor in Chief Gray Hawkins.

College Courts and what's next for that space?

Patterson: We brought in a structural engineer over the summer. We were having some issues with Americans with Disabilities Act compliance with those facilities. That structural engineer made a vital and important assessment regarding those structures, and it was determined they were unsafe and not worth the risk of investing resources and money. The administration, having heard that information and data, made the conscious decision to close down and decommission them for this academic year.

Because of the many projects we have on campus addressing asset preservation facilities and athletics going through some upgrades and enhancements, we just have not had dedicated time to establish a timeline for when those will come down. The University and administration are working diligently to identify the necessary funds and when we should start. Right now, while the decision was a priority to decommission, we are having to work with Facilities Management in terms of timing when they will be razed. That's just standard practice.

I do want to be clear about the spacing. Right now, we have on our campus over 3,100 beds not including Station 74 or College Courts. We are currently at 2,600 people in beds, meaning we have plenty of beds for people to be in or to be housed. We are at about 95% occupancy. I just want to make sure we are clear on that, because I don't want people to think we are taking beds offline and don't have enough. We have plenty of beds on our campus.

Q: Many students, especially in the Hester Residence Hall, use College Courts parking. How soon might they have to relocate their cars due to deconstruction?

Patterson: It could be as early as the spring. Students are parking over there now. The First Lady and I walked through campus this weekend and noticed an increase of parking over there, which is fine. We will communicate in a timely fashion when those spaces will no longer be available.

Having said that, if you will notice, there is a fence right below Franklin. We are getting ready to move some dirt there and create an additional 100-140 parking spaces there. As we are moving, shifting and bringing down, we are also planning to add spaces to make sure our students can find adequate parking. We are doing a lot of things simultaneously.

Q: Does the University have enough parking to accommodate the number of students

paying for parking spots?

Patterson: Currently, I would say we do. If we were to walk across this campus right now, I could show you there is parking vacant across the street. There is parking down the hill behind the football stadium. There is plenty of parking, it is just not as convenient as one would like. I completely understand that. People want to park right next to their space, whether that's living or academic. For someone who walks this campus, you can walk from one end to the other in under ten minutes. We are in a wonderful time and space where our campus is easy and safe to walk, and it is beautiful.

Q: What area do you hope to see the most improvement in at Murray State by the end of this semester?

Patterson: Identifying what our students want to better enhance their student experience. One piece to that puzzle was refreshing the Susan E. Bauernfeind Recreation and Wellness Center with all new equipment and furnishings. We updated the flooring and locker rooms. We improved the pool, and we are getting ready to put together a plan to update the HVAC for the pool. That's something that will take place in the near future here as well. That's because we listened to our students. My charge to the students is: what else? What other facility or space on campus do you think we should be looking at to try to improve or enhance your overall student experience? I would love to hear from the students.

Q: What's the best way for students to do so? Do you still have last year's feedback form?

Patterson: I have a share-your-ideas form, but that is being used for, sometimes, complaints rather than sharing true ideas of how we could make this university better. I am still welcome to take those ideas. It is still open and active. We really need a space and place where students can share how we can enhance the overall student experience. Whether that is new technology in facilities or upgrading a particular space where students like to hang out, things like that. Those are helpful as well, and they boost the student morale and energy when students see the administration giving back and listening to their voices.

As a student-produced publication, The Murray State News aims to keep students informed and represented. Beginning with the next print issue on Sept. 17, The News will be taking students' submitted questions directly to Patterson during our monthly meetings. Email us at msu.thenews@murraystate.edu.

Construction builds excitement, frustration

Harper Spaulding

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Murray State students joining campus this fall were met with multiple ongoing construction projects, some of which have experienced delays.

Murray State has launched multiple new construction projects across campus, fixing the University's aging infrastructure and expanding the educational curriculum.

These projects haven't been without problems, however, with delayed openings and reduced parking for students. The new Jackson Hall College of Nursing and Health Sciences building, which was slated to open at the beginning of the semester, is now scheduled to open after fall break.

"The anticipated move-in date for Jackson Hall is over Fall Break in October," read a statement from Murray State Public Relations. "The project experienced a delay due to a bid protest and resulting lawsuit. A building dedication will take place in October."

In 2024, Paducah-based contractor A&K Construction filed a lawsuit against the University regarding the bidding process for the construction contract.

Recently A&K filed another similar lawsuit against the university regarding the bid for the new Veterinary Sciences building.

The University said any similar delay for the Veterinary Sciences Building is speculative at this point. According to the University, construction of the building and future

home of Murray State's doctorate in Veterinary Medicine is projected to continue through fall 2027.

Along with the Veterinary Sciences building construction is underway on the new living and learning commons next to Hart Hall. This 88,000 square foot building will include 250 beds, various new learning spaces and a dining area. Construction is expected to continue through winter 2027.

The University is also looking to expand its group study rooms on the bottom floor of Waterfield Library. Part of the library is blocked off for the ongoing construction.

In a recent interview with the Murray State News, President Ron Patterson said there were over 200 ongoing projects across the University including these major construction projects.

Abby Martin, a sophomore pre-vet major, said she was excited for the new veterinary building though she will not get to attend.

"I personally won't be affected by it because I'll be graduated before it's built," Martin said. "But it's definitely exciting for future generations that don't have to travel 12 hours to the nearest vet school to have one right here at home where we are."

Hanah Snedeker, a sophomore nursing major, said she is excited to see what Jackson Hall looks like come this spring.

Currently, however, she's had trouble finding parking with the new construction around the dorms.

"They've closed off a lot of parking spots, especially near the wellness center, and then



Harper Spaulding/The News

Construction crews continue work on the new Living and Learning Commons next to Hart Hall. The project is expected to continue through winter 2027.

around Hester and Hart," Snedeker said. "I wish there was more parking available."



Welcome
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academic year at
Murray State University!

**We are excited to have you on campus
and wish you a rewarding fall semester
filled with learning, growth, and
memorable experiences.**

Go Racers!

-Ron, Jenny, and the Patterson family

A&K sues over vet building bidding process

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Three months after Murray State broke ground on its new veterinary sciences building, the University faces a lawsuit for alleged unfair practices in its bidding process.

On July 22, A&K Construction filed a complaint in the McCracken County Circuit Court alleging unfair and arbitrary decision making after the University rejected their bid for the new veterinary sciences building. According to the complaint, A&K Construction was denied the bid for the construction despite being the lowest bidder. The complaint alleges the University rejected their bid due to another ongoing lawsuit regarding bidding for the Jackson Hall Nursing Sciences Building.

“On information and belief, MSU’s evaluators’ scoring of A&K’s Phase I submittal was not based on the objective and quantifiable criteria set forth in the Invitation,” the company said in their complaint, “but was instead a deliberate act of retaliation against A&K for exercising its constitutional and statutory rights in connection with its prior protest and litigation against MSU.”

A&K Construction has previously worked with Murray State for the construction of Franklin Hall and the Murray State regional campus in Paducah, Kentucky. After the University sent out the veterinary sciences bid invitation to local contractors, A&K responded with a bid offer totaling \$40 million, around \$1 to \$2 million cheaper than the selected bidder Ray Black & Son Inc.

According to the bidding invitations sent out by Murray State for construction of both the veterinary sciences and nursing buildings, assessment of contractors is



A construction trailer sits at the site of the future vet building.

Harper Spaulding/The News

based on both the offered price and the experience of the contracting firm. According to the complaint, the University’s evaluators gave A&K Construction 33.25 out of 40 points in the category of experience and team quality, with selected contractor Ray Black & Sons receiving 37 out of 40 in the same category.

According to open records documents presented in A&K’s complaint, University evaluators mentioned A&K’s ongoing lawsuit against Murray State as reasons against hiring the company.

On Dec. 19, 2024, A&K filed a petition against Murray State’s contract with Pinnacle Inc. for construction of the nursing building. During that bidding process, A&K offered the lowest cost bid at \$24.5 million, but their offer was rejected. The lawsuit is still ongoing.

Read more on our website



University sees multiple resignations, staff leave

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Three members of administrative staff have left their positions just before the start of the 2026 fall semester.

Between Aug. 5–7, Darcie Liddle, Procurement Services director, and Laura Foltz, vice president for Finance and Administrative Services, were placed on paid administrative leave. During this time, Haley Stedelin, Human Resources associate director, resigned from her position. Both Liddle and Stedelin have worked for the University for over a decade, while Foltz had only begun serving under her position on Jan. 28.

Each vacated position falls within the University’s Finance and Administrative Services department. Additionally, the positions of vice president of facilities management, administrative assistant in the Provost’s Office and intramural director remain vacant.

When asked about the repercussions of these newly vacant positions, the Murray State Office of Branding, Marketing and Communication cited Ron Patterson, president of Murray State University, and his campus wide statement on Aug. 10.

“The University is committed to maintaining continuity in all business

operations and addressing the needs of each member of the campus community,” wrote the Office of Branding, Marketing and Communication.

When asked for the reasoning behind staff turnover, the Office of Branding, Marketing and Communication refused any further explanation. During a recent interview with the Murray State News, Patterson was asked about the recent vacancies. In response to the question of the effect these openings will have on the university, Patterson said that other staff members will temporarily fill them.

“When you have significant vacancies, whether it’s retirement or leave or whatever the case may be, they do adversely affect the University,” Patterson said. “It requires the other staff to step in and step up and assume other duties and responsibilities; it’s never good, it’s never ideal, but I’m confident that our colleagues will rise to the occasion and will continue to serve our students, faculty, staff and our campus community as well.”

Additionally, Patterson also provided updates on the hiring process to fill some of the vacancies. The University is currently searching for a new Vice President of Facilities Management, formerly headed by Jason Youngblood. Wendy Longworth was recently named as acting registrar.



Avery Poston/The News

“We will finally have a new director of financial aid and scholarships here on campus within the next two or three weeks,” Patterson said. “We made an offer to an individual for the position of director of financial aid and scholarships last Friday, and the search concluded a couple weeks ago, and that individual accepted.”

Many students are unaware of the recent vacancies and the effects they may

have on their lives and the structure of the University. Jacob Wilson, a senior engineering major, said he was saddened by the lack of awareness of the openings.

“As sad as it is, that’s an aspect of a university that most people don’t really notice,” Wilson said. “It’s so easy to not notice the little things like this whenever there is so much on one’s plate at school.”

Regents plan vote on dismissal policy

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The Murray State Board of Regents may soon vote on a change expanding possible reasons for faculty dismissal.

During their meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 18., the Faculty Senate voted 32-0 to pass a revision to the faculty handbook that brings it into compliance with Kentucky House Bill 490, which requires universities to have a process for eliminating faculty on "bona fide financial reasons." The passed revision includes protections for tenured faculty and the need for documented financial review and committee approval for proposed terminations.

The revision now heads to the Murray State Board of Regents for a vote at their Aug. 28 meeting.

"This is a challenging topic," said Faculty Senate President Michael Bordieri. "No policy is perfect. I think there'll always be things we can look at and revisit, but I will sleep well tonight knowing that we all showed up in this moment to do our best to support the institution and to support faculty in this environment."

Last April, the Kentucky Senate passed House Bill 490, which required Kentucky universities to include a process for removing faculty members for reasons of financial exigency, misalignment

of revenue and low enrollment in a program or major. Gov. Andy Beshear vetoed the legislation, saying its standards were vague and ambiguous and may be misused by institutions. The veto was overturned by a 32-6 vote in the House.

Bordieri said the University remains financially stable and has no plans to enact the proposed policy to remove faculty.

According to the revision passed by the Faculty Senate, removal for financial reasons can not be used as a substitute for the established processes for removal with cause. Proposed removals must be supported by a multi-year financial analysis, which must be accompanied by reasonable alternatives to the removal and anticipated consequences of the removal on the institution. Proposed dismissals must be voted on by a committee made up of representatives from each college.

Faculty must be given at least 30 days notice before removal for bona fide financial reasons and must be given a chance to respond to the dismissal. Tenured faculty must receive at least a year's notice before dismissal unless the University has declared a state of financial exigency due to financial crisis.

According to the revision, tenured faculty members may not be removed from their position for financial reasons if a non-tenured faculty member is retained in a similar position in the same



Avery Poston/The News

department who may be terminated instead. For two years after a tenured faculty member is dismissed, they shall be given primary consideration for any faculty search in a position for which they qualify.

In the event an academic program is eliminated or combined with another,

the University must make an effort to protect tenured faculty, including offering them vacant positions elsewhere in the University for which they may qualify.

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Waterfield Library adds additional group study rooms

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Although the semester has just begun, many students are already hard at work preparing for fast-approaching exams. Lounge spaces around campus may be a bit too loud, and your dorm has a few too many distractions you would rather indulge in, but Waterfield Library has the perfect place for students in need of a dedicated space to study.

Waterfield Library is adding five additional group study rooms to its lower level. When Waterfield's lower level was renovated during the summer of 2025, six glass rooms were added to the library's resources for Murray State students.

Cris Ferguson, dean of libraries, said the currently installed study rooms were frequently used last year.

"In the 25-26 academic year, the group study rooms were used more than 2,200 times, which is phenomenal," she said. "The popularity of the group study rooms is what prompted us to install more."

These study rooms are 12x12 feet. with a capacity of six students. They are equipped with whiteboards and electrical outlets. Ferguson said she hopes for the new study rooms to be available starting the first week of September.

Cassie Stone (she/they), a senior English education major, has found the Waterfield group study rooms useful when looking for somewhere to join a Zoom call for her online courses. She said she first used the study rooms last semester with a fellow classmate joining the same Zoom call because they were looking for a quieter area in the library.

"This week, I also used it for a Zoom class," Stone said. "I did stop and ask the people working at the desk if there's anywhere better for a single meeting.



Lindsey Hopper/The News

Students use Waterfield Library's group study rooms.

They said the study rooms are probably the best for meetings."

Stone explained while there are 10 individual study rooms on the upper level of Waterfield, those are in the library's silent zone where students go for a distraction-free space. She said it is important to remember the group study rooms are not sound proof either.

"They are surprisingly loud," she said. "They are

not closed off at the roof, probably for safety reasons. It's great as long as you catch one when it's a little emptier."

To utilize Waterfield's group study rooms, students can check out keys at the circulation desk near the entrance to Einstein Bros. Bagels. Students must also check out dry erase markers from the circulation desk if they intend to use the study room whiteboards.

RacersConnect spreads the word on campus events

Emi Campbell

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Running around campus looking for posters, scouring Instagram for posts and ending up late anyway; the fate of events at MSU has been rough the past few years, but what if you could go anywhere on campus with one click?

A project that has been in the works for over a year at Murray State University launched this semester: RacersConnect. RacersConnect is a service spearheaded by Student Involvement as well as Residence Life that seeks to bring the power to connect with each other to Murray students.

"The biggest challenge (with student involvement) is ensuring all students know where events are," says Casey Rowe, associate director for Residence Life.

With over 300 events open for registration, dozens of student organizations and thousands of students, RacersConnect has become the "one-stop shop" for all things student centered.

"(RacersConnect) is an easy place to find places to get involved ... and smooths the transition into college," said Kade Gambill, director of Student Involvement.

RacersConnect offers a plethora of tools for students. With hundreds of events open for student registration, access to form posts to see what is going on in departments and organizations, chat rooms to reach out to students and staff, personally catered club recommendations, maps of places on campus, virtual career fairs, student workflow charts and so much more, RacersConnect is a must have for all University students.

RacersConnect doesn't stop at being a tool for

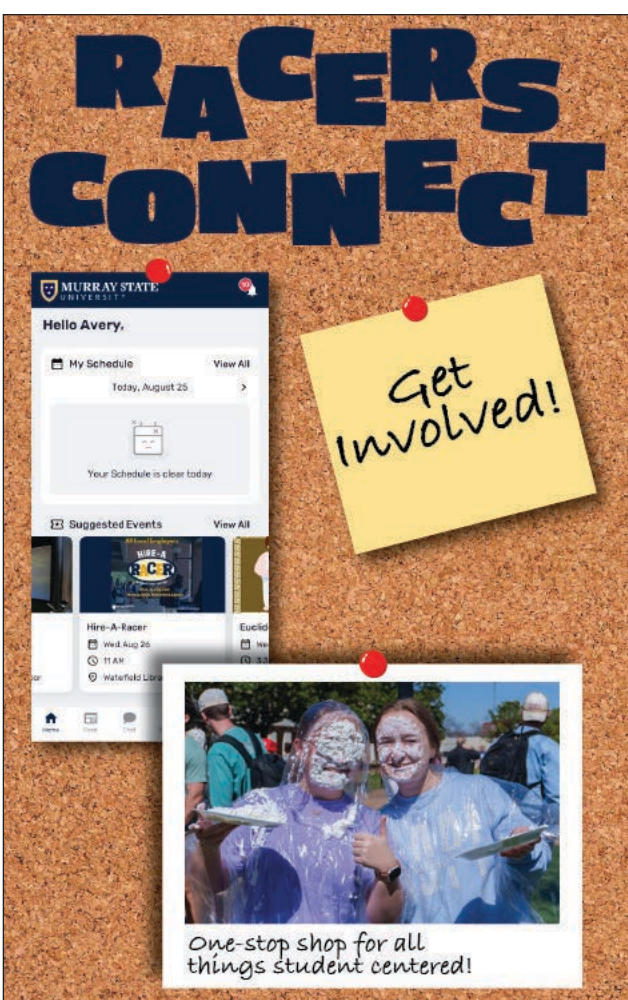
students to use. It doubles as a game for students to compete and get rewarded for their involvement. Points, badges and a leaderboard are built into the website to spark friendly competition between students. Each event you go to gives you points, and each group you interact with gets you closer to a badge.

"We want to encourage students to get involved," Gambill said. "Possible plans for this would be raffles based on point earnings, or prizes for those who are top on the leader board."

With Murray State being one of the safest campuses in Kentucky, the University staff behind RacersConnect have also made sure to take various steps to ensure digital harassment is policed and forbidden on this app. All messages are done through a request system, giving students the ability to turn down interaction with anyone that reaches out with them. New tools are constantly being added, so the ability to block students or tailor aspects of your profile visibility are possibly soon to come. Additionally, any reports of malicious behavior get sent directly to Murray State Student Involvement.

"If we had a student who was being incredibly disruptive," Rowe said. "We would be able to have them completely removed from the app. ... There's many ways to use this platform that we have even yet to fully realize."

With the livelihood of students in mind, the staff working on RacersConnect is in open conversation with students and staff at CampusGroups, the company behind RacersConnect, to tailor the platform to the needs of Murray State. With students figuring out new ways to use this app every day and formal training being given to some student organizations in September, the RacersConnect craze has only just begun.



Avery Poston/The News

New provost Twigg prioritizes student success on campus

Ainsley Beatty

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When he's not riding motorcycles to work and raising miniature donkeys in Murray's countryside, Paul Twigg, Murray State provost and vice president of academic affairs, is dedicated to ensuring student success and achievement on campus.

Twigg stepped into the role of provost and vice president of academic affairs at Murray State on June 1. Twigg comes from a long-time position at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, his home for 34 years. Twigg served as a biology professor at UNK, chair and dean in multiple departments across the university before rounding out his career there as associate dean of the College of Art and Sciences.

Twigg learned about the provost opening through a search firm and said the position felt like a culmination of everything in his career so far.

"A search firm reached out to me about this job being open and wondered if I might be interested," he said. "The prospectus they put together made it seem like it was so applicable to what I did ... it seemed like someone had written the job with me in mind."

Twigg said as soon as he moved to Murray it felt homey and reminded him of UNK. He said he enjoys Murray's welcoming atmosphere, local arts community, Downtown Farmers Market and his ability to drive his motorcycle to work everyday.

One thing that keeps him busy outside of University work is he and his wife's abundance of animals.

"When my wife and I moved here, we moved here with a menagerie of animals," Twigg said. "I have miniature donkeys, sheep ... and goats. We bought a place (outside of Murray) where we have 12 miles of ground where those guys can all run and play on."

Through every role he's held, Twigg said he prioritizes relationships with students and student success and achievements, and he has brought that with him to Murray State.

"I always say that all the decisions I'm making are related to student success in one way or another," he said. "As a first-generation college student myself, someone back in time had faith in the fact that I was able to do things, that I was worth investing their time in, and I want to make sure that all students here feel the same way from me and my office."

As provost and vice president of academic affairs, Twigg is responsible for everything to do with the academic lives of students.

"I am ultimately responsible for making sure that the people who teach your classes are prepared, effectively that the people who teach your classes do their job (and) the people who teach your classes have what they need to teach your classes," he said.

In his first year as University provost, Twigg said he is interested in partnering with the Gardner



Lindsey Hopper/The News

Provost Paul Twigg rides his motorcycle to campus.

Institute to make Murray State a "transformation campus."

"(It's) focused around how can campuses transform for the success of students," he explained. "I'm interested in making Murray State what's called a transformation campus. Around that is transforming first-year experience, first-year seminar, advising (and) transfer."

According to the Gardner Institute's about page, they help institutions to invest in students and community so every student gets the resources they need to make it to graduation.

"The John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Higher Education is a non-profit organization dedicated to partnering with colleges, universities, philanthropic organizations, educators, and other entities to increase institutional responsibility for improving outcomes associated with teaching, learning, retention, and completion," the Gardner Institute wrote on their website. "The Institute supports postsecondary education's efforts to ensure that every learner earns a credential that leads to a meaningful career and a highly fulfilling life."

Presently, Twigg said the University is going through strategic planning, which influences how money is invested in things such as "the quality of

(campus) buildings, (sports facilities), how the library is put together, how the cafeteria works," and master planning, which affects how money is invested to improve buildings.

During a recent financial meeting, Twigg said it was brought to his attention that money for internships was not being used and had been reallocated to other budgetary needs. As the internship money was geared towards a very specific group of students, he said it was not being well used.

"After that, I spoke to the Student Government President Caesar Villeda," he said. "My idea was to try and make some sort of 'speed dating' between businesses, schools, non-profits and students, and we could find if there were people who were interested in one another. (If) the businesses wanted to invest something, we'd be able to use that some of money to match and make more internships for Murray State students."

Twigg said students are always welcome to contact him for any reason.

"I tell (students), 'I know you don't necessarily understand what a provost does,'" he said, "but my last name is Twigg. I'm the only Twigg on campus, and if you come up with a problem that you can't figure out: ask Twigg and Twigg will help you figure it out."

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The Murray State News Editorial Board and advisers pose outside Wilson Hall

Ed Board reflects on The News' Centennial

On June 24th, 1927, Murray State saw its first issue of the small, student-run organization The College News. Student newspapers often struggle, for reasons that vary from a lack of financial support to the demanding workload that comes with journalism. A student newspaper becoming a longstanding organization is no small feat. After a century of hard work, The College News lives to this day as The Murray State News.

Naturally, we as the Editorial Board have several things to say about the occasion. Luckily, we're all here at The News because we want to say things.

Gray Hawkins, Editor in Chief

Do you remember celebrating the 100th day of school in kindergarten or first grade? I remember having to count out 100 of something and bring it to class — I chose Cheerios — to help us quantify how much 100 really was. It is hard to imagine 20-somethings in 1927 doing the same job I do today, but I owe the wonderful experiences I have had at The News to them. I'm grateful for the staff of each and every year since who kept this paper going so my wonderful coworkers and I get the opportunity to bring the community of Murray State the news they need to know.

Ainsley Beatty, Features Editor

When I joined The News my freshman year, I had no clue I would get to be a part of our centennial publication year. The News is one of the most vibrant, passionate groups of people I have ever been a part of. I've met so many amazing people in the newsroom, and we've shared countless late nights filled with laughter and mischief to drown out our stress over print week, and still managed to make deadline each time. This newspaper is truly the heart and soul of the people who run it and we hope our readers see that in everything we do.

Owen Hansen, Opinion Editor

I'm not a journalism student. I showed up to The News in my sophomore year solely because I needed a hobby. It only took a couple of weeks for me to realize just how much I loved it. It's been almost a year since then, and I've loved The News every day. The passion and talent in this newsroom is unreal, and I couldn't be happier to be part of this centennial crew. This place is incredible, and will continue to be so for another hundred years.

Harper Spaulding, News Editor

After three years at The Murray State News, it's an honor to serve as News Editor for its centennial year. I've learned so much during my time here, and met many wonderful people I wouldn't have had the chance to before. I'm excited for what this year will bring and cant wait to see the news continue to grow.

Riley Staton, Sports Editor

Being a part of The Murray State News' Centennial, and being part of The News as a whole has opened my eyes on what it means to be a journalist. This experience has taught me more than I could ever realistically imagine about the field, and I really am just grateful to stand on the shoulders of the writers current and previous that I've had the fortune to work with. I'm incredibly excited to cover sports this year, and am looking forward to being a part of our amazing campus life for another year. It will definitely be an important year, but I speak for our sports department when I say we are ready and willing to play a part in it. Shoes up, and support grassroots journalism!

Aly Adler, Chief Videographer

I am a fourth generation Racer. Growing up I would hear stories about my great-grandma and the sacrifices she made to be the first woman in our family to go to college, how my grandparents fell in love with each other on this campus and the lifelong friendships my mother made at this university. I have always had a passion for storytelling and I believe it has come from those people.

Being a part of the centennial for The Murray State News is a great way for me to honor my family and continue my passion of capturing and telling stories.

Megan Kemp, Copy Editor

I joined The News late last semester on a whim while participating in an internship editing for Notations. I enjoyed going over the works of others creatively, so I thought I could transfer those skills to a journalistic front. It's exciting and informative to see how our crew take all the goings-on of our campus and translate that into gripping stories for the community to read. I'm honored to work with such a kind and dedicated crew. I look forward to my year one coinciding with our year 100!

Avery Poston, Graphic Design

When I first started getting involved with The News, I didn't have confidence in my skills as a journalist, let alone myself. Now that I'm so close to graduating, I'm proud of myself for pushing through every print night and tight deadline. It makes me so happy to see how The News has evolved within the short three years I've been here; It's even more amazing knowing that there are 97 more years of evolution before me and countless students who have gone through the same challenges. I hope we can all look back one day and acknowledge every student who made The News the way it is today.

Whether you picked up a copy of this paper while walking to class or are sitting in bed reading this from our website, you've done good today. The Murray State News survives off of the support of our readers and advertisers, so we cannot thank you enough for your time and attention.

Some of us here at The News have been here their whole college career, and some of us joined within the last year. Some of us have planned to work in journalism since childhood, while others showed up in the newsroom on a whim. No matter why, or for how long, we're here, we all know that The News matters. We hope that the Murray State community knows that too, and we especially hope that you'll join us for the next hundred years.

Vol. 59, No. 6
October 7, 1983
Murray State University
Murray, Kentucky
Section B

the murray state
News

Scholars, builders, dreamers:

The Seven Presidents of Murray State



John W. Carr
1923-26 and 1933-36



Rainey T. Wells
1926-33



Oakhurst





As Murray State University moves forward with the new administration of its seventh president, the Murray State News presents a special section highlighting the achievements of the school's six past presidents and accomplishments, goals and activities of its new leader, Dr. Kate M. Sirup.

VOL. 60, NO. 1
Shooting star captures god

By CHERYL KAELEN
Staff Writer

If riflewoman Pat Spurgin's aim was to give Murray State and riflery a good name, she couldn't have hit much closer to the bulls-eye after winning the gold medal in the air rifle competition at the XXIII Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Spurgin, an all-American last year, broke the previous American record of 391 by shooting a 393 of a possible 400. Spurgin missed the world record of 395.

Being the top qualifier in the Olympic trials in June brought a great deal of pressure on Spurgin, of Billings, Mont. But the pressure didn't seem to bother her much.

"I knew I had to shoot well to win a medal," Spurgin said. The anxiety and nervousness set in with only 13 shots left, but Spurgin felt she couldn't give up after all the time and hard work she put into training.

"You've gotten yourself this far," Spurgin said to herself, "don't mess up."

A second-year freshman, Spurgin began shooting at the age of nine. She and her

member, would go to the rifle club on Junior Night with their father. Spurgin wanted to quit at the age of 10 because 'she wasn't very good, but her parents gave her the encouragement to continue.

She began to realize she had a chance for a medal in the summer of 1983.

Her excellence has been achieved through hard work. Before the World Championships, in which she placed sixth, Spurgin practiced from 4-6 hours each day, five days a week. Before the Olympics, she practiced for eight hours every day. At 19, Spurgin can look back at all the long hours of practice with a golden smile.

The No. 1 shooter on the MSU rifle team, Spurgin is coached here by Sgt. Maj. Elvis Green, who says Spurgin doesn't need much coaching.

"She has self-drive and motivation and doesn't need a whole lot of guidance."

Spurgin helped the MSU team to a fifth place finish nationally last year and Green looks forward to a top three finish this year. The rifle team has not been placed lower than ninth in the nation since 1962.

"We should be one of the top three this year, if they put their expertise to practice," Green




ward to the... in China... 27, th... tips of th... 1985; the Worl... Championships in East... in 1986; the Pa... American Games in 1987 and the XXIV Summer Olympic... in 1988.

With a continued desire and... have... Spurgin... a national championship... Spurgin with a scholarship

Student Reporter Jobs



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OPINION: Where is student money going?

Shelby Burley

Contributing Writer

sburley@murraystate.edu

After Ron Patterson, president of Murray State University, announced the permanent closure of the College Courts, many students wondered what this disruption means for affected families.

“Based on the findings of that assessment, the University has determined that, while there is no immediate safety concern for current residents, the long-term structural condition of the building does not align with the University’s commitment to providing safe, high-quality housing,” Patterson said in an email on July 17. “Out of an abundance of caution, University administration has decided to permanently close College Courts.”

College Courts are undeniably no space for efficient living. Rusted pipes bear signs warning residents not to hang items from them, and weathered doors leave you hoping you won’t get a splinter just by opening them. This industrial decay is held together solely by the strength of the very students Murray State claims to protect.

How many “Racer experiences” must we drown out with the assumption that a corporate “master plan” will create a more accessible space for students, children and local residents? This future space will inevitably come at the expense of our own pockets. Our administration receives easier access to parking than a student rushing to a class across campus. But hey, at least my cardiac rhythm is in shape, courtesy of a \$200



Avery Poston/The News

parking fee— a stark reflection of the financial irony we face every day.

The evidence of neglect is everywhere on this campus. Our university leaders spectate problems that will continue to corrode this community if the administration continues to prioritize a future based on the illusion that issues will improve by inflating tuition and building new facilities.

The University has made a severe blunder. Another firsthand account told in fear of the future cannot fully demonstrate the impact that is bound to go unnoticed if these students are forced to leave due to a lack of accessible housing.

There are real consequences universities must consider before suddenly disrupting some of their most vulnerable students. How will the University maintain its affordable threshold without inflating rent under the sudden guise of wanting to provide equitable housing?

These are students who already spend thousands on tuition while working off-campus jobs such as Applebee’s and IHOP for a meager \$2.13 an hour plus tips. These are students who don’t have families to return to during breaks. Most of all, these are families with young children who are getting a brutal, firsthand account of the current

“Racer experience.” Ultimately, the University leaves students with only one predictable answer: there will be more construction.

Even when faced with insufficient answers from administration, it is the student body’s responsibility to continue asking questions. We must hold universities accountable for poisoning the fruit they bear, especially when it affects students’ success in obtaining a degree. We are not past housing inequalities, nor are we future test subjects. We are Racers looking to complete our track — without worrying our fate is prematurely decided.

Have an opinion? The News can publish it!

If you have a column you’d like to appear in The News, send it our way! We’re always happy to hear from our readers, and want to dedicate a space for your voices in The News.

If you have questions, interest in collaboration or a column already made, please email msu.thenews@murraystate.edu or our Opinion Editor Owen Hansen at ohansen1@murraystate.edu

We reserve the right to deny any submissions.

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Soccer surges defensively in spite of offensive struggles

Anna Knasel
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Game One 3-1 loss to Missouri

The first half began with a quick goal from the opposing side within the first 14 seconds of the match. However, the Racers managed to bounce back near the end of the half with a goal from freshman midfielder Abby Dalessandro assisted by junior midfielder Natalie Miller.

Both teams entered the second half with an even playing field, each with one goal. Within the first 10 minutes of the new half, Missouri took the lead with the help of a foul. At the 66 minute mark, they secured their lead with one last goal to close the game, making the final score 3-1.

Murray State's offense struggled deeply in the early start of the season with only three shots on target this match compared to Missouri's nine.

Despite the Racers having 10 corner kicks, they were only awarded one goal.



File photo/The News
Junior forward Breece Bass attempts a breakthrough.

Senior goalkeeper Griselda Revolorio showed her power with six saves in the 90 minutes which saved the offense from a larger upset.

Game Two 3-0 loss to Notre Dame

After three straight fouls at the 35 minute mark, Notre Dame got on the board first from a penalty kick goal.

Although the Racers made multiple attempted shots to cut down the lead, the first half ended with a 1-0 score.

Notre Dame managed to score again after a late substitution scored a goal.

Ten minutes after the second goal of the day, the Fighting Irish scored a third and final goal to finish the game 3-0.

Welcome Back!



SCAN TO LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED






MURRAY STATE
UNIVERSITY

FALL 2026 EVENTS

*Free and open to the public

SEPT
10

Nonprofit Connections *

Thursday, September 10
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Curris Center Small Ballroom, 3rd floor

SEPT
10

10th Annual Sid Easley Lecture *

"When the Declaration of Independence was News"
with guest lecturer Emily Sneff | Reception and book signing to follow | 7 p.m. | Wrather Auditorium

SEPT
17

Breakfast on the Farm

Presented by the Murray State Hutson College of Agriculture and the Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce
7:15 a.m. | Murray State University Doran Arboretum | \$40
Advance registration required

SEPT
17

Johnson Colloquium *

Performance by singer and songwriter
S.G. Goodman, MSU alumna
7 p.m. | Lovett Auditorium

SEPT
30

Town and Gown Breakfast

"Ask the Experts" at this year's annual breakfast.
7:30 a.m. | Calloway County Public Library
Advance registration required

OCT
1

Jackson Hall Dedication *

Dedication of the new Jackson Hall nursing building
3 p.m. | Jackson Hall

OCT
15

Taste of the Arts

Dinner, auction, and performances of the arts
Event sponsored by FNB Bank
5 p.m. | Lovett Auditorium | \$85
Advance registration required | bit.ly/4g3alsb

OCT
17

Homecoming: October 17 *

Parade | Main Street | 9:30 a.m.
Tent City | Stewart Stadium | 12:00 p.m.
Racers vs. USD Football Game | Stewart Stadium | 4:00 p.m.

DEC
1

Town and Gown Holiday Concert *

Listen to holiday music performed by the community band and chorale.
7 p.m. | Lovett Auditorium



murraystate.edu/calendar
goracers.com



Scan for more information.



The Charles and Marlene Johnson
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S.G. GOODMAN

FROM MURRAY STATE TO THE MAIN STAGE



THURSDAY • SEPTEMBER 17 • 7:00 PM

LOVETT AUDITORIUM • MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

This event is free and open to the public. The Johnson Colloquium Series was established with the goal of bringing guest lecturers, visiting artists, musicians, and academic experts to the stage of historic Lovett Auditorium with funding provided by Dr. Charles Johnson, '56, and the late Mrs. Marlene Rann Johnson, '57.

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**FALL 2026
EVENT SERIES**

SEPT. 3

**THURSDAY
4:30PM
FACULTY HALL 208**

SPEAKER SERIES
“Stage Ready: A Guide
to Mastering Presence
in Interviews, Presentations,
and High Stakes Moments”

*Ashley Cumming,
Department of Music*

SEPT. 11

**FRIDAY
2:00PM
FACULTY HALL 208**

SKILL SHARE
“Passport to Discovery:
Student Research Abroad”

*Kathy Callahan,
Department of History*

SEPT. 14

**MONDAY
4:00PM
WATERFIELD LIBRARY**

LIFE LAB
Students only; RSVP Required
“Pages & Possibilities:
Art Journaling for Creativity
and Reflection”
*Ann Gosser,
Department of Art & Design*

OCT. 1

**THURSDAY
4:30PM
FACULTY HALL 208**

SPEAKER SERIES
“Community as
Classroom:
Connecting, Serving,
and Learning”

*Ali Hendley,
Department of Political
Science & Sociology*

OCT. 29

**THURSDAY
4:30PM
FACULTY HALL 208**

SPEAKER SERIES
“The Science
Behind the Scare:
Physiological Responses
to Horror Films”

*Megan St. Peters,
Department of
Psychology*

NOV. 3

**TUESDAY
4-5:30PM
POGUE LIBRARY**

LIFE LAB
“Hometowns &
Histories: Exploring
Personal and
Community Stories
through Archives”

*Jeff McLaughlin,
University Libraries*

NOV. 11

**WEDNESDAY
3-5:00PM
FINE ARTS 735**

SKILL SHARE
***Students only;
RSVP Required***
“Ink, Paper, Power:
“Zine Making 101”

*Sara Cooper,
Department of English
and Philosophy*

CAREER-READY STUDENT CONFERENCE

ALL EVENTS IN
FACULTY HALL 208
UNLESS NOTED
OTHERWISE

FRIDAY • SEPT. 18

8:45AM WELCOME

RESUME REVIEW & JOB SEARCH SKILLS
Tara Siress, MSU Career Services

**9:00-
10:30AM**

10:45AM -NOON PERSONAL STATEMENTS WORKSHOP
Danielle Nielsen,
Department of English and Philosophy

LUNCH BREAK IN FACULTY HALL 207
Free pizza for those who register by Sept. 15!
QR Code below.

**NOON-
1:00PM**

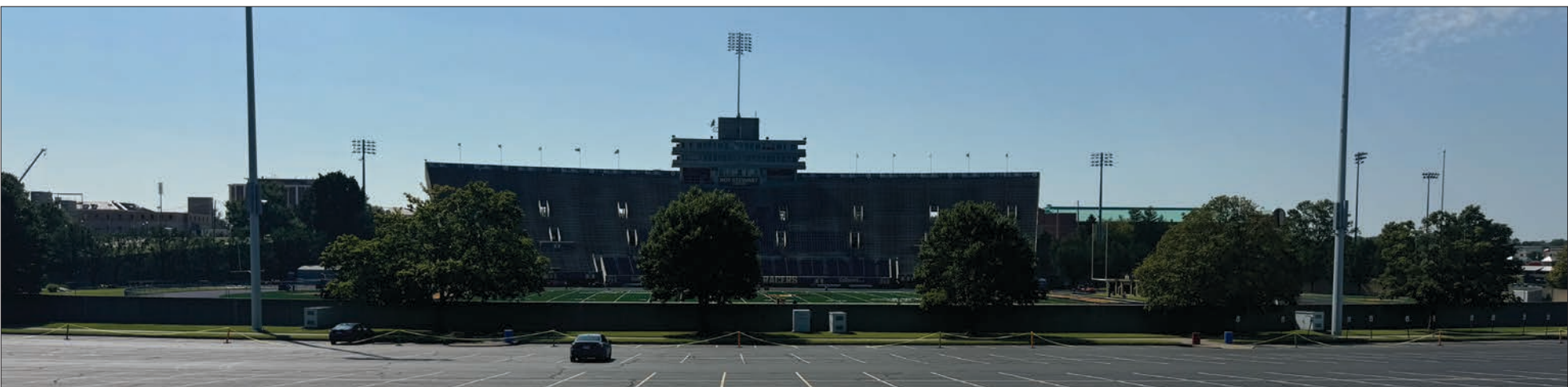
**1:00-2:15PM CRAFTING A PERSONAL BRAND:
DIGITAL AND VIRTUAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES FOR JOB SEEKERS**
Jim Bryant, Department of Art & Design

PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS
Cintia Segovia Figueroa,
Department of Art & Design

**2:30-
4:00PM**



**REGISTER BY TUESDAY, SEPT. 15
FOR THE FREE PIZZA LUNCH!**



Riley Staton/The News

The Racers will open the season at home against Eastern Illinois on Thursday, Aug. 27. The Racers finished last season with a 1-11 record and aim to improve this season.

Wright prepares ahead of Eastern Illinois game

Riley Staton

Sports Editor

rstaton1@murraystate.edu

The Murray State Racers aimed high for their 2026 season. Following a 1-11 finish to the 2025 NCAA Football season, the Racers, looking for their first season finish with a positive record since 2021, found continued improvements out of both sides of the football in their preseason training camp.

While the Racers scored at a league-average rate in 2025, the team shoots for continued improvement from returning and incoming players. Their offensive yards per game sat right around the national average,

with the Racers scoring 344.1 yards per game. A key factor in Murray State's offense last season, graduate running back Jawaun Northington, learned recently that NCAA rulings allowed him to return for 2026.

Northington joined the Racers ahead of the 2022 season, playing parts of four seasons with the team. The starting running back led the 2025 team in rushing yards, putting up 765 yards along with six touchdowns throughout the season. Notably, Northington excelled in the team's final game of the season, rushing for over 200 yards in a 31-17 win against the Indiana State Sycamores. Northington's final season would have been 2025, when he was set to graduate. However, a Colorado federal judge's ruling granted an additional season of college eligibility allowed multiple student athletes

affected by the NCAA's eligibility clock a fifth season, giving Northington a final year of college eligibility.

"I hope nothing passes that he gets taken back away from us," said Murray State Football Head Coach Jody Wright at last Tuesday's media availability. "Having Jawaun back [is important] ... as far as we think, he'll be ready to play in week one. I don't know how much ... he will play, but we feel like he's definitely a guy, with added pieces, that's gonna help us this football season, and hopefully help us for game one."

Quarterback, however, is a much less defined position for the Racers at the moment. Junior playcaller Jim Ogle played the most snaps at the position in 2025, passing for 1,767 yards with a 59.8% completion rate.

Please see FOOTBALL/17



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Racer football prepares for '26

Continued from 16

passing for 1,767 yards with a 59.8% completion rate. Despite his previous performances, Ogle does not enter the season with the starting spot guaranteed to him. Sophomore quarterback Baxter Wright put up 577 yards for the Racers in 2025, posting a completion rate of 75%. In addition, the Racers acquired true freshmen Blaze Berry, JB Potter and Wyatt Robbins, along with graduate quarterback Collin Shannon, shoring up the Racers' depth while ensuring each candidate for the starting spot earns their role ahead of the year.

"The quarterback battle is still going on," Wright said. "I feel like we've got four guys that we feel like [could start]... They've still got a lot of growth to do, all of them, but I really love what they all can do. We will definitely be playing multiple quarterbacks this season, probably in game one as well."

Wright also looks for improvements from the offensive line entering the season. The Racers' offensive production in 2025 succeeded in large part due to the performance of the group, allowing the team to throw for over 1,700 yards and rush for over 700 yards last season. The Racers' coaching staff aims to see improvements across the board from returning lineman in 2026.

"Daniel Cole is a guy that played some tackle for us last year as a true freshman that did really good," Wright said. "AJ Shadid started a lot of games for us at center as a true freshman, so he's back. Jake Darby at guard, he's been a little banged up this camp, having him back at guard has been great... Carter Stoller coming over from Virginia Tech, he's a big guy... Jaheer



File photo/The News

Running back Jawaun Northington finds an opportunity for yardage at Murray State's 2025 Homecoming game.

Foucault and Terrell Davis [as well], so we feel like we've added some depth there."

Even with these improvements, the Racers' coaching staff prepares for the challenges of Missouri Valley Conference football, considered one of the most talented FCS conferences. Despite many positive factors from the team, Murray State only managed a 1-11 record in the 2025 season, finding a win in their season finale against conference rival Indiana State.

"I feel like we're gonna be more disciplined, bigger and hopefully smarter and tougher than we've been in previous seasons," Wright said. "But I do feel like each year we've grown and gotten better. It's gonna take all

that and then some against this first opponent in Eastern Illinois. Everybody sometimes likes to have a game in Week 1 where you kind of jump in the shallow end before we have to go on the deep end, but that's not the case with the team we're playing Week 1. They're a really good team."

The Racers have improved in many ways, but the coaching staff physically and mentally prepares their squad for what lies ahead in 2026.

Murray State's season opener takes place against Eastern Illinois at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 27, at the Rudolph Family Field at Roy E. Stewart Stadium.

Welcome Back, COEHS!

The College of Education and Human Services is excited to welcome our students back for another year of learning, leading and making an impact.

Whether you're preparing to inspire in the classroom, serve your community, support others or lead the way forward — we're glad you're part of COEHS.



Have a great Fall 2026 semester!

Racer Athletics reopens upgraded, remodeled facilities

Riley Staton

Sports Editor

rstaton1@murraystate.edu

Murray State University's campus underwent many changes ahead of 2026's fall semester, including state-of-the-art upgrades to several major athletic facilities, both for student athletes and for recreational fitness enthusiasts.

The first of these changes, and most accessible to the average student, are the upgrades given to the Susan A. Bauernfeind Wellness Center, the on-campus fitness center. Racer officials unveiled these changes during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, Aug. 17 to highlight its reopening.

University officials approved the completion of multiple specific renovations ahead of the fall semester, including but not limited to the fitness equipment, pool, locker rooms and lounge area, as well as general infrastructure upgrades to expand the lifespan of the building.

Murray State President Ron Patterson stressed the value of student feedback to all campus decisions in an interview with MSU Public Relations on Aug. 17 following the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"At Murray State, listening to our students is at the heart of how we make decisions about their campus experience," Patterson said. "Our students told us what they wanted and needed from this facility, and this refresh is a direct reflection of that feedback. Investing in the Susan E. Bauernfeind Recreation and Wellness Center is an investment in the health, well-being and success of our students, faculty, staff and community members."

In addition to the improved wellness center, Racer Athletics approved the full renovation of the CFSB

Center, home of Murray State basketball. Funded entirely by private donor support, these upgrades aim to improve the experience for all CFSB Center patrons. The focal point of these upgrades includes a full overhaul of the arena's seating system.

Previously using a system of retractable bleachers, the new CFSB center will offer permanent seating in the form of a horseshoe, allowing for comfortable and accessible seating. In addition to the extra room that the new arrangement will offer for guests, the changes also allow for each seat to be equipped with a cupholder.

The upper level also underwent major improvements with new renovations. These upgrades include the installation of over 1,000 premium seats, with loge boxes lining the top of the seating bowl to give Racer Nation a new viewing experience at basketball games. Options for those interested in purchasing loge seating can buy a pass for either five or seven years. Murray State officials also approved the addition of a courtside bunker on the right baseline side of the court, offering premium options for food and beverages, luxury seating and a first-of-its-kind courtside experience for Racer fans.

The last major renovation planned for the CFSB Center ahead of its reopening include updates to the scoring system and vending options. The new system features a full-sized LED ribbon board, allowing Murray State to adapt to the NCAA's most recent, ad-centered developments. The vending system will see multiple improvements, with the focal point being grab-and-go style stands, similar to options found in larger NCAA and professional arenas.

Patterson highlighted the importance of the CFSB Center to the University in an interview with Racer Athletics.

"The CFSB Center is extremely important to our



Riley Staton/The News

New equipment was added the Wellness Center this summer.

University, hosting our annual commencement ceremonies and numerous other campus functions while primarily serving as home to our storied basketball programs," Patterson told Racer Athletics. "We are grateful for Director of Athletics Nico Yantko and his team, our Board of Regents, our alumni and each of our investors who have come together to help make this project possible."

The project gives the arena its first renovation in 28 years, and is entirely funded by donor support.

To assist in these upgrades, as well as future planned improvements for the general wellness and success of Murray State's student athletes, the department of athletics launched its "Leading the Pack" program, with the goal of raising \$100 million.

Donors continue to support the program, with over \$37 million currently raised.

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Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, disability, or political or social viewpoint in employment or application for employment, admissions or the provision of student and employee services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities.

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 grievance procedures to address allegations of illegal discrimination and/or illegal harassment.

Programs available include: Accountancy and Analytics; Accounting; Agricultural Education; Agriculture; Animal and Equine Science; Animal Health (Pre-veterinary medicine and Veterinary technology); Applied Engineering; Applied Statistics; Art; Artificial Intelligence; Artificial Intelligence for Cybersecurity; Biology; Business Administration; Business Analytics; Business Ethics; Career and Technical Education; Chemistry; Chinese Language and Culture; Civil and Sustainability Engineering; Clinical Psychology; Cloud Operations; College Advising; Commercial Banking; Communication and Technology; Communication Disorders; Community-Based Art Education; Computer Information Systems; Computer Science; Construction Management and Architecture; Content Creation; Corporate Finance and Budgeting; Corporate Leadership; Counseling; Crime Victim Advocacy; Criminal Justice; Cybersecurity Analyst; Cybersecurity and Network Management; Cybersecurity Risk Management; Design Engineering Technology; Digital Forensics and Incident Response; Earth and Environmental Science; Economic Analytics; Economic Development; Economics; Education Administration; Elementary Education; Emergency Management; Engineering Management; Engineering Physics; English; English Language Teaching; English Pedagogy; Exercise Science; Finance; Fine Art Photography; Forensic Accounting; Foundational Safety Awareness; Game Design; General Experimental Psychology; General Studies; Geographic Information Science; Geospatial Data Science; Health and Physical Education; Health Communication; Healthcare Administration; Higher Education and Student Affairs; Higher Education Management; History; Human Development and Leadership; Human Resource Management; Human Services and Counseling; Industrial Cybersecurity; Information Systems; Integrated Studies; Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education; International Service; International Studies; Investment Management; Land Surveying; Learning and Behavior Disorders; Library Media; Logistics and Supply Chain Management; Management; Marketing; Mathematics; Mechatronics; Media and Strategic Communications; Medical and Health Humanities; Middle School Education; Multimedia Journalism; Music; Music Business; Nonprofit Leadership Studies; Nursing; Nursing Practice; Nutrition and Dietetics; Occupational Safety and Health; Occupational Therapy; Organizational Communication; Organizational Dynamics; P-20 and Community Leadership; Physics and Applied Physics; Podcasting; Political Science; Portuguese Language and Culture; Psychology; Public Administration; Public and Community Health; Reading and Writing; Research Design and Analysis; Respiratory Therapy; School Counseling; School Psychology; Social Work; Spanish Language and Culture; Special Education; Speech-Language Pathology; Sports Photography; Strategic Communications; Student Affairs; Sustainability Science; Teacher Leader; Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages; Theatre; Unmanned Aerial Systems; Various Student Populations; Veterinary Hospital Management; Visual Communications; Wildlife and Conservation Biology.

Admission criteria include, but are not limited to the following: For undergraduates: for admission, an accredited high school diploma or GED, minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale; and a pre-college curriculum. If an applicant has earned between a 2.0 and 2.74 GPA (unweighted) on a 4.0 scale, then the student's application will be examined by an admission review committee for possible admission to Murray State University using a holistic review process with documented data sources used for consideration. This applicant must also have pre-college curriculum per 13KAR2:020 Section 3, Subsection (1)(b): 1.2 or 13KAR2:020 Section 3, Subsection (2). The students with an unweighted GPA below 2.5 enter into a success contract maintained by the Center of Student Engagement and Success for additional support. For transfers: having completed 24 hours of college credit, a minimum cumulative GPA of a 2.00 on a 4.00 scale. For domestic 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 additional other requirements may be set by the graduate programs and academic departments. and 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 and Completion of the ESL Program at Murray State University, OR British / Cambridge International Examinations: GCE, GCSE, 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: American Samoa, Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Botswana, Canada, Cameroon (Univ. Of Buca and Univ. of Bamenda), Cayman Islands, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Ghana, Gibraltar, Grenada, Guyana (British Guyana), Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Malta, Monserrat, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Siera Leone, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Singapore, South Africa, Swaziland (Eswatini), Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia, Zimbabwe. International graduate programs may have higher admission requirements.

For more information concerning the application of these provisions may be referred to: 1) the Assistant Vice President of Equal Opportunity and Title IX, 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; 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. For more information, contact the Executive Director Equal Opportunity and Title IX, 103 Wells Hall, 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).

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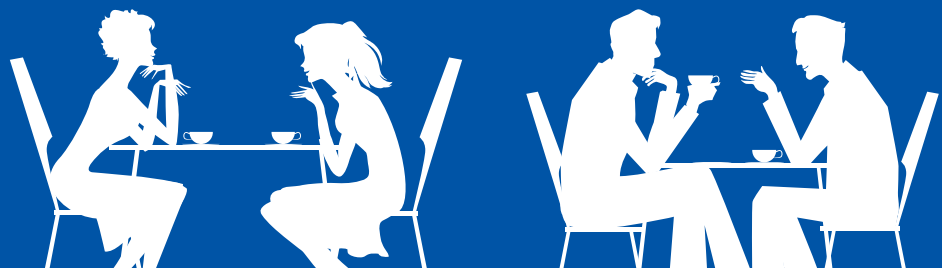
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