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NEWS

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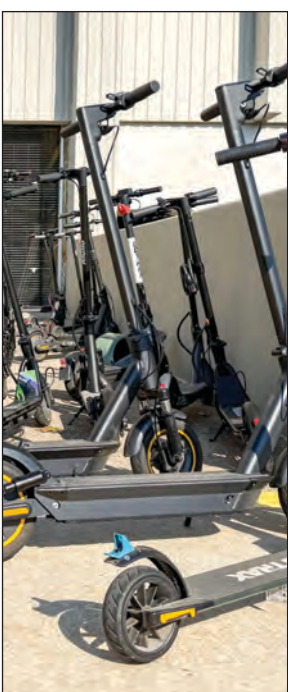


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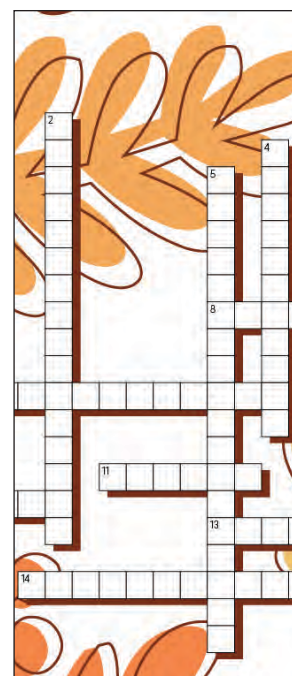
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Campus leaders weigh e-scooter safety

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As e-scooters become an increasingly popular form of transportation around campus, concerns about their safety and risks have sparked discussion among campus leaders.

Anabelle Price, president of the Hart Residential College Council, discussed the need for regulation following concerns over the high speeds and potential dangers of electric scooters.

“A lot of us are concerned with the speed at which these scooters go,” Price said. “They are going 40 miles an hour. That’s the top ones I believe you can buy in the market right now ... If you have never ridden one before, it’s too big for you. It’s too hard to control, and there’s a lot of people with those e-bikes. It’s congesting traffic.”

In a 2025 study on e-scooter use among college athletes for the Journal of American College Health, 71% of the 186 college athletes reported using e-scooters, with 12% reporting riding injuries.

Another study about e-scooter usage from 2014-2018 found a drastic increase in hospital admissions between 2017 and 2018 related to e-scooter use. A total of 39,113 e-scooter-related accidents occurred during the study period, with the most common injuries being fractures, lacerations and contusions.

Price, who experienced two near-misses

with e-scooters in the past, said she worries about the potential dangers of e-scooters for her residents.

“

In my position right now, I’m very much worried about my residents in my building. I’m worried about their safety, so what I can do is advocate and talk to them if they’ll listen.

-Anabelle Price

Price said her RCC has discussed holding information sessions and putting up posters with safety tips for students riding e-scooters to remind them to wear helmets and be mindful of pedestrians.

She said there is also talk about working with the Student Government Association to propose regulations to the University, including speed limits, incentives to register scooters and rules on where scooters can drive.

President Ron Patterson said there have been conversations about e-scooter safety, but nothing on the administrative level. Patterson called on students and student organizations to continue those conversations and bring up possible regulations in student government.

Student Government Association President Cesar Villeda said he believed e-scooters on campus were unregulated. While he said regulations might not be in their jurisdiction, it is something SGA could bring up to the University.



Lindsey Hopper/The News

Students park e-scooters outside Roy Stewart Stadium. Some students have discussed holding informational sessions about safety tips for scooter drivers.

Price said another concern with e-scooters was the number of thefts. She said many of those scooters are not registered, and many are left unsecured outside.

According to the Murray State Crime Log, four scooters were reported stolen

last spring with one reported stolen earlier this month. Price advises scooter riders to lock up their scooters and not park them in public walkways.

She also asked students concerned about e-scooter safety to contact their RCC and SGA representatives.



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Patterson discusses AI, campus gardens, more

Gray Hawkins

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Q: Academic Affairs' AI Task Force is in the drafting process of a policy in regards to artificial intelligence use. What's the scope of this policy?

Patterson: It's not a university-wide policy. It really only applies to academic affairs employees and student activity as it pertains to academic matters, such as coursework or research. The draft is currently making its way through instructors who are responsible for communicating those expectations and adhering to those guidelines. Our faculty, department chairs and deans are reviewing those policies now. The next step is to go through the shared governance process: Faculty Senate, Student Government Association and Staff Congress. Those will have final additional feedback regarding the current drafted policy.

This will continue to evolve, right? Whatever we present will change over time. There will be revisions, and we will continue to follow that strategic shared governance process with students, faculty and staff having sway and input.

Q: So this policy addresses AI use in the classroom?

Patterson: Absolutely. The faculty member or instructor, based upon the policy, governance and guardrails in place, will be able to use AI tools in an effective manner to teach the do's and do not's. That's a part of this evolving higher education landscape that we are in as an institution. We have some faculty that are attending workshops, seminars and conferences at state and national levels to gain expertise and bringing that back to our campus community. That helps us establish the appropriate guardrails.

Q: Why is it important to implement this?

Patterson: Most importantly, we need to provide some guardrails for the academic enterprise and for the research enterprise of the university. It's going to protect those that are involved, which are

students and also our faculty continuing to do research and writing as well. We have an Institutional Review Board, our overarching body with regards to plagiarism and research activity. We're always going to have that watchful eye and governance in terms of what's being presented on behalf of the university. We're trying to figure out a way to be judicious, but at the same time, not frame our institution so quickly that we can't be nimble and flexible when AI changes again. And we don't want to be one of those institutions that move too quick either. We want to be very methodical, strategic, which I believe the task force has done a tremendous job being very patient in navigating current policies in the higher education landscape and how it applies to Murray State University and our campus culture.

Q: Students have noticed university offices employing AI generated images in the title IX training videos and the new Waterfield Library mascot. Do you believe the use of generative AI at Murray State creates a moral dilemma between what is taught and what is practiced?

Patterson: It's a very good question, and I can't speak for everyone. I think it's up to every individual to truly govern themselves and be responsible with regards to their creativity and original thought. How you bring that forth goes back to ethics and morality, right? Whether that's in a slide deck, PowerPoint presentation, a flyer or brochure. Anyone that's in marketing communications or that's a front-facing, public figure, you always got to think about who's going to be on the other side reading it. Is this authentic or not? You have to be very aware that someone's always watching you and someone's always going to check your work. If you know it's not authentic and not your creative work, you probably want to use your better judgment and not put it out. Once it's out there, you can't take it away. That would be my caution to our staff, faculty and students, to be very judicious about the creativity you present, whether it's for a class or a presentation. I think you need to be very cautious of what you put out there.

Student submitted question:

Overall, Murray State's campus has limited biodiversity in its landscaping, but I have noticed an influx of life with the new flowers on the bridge (over Chestnut Street). The grassy areas we do have are very manicured, and I wish we had something like pollinator gardens where native plants could grow. How feasible would it be for the University to incorporate more natural greenery into unused stretches of grass?

Patterson: I'll bring that forward to the group at our next meeting. There are definitely pockets on campus where that could be an opportunity, but I'm not one to make any commitments today. We'll talk with our facilities management

Touney: 'We want to work with departments'

Marketing, Communication Assistant VP gives branding perspective on AI logo usage



Photo courtesy of Murray State University. Shawn Touney, assistant vice president of marketing and communication.

Shawn Touney, assistant vice president of marketing and communication accompanies University President Ron Patterson during his monthly interviews with The Murray State News.

Touney shared his thoughts on the use of generative AI when logos and brand compliance come into play at

Murray State. He said the Office of Branding, Marketing and Communication is aware AI is being used across campus and are adapting guidelines to accommodate.

"We all want to have a consistent look and feel for anything Murray State," Touney said. We don't want things to look disjointed. ... Our department is reviewing some guidelines on this topic that will be added to our toolkit and shared as needed.

AI image generation can cause distortions in Murray State's logos that breach brand compliance regulations. Touney said the Office of Branding, Marketing and Communication aims to be "the best service unit" possible, and encouraged University departments to reach out with their needs.

"We're all pressed for time, and part of the allure, if you will, of using AI is the efficiency part," he said. "That said, we want to work with departments on the front end early on. Contact us. We want to help."

Touney said plenty of resources are available in the University branding toolkit, which continues to expand.

He said he wanted to reiterate that the Office of Branding, Marketing and Communication is trying to adapt and accommodate AI use when necessary because it will continue to evolve and remain prevalent.

"From a branding standpoint within an administrative setting, we can find the intersection of realizing it exists and compliant and true to the Murray State brand, which is important," Touney said.

Continued on page 5

Patterson explains new position, campus safety

Continued from page 4

folks and the leadership group down there, and then we'll also introduce this to the campus master planning executive committee as well. That much I can do. I think they're beautiful. I grew up in the country, so I'm always used to seeing pollinators or biodiversity plants everywhere, right? I grew up chasing butterflies and stuff like that, so it's kind of comfortable to me. It's not for everybody, and bugs do make some people uncomfortable. You can't just put them anywhere on campus. They have to be in places that are well thought out, that protect them but also protect students and human beings. You have to be sensitive to everyone's comfort level. I'm allergic to bees and swell up when I get stung, so I always have to have Benadryl. You just have to be sensitive to people and their allergies and things of that nature. I can definitely add that to the conversation at the next meeting, and then hopefully when you see me next, I can give you an update on that.

Q: On Sept. 4, you announced the creation of a new position in the President's Cabinet, the Vice President of Workforce and Strategic Partnerships. What led to the creation of this role?

Patterson: (During) the Listening and Learning Tour, ... what I heard from alumni and business and industry partners was they were looking for the ability to connect with our students as quickly as they possibly can through internship opportunities, apprenticeship and co-ops. They wanted an individual contact. I thought it was very appropriate to bring this position forward. A lot of the state and federal buzzwords have been economic workforce development, strategic partnerships, strategic alignment and the value proposition of a degree. The title workforce and strategic partnerships was just perfect and ideal.

Q: Do you anticipate any difficulty for this future administrator making those connections throughout campus?

Patterson: That individual can work directly with the provost and the academic deans to attend department chair meetings and bring requests forward very quickly. It gives them a very easy and quick point of access to the academic units. It also helps us better align with our Center for Adult and Regional Education campuses. CARE allows us to bring those campuses into alignment with this position and academic affairs. I'm hoping this individual will also bring back academic innovation we have not thought of in terms of program development partnerships that we can realize now and into the foreseeable future, whether that's through certificates, micro-credentials or degrees that we haven't thought about developing. It's a true win-win for business and our students.

Q: Is this position factored in to the current budget?

Patterson: It is not. It is going to be in FY 27-28. However, I wanted to include it in the list and let the campus know. It goes back to transparency. So as we're building the FY 27-28 budget, we can plan appropriately.

Q: You recently attended a campus safety tour. What were your takeaways?

Patterson: I've done this at every institution that I've worked at, so when I came here, I was happy to hear that we already had one in play. When I was a vice president at University of North Alabama, they didn't do a campus safety walk, and I impressed upon them that you should always do your enrollment management recruitment walk as administrators because you need to see from the lens of the student and parents who come to your campus. You need to see what it's like when your students are walking across campus at 7-10 p.m.

When I came here, I was excited to hear from Dr. Robertson and Chief Orr and others that Murray State has been doing it for years. We went out at about 7 p.m. on the bus. Drew Milburn (associate director of facilities operations) committed that night that you all were going to see immediate change after the tour. He

took it upon himself to be very proactive, which I'm very grateful for. It aligns with our student first mentality, right? I think you are starting to see some of our shared vision come to light in terms of student first execution. We're just not just talking about it. He wanted to be very intentional with things that he could do right away that didn't require a lot of resources, things that you could see tangibly very quickly.

I said that evening, don't walk past a problem. You have heard me say it, right? I encourage you all when you are walking across campus and see something that's not right, let us know so we can address it. Let's try to get it fixed as quickly as we can because we want to always look through the lens of the prospective student, the current student, the mom, dad, the guardian, whoever is on campus. We want to know that when they walk across campus, they're seeing a beautiful campus at all times, and that it's safe.

Q: When you met with students at the Oakley Student Lounge last semester, you shared that you have had your own close calls with scooter riders on our campus, as many students do throughout the day. Have there been any recent discussions on ways to make our footpaths safer?

Patterson: There has been conversations like we had (in the student lounge), but nothing at the administrative level to which policy development may occur. I would flip it, and I would ask you through the Student Government Association to have those meaningful conversations about how you want to govern yourselves. That way, that group brings up a recommendation or resolution the administration can consider. I think it's a great dialogue, not a top-down approach. That would be my recommendation.

As a student-produced publication, *The Murray State News* aims to keep students informed and represented. The *News* will be taking students' submitted questions directly to Patterson during our monthly meetings. Email us at msu.thenews@murraystate.edu or send us a message on our Facebook or Instagram pages.

Hopkinsville Regional Campus celebrates 25 years

Staff Report

Aug. 19 marked the 25th anniversary of Murray State University's Hopkinsville Regional Campus, which provides education throughout Hopkinsville, Christian County and surrounding areas. The grand opening was followed by classes beginning on Aug. 21, 2002, marking 2026-2027 as its 25th academic year.

The facility was funded by the 1998 legislature and constructed on an 80-acre campus. The facility, taking up 35,680 square feet, houses a computer lab, several multimedia classrooms, student lounges and a multi-purpose room equipped to accommodate conferences and events.

Murray State University and the Hopkinsville Regional Campus work in close collaboration with Hopkinsville Community College. This partnership means students can transfer from Hopkinsville Community College to Murray State easily.

Murray State University President Ron Patterson said the campus' 25 year anniversary marks a continued commitment to western Kentucky's educational and workforce needs.

"Murray State's Hopkinsville Regional Campus has been an important part of our University's commitment to expanding access to a high-quality Murray

State education for students throughout the region for the past 25 years," said Patterson. "Our partnership with Hopkinsville Community College and the Christian County community demonstrates what can be accomplished when we work together to create educational opportunities that meet the needs of our students and region."

Alongside Christian County Public Schools Board of Education, Murray State President Dr. Ron Patterson signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in 2025, establishing the Christian County High School Racer Academy. This academy helps Christian County high schoolers in their junior and senior years as they prepare to pursue their degrees. These students are provided with in-person dual credit courses at the Hopkinsville campus, which is right next door to the county's new high school.

Executive Director of the Center for Adult and Regional Education Dan Lavit said that the Hopkinsville Regional Campus is now more than just a place for students to take classes.

"MSU-Hopkinsville primarily serves students who may not have access to a traditional residential college experience, and we're particularly proud to provide an accessible pathway to higher education for students throughout the Hopkinsville region," said Lavit. "We



Photo by Murray State Public Relations
The Hopkinsville Regional Campus expands Murray State's service to regional school districts and adult education.

also recognize that many of our graduates remain in this community after graduation, contributing their talents and helping strengthen the region we're proud to serve."

In celebration of the 25 year anniversary, the University recognized all that have contributed to the Hopkinsville Regional Campus, and commits to meeting the region's needs going forward.

Campus security readies against cyberattacks

Baden Grubbs

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Duane Dycus, info security officer for the Murray State information security team, discussed the rise of cybersecurity vulnerabilities and the effects it will have on campus.

Dycus presented a summary of the Instructure Canvas breach that occurred during late April to early May 2026. As a result of this hack, the perpetrators compromised the names, email addresses, student IDs, course enrollment details and private user messages of its users, with over 8,000 schools affected.

Following a second breach, the group instructed institutions to negotiate with them through an extortion screen.

Cybersecurity flaws are globally reported as Common Vulnerability and Exposures. The daily average of CVEs published in 2025 was 132, while in 2026, it has increased to 211. Across the entire year, approximately 50,000 were published in 2025, while only 40,000 were the previous year.

All third-party software vendors are required to submit a completed security questionnaire as well as documentation

of their security measures. In addition, the information security team routinely conducts security reviews of any software in use by the University. They also assess the history of cyberattacks and any prevention measures in place. Dycus discussed one of several questions the team asks vendors.

"One of the things we ask them is if they've had a security breach within the last five years, and a lot of the times they're honest, and we don't look down upon them for that because I personally believe that the most secure organizations in the world are the ones who have had a major breach like this," Dycus said.

Dycus said a new era of cybersecurity is in reach, one where the gap between the intentional discovery of software vulnerabilities and their exploitation is being closed. Dycus said AI is responsible for this shrinking gap by discovering new vulnerabilities daily across university infrastructure. He said its prevalence has helped highlight design flaws around the world.

Dycus also spoke of the effects of time restraints may have on the student population. In the event of a vulnerability being detected, the information security



team is now able to provide a fix within seven days, formerly 30.

Should a crucial design flaw be discovered, one that puts the entire institution at risk, it is now imperative that it should be resolved within hours. This

may result in abrupt outages of services instead of scheduled downtimes.

An automated threat detection software has also been implemented at Murray State University to filter out malicious emails.

Student journalists rally to protect press freedom

Gray Hawkins

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In the first days of December 2025, student journalists at the University of Alabama bid farewell to the readers of the Alice and Nineteen Fifty-Six magazines. Today, press freedom advocates and endorsers are rallying behind these journalists to maintain nearly 60 years of student press rights.

A coalition including the Student Press Law Center, the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, Associated Collegiate Press, College Media Association and the Society of Professional Journalists released a 39-page amicus curiae brief on Sept. 2. The brief urges the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit to reverse the District Court for the Northern District of Alabama's denial of eight suing UA students' request for a preliminary injunction.

UA suspended Alice and Nineteen Fifty-Six in response to former U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi's non-binding memorandum on diversity, equity and inclusion programs because the magazines focus on women and Black students respectively, according to the Student Press Law Center's blog post about the amicus brief.

"The rule established in this case will affect flagship student newspapers that focus on investigative reporting as much as it will affect topical-focused magazines like Alice and Nineteen Fifty-Six," the brief reads.

The amicus brief outlines the history of law precedents for student press freedom and how it began in Alabama in 1967. The SPLC said this case threatens press freedom for all public university journalists in Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

"The First Amendment protects student journalists at public colleges from administrative censorship," the brief reads. "This case asks whether that principle survives ... If that ruling stands, student press freedom will die in the state where it was born."

“

This case asks whether that principle survives... If that ruling stands, student press freedom will die in the state where it was born.

-SPLC & Amici

The brief lists endorsements from 40 student newsrooms and 15 student editors spanning the country, from Massachusetts to California. Kentucky public university student news outlets The Murray State News, the Louisville Cardinal and the Kentucky Kernel are listed among the endorsers.

Read the full amicus brief here ----->



-SPLC & Amici



Avery Poston/The News

Students criticize Waterfield AI mascot, Larry the otter

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Since the announcement of Larry P. Otterfield, Waterfield Library's otter mascot, students have voiced their dissatisfaction over the use of AI.

Waterfield hosted "A Very Larry Party" on Sept. 2, celebrating the grand reveal of their new mascot. Larry the otter references Waterfield's several floods in recent years. The library included this history in Larry's backstory that accompanied his reveal. However, students quickly noticed the use of AI generated imagery to depict Larry.

The library put out a statement regarding their use of generative AI in their email newsletter and social media announcement post.

"Since Larry has not been photographed in the wild, we used AI to create an approximation of his likeness," the email said. "It's what AI was meant for: the generation of anthropomorphic cartoon animals."

Larry has been a point of contention among students since his introduction.

Leah Kirk, a senior mathematics major, said the library using AI for Larry feels unnecessary and impersonal.

"There are plenty of graphic design students who would be more than willing to help and put a human touch into something that's hopefully going to last in the University for years," Kirk said. "I think it's a shame that they decided to go for the easy and cheap route instead of having one of their students create something."

Cora Bell, a junior political science and sociology major, pointed out the irony in the fact that Waterfield is right across from the Fine Arts Building and the art and design department.

"It's a really sad irony that AI is taking away from artists ... and goes against art and creativity."

-Liv Lane

"I think including art students would have been more personal than typing a prompt into a random AI," Bell said. "Nobody really cares about it now."

Bell also said that Waterfield's use of AI conflicts with the threat AI poses to libraries.

"AI is scraping old books, destroying them, ... taking everything from academics and kind of making libraries obsolete," she said. "I feel like a library using AI in any capacity really is sending the wrong message."

Many students feel that Waterfield's use of AI goes against the spirit of libraries — and hurts the building's integrity as a space for all students to learn and be creative. Liv Lane, a senior psychology major, said the library should be a place that fosters creativity, not outsources it to generative AI.

"(Waterfield has) the Makerspace and there's all of this literature and all of this physical media," Lane said. "It's a really sad irony that AI is taking away from artists ... and goes against art and creativity."

Jaxon Burns (they/them), a junior graphic design major, was hired by the library on Sept. 1 for graphic design projects. Going forward, the library's work with Burns may address student complaints about not working with art students. Burns said while they weren't expressly hired for the purpose of redesigning Larry, it's a project they'd be interested in doing.



Aly Adler/The News

Aly Adler interviews Cora Bell for The News.



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Ainsley Beatty

Features Editor
abeatty2@murraystate.edu

Murray State art student Emily Ray uses local fauna motifs to convey deep human experiences and emotions through art.

'Nature of Existing' at Murray Art Guild

Ray is a senior studio art major with an emphasis in painting and pottery. She was awarded a solo exhibition at the Murray Art Guild during a juried show hosted by the Organization of Murray Art Students last spring.

Ray's exhibition "Nature of Existing" features 11 mixed-media works including oil paintings, ceramics, woodworking and prints. The exhibition is open in the Murray Art Guild's Doran Gallery through Sept. 26. A closing reception will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24.

The overarching theme of the exhibition is human experience mirrored into animals. In the exhibition statement for "Nature of Existing," Ray wrote that each animal in her art is "represented in raw and vulnerable stages" and looks at the viewer to "unravel inner personal reflections."

Ray said she grew up very close to nature and has always viewed animals as our neighbors.

"We cohabitate the world with them, and we influence them as much as they influence us," Ray said. "Even though we call ourselves humans, we are still animals too, and we are all neighbors. We are all living on the same planet and unintentionally speaking the same language, even though not everyone speaks in the same dialogue. It's the visual language."

Ray uses her art to express what she sees and what she experiences. She said capturing those emotions and experiences through artwork is vulnerable, endearing and often easier than using words.

"I have always been a very visual person," she said. "I think, unfortunately, it started with my inability to read very well, so I would always associate letters with just drawings instead of language itself. Art became language before language became language."



Emily Ray stands with her exhibition 'Nature of Existing' at the Murray Art Guild.

Lindsey Hopper/The News

Ray received the MAGpie Award alongside her solo exhibition. Debi Danielson, executive director of the Murray Art Guild, said the MAGpie award is sponsored by the Murray Art Guild and is presented annually to a student at the OMAS show. The student is chosen based on exemplary "artistic skill, technical ability and promise."

Raini Evergarden (she/they), a senior studio art major with a focus in printmaking, got to know Ray through painting and printmaking classes. She said Ray works methodically, combing over her paintings with precision to create layered imagery.

"Her artwork explores emotional stasis through sublime symbolism and natural motifs," Evergarden said. "This imagery is expressed in intricate and detailed forms of feathers, water, blood and skin. Her imagery is hyperbolic, exaggerating and stretching animals' expressions, much like my own work."

Cora Menendez, a senior studio art major with a focus in painting, has known Ray since freshman year. She said Ray is an incredibly detailed artist, and no stroke of paint goes without a purpose.

"Her paintings are as intense as they are beautiful," Menendez said. "Most may be autobiographical, but they're also parabolic. Everyone can find something to relate to in her work — whether you expect to or not."

At the OMAS exhibition, Evergarden and Menendez were also selected for solo exhibitions. Evergarden, OMAS president, said each solo exhibition is sponsored by a different local business and the artist is chosen through confidential jurying based on technical and conceptual excellence.

"This is usually students' first solo show, which helps them break into the world of exhibitions and learn the process of developing a solo show," Evergarden said. "Solo shows are difficult to obtain, and are vital to the development of an artist's career. These businesses have been more than gracious and kind when working with us, and we value our relationship with them."

'The Dissolution of Labor' at Wits' End

Evergarden's exhibition "The Dissolution of Labor" was awarded by Wits' End, and it will open on Sept. 25 at Wits' End Records. "The Dissolution of Labor" is about the effects of late-stage capitalism on the working class and the profit of billionaires.

"My work represents the working class's life honestly and their struggles sympathetically," she said. "By using controversial livestock animals — pigs — to represent workers' simultaneous complacency and oppression, I can better reflect the oppression that capitalism is designed to perpetuate."

'Oneiropolós' at Gallery X

Sponsored by Gallery X, Menendez's exhibition "Oneiropolós" — "dreamer" in Greek is set to open on Sept. 25 at the Gallery X Art Collective. Menendez said the symbolism in her work pulls from her life, but everyone can find something interesting in it.

"I use myth as biography, placing mythological figures in moody, dreamlike environments that reflect the internal emotions that the subject — should they be a Greek god, hero, or even just me — is experiencing through dense symbolism," Menendez said.

For Ray, the process of putting together an entire exhibition and curating it in a gallery space has been exciting and surreal. She also said she was intimidated by it at first.

"Everyone at the Murray Art Guild is genuinely so friendly, (which) completely melted away any worry I ever had," Ray said. "It showed me that the community in the art world is a lot more friendly and more supportive and compassionate than I was thinking, just because I was in my head about all the worries."

OMAS is hosting an ArtHop from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25, to celebrate the exhibition winners. The event will visit Ray, Evergarden and Menendez's exhibitions to congratulate the artists and to celebrate their work.

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Photos by Lindsey Hopper and Luke Mayer/The News

Racers celebrate first win of season

This year's annual Family Weekend delivered a perfect celebration as the Racers secured the first win of the season. This photo spread shows the unmatched energy of Racer football, highlighting student athletes and Family Weekend festivities.



RADIO 101

ALL-MUSIC SHOWS FROM
MURRAY STATE STUDENTS

MONDAY - FRIDAY @ 10PM



ORGANIZED NOISE

HOST: ISAAC GALLIMORE
MONDAYS @ 9

EXPERIMENTAL, ALTERNATIVE, AND
EXTREME FORMS OF MUSIC RANGING
FROM POST METAL TO HORROR
SYNTH, TO PUNK



RADIO INTERNATIONAL

HOST: SAMUEL MILLER
TUESDAYS @ 9

MUSIC FROM ACROSS THE
WORLD, VISITING DIFFERENT
LOCATIONS, TIME PERIODS, AND
GENRES



LYRICAL TUMBLEWEEDS

HOST: EMILY WAHNSIEDLER
TUESDAY @ 10

AN OVERARCHING THEME THAT WEAVES
TOGETHER AN ECLECTIC MIX OF FOLK,
ROCK, AND SINGER/SONGWRITER
SELECTIONS



STATION TO STATION

HOST: ELLA THOMPSON
WEDNESDAYS @ 9

A TRIP THROUGH THE 60'S AND 70'S,
EXPLORING BOTH CLASSIC ROCK,
FOLK AND SINGER/SONGWRITER



BULLETPROOF BM

HOST: RACHEL FRANCIS
WEDNESDAYS @ 10

SONGS PRIMARILY FROM THE K-POP
OR POP GENRE THAT WILL BE IN ORDER
RELATING TO THEIR BPM, SUCH AS
SPEEDING UP/SLOWING DOWN OVER
THE COURSE OF EACH EPISODE



FOLKISH

HOST: ANNABELLE
MASSA
THURSDAYS @ 9

A COMPILATION OF DIFFERENT FOLK
GENRES AND A BRIEF HISTORY
BEHIND THEM



MAIN CHARACTER MEDIA

HOST: MAEGAN BUURMAN
THURSDAYS @ 10

THEMED AROUND BOOKS, MOVIES,
TELEVISION PROGRAMS AND OTHER
MEDIA



FILM FUSION

HOSTS: ALY ADLER &
NATALIE NOBLE
FRIDAYS @ 9

SONGS FROM MOVIES AND TV
SERIES, IMMERSING THE AUDIENCE
INTO THE WORLD OF SOME OF THEIR
FAVORITE CHARACTERS



THE PASSING LANE

HOST: TISH USHER
FRIDAYS @ 10

FEATURES MUSIC FROM MANY GENRES
AND ERAS BOUND TOGETHER BY A
COMMON THEME THAT CHANGES FROM
EPISODE TO EPISODE



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OPINION: Why is Larry the otter made with AI?

Owen Hansen

Opinion Editor

ohansen1@murraystate.edu

The conversation surrounding Waterfield Library's AI generated mascot has centered on the ethics of using AI in favor of a human artist, but one overlooked question remains at the forefront of my mind — why did the library use AI for the otter in the first place?

On Sept. 2, Waterfield Library held a grand reveal for its new mascot, Larry P. Otterfield. Much to student dismay, the images used to depict Larry were AI generated. Students raised several questions and complaints surrounding the use of AI. Most notably, why did Waterfield Library not just hire an art student?

Murray State University has an extensive lineup of art programs, with several degrees, areas of study and minors. Hundreds of students are involved in the arts at Murray State, many of them in graphic design. The library could have easily hired a student from the department of art and design to design the mascot, making their choice to instead use AI completely baffling. Based on responses to the situation, this is a common idea amongst students.

To add to the confusion, it turns out that Waterfield Library is, in fact, going to be working with a student on further graphic design projects. Jaxon Burns, a junior graphic design major, was hired by the library on Sept. 1, one day before the reveal event for the mascot. The fact that the library is working with a

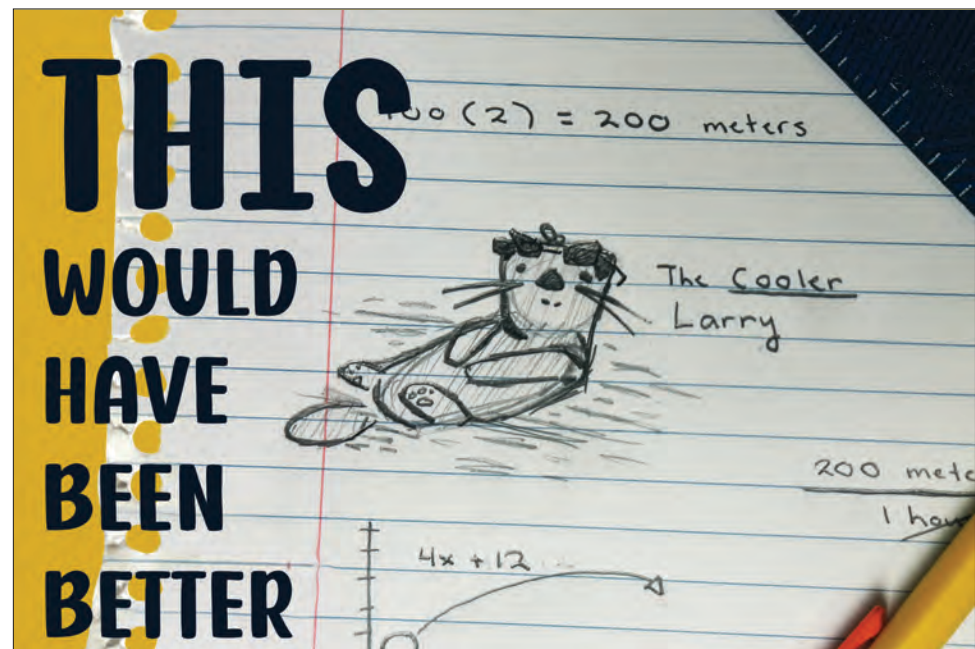
student leads me to believe that the use of AI for graphic design was never intended to be a consistent practice. On the other side of the coin, the library's use of AI now comes off as even more disrespectful. Since the library hired a graphic designer before the grand reveal of Larry P. Otterfield, why did they not just have them design the otter instead?

In the email and social media caption alongside Larry's reveal was a small disclaimer about the use of AI.

"Since Larry has not been photographed in the wild, AI was used to create an appropriation of his likeness," the statement said.

This disclaimer suggests that the library anticipated the negative response the use of AI would receive from students. To avoid student backlash, it would have made more sense for the library to have delayed the reveal of the mascot while they had their graphic designer create visuals for Larry. However, the wait that would come with that is most likely the disappointing reason we're stuck with an AI mascot for the library.

Having a mascot is an appealing opportunity for any establishment. Mascots come with the establishment of a strong identity for an organization, as seen with how Murray State uses Dunker. The brown stallion has become almost synonymous with the University, with horses and the name "Racers" being a major advertising success. The success of Dunker has opened several



Owen Hansen/The News

financial doors for the University. I believe Larry P. Otterfield was envisioned with that goal in mind, establishing a strong identity for Waterfield Library they can market off of. For this reason, it would make sense for the library to want to make a mascot as soon as they could. Unfortunately, this explains why they cut corners and used AI. The sooner they could reveal the mascot, the sooner they could reap the rewards.

I believe that this impatience is why the library chose to not work with a graphic designer for Larry. They wanted to get Larry out as soon as possible, and we now live in a world that can accommodate that hastiness. Instead of working with an artist, they could put a prompt into ChatGPT and be done with it. If students had complaints, they had an excuse prepared and a boat to ride out the storm.

Larry could have been an incredible occasion for Murray State. What was once an inside joke amongst the community is now an official mascot. The chance to create this mascot could have gone to an art student, cementing their legacy at the University and giving them a leg up going into the art industry. Instead, Larry is just another entry in the long list of grievances artists have with AI. Since Waterfield Library will be working with a graphic designer going forward, we hopefully won't be seeing something like this again, and Larry is hopefully just an instance of impatience.

However, there's no telling the future. If the opportunity arises to capitalize on something, will the library cut corners again and use AI? I'd like to believe they won't, but Larry is no reassurance for that waning faith.

A letter to the editor from the University Libraries

As you know, the University Libraries recently launched a new mascot, Larry P. Otterfield. And the response was otter this world! Really. Just not in the way we hoped. You see, we love our students.

In fact, the whole thought behind this idea was to do something fun for the students. During Larry's launch, we had an entire day devoted to engaging with students including making buttons, doing a scavenger hunt for Larry throughout the library, making crafts featuring otters, as well as a prize wheel with different things such as 3D printed otter bookmarks and fidgets. All conceived of and created by real people

who work in the libraries. Oh and we also had cake. Lots of cake.

Unfortunately, the part of the story that took off was about our use of AI and the assumed lack of student engagement on the project. While we did start the process of creating a mascot with the art and design students, for a variety of reasons including time constraints, scale, remuneration and copyright issues, we had to pivot with this particular project. In fact, this project has gotten so big that Larry has his own family tree and backstory, all created by real people. To note, we have worked with art and design students on library-related projects in the past. For example, our directional signage was

created by a group of graphic design students. We will certainly approach art and design again if another project arises that is suitable for all involved. Again, due to the complexity and scale of this project, we ultimately chose to utilize the tools and staff that were available to us at the time.

While we understand the inherent gut reaction to all things AI, the library did carefully consider how we would utilize generative AI for this particular need. We also understand that everyone uses AI in different ways and for different purposes. Part of the role of the University Libraries is to explore new technologies to understand how they work, what their implications are

for broader use and what applications they might have on a college campus. Using AI to envision Larry and his activities was a learning opportunity for library personnel. It helps us to know what AI tools are capable of, or incapable of, as we work with faculty, staff and students in their coursework and research.

Ultimately, our purpose at the libraries is always to support our students and provide a welcoming space for students, whatever their goals may be.

We welcome an open dialogue and invite the Murray State community to engage with us on this topic. Obviously there is a lot to talk about!

- University Libraries

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.

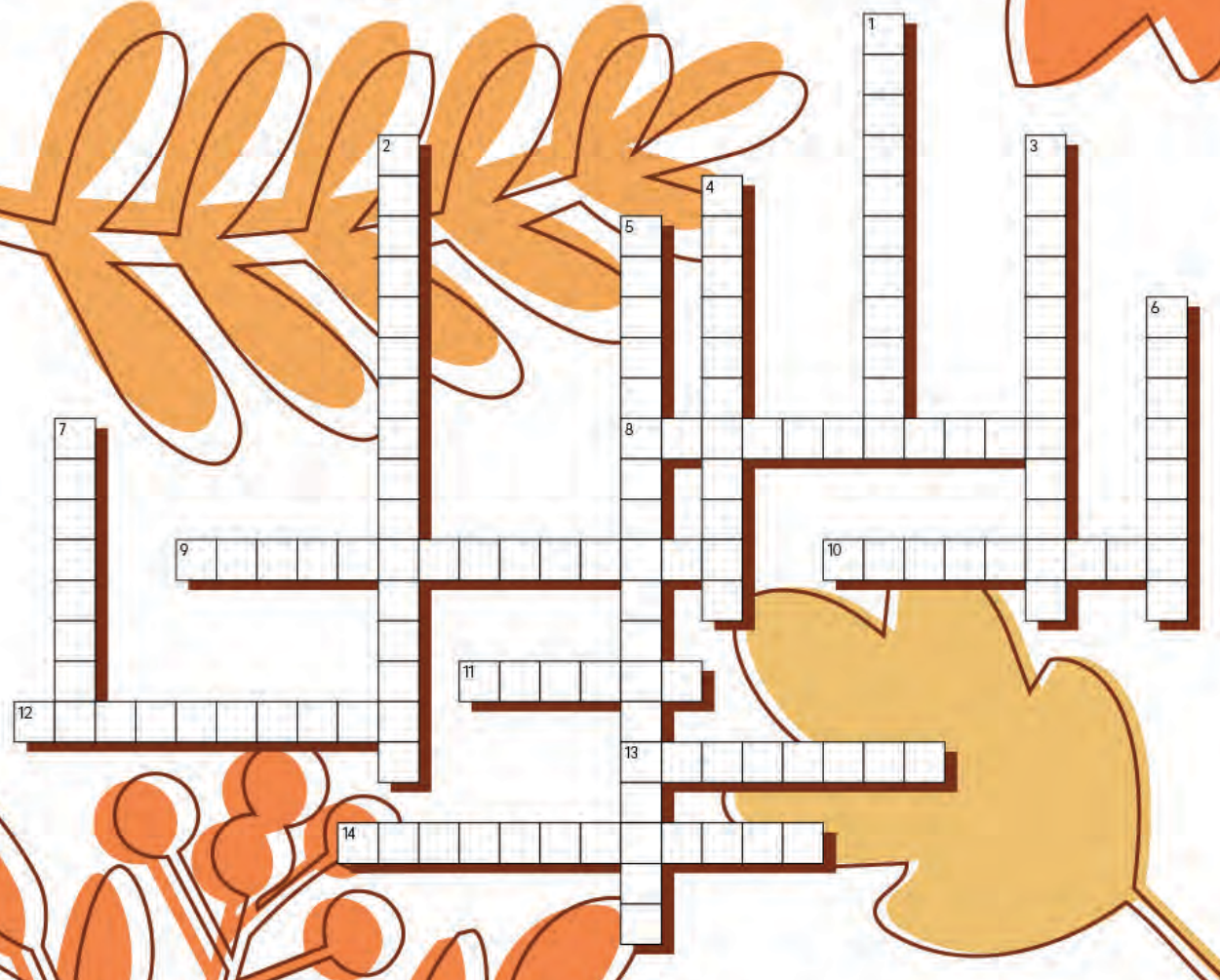
Falling into Autumn

Down

- 1) The full moon that occurs nearest to the autumnal equinox and is known historically for aiding farmers.
- 2) This well-known game was originally used to determine "future couplings" in 14th century U.K.
- 3) McCormick and company introduced this spice blend in 1934 but its use can be traced back to cookbooks as early as 1798.
- 4) This annual festival has only been canceled 26 times within its 200+ year history.
- 5) These insects are known for completing one of the longest insect migrations on Earth every fall.
- 6) A popular fall staple that is technically a fruit.
- 7) This family attraction was first created in Annville, Pennsylvania, in 1993.

Across

- 8) Once chlorophyll production stops in leaves this substance gives the leaves their yellow, red and brown hues.
- 9) This flower originated in China over 3,000 years ago and was prized for its beauty and purported medicinal benefits.
- 10) This popular candy was originally called chicken feed to help market it to children in rural communities.
- 11) While this fruit is widely popular in the U.S. today, every single tree in North America had to come from overseas.
- 12) In mythology, this goddess' disappearance triggers the start of fall.
- 13) This popular sport was used to boost morale during World War II.
- 14) The date of this holiday was moved to help bolster the economy during the Great Depression.



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- Apple
- Bonfire
- Nutmeg
- Cider
- Cranberry
- Cinnamon
- Crisp
- Football
- Gourd
- Halloween
- Harvest
- Hayride
- Leaves
- Maple
- Orange
- Orchard
- Pumpkin
- Rake
- Scarecrow
- Squash
- Sweater
- Scarf
- Plaid
- Crops
- Pinecone
- Mushroom
- Squirrel
- Deciduous

Calendar of Events

SEPT 17-30 OCT 01-15

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

● RCA General Body Meeting
Barkley Room; 5 p.m.-6 p.m.

● No Passport Needed
Franklin Commons; 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

● Diamond Art
Oakley Student Lounge; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

● Stem Cell Donor Drive
3rd Floor Curris; 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

● Cinema International: 'The Tallest Dwarf'
HH208; 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

● Scrapbook Journaling
Oakley Student Lounge; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

● Cinema International: 'The Tallest Dwarf'
HH208; 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
● Murray Farmers' Market
Downtown Murray; 7 a.m.-noon

27

28

29

30

01

02

03

● RCA General Body Meeting
Barkley Room; 5 p.m.-6 p.m.

● Career and Grad School Fair
3rd Floor Curris; 2 p.m.-5 p.m.
● Jazz Concert
Lovett; 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

● STEM & OSH Career Fair
3rd Floor Curris; 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

● Cinema International: 'The Girls Are Alright'
HH208; 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
● Dr. Ali Hendley talk
HH208; 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

● Scrapbook Journaling
Oakley Student Lounge; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

● Cinema International: 'The Girls Are Alright'
HH208; 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
● Murray Farmers' Market
Downtown Murray; 7 a.m.-noon

04

05

06

07

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09

10

● RCA General Body Meeting
Barkley Room; 5 p.m.-6 p.m.

● Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble Concert
Lovett; 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Fall Break

Fall Break

Fall Break

● Murray Farmers' Market
Downtown Murray; 7 a.m.-noon

11

12

13

14

15

Fall Break

● RCA General Body Meeting
Barkley Room; 5 p.m.-6 p.m.
● Mend-it Monday
Campus Thrift; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

● NAFA Meeting and Monster Mash Make Night
Waterfield Gallery; 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

● Agriculture Career Fair
3rd Floor Curris Ballroom; 9 a.m.-noon

● An Eclectic Eye Art Exhibition →
Eagle Gallery; 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
● Delita Martin Exhibition →
Eagle Gallery; 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
● "America at 250: We Hold These Truths"
Student Essay Contest Deadline



Racer Recap: Top athletes of 2026, so far

By Riley Staton

Sports Editor

rstaton1@murraystate.edu

The fall 2026 NCAA season is in full swing, as athletes from all sports look to establish a role on their team. Thus far, Murray State's teams have seen a multitude of success in various facets. Riley Staton of The Murray State News analyzes which Racer athletes to follow in 2026, and which teams succeeded up to this point in the season.

Football matches win total from last season, looks ahead

While the Murray State football team did not reach the expectations they set for themselves in 2025, going 1-11, its 2026 season shows much improvement up to week three of the year. Head coach Jody Wright led the team to its first victory of the season in the third game of the year, with the Racers taking a 27-18 lead against Missouri Valley Conference foe Valparaiso.

The team's success is not the result of a single player. A variety of contributors allowed Murray State to see solid play so far, specifically on offense. Junior running back Tyrell Campbell is a primary contributor in the Racers' offensive success in 2026, with 213 yards on the year.

Graduate halfback Jawaun Northington continues to prepare for a full season of football. Due to changes in NCAA eligibility rules, Northington's ability to play in 2026 remained uncertain until preseason camp. Despite the doubts, Murray State football remained prepared since the season's start.

"We've kind of prepared that Jawaun Northington will be able to play (the first few games)," Wright said on Aug. 25. "But we'll ... see where everything goes. I tell everyone, everyday right now that if you're in college athletics, it's an interesting time, and I feel bad for all parties involved."

Amid an "open battle" at the quarterback spot, graduate playcaller Colin Shannon proved himself capable of manning the team's offense. In three appearances in 2026, Shannon threw 405 yards, two touchdown passes and two interceptions, with a completion percentage of 61.9%. Shannon started two of the team's three games so far this season.

Junior quarterback Jim Ogle joins Shannon in the battle for the starting quarterback role. In two appearances in 2026, Ogle threw 191 yards, a touchdown and an interception, with a 62.1% completion rate.

Defense steps up for women's soccer

Despite falling to 1-6-2 to begin the season, Murray State soccer saw multiple key performers step up for the team early into 2026.



Luke Mayer/The News

Senior forward Sami Wilson attempts a shot in a Sept. 13 game against Lindenwood.

Senior goalkeeper Griselda Revolorio played all nine games for the Racers this season, facing 42 total shots. Revolorio tallied two shutouts up to this point in the year, helping Murray State draw against Marshall and win against Austin Peay. Revolorio's best statistical performance came in the Racers' Sept. 6 win against Austin Peay, where she stopped eight goals en route to a 3-0 win against the Governors.

Junior forward Breece Bass played a key role in the team's offense in the first half of the season. Bass scored a goal in the team's Aug. 27 loss to UT Martin and notched two assists in Murray State's win against Austin Peay, totaling four points on the year.

Sophomore forward Erin O'Shea trails not far behind, with a goal against Austin Peay and an assist against UT Martin for a total of three points. Sophomore midfielder Gabby Ramdeen has started her second season strong, with a goal against Austin Peay. Junior midfielder Natalie Miller has two assists for the Racers in 2026, and senior defender Reagan Tate has a goal on the season, scoring against the Skyhawks.

with 192 assists on the season. Brock is a key piece to the team's defense with 61 digs. Freshman libero Ada Tamturk, however, continues to find the most success keeping plays alive in 2026 with a team-high 124 digs.

Freshman Maezi Snyder found all-around success early in the season. Snyder is third on the team in kills with 60 and leading all Racers with at least 100 attempts in hitting percentage, posting a .301 average. Snyder showed off her versatility on the court, with her 23 blocks on the season ranking second on the team.

Cross Country scores two first-places to start the season

The Racers' cross country season began on Sept. 5 at the Walt Crawford Invitational at Eastern Illinois. Junior Dylan Ellis led the Men's 5K, finishing with a time of 15:55.3 and placing first by eight seconds.

Ellis was one of six Murray State athletes to finish in the top six. Junior Nick Schmitz placed second with a time of 16:06.3, and freshman August Anderson finished third with a time of 16:10.7. Senior Gabe Russell, who led the race for a majority of the start, finished fourth with a time of 16:15.6. Freshman Jackson Lafser placed fifth with a time of 16:18.7, and freshman Noah Gray finished sixth with a time of 16:26.4.

Sophomore Molly Robertson took home first in the Women's 5K, winning 44 seconds ahead of second place with a time of 18:13.7. Senior Alyssa Moore placed fourth with a time of 19:10.8 and junior Autumn Egleston finished fifth with a time of 19:13.8.

Volleyball players find individual scores

The Racers' volleyball team struggled in early competition with a 1-8 record heading into the second half of the year, but multiple players keep up their successful season so far.

Sophomore outside hitter Anne Makowski leads the team by a wide margin in kills, with 141 up to this point. Makowski is third on the squad in digs, with 53 to begin the year. She also leads the team in total attempts by over 100, with 396.

Senior outside hitter Alexa Watts ranks second on the team with 66 kills. Watts also contributed significantly on defense in the first half of the season, with 30 digs and 22 blocks.

Senior outside hitter Lily Evans played a versatile two-way game in the first half of the season with 52 kills, 24 digs and 31 blocks, leading the team in the latter category.

Senior setter Paige Brock positioned herself as the team's primary facilitator,

Golf finds 7 top-25 finishes this season

Murray State men's golf secured three top-20 finishes at their first invitational of the year.

Junior Trey Wall tied for first with a 7-under-par finish for the tournament off the back of a 4-under-par round two. Freshman Landon Hunt tied for 10th in the tournament with a 4-under-par. Senior Rocco Zakutney followed close behind, posting a 3-under-par for 12th in the tournament.

Murray State women's golf played its first invitational of the season on Sept. 6-7. At the A-Ga-Ming Invitational, the team tied for fifth in the tournament. Senior Chloe Griffiths led the team with a 4-over-par, good for an 11th-place tie. Sophomore Kyla Lunsford tied for 14th in the tournament with a 6-over-par on the week. Senior Patti Patterson posted the team's third-best performance of the tournament, with a 7-over-par. Junior Elin Tynan placed 24th with a 9-over-par at the invitational.



File photo

Led by coach Jody Wright, the Racers take the field. The Racers scored their first victory of the season with a 28-17 win over Valparaiso.

Racers' offense shines, defeats Valparaiso

By Riley Staton
Sports Editor
rstaton1@murraystate.edu

The Murray State Racers secured their first win of the season against Valparaiso on Saturday, Sept. 12, at the team's Family Weekend game.

The Racers began the game with possession, breaking off 12 yards before being stalled out by the Crusader defense. Valparaiso saw much of the same in its first possession, punting it back to Murray State to end the Crusaders' first possession. The Racers capitalized on the next offensive opportunity, with

a 13-play drive culminating in a touchdown off of a direct snap to graduate running back Jawaun Northington to grab a 7-0 lead before the end of the first quarter.

Valparaiso looked to match the Racers' output, with an eight-play drive capped off with a touchdown to tie the game. The Racers' offense continued to fight, scoring again on the next possession off of a 12-yard run from junior running back Mykel Allen to retake the lead. Valparaiso tried to retake the lead before the end of the first half, but a strong defensive

performance allowed Murray State to retain the 14-7 lead entering the second half of play.

The Crusaders eventually cut down the lead near the end of the third quarter, scoring a field goal to bring the Racers' lead to 14-10. Murray State continued its scoring streak, however, with junior quarterback Baxter Wright running in a third touchdown, bringing the lead to 21-10. The Crusaders, eager for a late-game push to retake the lead, immediately scored on their next drive while converting for two points, bringing the score to 21-18. The Racers kept

up their offensive momentum, as junior quarterback Jim Ogle connected with Allen on the next drive, securing the 27-18 lead with 19 seconds left in the game to win.

Graduate quarterback Collin Shannon led the team in passing yards for the game, going 11-17 for a total of 121 yards. Ogle went 7-13 for 73 yards, along with both a touchdown and an interception. Junior running back Tyrell Campbell led the team's ground attack, rushing for 117 yards. Allen, Northington and Wright each contributed to the rushing

game, with a touchdown. Fifth-year wide receiver Trey Fires-tone led all Racer receivers in the win, gaining 20.7 yards per carry on three attempts. Sophomore wide receiver Dmitri Howard trailed close behind, with 9 yards per carry on four attempts. Allen led all eligible Murray State receivers in passing touchdowns, with the team's lone score through the air.

The Racers now stand 1-2 on the season, with a 1-1 home record. They will play Oklahoma State University on Saturday, Sept. 19, in Stillwater, Oklahoma.



Taste of the Arts

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Luke Mayer/The News

Murray State football celebrates after their 27-18 win against conference foe Valparaiso. The Racers are now 1-2 on the season, heading into the next game at Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

What to learn from MSU football's start

By Riley Staton

Sports Editor
rstaton1@murraystate.edu

Racer football is off to its best start since current head coach Jody Wright joined the team. The Racers found a week two win against conference opponent Valparaiso and brought their record to 1-2 to begin the season. The first two games showed a strong offensive output from key players to keep an eye on as the 2026 season progresses.

Behind the helm

Wright said he plans to leave the quarterback spot as an open battle.

Returning junior playcaller Jim Ogle secured a guaranteed starting position ahead of the season opener, but Wright split the load, allowing Ogle and senior quarterback Collin Shannon to earn minutes. Junior Baxter Wright and sophomore Blaze Berry also attempt to claim the starting quarterback spot off the back of a strong preseason camp.

"I feel confident in all four (quarterbacks)," Wright said. "We have four quarterbacks that can play winning football. ... I think they're all getting better each week. (As with) the whole of our team, our challenge is to keep improving."

Ogle started in game two, throwing 118 yards with a 68.8% completion rate. Ogle played in the Racers' win against Valparaiso, putting up 73 yards, a touchdown and an interception in limited minutes.

Shannon proved his value to the Racers' offense in two starts so far. In his first start against Eastern Illinois, Shannon put up 257 yards on a 65% completion rate. He put up 121 yards on a 64.7% completion rate in his second start against Valparaiso. While Wright reiterated how the position is open, Shannon is making a case for why he should be the team's starter as the season continues.

A balanced rushing attack

Graduate running back Jawaun Northington expected to see a majority of touches out of the backfield, following the 2025 season where he posted over 700 yards on the ground. However, Northington's ability to play in 2026 stalled due to NCAA rulings regarding eligibility, giving other running backs on the roster a chance to shine. Junior halfback Tyrell Campbell capitalized on this opportunity.

Campbell played a contributing role in 2025, but he did not start for the team due in large part to Northington's performance. Campbell got the start in

week one against Eastern Illinois and rushed for 75 yards on eight attempts and an additional 21 rushing yards. Campbell followed this effort by posting 117 yards on 14 attempts in Murray State's 27-18 win against Valparaiso in week two, averaging over 8 yards per attempt. Campbell showed off his versatility in 2026. He posted a 66-yard receiving performance against Eastern Illinois with an additional 19 receiving yards in week two.

"I think I definitely did good in the receiving game (against Eastern Illinois), thanks to our (offensive) line, (quarter back) and the receivers blocking," Campbell said. "I definitely want to have a better run game. We just have to clean things up, but I know that our O-line will do better."

It is unclear whether Campbell will continue the season as the Racers' starter following Northington's full return, but his performance makes a strong case for an increasing role as the season goes on.

From the air

Senior wide receiver Trey Firestone currently leads the Racers in receiving yards. The Ball State transfer has caught 154 yards up to this point on the season with an additional touchdown. Firestone's highest yards in a game so far

came in Murray State's week two win against Valparaiso when he caught 62 yards on three attempts. Despite being a senior, this season is Firestone's first where he played significant minutes.

"Everyone has a different journey, (I've experienced) a lot of ups and downs," Firestone said. "I've had a lot of learning experiences throughout the years, and I'm just grateful for it all."

Sophomore receiver Dmitri Howard trails not far behind Firestone with 122 receiving yards for the year. Howard began the year as the team's primary return man. He posted 177 returning yards in the first two games of the season. This performance is a major step up from Howard's 2025 season when he only gained 35 total yards on two kick returns. Despite a relative lack of experience in the team's core receiving rotation at the season's start, Howard's play earned him significantly more minutes. With a recent role increase following two strong returning performances, Howard looks to define his role in the team's receiver core.

With these improvements, Murray State football hopes to build off an early-season win and capitalize on their schedule to find the team's best record of the Jody Wright era. The Racers will play Oklahoma State at 6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 19 at Boone Pickens Stadium. The game will be aired on ESPN+.

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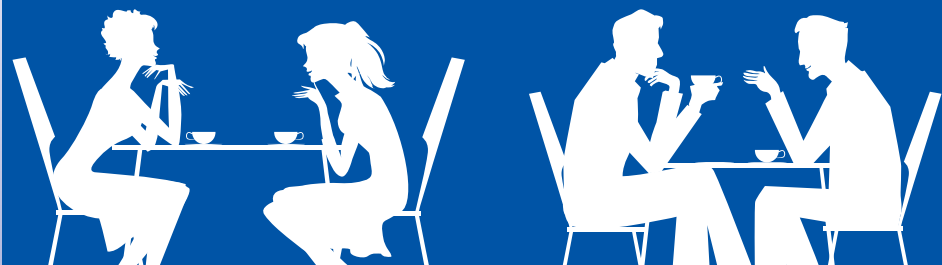
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