

The Marshall Times

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Marshall County School Board evaluates the Districts Superintendent

By Kelsey Edwards
Marshall Times Editor

The Marshall County Board of Education met on June 19, 2025 which marked the close of the 2024–2025 fiscal year. During this meeting, the board also covered the recommended annual policy and procedure updates, along with several construction updates, the superintendent evaluation, and the standard monthly reports. To start the meeting, Bill Thorpe, the Superintendent shared his monthly report where he stated that in the past month he had spoken with several district employees who are working towards their superintendent

certificates. He said that he spoke to the Marshall County Special Olympics about the potential of making Marshall County High School a “Unified School.” By doing this, it would allow those students currently participating in Special Olympics to participate on the regular high school sports teams in certain cases. Director of Transportation and Facilities Jeff Stokes, gave his report to the board. He stated that the Jonathan Elementary roof and doors project is almost completed, however, the final stages are weather dependent, which has caused a small delay. Stokes also presented several

construction-related items, including an invoice and two pay applications for the ongoing MC technical center renovation and expansion project, along with several paperwork documents which were necessary in order to close out several projects. The board also approved the recommended bids for drug testing, fuel, fire equipment and services, paving, and acoustic ceilings. At the close of Stoke’s report, Thorpe thanked Stokes for his numerous years of service to the district as he has officially retired. Brent Lovett, the Director of Pupil Personnel presented the 2025-2026 Code of Acceptable

Behavior. The only notable change was to allow principals and administrators to place a student in alternative classrooms immediately upon the second offence of an issue. Prior to this change, a student would be suspended until a meeting could be held with the necessary district staff, and the alternative placement would begin following that meeting. Lovett did mention that the meeting would still be held, but that it simply just takes away the suspension prior to the meeting. The present board members went on to approve the second reading of the recommended policy updates. Kevin

Stephens, the Special Education Director requested the board approve an agreement with Three Corners Employment to allow pre-employment transition training for students with disabilities. This agreement comes at no-cost to the district due to a state level reimbursement program through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Before the meeting came to an end, the board entered into executive session to discuss the superintendent evaluation. Upon the board returning, the evaluation was presented. The evaluation has seven leadership standards, which

include strategic, instructional, cultural, human resource, managerial, collaborative, and influential leadership. Each of these are evaluated as exemplary, accomplished, developing, and growth. The board rated Thorpe as exemplary in cultural, managerial, and collaborative leadership; accomplished in strategic, instructional, human resource, and influential leadership. The board’s overall rating of Thorpe’s performance was classified as “Accomplished +.” The next board meeting is set for July 17 at 6 p.m.

Hardin Council 2025–2026 Fiscal Year nudget now in effect

On June 23, 2025, the Hardin City Council held a special called meeting in order to have the second reading of the budget for Fiscal Year 2025–2026. The new fiscal year began on Thursday July 1, 2025. The proposed budget was a total of \$946,319

in anticipated revenue. The new budget year allocated a total of \$59,919 to the general fund, with \$312,100 going to the water fund, \$120,200 to the sewer fund, and \$454,100. The budget only anticipates expenses of a little over \$890,400 which

leaves an excess of around \$55,900. It was stated that a bit more than 42,000 dollars of that excess amount is anticipated to be for the gas fund. The general fund is expected to have an excess of a bit more than \$10,000, while both the water and

sewer funds are expected to have an excess of less than \$2,000. This budget hits the city at a time when they are in the midst of several projects. However, many of the projects have received grant funding in order

to be carried out. Some of the projects include water and sewer repairs; bridge repairs in addition to the ones being carried out by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet; and building a stage for the city park. The 2025–2026 fiscal year budget

went on to pass unanimously by the council members who were present. Two of the council members were absent and one attended via phone call. The next regularly scheduled council meeting is set for July 14 at 6 p.m.

Murray State University Racer report: June 30 - July 4

MURRAY, Ky. – The latest Murray State University Racer Report includes student, faculty, staff and alumni accomplishments, announcements, upcoming campus events and more for the week of June 30-July 4.

Murray State University Assistant Professor of Economics Dr. Ayesha Jamal was recently featured in a WalletHub article about United Services Automobile Association (USAA) insurance. Read the article here: bit.ly/WalletHubUSAA

Murray State’s chapter of Kappa Delta Sorority recently received the following awards at their annual convention:
-Continuous Open Bidding Award
-Chapter Advisory Board received an Award of Excellence
-Western Kentucky Alumnae Chapter received an Award of Excellence
-Western Kentucky Alumnae Chapter received honorable mention for Alumnae Chapter Support (in-town)
Congratulations to Kappa Delta!
Murray State’s Alpha Sigma Alpha Beta Nu Chapter recently received the Dr. S. June Smith Service & Giving Award and has been recognized as



Murray State’s chapter of Kappa Delta Sorority recently took home several awards at their annual convention. Congratulations to Kappa Delta!

a Four Star Chapter for the 2024-2025 academic year by the Alpha Sigma Alpha Organization, which is based in Indianapolis, Indiana.
Congratulations to Alpha Sigma Alpha!
Murray State’s chapter of Sigma Sigma recently received the following awards at their 47th National Convention:
-Jane E. Kinderman Standard of Efficiency Award
-Member Development Award
-Tri Sigma Foundation Award
-Fraternity/Sorority Advisor of the Year Award (Kim Newbern)

Congratulations to Sigma Sigma Sigma!
Murray State alumna Gracie Conway, who graduated in May with her bachelor’s degree in pre-veterinary medicine, recently won the title of Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival Pageant Queen in Pineville, Kentucky. Conway said she had never participated in pageants before competing in the 2024 Ms. Murray State University Scholarship Pageant, hosted by the Student Government Association.
“I was nominated by Alpha Gamma Delta and was just excited to have the opportunity

to represent that group of women and be a part of one of Murray State’s longest traditions,” Conway said. Conway won the 2024 Ms. Murray State University Pageant, and as part of her duties as pageant queen, competed in the Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival Pageant in Pineville.
“As someone who has never done pageants, I never expected the outcome,” Conway said. “Going into the four-day long festival/pageant, I truly wasn’t sure what to expect. I had never heard of the tradition before and was just grateful for the opportunity to

meet new people and see the traditions of Pineville, Kentucky. After four days, nine outfit changes, and numerous conversations, I got a glimpse of this meaningful tradition and the hearts of the people in Pineville. The Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival is a rare experience that I will look forward to attending each summer. I am forever thankful Murray State allowed me to partake in this tradition because Pineville, Kentucky, will always hold a special place in my heart.” Conway will be a first-year graduate student at Auburn University College of

Veterinary Medicine this fall.
Two Murray State students, Gavin Clark and Gracey Holmes, are gaining valuable hands-on experience this summer by interning at LI Smith & Associates (LIS) in Paris, Tennessee, Clark as a surveying intern and Holmes as a civil engineering intern.
A native of Paducah, Kentucky, Clark is a rising sophomore at Murray State University, where he is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in construction management and architecture and maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA. He brings hands-on experience in carpentry and landscaping, along with proficiency in industry-standard software such as AutoCAD and Revit. Clark is a graduate of Marshall County High School and has earned numerous academic and athletic honors, including multiple scholarships and All-State academic awards. His strong work ethic, technical skills and eagerness to learn will make him a valuable asset to LIS’s construction and surveying projects this summer.
The LIS internship program is designed to provide students with real-world experience,
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