

# Yantko named Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year

### Staff Report

MURRAY — Nico Yantko, whose bold vision and relentless optimism has transformed Murray State Athletics and elevated the community as a whole, was named the Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year during the organization’s 99th Annual Business Celebration.

Yantko is the youngest recipient to ever win the prestigious award and is the first representative of Murray State Athletics to receive the honor since 2011.

“Nico’s selection as the Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year is an incredible honor and a reflection of the lasting impact he has made both on our campus and throughout our community,” Murray State University President Dr. Ron Patterson said. “Since arriving at Murray State, Nico has demonstrated visionary leadership, a servant’s heart and an unwavering commitment to strengthening the connection between our university and the people we serve. We are incredibly proud to see him recognized with this well-deserved honor, and we congratulate Nico on an achievement that truly embodies the Racer spirit.”

“Nico has quickly become one of those rare leaders who

makes people believe in what’s possible,” President/CEO of the Murray-Calloway County Chamber of Commerce Michelle Bundren said. “While his vision has elevated Murray State Athletics to new heights, his willingness to invest in our community, build partnerships, and lead with authenticity has made an equally lasting impact off the field. We are honored to recognize him as our 2026 Citizen of the Year.”

Yantko led the charge to launch the \$100 million Leading the Pack campaign, securing the university’s largest-ever gift of \$10 million and achieving consecutive record fundraising years of \$21.5 million in 2024-25 and \$31 million in 2025-26.

His ability to unite a community has not only led the unprecedented community growth, but is seeing him drive the future creation of Racer Entertainment Village — a mixed-use district featuring retail, hospitality, and upgraded facilities to support long-term growth.

“This recognition is not about just one person, but about all of the remarkable people I have the privilege of working alongside every day at Murray State Athletics and throughout our community,” Vice President & Director of Athletics Nico Yantko said. “Murray and Calloway County have embraced my family

from the moment we returned home, and it has been a privilege to serve a community that is so passionate about making a difference and committed to long-term growth and success. Together, we have accomplished incredible things, and I believe the best is still ahead for Murray State and our entire community. I am truly thankful for this honor and proud to call Murray home.”

These investments have fueled sustained championship-level performance with NCAA postseason success in basketball and a College World Series appearance in baseball, while also overseeing Murray State’s elevation to the Missouri Valley Conference and achieving the program’s top finish in school history in the MVC All-Sports Trophy.

He was also responsible for the launch of the Dennis Jackson Leadership Program, a comprehensive initiative focused on developing student-athletes beyond competition. The program has contributed to record-setting academic performance, including the highest GPAs and Graduation Success Rates (GSR) in school history, while helping set the school record for community service engagement and financial literacy education to prepare student-athletes for long-term success.



Marshall County placed third in the Spartan Clash at Park Mammoth Golf Club on Monday, July 20, the opening day of the 2026 boys’ high school golf season. (Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School)



Marshall County golfer Paxton Carter tied for first place but lost in a playoff during the Spartan Clash at Park Mammoth Golf Club on Monday, July 20. (Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School)



Paducah Tilghman won the Nick Hill 7 on 7 Tournament Championship at Southern Illinois University on Saturday, July 18. The Tornado finished 6-0 in the high school football passing tournament. (Photo courtesy of Paducah Tilghman High School Football)



Host Marshall County placed third in the Marshall County Invitational at Calvert City Country Club on Tuesday, July 21. The Marshals delivered a team score of 323. (Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School)

### NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER’S SALE

ADS TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC, PLAINTIFF VS. TROY SHAWN DUKES; BEVERLY ANN DUKES; GREGORY PARIS; NICKEY WINSETT; DEBRA WINSETT;- NANCY LENTS; JUDY DUNN; MICHAEL WURTH; BRANDI M. WURTH; JONATHAN MWURTH; UNKNOWN HEIRS OF CECIL PARIS; UNKNOWN SPOUSES OF UNKNOWN HEIRS OF CECIL PARIS: AND COUNTY OF LIVINGSTON, KENTUCKY, DEFENDANTS. CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00019

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale and Summary Judgment entered in the Livingston Circuit Court on May 15, 2026, in the above action, and due to a scheduling conflict, I shall proceed to offer for sale at the courthouse door, in the City of Smithland, Livingston County, Kentucky, to the highest bidder at PUBLIC AUCTION on Friday, July 31, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., cash or upon a credit for 30 days, a tract of real estate located at 720 Armstrong Rd., Smithland, Kentucky 42081, Parcel PIDN:045-01-00-020.00, described more particularly in Deed Book 270, Page 5, Livingston County Clerk’s Office.

The judgments in this case are for approximately \$9,018.02 plus 6.0% per annum interest, late fees, taxes, insurance premiums, maintenance costs, Court costs, assessments, advances and attorney fees. The Master Commissioner will take from the purchaser or purchasers cash payment in full, or for the balance of the purchase price, the purchaser must execute a bond with approved surety, which shall bear interest at the rate of 6.0% per diem until paid in full, which the judgment bears from date of sale with the balance on credit due and payable to the Commissioner within 30 days. If bond is given, the Commissioner shall require the purchaser to make a cash deposit of 10% of the bid amount. This sale is subject to all ad valorem taxes for prior years. Current year ad valorem taxes not yet due and payable and thereafter shall be paid by the purchaser.

Please note the following: the “approved surety” mentioned above may be a person, bank, or other entity who agrees unconditionally to pay the balance due should the purchaser fail to pay in full within thirty (30) days. If your “approved surety” is a bank Letter of Credit it must be provided to the Commissioner on the day of the sale and state the specific dollar amount they are guaranteeing you without stipulation. A loan commitment is not sufficient. If you are providing a personal surety, said person must be a resident of Livingston County, present at the time of sale, and must furnish proof that he/she owns property (real or personal) worth at least the amount of the sales price. You must have your down payment and your Letter of Credit or Surety at the time you bid.

\*If the successful bid is less than two-thirds (2/3) of the appraised value, the defendant shall retain a right of redemption for six (6) months from date of sale. \*Bidders are advised to obtain a title examination in advance of the sale. \*Possession of the premises shall pass to the purchaser upon payment of the full purchase price and delivery of deed. In the event the Plaintiff is the successful purchaser, Plaintiff shall be entitled to a credit of its judgment against the purchase price and shall only be obliged to pay the Court costs, fees and costs of the Special Master Commissioner and any delinquent real estate taxes payable pursuant to the Order of Sale. Bidders should be prepared to comply promptly with these terms. This Master Commissioner has no knowledge of the property other than what is in the Order and Judgment of Sale. Any announcements made on day of sale shall take precedence over printed matter contained herein.

Hon. Barclay W. Banister, Livingston Special Master Commissioner  
Hon. Katy Lawrence, Plaintiff’s attorney