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Photo Courtesy of murraystate.edu
Jessica Evans makes history as the first Black Staff Regent.

Staff elects Regent to fill vacant seat

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A faculty member from the College of Education and Human Services was elected to the position of Staff Regent after a runoff election on Nov. 4. Jessica Evans, Director of Assessment and Accreditation, will serve as Murray State's fifth Staff Regent. Evans has served the University for almost eight years as a member of the Staff Congress. The position of Staff Regent became vacant this semester following the passing of Phil Schooley. Schooley held the position of Staff Regent from 2009 to 2021. "Phil and I worked very closely together during his tenure as regent and during my time on Staff Congress," Evans said. "I am honored to continue Phil's legacy as a strong advocate for staff in the capacity as Staff Regent."

see Staff Regent, page 2



Vaccine card registration falls short of goal

Photo Courtesy of Eli Pitcock

While striving for an 80% COVID-19 vaccination goal the University can only confirm around 70% of the campus as vaccinated.

Masking guidelines likely to remain for spring semester

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The second vaccine incentive program ended on Wednesday, Dec. 1, and will award students, faculty and staff with a \$2,500 scholarship or reward. Executive Director of Branding and Marketing Shawn Touney said as of Nov. 18, the vaccine percentage for students, faculty and staff was 68.9 percent. "Our expected vaccination rate for students is 62.1 percent, who have received at least one dose, based on available information," Touney said. "We expect that many more faculty, staff and students are vaccinated with at least one dose, but have not uploaded their COVID-19 vaccination card. We encourage members

of our campus community to upload their cards as soon as possible." In August, the Student Government Association announced a resolution to reach a vaccination rate of 80 percent by the end of the fall semester. Student Government Association President Ian Puckett said while the goal was not met, he is still pleased with the percentage of those who submitted their vaccination cards. "We were shooting for a total of 80 percent for the campus this semester," Puckett said. "I'm very proud of where we're at with 68.9 percent because to my understanding, at the beginning of the semester, we were probably in the high 40s, so that's a pretty big shift coming into this semester." Vice President of Student Affairs Don Robertson said there is no decision right now on removing the mask mandate for the spring semester.

"There has been some discussion, but it has really been more of a wait-and-see," Robertson said. Robertson said they would like to see the trend in cases decrease so the mask mandate can be removed, but at this time, they do not have enough information. "I think it is safe to say we would like to be able, if the trends continue to decrease, to go away with them [mask mandates]," Robertson said. "I just don't think we will get there." Puckett said it is important for administrators to decide when the best time to lift the mask mandate will be. "We just want to make sure that whenever we do take the masks off that we don't have to go back to masks," Puckett said. "We want this to be a final one and done."

see Vaccine, page 3



The last ACS to happen in its traditional format was in Spring 2019. Brock Kirk/The News

All Campus Sing set to return to Lovett steps

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After being hindered by COVID-19 for the last two years, All Campus Sing (ACS) is making its comeback to the steps of Lovett Auditorium. Sigma Alpha Iota announced at an informational meeting that the 63rd ACS will be returning back to its original format after being altered by COVID-19. ACS is a singing and dancing competition among student organizations such as clubs, residential colleges and Greek organizations that serves to highlight and donate to Sigma Alpha Iota's philanthropy, People to People, which donates instruments to schools that can't afford them.

ACS was cancelled in 2020 because of campus' COVID-19 closure, and in 2021 the performances were only viewable through livestream, performers had to be masked and organizations could only allow three performers at a time. Returning to normal means that campus organizations will be able to perform on the steps of Lovett for an audience that will sprawl across the quad. The number of performers will only be limited to how many people can fit on the steps of Lovett. A majority of the student body has not experienced a normal ACS, including the 2022 ACS Chair junior music and psychology major Addi Bussen.

see SING, page 2

MURRAY STATE RELATED COVID-19 CASES

Students (Nov. 22 - Nov. 28)	Faculty and Staff (Nov. 22 - Nov. 28)	Weekly Total (Nov. 22 - Nov. 28)	Overall Total (Since Aug. 16)
3	1	4	224

Source: Murraystate.edu/racerrestart

Dionte Berry/The News

International student enrollment set to recover

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The world didn't know a pandemic would hit and shut down nearly all travel. For many international students, the gates to education abroad have been closed. Now, they are beginning to open.

Murray State has experienced a steady decline in international enrollment. According to the Murray State Fact Book, the percentage of international students compared to the entire student body decreased from 7% to 4% from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020.

Officials with Murray State's Institute with International Studies said COVID-19 caused one of the biggest decreases of international students at Murray State in recent memory. To combat this decrease, the International Enrollment Office along with English as a Second Language (ESL) have used virtual methods.

Tyson Manering, director for International Recruitment, said he was already proficient with ZOOM even before the pandemic. Manering said he regularly gives virtual tours to international students.

"Traveling to and actually being with the students helps us make connections and gain trust with students," Manering said. "The pandemic has made it harder to make those connections."

The lack of in-person activities also eroded a sense of community among international students with the rest of the university.

The Institute of International Studies at Murray State helps these students with academic and immigration matters. They also help them become acclimated and comfortable in a new living environment.

Maxie Heppie, former international admissions assistant, was a part of the



The Fall 2019 international student class prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo courtesy of murraystate.edu

International Admissions Office when the pandemic hit. Before 2020, Heppie processed hundreds of I-20s (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status) per year. In 2020, the number of I-20s decreased by almost 50%.

"It was hard to see these students, some of them with their families, to get an amazing experience here and then they couldn't," Heppie said. "Just getting food and a warm place to stay was hard for them."

Post-Gazette reporter Bill Schackner found that the number of new international students currently studying in the U.S. has dropped by 46%. Schackner also found that overall enrollment for the 2020-2021 academic year was down by 15%.

As the pandemic and resulting travel policies have eased, international students

are more interested in coming to the U.S. Manering said the amount of recruitment has quadrupled from last year.

Murray State is among the thousands of universities in the U.S. are expected to see a sharp increase in international enrollment in Fall 2021 and the coming semesters.

According to *Forbes* magazine, the vast majority of colleges have experienced a bounce-back to normalcy with their foreign education programs. Micheal T. Nietzel with *Forbes* said recruitment was one of the reasons international programs in universities were able to survive the pandemic.

Nietzel found universities had several methods to keep international students. Many have cited extensive outreach and advising to sustain a stable international community with universities.

Dr. Guangming Zou, assistant vice president for international studies, said it is essential that enrollment has a large web of resources. These resources include recruitment and ESL.

"It's very important to stay current with a changing world to maintain decent enrollment," Zou said. "We have many sources of enrollment. If one source does not work it may influence us but it will not kill us."

International and ESL students are optimistic about the future of international enrollment. Jinsoo Kim, an ESL student from South Korea, said the South Korean and U.S. governments made it easy to get vaccinated.

"I am hopeful Murray State will make it safe for all students," Kim said. "I am not worried at all."



Richard Thompson/The News

SING from page 1

"I'm super excited for it even though I haven't experienced it myself, it does seem like just a very exciting event overall, and everyone seems to look forward to it every year," Bussen said.

Although COVID-19 is expected to remain a variable in the spring semester, Bussen said since the event is outside they have been given the green light from the Music Department and the Office of Student Affairs. Despite having that green light now, the normalcy of ACS is reliant on the severity of COVID-19.

With ACS back in person, Bussen sees it as a way to engage with the student population.

"For ACS last year we at least wanted to have something that people could get involved with, because I feel like there was a weird lack of spirit," Bussen said. "This year since we are going back to normal hopefully there will be a lot much more involvement."

Sigma Alpha Iota President Senior Lucy Wilkinson shares the same excitement about the return of ACS. For Wilkinson her experience is

different from Bussen's because she was able to experience a normal ACS.

"I would describe Sigma Alpha Iota's All Campus Sing as an event that is an experience like no other," Wilkinson said. "Being able to see organizations all across campus come together to share music is a truly inspirational thing."

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Sigma Alpha Iota has seen multiple roadblocks such as not being able to hold a normal ACS in the past as well as not being able to use their space in Lovett, because of renovations.

While having to deal with unfamiliarities for nearly the past two years, the upcoming ACS stands as a return to normalcy for Sigma Alpha Iota.

"Pushing through COVID-19 has been so tough for everyone and it [ACS] will be a day to relax and share music with each other," Wilkinson said. "I would love for everyone to come out and spend the day with us! ACS is 100% free and is an all day event and it is so much fun."

ACS will be on April 13, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in front of Lovett Auditorium.

Staff Regent from page 1

The selection process for Staff Regent is outlined under Kentucky state law and is consistent amongst all state universities. Staff Regents are required to have been employed by Murray State for three years; be classified as "non-teaching personnel" and cannot hold the positions of President, Vice-President or academic dean or chairperson.

Evans has been working at Murray State since 2010. Evans began her career at Murray State as an administrative assistant, but has also worked in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness as the Director of Assessment and Academic Program Review.

During her tenure on the Staff Congress, Evans served on several committees such as the President's Commission on Student Retention and Budget Committees.

"I decided to run for Staff Regent because I wanted to continue serving as an advocate for staff concerns while working with other constituency Regents to move the University forward," Evans said.

As Staff Regent, Evans plans to advocate for including cost of living increases to ensure that Murray State remains a competitive environment for recruiting and retaining staff.

Evans is also an advocate for incorporating a system that would compensate staff members who have completed additional training such as professional development training, educational degrees or trade certifications.

Evans hopes such a system would function

similar to the tenure and promotion system offered to other faculty members.

Evans also hopes to lead initiatives that will directly help students. Such initiatives would include increases in scholarships and student support services and continued building maintenance across campus.

"I was a first-generation student and know that without financial support, it would have been almost impossible for me to attend college," Evans said.

Evans' election to the position of Staff Regent is also historic for Murray State. Evans is the first Black Staff Regent in Murray State's history.

During the first staff regent election, Evans received 144 of the 393 votes. This allowed Evans to be one of two candidates that would progress to a runoff election. Evans received 206 votes to secure her position in the runoff election.

"Jessica has repeatedly demonstrated the ability to see issues from the standpoint of those who are working hard to make life better for themselves and their family," said Orville Hurdon, chair of the Staff Congress and Elections Committee.

After being a part of the Murray State community for 11 years, Evans is happy to continue her involvement in campus matters as the next staff regent.

"I hope my election to the Murray State Board of Regents will inspire others to pursue governance and elected positions," Evans said. "As Murray State approaches its centennial, I look forward to this new opportunity to represent the staff and advance the University toward another 100 years."

Vaccine, from page 1

Robertson said when deciding to lift the mandate, President Bob Jackson will meet with other administrators to decide the best course of action by looking at the COVID-19 trends, CDC regulations and what is coming out of the governor's office guidelines. "Obviously if we keep decreasing that puts us in a better position to make those decisions and it appears that this new variant is not really going to be that impactful," Robertson said. "On the other hand, if we start seeing big increases, that will impact things also." Puckett said the majority of the decisions made with COVID-19 regulations come from the state. "A lot of what we do is based on what the governor's office is saying and what the legislator is saying," Puckett said. "I know K-12 schools have moved to unmasking, but I'm not sure if we will do that; [however] it's definitely possible."

Robertson said there are a lot of unknowns when determining if the mask mandate should be lifted.

"With all this travel, is there going to be a spike because the cases have really stabilized?" Robertson said. "We also don't know what the impact will be for [the omicron variant], so it's kind of a wild card right now."

Puckett said that while Murray State might be close to reaching herd immunity, Calloway County is not.

"While the campus might be at 80 percent, the community at large is not where it needs to be," Puckett said. "You want to reach about 80 percent in order to get real herd immunity benefits."

Robertson said with the new variant and other unknown variables, this is the time for people to be vaccinated.

The University will continue to offer vaccine clinics this semester and into the spring.

The next vaccine clinic is Friday, Dec. 3, at Health Services from 8 a.m. to noon.

Fall Exam Schedule

Exam Day	For classes that meet at:	Exam Time
Monday Dec. 6	8:30 a.m. MWF 11:00 a.m. TR 2:30 p.m. MWF Monday evening	8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. Regular class time
Tuesday Dec. 7	9:30 a.m. MWF 11:30 a.m. MWF 12:30 p.m. TR Tuesday evening	8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. Regular class time
Wednesday Dec. 8	9:30 a.m. TR 12:30 p.m. MWF 12:00 p.m. TR Wednesday evening	8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. Regular class time
Thursday Dec. 9	8:00 a.m. TR 4:30 p.m. MWF 10:30 a.m. MWF 1:30 p.m. MWF Thursday evening	8:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. Regular class time
Friday Dec. 10	7:30 a.m. MWF 3:30 p.m. TR 3:30 p.m. MWF	8:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Source: <https://www.murraystate.edu/academics/RegistrarsOffice/finals.aspx>

Dionte Berry/The News

The News Reviews: Essential Winter Albums

'Man Alive!' by King Krule

Dionte Berry

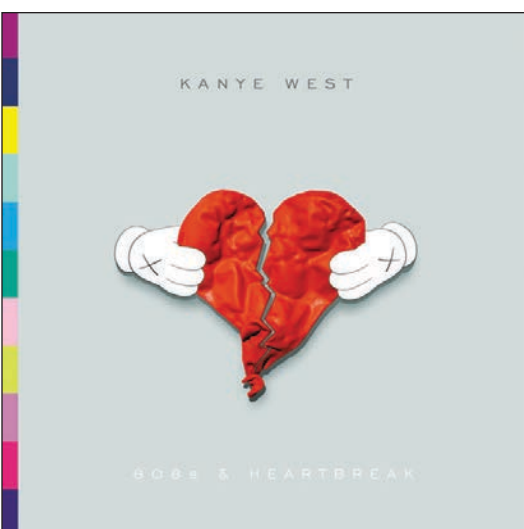
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'Man Alive!' by King Krule is a swanky alternative album with a jazz influence. Archy Marshall, professionally known as King

Krule, is known for his gritty deep voice. Krule's overall discography has a cold feeling, and 'Man Alive!' continues that feeling creating foggy and dark scenes with somber laden lyrics. This album does not make me feel the joys of winter like Christmas and the sense of togetherness, but instead its

sadness. Songs like "Alone, Omen 3," "(Don't Let the Dragon) Draag On" and "Please Complete Thee" really push the sense of the loneliness and isolation that often comes along with winter. Despite songs like "Stoned Again" and "Comet Face" having a faster pace they still have an icy and disgruntled tone.



'808s and Heartbreaks' by Kanye West

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The triple-platinum album "808s and Heartbreak" by Chicago rapper Kanye West is one of my all-time favorite albums. It's quite a different album from most

of West's discography as it feels cold and shows a lot of emotion, like you're walking alone through a busy street on Christmas Eve. The album was one of my first exposures to hip-hop music when I listened to it in the winter of my freshman year of high school, so it brings back plenty of memories from that time. Songs like "Coldest Winter," "Street Lights"

and "Welcome to Heartbreak" capture the mood of the album perfectly, while songs like "Heartless" and "Love Lockdown" provide a slightly happier feel, yet have lyrics that still match the album's theme. The album has proven to be one of the most influential albums of the current generation of hip-hop, marking its significance in the world of music.

'We Need a Little Christmas' by Pentatonix

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"We Need a Little Christmas" by Pentatonix is the perfect blend of general winter vibes and holiday spirit. With an intense combination of both secular and religious Christmas

songs, this album encapsulates everything I love about winter. Winter is a time of reflection and joy, of beginnings and endings, and this album delivers the soundtrack to those feelings. My favorite not-Christmas songs are "Once Upon a December" from the movie "Anastasia" and "My Favorite Things" from "The Sound of Music." Yes, I know "My

Favorite Things" is technically not a winter-themed song, but it delivers the hopeful reflective feelings winter brings. My favorite Christmas songs on this album are "12 Days Of Christmas" and "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer." "12 Days of Christmas is my favorite Christmas song, and Pentatonix really delivers with this rendition.



'A Very Swingin' Basie Christmas' by The Count Basie Orchestra

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In this album, one of the greatest big bands in the history of jazz is giving us one of the best ways to swing into the holiday season. Starting off with an arrangement

of "Jingle Bells" by the great Sammy Nestico, the upbeat feeling of the album continues through the second chart, "Let It Snow." The band's amazing soloists and cast of vocalists carry us through the rest of the album, showing off all of the different styles and moods that the jazz world

has to offer. By far my favorite chart in the album is R&B vocalist Ledesi's amazing rendition of "The Christmas Song." Those charts combined with the arrangements of "Sleigh Ride," "Silent Night" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," makes this a solid album.

'The Polar Express [Motion Picture Soundtrack]' by Various Artists

Kate Manley

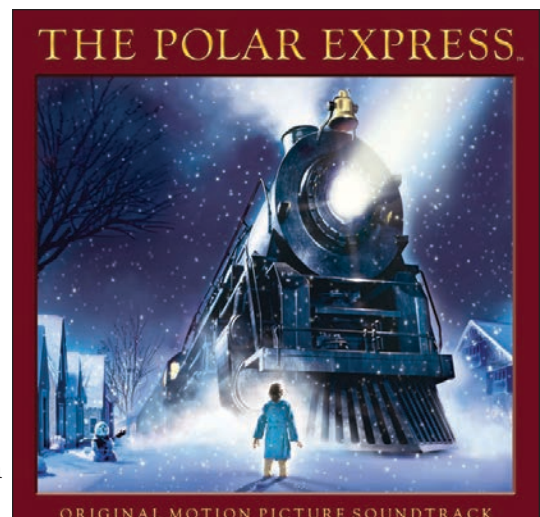
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When I think of music that instantly reminds me of Christmas and/or Winter, it is the Polar Express Soundtrack. I love listening to movie soundtracks

no matter what they are. I often listen to them when I am doing homework or reading because of how soothing and constant they are. Two popular orchestra conductors are Alan Silvestri and Josh Groban, who conducted certain set music pieces that were included in the movie. Both of these artists have

very signature styles for their music. When you hear other soundtracks, you can often hear the common elements in other albums. This soundtrack always brings me back to being a kid and just brings me so much peace and joy. This album and movie are always my go to when it comes to Christmastime.



Album covers courtesy of Spotify

Our View: Where is the justice?

On Nov. 17, 18-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse was found not guilty on all five charges for the killing of two men and the injuring of another in August 2020.

Rittenhouse faced five different felony charges, including first-degree intentional homicide, first-degree reckless homicide and two counts of first-degree recklessly endangering safety.

The shootings took place at a protest against police brutality that had turned violent in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Rittenhouse argued it was in self-defense. During the trial, video was released that showed one victim, Joseph Rosenbaum, chasing after Rittenhouse while Rittenhouse shot his gun. One reporter at the trial, Richie McGinnis, testified that Rosenbaum lunged for Rittenhouse's AK-47, calling him an active shooter.

In all, Rittenhouse was facing up to 207 ½ years in prison if the jury found he was guilty on all charges and agreed that he was to serve the full punishment of each charge.

Instead, at the end of the two-week trial, the jury found Rittenhouse not guilty of all charges, agreeing with the self-defense claim.

At *The News*, we are split on our opinions on the overall trial. There was a lot that happened in the two weeks left us all with

plenty of questions after the trial.

On one hand, some of us do not agree with the verdict of the trial. Some of us agreed that technically it was self-defense, but the situation Rittenhouse found himself in made it feel as though it was a stretch of a claim. Others don't agree that it was self-defense and believe it was done with an intent to kill.

On the other hand, some believe the verdict was correct as it was self-defense. While we agree it is morally incorrect to kill a person, it can be argued that he had no intent to kill and was just defending himself. One also said that after seeing the facts and testimonies of the trial, there was really no way he could be found guilty. The jury agreed and found Rittenhouse not guilty of all charges.

While *The News* is split on the verdict of the trial, we agree that there are some holes in the judicial system. Parts of the trial seemed questionable at best, and many agree the judge mishandled the trial at points. Some also pointed out that the judge seemed partial towards Rittenhouse.

With those subjects covered, there was still more to be said about everything around the trial. One member of *The News* said that they felt this trial points how uninformed the public seems to be about

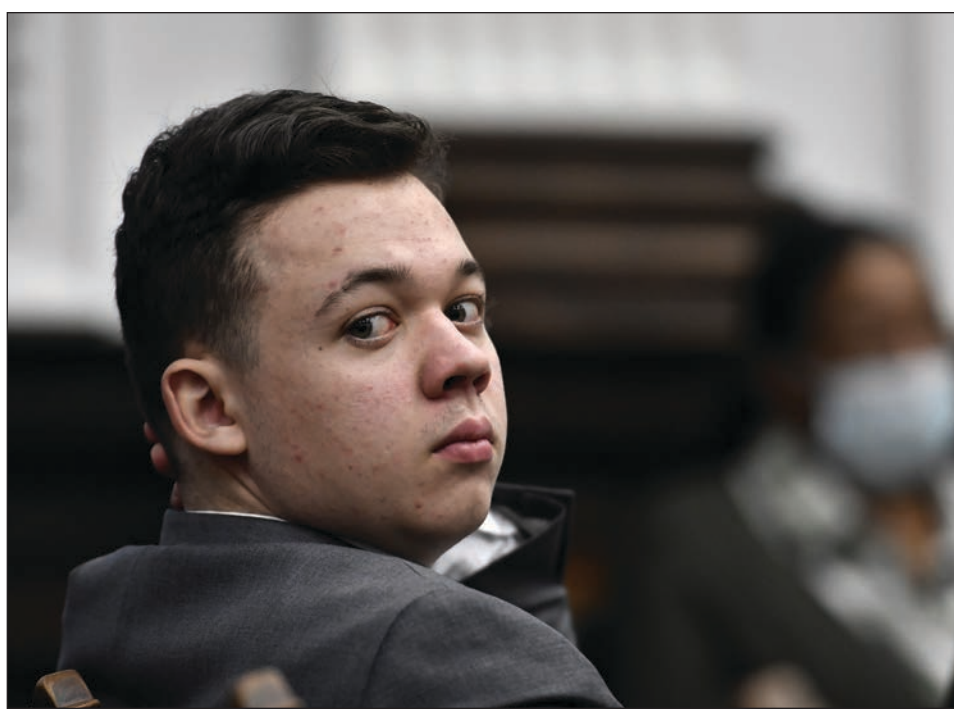


Photo courtesy of the New York Post

these trials. They went on to say "People spend too much time looking at headlines and basing their opinions off of that."

Another member said they were disappointed in the way the media reported the case. They pointed out how media outlets discussed Rittenhouse crying on the stand and they didn't agree with what many had written. They went on to say that the way the media covered the trial made it almost obvious Rittenhouse could be found not guilty and that they painted him as a good person instead of a killer.

Overall, the trial has proven the gap between justice and the legal system. Two people are dead and

no one is being held accountable. We at *The News* believe this verdict is all too similar to the "not guilty" verdict in the Trayvon Martin killing back in 2012. These verdicts give the sense that people can force themselves into a dangerous situation with a firearm, kill someone, then claim self-defense afterwards. At the very least, fine the person and take away the ability to own a firearm.

The flaws in our judicial system remain open to the public. We may never see a change in our lifetimes as some people believe the system still works. But as the world continues to change, it's time for a change in our court systems.

Chief Copy Editor takes a bow

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When I first applied to Murray State in early 2018, I knew I wanted to write. At the time, I had no idea the University offered a creative writing program, and so I went with the next best thing: journalism. Luckily for me, I found out about the creative writing program before I went to Summer Orientation, and so when I switched majors, I thought I had left journalism behind. If someone would have told me I'd one day be writing reviews and opinion articles in addition to copy editing everything that goes on page, I'd have laughed.

Flash forward about three-and-a-half years, and I'm spending my Wednesday nights curled up in a ridiculously comfortable chair in the windowless newsroom, gently reminding

our dear sports editor to use apostrophes at the end of possessive nouns that end in the letter "s" and coming up with ridiculous document titles that only my fellow section editors will ever see. Being Chief Copy Editor was not something I ever saw myself as, but now that I'm leaving, I honestly don't think there was really any other path for me.

Though I'm not a journalism student, my time here at *The News* has been filled with learning and laughter, and I honestly wouldn't trade it for the world. There have even been times where I wish I wasn't graduating a semester early, just so I could spend one more semester with everyone. But, time waits for no one, and so I must go on.

I'd like to end with a little quote that has gotten me through not only my time here at Murray State, but my life in general. Voice Actor Jeffrey



Joey Reynolds/*The News*

Chief Copy Editor Pam Goodwin

Combs said, "One is not born into greatness, rather one must earn it."

To my fellow editors and the writers whose work I have butchered on a daily basis, keep

striving for that greatness. It has been my honor to grow and learn alongside you all.

This is Pam, Chief Copy, signing off.

"A WALK IN THE PARK-ING"



Written & Illustrated by Cade Utterback

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The News strives to be the University community's source for information. Our goal is to present that information in a fair and unbiased manner and provide a free and open forum for expression and debate.

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Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

Sophomore forward DJ Burns scored a season-high 19 points against the Campbellsville Tigers, while also grabbing 15 rebounds in the Racers' win.

Men's Basketball cruises past Campbellsville

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After a trip to Florida for a three-game tour, the Murray State men's basketball team returned home to take on the Campbellsville University Tigers on Monday, Nov. 29.

The Racers came out victorious, defeating the Tigers 98-61. Junior guard Tevin Brown scored a game-high 20 points, followed closely behind by sophomore forward DJ Burns, who had a season-high 19 points.

Speaking about his season-high performance in the game, Burns said his role is just to be himself in the game and play his own game. "They tell me to just 'Be DJ,'" Burns said. "I feel like I'm stepping up. Everybody has to do their certain things on the team to get the job and I just do whatever the coach asks of me. If that's getting rebounds, getting the ball, being scrappy, that's what I do."

The game started close, with both team trading baskets to start. The Racers fought right back as Burns led the Racers on an 8-0 run, accounting for six of the points during the run. Graduate guard Cameron

Carmical ended the run with a three-pointer that made it 10-7 with the Racers up.

The Tigers hung around for a bit until the Racers started another run that included free throws from sophomore guard Justice Hill and sophomore guard Trae Hannibal. Junior forward KJ Williams finished the run with a layup to put the Racers up 18-9.

After a few traded baskets, the Racers finally pulled with a 17-0 run. The run saw nine points and two steals from Burns, as well as a dunk and some free throws from Hannibal, a jump shot from Hill and a layup from Williams. When the run ended, the Racers were up 37-14.

The Tigers kept trying to dig themselves out, but the Racers kept extending the lead, going up by 22 points with a layup from Hannibal. Back-to-back layups from sophomore forward Jace Wallace brought the Tigers closer, but senior guard Carter Collins ended the half with a jump shot to put the Racers up 20.

The Racers led at halftime 49-29. Burns had 17 points in the first half, while Brown had just four. Hill and Hannibal each had eight points and Williams had six.

The Racers got right back to work in the second half with a quick 12-2 run that saw seven points from Brown and a three-pointer from Hill. Sophomore guard Darius Harding ended the run with a layup, but the Racers were up 61-33.

The lead continued to grow for the Racers as they reached the halfway mark of the half. Brown hit two three-pointers in a minute to up his points in the half, freshman forward Nicholas McMullen made back-to-back shots to get on the board and when the scoring started to slow down, the Racers were up by 41 and led 80-39.

The Tigers continued to climb up and make it a respectable game, but it was too little and too late for them as the Racers' defense held strong. When the game came to a close, the Racers defeated the Tigers 98-61.

Brown led all scorers with 20 points in the game. Burns finished with 19 points, five rebounds and three steals. Hill had 15 points and eight assists in the game. Hannibal had 10 points, five assists and five rebounds. The Racers scored 66 points in the paint during the game.

Hannibal spoke after the game about his performance

so far this season. He said he is having more fun playing now than he has in the past.

"I'm having fun," Hannibal said. "Looking back in the past, I wasn't having as much fun with it, like my fun was taken away from the game. But just taking it day by day now and having fun with these guys has brought me a lot of joy. I'm thankful and blessed for that."

Speaking after the game about Burns' performance and the team's win, Head Coach Matt McMahon said it was a big win for the team and that he loves players with a motor like Burns.

"Love the energy that DJ brings to the team," McMahon said. "He's such a fun guy to watch play. I love coaching guys like that who bring passion and energy to the team. I also loved our guard play. Justice had eight assists and zero turnovers. Trae had five assists and zero turnovers. Tevin was very efficient in scoring in the second half. Overall, a great win for our team."

The Racers improve to 6-1 on the season with their win over the Tigers. They continue their homestand on Saturday, Dec. 4, when they take on Middle Tennessee State University at 7 p.m.

Women's basketball escapes Evansville

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The Murray State women's basketball team traveled to Evansville, Indiana, on Tuesday, Nov. 30, where they defeated the Evansville Purple Aces by a score of 85-77.

Senior guard Macey Turley and sophomore forward Katelyn Young led the way with 29 points and 28 points, respectively. Sophomore forward Hannah McKay finished with 11 points while senior forward Alexis Burpo finished with 10.

Young scored the first basket of the game, but the Aces broke free and went up by six thanks to three-pointers from sophomore forward Celine Dupont and senior guard Myia Clark. The run put the Aces up 10-4 early on.

As the first quarter moved along, the Racers were able to tie it at 15 with a three-pointer from Turley. Another three-pointer from Turley put the Racers up, but junior guard Je'naiya Davis made a three-pointer to tie the game at 18. Senior guard Lex Mayes made her

own three-pointer to put the Racers back on top at 21-18.

The teams continued to go back-and-forth throughout the quarter until McKay made a layup at the end of the first quarter to put the Racers up 25-21.

Turley started the second quarter with a layup to extend the lead to six, but the Aces kept it close with back-to-back layups to make it 27-25 Racers.

The Racers didn't give up the lead and extended it up to eight with layups from Young, Turley and Burpo. Davis put a stop to the run with a three-pointer, making the score 35-30 in favor of Murray State.

As the quarter started to draw to an end, the Racers continued to extend their lead. Free throws from Young, Burpo and Turley put the Racers up 12. In the closing seconds of the half, Clark drove in the lane and made a layup for the Aces that made the score 45-35 at halftime.

The Racers were 12-13 from the free throw line in the first half, including a perfect 10-10 from the line in the second quarter. Evansville shot just seven free throws in the first half and went 1-4 from



Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

Senior forward Macey Turley led the Racers with 29 points in their win over Evansville.

the line in the second quarter.

The Aces started to make a comeback in the third quarter with three-pointers from Clark and junior forward Abby Feit. The Racers fought back with free throws from McKay, and-one play from Young and a layup from freshman guard Clair McGowen to make it 55-45 Racers.

The teams traded baskets back-and-forth the rest of the quarter with layups coming from Mayes and Young to keep the lead in the Racers' favor. As the quarter came to an end, the Racers were ahead 62-54.

Young started the fourth quarter with an and-one play to extend the lead, but the Aces answered with a 6-0 run that included baskets from Clark and Davis. The run brought the Aces within five points with a score of 65-60. After Burpo made a layup

and McKay sank a pair of free throws, the Aces made another run, including a three-pointer from Feit to make the score 69-65 Racers.

The Racers managed to keep their distance from the Aces and closed out the game with one last free throw from Turley. When the final buzzer went off, the Racers were ahead. Murray State defeated Evansville by a score of 85-77.

Turley led the way with 29 points on 7-17 shooting from the field and 5-10 shooting from the three-point-range. Young finished with 28 points on 10-10 shooting from the field, as well as 13 rebounds. McKay finished with 11 points. Burpo had 10 points and 12 rebounds.

The Racers improve to 6-1 on the season and continue their roadtrip on Saturday, Dec. 4, when they play at Samford University at 2 p.m.

Volleyball season comes to a close

Rachel Essner

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The Murray State volleyball team finished its season with a 3-1 loss against SEMO in the second round of the OVC tournament on Friday, Nov. 19, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

The teams went back and forth to open the first set, tying the score at 12 before the Racers used a 7-2 run to take the lead at 19-15 with kills from senior outside hitter Emily Matson, freshman outside hitter Brooke Lynn Watts, senior middle blocker Kolby McClelland and sophomore middle blocker Taylor Beasley. The teams traded points until a kill from Watts closed out the set 25-22.

With the teams tied at five in the second set, the Redhawks used a 6-1 run to take the lead at 9-5. SEMO kept a steady control of the set as the teams swapped points. The Redhawks used a 4-1 run to finish the set 25-18.

The Redhawks carried their momentum into the third set, using an 11-3 lead to lead 14-6.

The Racers fought back with a 5-2 run with two kills from sophomore opposite hitter Jayla Holcombe and a block assist from Holcombe and Beasley, but still trailed the Redhawks 18-12. SEMO,

however, used a 6-2 run to seal the set 25-15.

SEMO took the early 11-7 lead in the fourth set, but a 6-2 run from the Racers tied the score at 13. The Redhawks responded by scoring seven straight points to lead 20-13, but with the Redhawks at set point, Murray State scored five straight points to tie the score at 24. The Redhawks, however, scored back-to-back points to take the set 26-24 and the match 3-1.

Holcombe led the Racers' offense with 22 kills, followed by Watts with 13 kills. Beasley finished with three block assists while McClelland counted two block assists and a solo block.

Senior libero Becca Fernandez led the Racers' defense with 17 digs, followed by freshman outside hitter Alexa Harris with 11. Freshman setter Bailey DeMier tallied 54 assists.

The Racers finished their season with an 18-12 overall record and 11-7 in the OVC. Racking up end of the season honors, McClelland was named to the OVC All-Tournament team, Fernandez was named OVC Defensive Player of the Year for the third time of her career and to the All-OVC First Team, Watts was named OVC Freshman of the Year after eight OVC Newcomer of the Week honors and leading the league in kills per set along with All-OVC First Team. DeMier was named to the All-OVC Second Team.



Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

The Murray State volleyball team finished its season with an 18-12 overall record.

Defensive Player Of The Year

Becca Fernandez

Newcomer of the Year

Brooke Lynn Watts

All OVC Second Team

Bailey DeMierr



Pam Goodwin/The News



12 days of
COFFEE

December

1. Iced London Fog
2. White Campfire Mocha
3. Peppermint White Mocha
4. Peppermint Tea with honey
5. Snickerdoodle latte
6. Cinnamon Dulce latte
7. Neapolitan latte
8. Snowball on Ice
9. Frosted Christmas Tree
10. Spiced Eggnog Breve
11. Melted Snowman
12. Harvest Moon Cold Brew

Happy Holidays

&

**CONGRATULATIONS
DECEMBER GRADUATES!**

Class chooses The Homeplace for grant

Nonprofit leadership class donates \$1,000

Ava Chuppe
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The Nonprofit Leadership Studies 305 class presented a \$1,000 grant to The Homeplace at Land Between the Lakes on Nov. 30.

The Giving Back Endowment grant was established thanks to Bob Long, retired NLS professor, and his wife Patricia.

The Endowment provides the Student Engagement Initiative to support an experiential learning opportunity within a core student philanthropy course in the NLS program, according to the Murray State NLS website.

"The Giving Back Endowment was established to advance the principles of altruism, generosity, caring and service to others," the website states. "The central goal is to provide students with innovative educational experiences that help prepare them to be active citizens of the world and provide faculty with resources to innovate in course design that pursues the same outcomes."

NLS 305 is a course on "Grants, Giving and Philanthropy," meaning students learn about the administration and politics of grantmaking.

According to the University academic catalog, NLS 305 "will familiarize students with key aspects of grant-making institutions, such as mission development, needs assessment, grant proposal analysis, and site visits. Students will develop their own grant-making strategy and learn how to be strategic in their



The Nonprofit Leadership Studies 305 class gave a grant to The Homeplace. The students chose The Homeplace from many grant proposals. Photo courtesy of Elise Kieffer

individual giving."

The grant allows students in NLS 305 to learn about the topic in a hands-on application, said Elise Kieffer, nonprofit leadership studies program director.

"Students individually research the local nonprofit environment and identify qualifying organizations," Kieffer said. "They draft a grant application based on factors they feel are most important."

The endowment's mandate states the funds should be issued to an organization in Calloway County working in youth development. After all applications are received, the class debates and selects a finalist.

Kieffer said the class saw value in all of the grant proposals but ultimately chose The Homeplace because of their specific intention.

"The Homeplace is planning a Trail of Tears educational experience," Kieffer said. "These funds will be utilized to make that come to life. Given the local importance of that historical atrocity, the class felt that this was a timely and important project."

Kieffer added that because thousands of people travel through Land Between the Lakes and The Homeplace each year, the establishment of this educational experience will expose all of them to the

indigenous history of the area.

According to the Land Between the Lakes Guide website, The Homeplace also allows visitors to interact with the antebellum way of life face-to-face.

"At The Homeplace, you are transported back to a working 19th-century farm where history really comes alive," the website states. "You can wander at leisure around the farm interacting with the interpreters, who are members of Friends of Land Between the Lakes, as they undertake all the tasks as if it were a normal day in 1850."

To learn more about the NLS program and its offerings, visit murraystate.edu/business.

Professors receive award for open access research

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Four Murray State professors received the Lana Porter Open Access Initiative Award for their academic open access research projects: Ismail Karabas, Christopher Lennon, William Mulligan and James Humphries.

The Lana Porter Open Access Initiative Award is an award established by Board Member of the Murray State University Foundation Lana Porter to celebrate open access research, which is research that is available for free to the public.

Recipients of the award have made significant contributions to open access research, such as publishing articles in open access journals, publishing open access chapters or full monographs or archiving works in an open access repository. Recipients are given stipends to help fund research projects.

Applicants describe a nominee's accomplishments and submit to the Open Access Initiative Award committee. Criteria that were evaluated are as follows:

- The open work was created during the same period of time in which the applicant was as a full-time faculty/staff member, or student, of Murray State University,
- The significance of the work to the research and professional development of the applicant,
- The ability to provide evidence of commitment to open access or open education,
- Applications must be completed in full.

Karabas, assistant professor of marketing, said he was notified of receiving the award during the Spotlight on Open Scholarship Practices Zoom session.

"I was very surprised as I had no idea I was one of the recipients of this award," Karabas said. "It made me feel very excited and honored to have been recognized at this level."

Karabas's nomination packet included several research articles, which are available on his Google Scholar profile.

Karabas said his interest in open access research stemmed from not being able to access papers.

"Even at high quality institutions like Washington State University or Murray State University, there are several journals that the University does not have a subscription for," Karabas said. "Every time I can't access something, it inspires me to make sure my work is accessible to everyone."

Lennon, assistant professor of microbiology, said he was honored to receive this award.

"Every time I can't access [research], it inspires me to make sure my work is accessible to everyone."

—Assistant Professor of Marketing
Ismail Karabas

"I am strongly committed to open access publishing as it makes the knowledge generated by the tireless work of academic researchers freely available to all," Lennon said. "This not only

increases the potential impact of this knowledge, but it removes the inequity in access experienced by many scholars at less wealthy institutions, both in the U.S. and abroad."

Lennon said since research is often funded by federal and state taxes, research should be available to the taxpayer.

"...It is important that we remove barriers to the high-quality work generated at Murray State and other academic institutions."

—Assistant Professor of Biology
Christopher Lennon

"Finally, in this time where misinformation is abundant and easily accessible, it is important that we remove barriers to the high-quality work generated at Murray State and other academic institutions," Lennon said.

Lennon said his lab at Murray State will be working on researching Biological Roles and Biotechnological Applications of Inteins, using a R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award.

The research in Lennon's nomination packet includes multiple articles available on his Google Scholar profile.

Mulligan, professor of history, said he was pleased and honored to be recognized for his project. Mulligan has been working on a project to digitize the Jackson Purchase Historical Society's Journal through the University Libraries' Digital Commons.

"Pogue had one of a very few complete sets of the Journal and

they agreed to do the digitization," Mulligan said. "Going back and scanning the paper copies and doing quality control is a slow process, but the Pogue did a great job. I was mostly the initiator and coordinator."

Humphries, professor of history, also aided in the project digitizing the Jackson Purchase Historical Society Journal.

Mulligan said he is working on a couple of research projects. He said he is researching the Civil War in western Kentucky, especially the role of African Americans. Several essays from this project are in the Jackson Purchase Historical Society journal. These essays are or will soon be available through open access.

"The second is on a community of Irish immigrant copper miners in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan," Mulligan said. "I have tracked down their place of origin in Ireland and the development of their community between 1845 and World War I."

Mulligan also is in the process of putting together a book of his writings on the Civil War and writing a book on the Irish immigrant miners.

Karabas encouraged other scholars to publish open access research by submitting their work to Scholarly Communication Librarian AJ Boston.

"To my scholar colleagues who are reading this story: You too can make your work available to everyone with no cost or copyright issues," Karabas said. "...This way the copy that still belongs to the author will be available online and you will not only have more reach but likely also more citations."



Rachel Essner/The News

Two sororities perform their routines at the annual fundraising Rockathon event on Nov. 30.



Photo courtesy of Grace Sinclair

Vice President of Philanthropy Grace Sinclair (above) poses in front of the Rockathon banner.

Annual Rockathon event fundraises to fight hunger

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Alpha Gamma Delta's Rockathon event raised over \$30,000 to fight hunger—a record amount for the Gamma Xi chapter.

The money is sent to the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation, which then decides how to distribute the funds. Vice President of Philanthropy Grace Sinclair said the foundation's main focus is fighting hunger by supporting groups such as Feeding America and Meals on

Wheels. The foundation also gives grants back to select chapters to donate to their local food banks. Sinclair said she hopes for a grant so the chapter can donate to Murray-Calloway County Need Line.

In the week leading up to the event, the chapter held three rebate nights at Culver's, The Big Apple and Los Portales. They also held a social media contest on Alpha Gamma Delta's Instagram account.

Rockathon was held on Nov. 12 in the Racer Arena. The event featured a banner competition in which Greek organizations submitted a banner displaying their

theme. The look-alike competition featured one-minute long performances that referenced anything in pop culture. The main event, the lip sync and dance performances, were split into a fraternity and sorority division.

"Personally, my favorite part of the event is when the Alpha Gamma Delta seniors get to perform during Rockathon," Sinclair said. "They always come up with a short routine to just have fun and perform together one time before graduating... It was so fun to get to hang out with my senior sisters and just have a good time together."

Sinclair organized the event with planning starting back in August. She hopes to set a precedent for future vice presidents of philanthropy with this event, she said.

"Alpha Gamma Delta has given me a sisterhood and an amazing opportunity for growth," Sinclair said. "Without this organization, I would never have had the opportunity to plan and host Rockathon, which was one of the most life-changing experiences I have ever had."

Alpha Gamma Delta's next philanthropy event will be in the spring semester.



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Financial Aid Professional Judgment

Have you and/or your family member experienced a job loss or significant reduction in income, and you have already filed the 2021-2022 FAFSA?

If so, you can submit a 2021-2022 Professional Judgment Form located under the "Forms" section of the "Financial Aid/Scholarship" tab of myGate.



After filing the FAFSA, some families realize that their EFC may not adequately reflect the family's current financial situation due to extenuating circumstances. The Federal Government allows schools to review the family's unique circumstances to determine if the situation warrants special consideration. Please note that a request for a Professional Judgment of a special/unusual circumstance does not guarantee approval. In addition, even if approved, a recalculation of FAFSA does not always result in increased eligibility for the student.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak with a financial aid counselor, you can contact Student Financial Services at 270-809-2546 from 8 am to 4:30 pm or email msu.sfa@murraystate.edu