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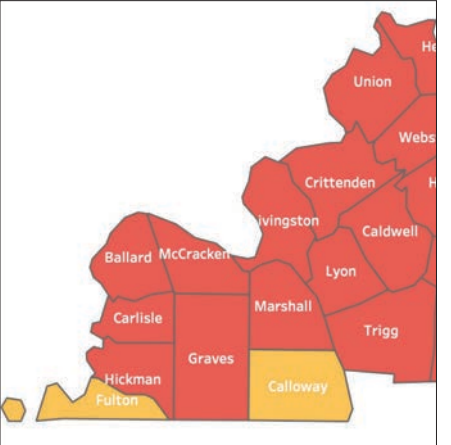


Photo courtesy of ky.covid19.gov
 In the map above of Western Kentucky, Calloway County is shown to be in the yellow zone.

News Briefing:
 Admin lifts campus mask mandate

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President Bob Jackson announced that the University will be lifting its face mask requirement for all buildings and locations on campus on Monday, Feb. 28. Jackson said the requirement was lifted because of the decline in COVID-19 case counts as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's updated masking guidelines. "Since the start of the pandemic, Murray State has adhered to CDC guidelines, as well as guidance provided by the Calloway County Health Department and other state and local healthcare officials," Jackson said in an email to students, faculty and staff. The updated CDC guidance included a "Know Your COVID-19 Community Level" tool to help communities decide what guidance is most relevant to their situation. As of today, Calloway County is in the "yellow" zone. Read *The News's* opinion on page 4 relating to the mask requirement.



Photo courtesy of Telegram
 Russian forces invaded neighboring country Ukraine on Feb. 24. As of Wednesday, March 2, Russian forces have occupied Kherson, a major city in Ukraine.

Ukraine invasion shows ties to local community

Former student shares day-to-day life, worries for future
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The invasion of Ukraine is at the forefront of public attention, and although the conflict is nearly 5,300 miles from Murray State, people with ties to the University are affected by the crisis. The Russian military launched an invasion of Ukraine by air, land and sea on Feb. 24. A former student, whom *The News* will refer to as John Smith for his own privacy and protection, is a business administration major who attended Murray State during the Fall 2021 semester. Smith, who is now back in Ukraine, was shocked by the idea of war in his country. "I didn't believe that a full-scale war was possible against my country," Smith said. "So I woke up at 4:20 a.m. because a lot of notifications started coming to my phone, because at 4 a.m. by Ukrainian time Putin started the war." Smith said prior to the invasion there were rumors and speculation concerning possible Russian action. "This began to heat up two weeks ago," Smith said. "There were a lot of views about the movement of Russian troops along the Ukrainian border, including from Belarus. It's not the first time a similar situation has happened to Ukraine, and we were sure that this was another political game and a demonstration of Russian power to us." Smith is in a part of South-eastern Ukraine bordering the Black Sea that has yet to be invaded, but he is preparing for it. Smith's family is in Eastern Ukraine, which is closer to the points of Russian invasion, but Smith said they are safe. "My family is in a part that is currently occupied by the Ukrainian army," Smith said. "It is a territory controlled by the Ukrainian army, and I hope it will be like that in the future too." In preparation of possibly having to take shelter underground, Smith has gathered his valuables, organized a first aid kit and other goods. see UKRAINE, page 2



Photo courtesy of The Chautauqua Auditorium's Facebook
 The Chautauqua Auditorium in Shelbyville, Illinois, is an icosahedron, a 20-sided building, built in 1903.

Concerned citizens help renovate 20-sided auditorium in Illinois

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The Chautauqua Auditorium, a newly refurbished building in Shelbyville, Illinois, features 20 sides and is able to seat 5,000 people. This building has no inner support beams and is held up by equal pressure on its 20 sides, making the inside spacious. Beulah Knecht, founding member of the Shelbyville Historical Society, said the Auditorium's repair is essential to the community. "When we revive an old building, we do not just revive its body," Knecht said. "We also revive its soul, the ghost of the past which has a story to tell. If we are willing to listen, it will tell a story of its makers, of the time it was built, of the life people connected with it ... If there is a soul in old buildings, surely the auditorium in Forest Park is one of those buildings." With such immense repairs and costs, it was decided residents should vote on the continuation of funding repairs. see AUDITORIUM, page 3

MURRAY STATE RELATED COVID-19 CASES

Students (Feb. 14 - Feb. 20)	Faculty and Staff (Feb. 14 - Feb. 20)	Weekly Total (Feb. 14 - Feb. 20)	Overall Total (Since Jan. 17)
7	0	7	186

Source: Murraystate.edu/racerrestart

Dionte Berry/The News



The map above show the parts of Ukraine that Russia invaded and where forces are advancing. Photo courtesy of BBC.com

UKRAINE, from page 1

Smith has seen the role Russian media has played in fueling and justifying the invasion, but he said it is all an act of propaganda and not to believe it. Russian media has accused the Ukrainian military of being the aggressor, but it is really the opposite.

“Russia declared that Ukrainian armies were shelling the territories and residential buildings of the so-called Donetsk People Republic and Luhansk People’s Republic, and they said the Ukrainian army blew up a military vehicle in the city center ... and a border checkpoint,” Smith said. “But this is not the case. No one shelled any cities or border crossings.”

Both Donetsk and Luhansk are territories on the Russian and Ukrainian border seeking independence from Ukraine. This dispute became the starting point of the invasion.

According to a piece by NPR reporter Joe Hernandez, titled “Why Luhansk and Donetsk are key to understanding the latest escalation in Ukraine,” Russian military were deployed to the region for peacekeeping purposes, which is believed to have evolved into the invasion of Ukraine.

Smith said the video of the supposed Ukrainian attack on the territories was analyzed and debunked as fake. Russian propaganda has stated the invasion is focusing on Ukrainian military targets, but Smith said this is far from true.

“[The Russian military] are sending their missiles not only to military targets as put in reports, they’re shooting at residential areas,” Smith said. This morning, [Feb. 26], a rocket hit a residential multi-story building in the city center of Kyiv.”

“Ukraine is united as never before, and everybody could see that everyone helps the army in any way they can.”

—“John Smith,”

former Murray State international student

After being attacked by Russia, Ukrainians have rallied by the side of their military. Smith himself has donated money to the military.

“Ukraine is united as never before, and everybody could see that everyone helps the army in any way they can. Many go to the territorial defense, help catch saboteurs in the city, prepare Molotov cocktails and transfer money to the army,” Smith said. “But unfortunately it is not enough. It’s not enough to fight such a huge country.”

Smith said Ukraine needs international support in the form of first aid and military supplies as well as monetary donations, and he said those who aren’t able to

send aid can still support the effort by spreading information about what is truly happening to disperse Russia’s misinformation.

Back in Murray, Kentucky, Olha Burak is a Ukrainian graduate student working toward her master’s in business and marketing.

Burak and her family are from Western Ukraine. Her extended family is from Kyiv, Ukraine, but they have relocated to a safer city in the West. Her family is far from the frontlines of the conflict, but they are still preparing for invasion.

Despite being across the world, Burak helps her family by keeping them informed on the news being reported concerning the invasion and Russia’s progress into Ukraine.

“My mom called me today and asked what was on the news, because the news here is faster than the news they can get in Ukraine, and [the news here] provides more information about, like, where planes are going,” Burak said. “She asked me to be on the lookout and tell them if the Russian military is going toward where they are, and let them know, but for now they’re safe.”

To keep her parents informed, Burak has a group chat with some of her friends from Ukraine who are also in the United States that serves to keep everyone updated on the news.

Burak has friends from California, Illinois and New York, as well as Ukrainians she befriended while she played tennis for the University of Tennessee at Martin. Beyond sharing news, they act as a support system.

Aside from friends, Burak has also gotten support from the University.

“My professors and the President of the University even emailed me,” Burak said. “They gave me extensions on some of my assignments just because the invasion started when they were due, and I really appreciated it.”

Beyond sharing news back home, Burak is trying to find other ways to contribute, such as gathering monetary donations and supplies.

For those who are able to donate and support the efforts of the Ukrainian military, donation funds have been dedicated to the crisis. Organizations such as Global Giving, the International Rescue Committee and Care have set up Ukrainian relief funds.

Also, the “Kyiv Independent,” a Kyiv-based news organization who has been covering much of the war, has set up a GoFundMe dedicated to maintaining war coverage.

United Nations’ programs, such as the World Food Program and UNICEF, also have set up relief funds for Ukraine.

“Ukraine is its own country; it’s never been part of Russia. It has its own language,” Burak said. “It has its own traditions. There’s a lot of Ukrainian people that are not giving up.”

POLICE BEAT

2/15

2:55 P.M.

Olive Street Parking Lot

An unattended car was struck by an unknown car causing damage.

2/15

6:51 P.M.

Racer Arena Parking Lot

An unattended car was struck by an unknown car causing damage.

2/16

3:12 P.M.

Unknown if on campus

A laptop was reported stolen from a car, but the car was parked at different on- and off-campus locations during the time of the theft.

2/21

11:40 P.M.

Lee Clark Residential Hall

Criminal mischief was reported after a panel door was damaged.

2/23

7:21 P.M.

College Courts

Cruelty to animals was reported after a report of abuse/cruelty to a dog.

2/23

3:47 P.M.

R.H White College Parking Lot

An unattended car was struck by an unknown car causing damage.

2/25

12:10 A.M.

Elizabeth Hall

Theft was reported after an item was taken from a bulletin board.

2/25

10:10 A.M.

Hart College

Theft was reported after clothes were stolen from the laundry room.

2/26

2:24 A.M.

Hart College

Attempted theft by extortion was reported after an unknown person attempted to scam an individual on social media.

2/27

7:22 P.M.

H.C. Franklin Hall

Fire was reported after a napkin was seen on fire in the microwave. Accidental fire, no injuries/deaths, with \$0-99 of damage.

2/27

10:15 A.M.

Chestnut Street

An officer stopped an individual and cited them for speeding. The driver also possessed a small amount of suspected marijuana. Prosecution was declined.

Police Beat is compiled with material from the Murray State Crime and Fire Log.

Not all dispatched calls are listed.

AUDITORIUM, from page 1

In March 2020, 60% of voters casted ballots in support of preservation at a cost of \$750,000-\$800,000. The project was bound to cost more than the city could provide. Talk of this project had increased since the building was closed because of structural instability in 2009.

The Auditorium is no longer concaving, thanks to a few concerned citizens.

Mark Shanks, the owner of a pizza diner in Shelbyville, said he decided it was up to him to take interest in the Chautauqua Auditorium and to help restore it.

"As I got to be more involved in the community, I saw the plight of this building," Shanks said.

Shanks said he took it upon himself to direct the project and to restore the collapsing building.

The Chautauqua Auditorium was built during the

Chautauqua Movement, which began in New York City and quickly swept the Midwest. In response, many cities erected these arenas as a sort of summer camp and activities movement.

“ The vast and open inside of the Auditorium is just one aspect of the beauty it holds. ”

—Mark Shanks,
owner of a pizza diner in
Shelbyville

As soon as the building was completed, people began camping in the park in the summer to attend different activities, such as performances, religious and political speakers, sports competitions and more.

Over time, the Auditorium attracted many famous performers, politicians and speakers. Dolly Parton, REO Speedwagon, Billy Sunday and

former President William Howard Taft are just a few of the well-known names who have visited the historical site.

"This became the Chautauqua building," Shanks said. "With its wide-open structure, there is not a bad seat in the house ... The vast and open inside of the Auditorium is just one aspect of the beauty it holds."

Shanks said this auditorium is ideal for viewers because no center pillars block the stage.

"This building is built basically like a large bicycle wheel sitting on top of a bunch of posts," Shanks said.

Some minor work is still to be done. One citizen, Jim Bolinger, who spent much time in the Auditorium at its height in popularity, said the upkeep could be the demise of the building.

"Over the years, sometimes they would put together a project to work on it," Bolinger said. "But never extensive enough."

Shanks said community members should use the Auditorium and maximize its potential.

"We heard loud and clear from the public that if you're going to save the building, we want to see you use the building," Shanks said.

Many events are on the calendar for the Chautauqua Auditorium, including performances, speakers, pageants and weddings.

Recently, Shanks and his new bride celebrated their wedding reception in the Auditorium. Members of the community said they are hopeful the popularity of the building and its use will continue into the future so the community can keep this historical landmark.

For more information on the Chautauqua Auditorium, visit its webpage on the "Enjoy Illinois" website. Those interested can travel to see it in person in Shelbyville, Illinois.

Audrey Nuna relays personal struggles in album

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Korean-American R&B singer and rapper Audrey Chu, known professionally as Audrey Nuna, released her debut album, "a liquid breakfast," in May 2021. In January, Audrey Nuna released "a liquid breakfast deluxe." This deluxe album consists of six new songs and one remixed song from her original album.

Audrey Nuna, 22, was born in New Jersey on April 2, 1999, meaning her sun sign is Aries. An Aries's birthday can fall from March 21 to April 19. These signs are known as bold and ambitious and like to dive headfirst into challenges.

Audrey Nuna proves this assumption correct in her new releases, which read quick, dirty and impatient. All new releases have been titled in lowercase to signal a new era for Audrey Nuna.

In "rebound," what sounds like pizzicato on strings or a harp is complemented by a group of violins in unison. Her intro feels light and hopeful, almost like an Ariana Grande song, and a beat kicks in as the violins quiet. "Flippin' that catch on the rebound, yeah, callin' too fast when I speed dial, yeah," she raps.

Audrey Nuna's focus in these tracks are clearly money and regret, change and reflection, power and sin.

"rebound" is an exploration of all these ideas, as Audrey Nuna says raps, "Drop top Bentley on your pavement, tryna get me to chase it, dirt on the white Asics."

Audrey Nuna looks at status in this song, pondering how money, respect and speed interact.

"dollah bills" features Audrey Nuna heavy on rapping in a sing-songy voice, with a syncopated beat so that her lyrical emphasis falls on the upbeat of the song. Repetitive, fluid piano chords back up her vocals, fading into the background during her rapping and reappearing during the chorus.

A modulated voice speaks the song title repeatedly until Audrey Nuna lands on the track with her rapping. In the intro, the voice says "Hundred kills but it feels nice," which can be interpreted in two ways – a \$100 bill can be used for evil, but it feels nice, or Audrey Nuna has 100 "kills," but money erases her sins; either way, Nuna is defensive of her power as an individual.

The song reinforces this theme by going on to say, "Brand new soul I bought for 80 bucks, copped a new spirit for 2K and seventy cents." She reflects in the chorus,

singing now, "Brand new polish, all of this sin in my noggin."

Her next song, "irene," opens with a unique flattened, funky-sounding keyboard. Audrey Nuna raps, describing a scene with, "Rest in peace to the b***** and fleas in your hotel sheets, got the whole world geeked," where she's aware that the person she's seeing is cheating on her with other girls, who Audrey Nuna sees as inferior to her.

"I was parked outside when [I] saw you with Irene, so I sip on my Hi-C," Audrey Nuna describes, and in her rapping transitions to singing, drawing out Irene's name for about four measures. Though Audrey Nuna acts nonchalant, sipping on her drink in the car, dissing the other girls, she lingers on Irene's name.

"What does Irene have that I don't," I imagine Audrey Nuna thinking to herself. Later on in the song, Audrey Nuna admits she's devastated, saying "And I'm frozen, like it's bone-in ... got me down, I was chosen, you were joking."

The music subsides as she reprises the chorus, returning to a minimal sound with her voice quieter, less abrasive: "Rest in peace, b***** and fleas, hotel sheets, parked outside ..." Audrey Nuna resorts to only speaking in nouns while dropping the subject, using the images that float through her mind as she recalls this event, clearly stunned and upset by the situation.

"molars" returns to the theme of money as a shield, opening with a deeper voice narrating what's happening in the studio and a frustrated Audrey Nuna complains that the equipment is too bulky. The intro is dreamy with an inconsistent beat carrying us forward.

After the verse, Audrey Nuna returns to her sing-songy voice, this time with a distortion over her voice: "My feelings, they come running back, I kill 'em, they come crawling back." After Audrey Nuna realizes how she's been used, she shuts off her heart; as she realizes the extent of her pain, she sings, "Said I'm too emotional, now who's emotional?"

Audrey Nuna's reflection comes back in the next verse, with, "Now you call my friends when you hit me like a quota, and I see your colors but it's just my aphrodisia." Audrey Nuna realizes she's been used, but love and lust clouds her judgment.

"changes" brings back her dreamy intro as she sings, "Changes, but don't we know what changes are?" This dreamy intro is short-lived, however, as a harsh, electronic motif accompanied with a beat showcases Audrey Nuna's rapping.



Photo courtesy of Spotify
Korean-American rapper Audrey Chu, known as Audrey Nuna, released 'a liquid breakfast deluxe' on Jan. 28.

"Whoa, I never wanna boast, but some of these admissions got the Ticketmaster froze," she raps, knowing she can use her fame and success as evidence that she's talented and worth it.

"I got this letter A on my Terry knit throw, so, baby, here's a toast," may be a reference to "The Scarlet Letter," as Audrey Nuna knows she'll be vilified for her actions and her critique of the person she was with, but regardless, she's doing fine in her Terry knit throw.

Later in the chorus, Audrey Nuna sings, "I know I've said I tried to heal, but I'm only gettin' sicker, I got Achilles in my heel, but I'm only gettin' quicker," letting the audience know her defense mechanism is to shut down, shut off and become more harsh with others; she has her hamartia, but as long as she's successful and fast, no one can catch her.

"changes (pt. 2)" begins by echoing "changes" before going into a grungy sound for the first verse, slowly speaking over the beat. She picks up pace at the end of the verse and raps a verse from "Comic Sans," her collaborative song with Jack Harlow.

Audrey Nuna is clearly reflecting on her previous works and her childhood, as she says, "Cop a selfie with the orphan in the mirror display, and if you're home, could you say sorry to my dad for me?" Audrey Nuna struggles with her own personal battles, her childhood and her career—and this is present as ever in this track.

The last track is "baby blues remix (feat. BEAM)," a remix of "Baby Blues," a song from earlier in the full-length album. The remix is the same, except for an

added verse by BEAM, a Jamaican-American rapper, singer-songwriter and producer.

BEAM says, "You still the baddest, it's an honor, you just graduated college from all that knowledge" and describes his view of Audrey Nuna, posing as the other party in this song. As "Baby Blues" is about Audrey Nuna's experience in college, BEAM raps about her post-college experience and the evolution of her relationship to this person.

My favorites from this release are "irene" and "changes." The abrupt musical shift in "changes" to a more oppositional, forward song from the dreamy intro is effective in conveying the tonal shift in Audrey Nuna and her music.

"irene" features a drawn-out chorus and vivid imagery, as well as clever rhymes, all things I appreciate as a writer. What I enjoy most about Audrey Nuna is listening to a female rapper who isn't ashamed of her pride or her past. Her quick, smart turns of phrase and speedy rapping always amaze me, and her images are unique and vivid.

For this new release, I give it an 8/10. I adore everything Audrey Nuna has released, and these additions are a nice refresher on the album and a great peek into what she has planned for the future. The remix was a little pointless to me. I like the original song more, so that was deducted from the score for me.

This is definitely an album for anyone who wants to feel both empowered and humbled. If you want to listen, "a liquid breakfast deluxe" is streaming on popular platforms like Spotify, YouTube Music and Apple Music.

Our View: Administration removes masking too soon?

The mask mandate has been a part of campus life since the Spring 2020 semester, and after two years, campus masking guidelines have been lifted.

The guideline update announcement was made via email on Monday, Feb. 28, in a letter from President Bob Jackson.

In accordance with the updated CDC masking guidelines, Calloway County is considered a medium virus transmission zone, which leaves masking to individual's discretion. If individuals feel the need to mask in public, they can do so, but it is not mandated for everyone.

Jackson concluded his letter by encouraging those who have not received their vaccine and booster to consult their healthcare providers and consider doing so.

Jackson also wrote that people can still mask if they choose to and that KN95 masks can be requested through the Racer Restart PPE Request Form.

Since the beginning of the Spring 2022 semester, there have been 190 confirmed Murray State-related cases of COVID-19. During the Feb. 21-27 timespan, there were four student COVID-19 cases, which pales in comparison to the 52 cases reported during the first week of the semester.

We at *The News* are surprised to see masks gone this soon, and we believe it will be quite an adjustment to campus culture because masking has been ingrained in us over the past two years as a key part of staying COVID-19 safe.

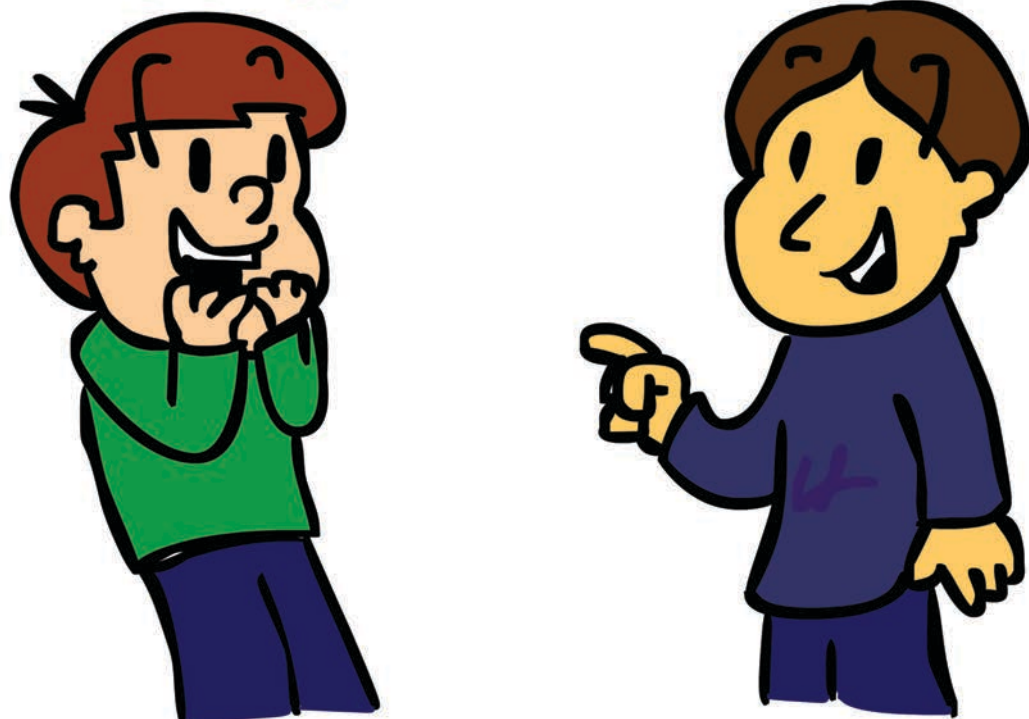
It also comes after the United Campus Workers of Kentucky, Murray Chapter expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of COVID-19 guidelines in the face of the Omicron variant. The University has yet to respond to their, "Keep All Racers Safe Petition."

It seems the Murray Chapter will likely not get an administration response considering the recent guideline updates.

Although the masking guidelines are made in light of the new CDC guidelines, it almost feels as though

"I can't believe it's been so long since I've felt the lower half of my face!"

"And it's just as ugly as I remember!"



Cade Utterback/*The News*

we are celebrating the end of the race before it is over.

The fight against COVID-19 has been a seesaw of high and low case rates, and during those lows, the prevailing public opinion seemed to be that the end of the pandemic was insight. We do not want that false hope again.

A red flag that does not seem to have been considered is that Spring Break is ahead of us. After not having the opportunity of a proper Spring Break for the past two years, it makes sense students would want to travel again.

Students traveling across the country to go on vacation or simply back home to see their family creates the perfect situation for a case spike. If the administration were planning to end mask guidelines this semester, then it may have been wiser to postpone the change

until after Spring Break.

In the letter Jackson wrote, "Should Calloway County return to the 'high' level on the Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 Community Level tool, our previous University face mask policy will be reinstated per these new guidelines."

Masking is perceived on a large politicized spectrum. Some see it as an infringement of their bodily autonomy by the government, while others see it as just another thing to grab and put on before leaving home.

If we were to have to return to masking after Spring Break, it would cause a lot of backlash. This change is a symbol of the end of the pandemic and of freedom from another rule with which we are burdened.

After removing an invasive rule

like masking, it will be hard to reinstate.

Although *The News* is happy to be in a stage in the COVID-19 pandemic that allows for masking to be optional, we want people to remember that we should not resume life as if the pandemic does not exist.

Vaccine and booster clinics are hosted on the first floor of the Curris Center every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The News also supports everyone who chooses to still wear masks. At this point wearing a mask is almost cultural, and it is hard to do the opposite after carrying out the same daily routine for nearly two years.

Collectively we must continue to be vigilant and stay flexible because although we are unmasked today, the same cannot be said about tomorrow.

"MAGNUM DOPE-US"

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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Men's basketball preps for OVC Tournament

Racers finish regular season undefeated in OVC play

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The 2021-22 regular season for the Murray State men's basketball ended with an undefeated conference record as the Racers defeated SEMO 70-68 on Saturday, Feb. 26.

This is the sixth team in OVC history to go undefeated in conference play and the first to win 18 games in an OVC season. They also finished the regular season with a 28-2 record overall.

Junior KJ Williams led the Racers this season, being named the OVC Player of the Year for the season. Head Coach Matt McMahon also took home an award, being named the OVC Coach of the Year.

Williams spoke postgame about his season with the Racers and how he got to where he is now with being named OVC Player of the Year.

"It is what it is," Williams said. "Of course I feel like I am, but I'm just here to play basketball. I put in the work to win in big moments, go up against those big players. I think I've proved my point."

Coach McMahon was on ESPN's Sportscenter with Scott Van Pelt on Tuesday night to discuss the Racers season. He said the Racers have struggled on the road this season but just keep winning.

"It really is tough to play on the road in the OVC," McMahon said. "But we went 11-1 in road games this year with our only loss coming to a ranked Auburn team. There have been nights we haven't played well offensively, but we find a different way to win."

SEMO grabbed a quick lead with a three-pointer from freshman guard Phillip Russell, but a three from Williams kept the

Racers close. A three and a free throw from junior guard Tevin Brown put the Racers on top 8-4 with 14:46 left in the first half.

A layup from senior forward Manny Patterson kept the Redhawks close, but another three from Brown extended the Racers lead to five points.

Throughout the first half, the teams continued to trade baskets with a three-pointer raining in from junior guard Nana Akenten, bringing the Redhawks within one point of the lead. Then, back-to-back layups from Williams put the Racers back up by five points.

Midway through the first half, the Redhawks began to put together a run and take the lead with layups and threes from Patterson and threes from junior guard Chris Harris.

The run continued with more points from Phillip Russell and Patterson as well as layups from freshman forward Sam Thompson. After going up by 11 points over the Racers, sophomore guard Justice Hill ended the run with a layup but the Redhawks led 30-21.

A layup for sophomore guard Trae Hannibal and free throws from Brown and Williams started to bring the Racers back, but a three from Akenten pushed the Redhawks lead back to nine points. Hannibal closed the half with a four-point run, and the teams went into half-time with the Redhawks up 37-32.

The second half continued to see the teams battle with back-and-forth baskets, with a layup from Williams starting the half being answered by a three-pointer from junior guard Nygal Russell.

Layups from Akenten and junior guard Eric Reed Jr. pushed the Redhawks lead to 10 points with 13:04 left to play, but the



Rebecca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Junior forward KJ Williams had 23 points and eight rebounds in the Racers' final game on Saturday, Feb. 26.

Racers cut the lead to four points with a layup from Brown and another four points from Hannibal.

The Redhawks pushed the lead back to 12 points with 6:38 left to play, with points coming in from Nygal Russell and Harris as well as three-pointers from Reed Jr. and sophomore guard DQ Nicholas.

With the clock dipping below six minutes, the Racers began to put together a run, with a layup from Williams to get it started.

It was followed up by a jumper from Williams, a layup from Brown and a free throw from Hannibal, bringing the Racers within five points of the lead.

Another layup from Williams and a three-pointer from Hill brought the Racers within one point of the lead. Then, a layup from Hill gave the Racers a one point lead with 2:33 left.

After a layup from Nygal Rus-

sell tied the game at 65, Hill made a three-pointer and a free throw to put the Racers up by four points with 24 seconds left.

Another free throw from Hannibal gave the Racers some cushion as Reed Jr. made a three-pointer with seven seconds left. The Racers held the ball until the clock ran out and escaped Cape Girardeau with a 70-68 victory over the Redhawks.

Williams led the Racers with 23 points and eight rebounds on 10-21 shooting from the field. Hannibal finished with a season-high 20 points and grabbed five rebounds. Brown had 15 points and six rebounds, while Hill had 11 points and five rebounds.

Murray State finished the season with an 18-0 conference record and 28-2 record overall. The Racers next stop is Evansville, Indiana, for the OVC tournament. The Racers will play Friday at 7 p.m. with their opponent to be determined on Thursday.

AP Top 25 College Basketball



(Week 17)



(Week of Feb. 28)

1. Gonzaga (24-3)
2. Arizona (25-3)
3. Baylor (24-5)
4. Duke (25-4)
5. Auburn (25-4)
6. Kansas (25-5)
7. Kentucky (23-6)
8. Purdue (24-5)
9. Providence (24-3)
10. Wisconsin (23-5)
11. Villanova (21-7)
12. Texas Tech (22-7)
13. Tennessee (21-7)

- t-14. Arkansas (23-6)
- t-14. Houston (24-4)
16. USC (25-4)
17. UCLA (21-6)
18. Connecticut (21-7)
19. Saint Mary's (24-6)
20. Illinois (20-8)
21. Texas (21-8)
22. Murray State (28-2)
23. Ohio State (18-8)
24. Iowa (20-8)
25. Alabama (19-10)

Women's basketball ends season with big win

Jakob Milani
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The Murray State women's basketball team are headed to the OVC tournament after they ended their season with a lopsided 86-54 win over SEMO on Saturday, Feb. 26.

The Racers finished the regular season with a 21-8 record overall and a 13-5 record in the OVC. To add on to it, sophomore forward Katelyn Young was named OVC Player of the Year. Junior guard Johnne Stewart was the first to score as she nailed a three-pointer for the Redhawks to start the game. The Racers answered with a layup from sophomore forward Hannah McKay and a three-pointer from senior guard Macey Turley to put the Racers up 5-3.

Following a pair of free throws from senior forward Alexis Burpo, Stewart and freshman guard Jaliyah Green made layups to tie the game at seven.

The Racers broke loose with a 10-0 run started by a three from Young. That was followed by two layups from Young and a few free throws from sophomore forward Bria Sanders-Woods to end the run.

Another pair of layups from Young and Burpo ended the first quarter, and the Racers led the Redhawks 25-11.

The lead continued to grow for the Racers in the second quarter with a jumper from Turley and a layup from Young putting Murray State up 29-11.

The Redhawks dug into the lead with free throws from senior guard Taelour Pruitt and

a layup from freshman forward Halle Smith, cutting the lead to 14 points. That was all they could do though as shots rained in from Turley, Young and Burpo to put the Racers up by 22 points.

Back-to-back three pointers from Pruitt and senior guard Deanay Watson cut the lead to 18 points, but a free throw from freshman forward Jaidah Black and a layup from Young pushed the Racers up 44-23 as the second quarter came to a close.

Turley opened up the second half with a three-pointer and followed it up with a layup, putting the Racers up 26 points. A jumper from freshman guard Kennedy Watkins helped SEMO a tad, but Young got six straight points to extend the Racers lead to 31.

The Redhawks managed a 9-0 run in the third quarter with points coming in from Greene, junior guard Kori Tomlin, sophomore guard Chandler Davis and freshman center Diona Reed.

The Racers ended the third quarter on a 13-2 run featuring points from McKay, Young, Sanders-Woods, Black, sophomore forward Charlee Settle and freshman guard Cayson Conner. Heading into the final quarter, the Racers led the Redhawks 69-36.

Settle opened the fourth quarter with a layup that was quickly answered by Watkins. Connor followed it up with a layup, and senior guard Raegan Blackburn hit a three-pointer to give the Racers a 37 point lead, their largest lead of the game.

The Redhawks began to cut into the lead with baskets coming in from Watson and Watkins as well as a three-pointer from sophomore forward Michaela May-



Mary Huffman/The News

Sophomore forward Katelyn Young had 29 points in the Racers' win over SEMO on Saturday, Feb. 26.

field. Another three-pointer and a pair of free throws from Greene cut the Racers lead to 26 points.

The Racers ended the game on an 8-2 run with three-pointers from Blackburn and junior forward Isabell West. When the final buzzer went off, the Racers ended their regular season with a 32-point victory, defeating the Redhawks 86-54.

Young led the Racers with 29 points and eight rebounds, shooting 10-14 from the field and 8-8 from the free throw line. Turley followed with 12 points, shooting 5-10 from the field. Burpo finished with eight points and seven rebounds.

Head Coach Rechelle Turner spoke postgame about the upcoming OVC tournament. She said it will be one tough game after another for the Racers.

"There's a lot of good teams that will be right there at the top," Turner said. "We've got to get locked in for the tournament. We've got to get to Evansville and make a great run."

Murray State moves to the OVC tournament when they play SIUE at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday in Evansville, Indiana. A win advances the Racers to play in the semifinals on Friday, with a chance at the championship on Saturday.

OVC Tournament

Evansville, Indiana



Women's Basketball

Thursday @ 3:30 p.m.

Win and play Friday, win again and play for championship and March Madness trip



Men's Basketball

Friday @ 7 p.m.

Win and play for championship and March Madness trip

Art students learn professional skills in exhibit

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Art and Design students in Art 399, professional practices in art, have contributed a wide variety of art pieces to the Professional Blend XII exhibit.

The Professional Blend exhibit is hosted every semester by the Department of Art and Design to provide students with an introduction to the professional world of artists.

According to a gallery statement by Director of University Galleries T. Michael Martin, “The Art 399 professional practices in art course is designed to explore the materials, skills, qualifications and strategies necessary for our students to begin and sustain a career in the arts.”

The exhibit is featured in the Mary Ed Mecoy Hall Gallery and features art in several different mediums. The artwork of different students throughout the department of art and design are featured.

Junior studio art major Olivia Swaidner contributed three different oil paintings to the exhibit. The first of these oil paintings is a landscape painting titled, “Extraordinary,” which depicts two towering mountains underneath a pink sky.

Swaidner’s second landscape is an untitled piece that depicts rolling hills, green forests and a still lake that sits in the valley

created by the hills. Swaidner also contributed an untitled still life painting.

“This exhibition has been very fun so far as it was my first time having my art in a gallery,” Swaidner said. “I have been able to see more behind-the-scenes details that happen in installing an exhibition and have gained some experience in doing that.”

Three prints in the exhibit were contributed by senior art education major, Laurie Snellen. Snellen’s first print, titled “Lady Wisteria,” features a female figure surrounded by plants. The figure is wrapped in vines and has hair that resembles plants.

Snellen’s other prints use invasive plants as a motif. Her print “Trapped by Invaders” features a bird perched on leaves behind bars. The third print is titled “Native Over Invasive.”

“These works, like many of my current works, focus on lesser talked or known environmental topics, such as the importance of prioritizing native plant and animal species over others with the aim of starting a conversation,” Snellen said.

In addition to paintings and prints, the exhibit also features many three-dimensional objects, such as ceramics and woodworking.

One such woodwork was a piece titled “Framed Trypophobia,” by Cross Berry. According to Verywell Mind’s website, trypanophobia is defined as “an



Raleigh Hightower/The News

Three prints by Laurie Snellen are displayed in Mary Ed Mecoy Hall Gallery in Profession Blend XII.

aversion or fear of clusters of small holes, bumps or patterns.”

Berry’s piece is done on sapele and poplar wood. The piece features a dark slab of wood acting as a backdrop, while a lighter-colored wood features gaping red holes filled with clusters of smaller holes.

Michael Crabtree, a nontraditional senior art education major, also contributed a ceramic sculpture. Crabtree’s ceramic, titled “Sam and Biscuit,” features a bearded man in a straw hat sitting on a stump or rock with his dog.

See **Exhibition**, page 8

Volunteer tax preparation program serves community

Dionte Berry
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As tax season is well underway, Murray State accounting and finance students are offering tax preparation services to the local community.

Through the IRS sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program not only is the service provided for free, but it gives student volunteers key experience in their job field.

Denise O’Shaughnessy, assistant accounting professor and the director of the Murray State VITA program since 2016, oversees and guides students as they provide tax services.

“This is our 46th year of offering this VITA program for both our students to be able to get real-life work experience and to help out our community, our students, our faculty and our international students,” O’Shaughnessy said.

As Director of Murray State’s VITA program, O’Shaughnessy is responsible for training the student volunteers and passing on her knowledge of accounting laws.

“Since I teach about taxes here at Murray State, I’m able to stay up with all the current laws and changes and all those things, so that I’m able to pass that on to my students I train,” O’Shaughnessy said. “They have to go through a two-day training session, they have to take an ethics certification and they have to pass certification for taxes they want to prepare.”

O’Shaughnessy led 40 student volunteers through training, and they worked their first session on Friday, Feb. 25. O’Shaughnessy and her student volunteers worked with around 30 clients.

O’Shaughnessy runs the program as if it was an actual tax preparation office. Clients are greeted and interviewed by students before they go on to prepare their tax returns. She said the experiences students have had at VITA has helped them when working jobs and internships.

“It’s scary to start a real job, so VITA is a safe place,” O’Shaughnessy said. “I’m there and I don’t leave them, and so they get that confidence to go out into the real world.”

Martha Briones is a senior accounting major and site coordinator for Murray State’s VITA program. In this position, Briones is responsible for helping O’Shaughnessy by reviewing volunteer-prepared tax returns, coordinating sessions and guiding other tax preparers.

“In my role as a site coordinator, I gain management experience by reviewing tax returns prepared, providing preparers with constructive feedback and guidance through the tax preparation process,” Briones said.

Briones says she has worked with VITA in the past and said she enjoys the service she is able to give to the community.

“I highly encourage moderate income taxpayers in the community to take advantage of the excellent tax preparation services that are offered through VITA for free,” Briones said. “I am thankful for the opportunity to work with Dr. O’Shaughnessy, who is very knowledgeable and experienced with tax preparation, and am happy to serve the community through this great cause.”

In order for one to have their taxes prepared by VITA, they would need to provide photo identification, social security

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION FOR STUDENTS/FACULTY

WHAT IS VITA?

FREE income tax preparation for MSU students, employees, international students, moderate income taxpayers, and senior citizens. E-filing is available for eligible taxpayers.

WHEN?

2022 VITA Sessions:
Open Fridays from 11am - 5pm

Friday, February 25th
Friday, March 4th
Friday, March 11th
Friday, April 1st
Friday, April 8th

WHAT TO BRING?

- 1) Photo Identification
- 2) Social Security card or copy & Student ID
- 3) 2021 W2's, 1099's, & other relevant tax records
- 4) Bank routing & account number for direct deposit
- 5) A copy of 2020 completed federal and state tax returns (if available)

WHERE?

Business Building South
3rd Floor
Room 353

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Murray State Accounting Department
(270) 809 - 4193

Visit our website: vita.murraystate.edu
Email: msu.vita@murraystate.edu

Photo Courtesy of vita.murraystate.edu

Student volunteers in the Accounting Department offer free tax services to the local community.

card and student ID for identification purposes. In terms of tax information, 2021 W-2s and 1099s forms, bank routing number and bank account number are required as well as a copy of one’s 2020 completed federal and state tax returns, if they are available.

The service also is available to international students if they have their passport, Visa, 1-20, ITN or social security card available as well as their 2021 W-2’s, 1099’s and 1042-s.

The next session will be on Friday, March 4. The following sessions will be on March 11, April 1 and April 8. All sessions are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Business Building Room 353. More information is available at vita.murraystate.edu.

Notable Black Figures Crossword Puzzle: Answers

Down:

2. W.E.B. Du Bois
3. Bessie Coleman
4. Jane Bolin
5. Angela Davis
9. Maya Angelou
11. John Lewis

Across:

1. Madam C. J. Walker
6. Alice Allison Dunnigan
7. Audre Lorde
8. Langston Hughes
10. Marsha P. Johnson
12. Fred Hampton
13. Claudette Colvin
14. Jean-Michel Basquiat
15. bell hooks

Exhibition, from page 7

"The small sculpture is of an old man and his dog completely made up from my imagination," Crabtree said. "I am interested in the relationships we have with dogs. I was trying to capture a sweet moment between these two characters; I don't know how successful I was at that, but I think it is a funny sculpture."

For many of the students featured in the exhibit, this has been their first experience displaying their work in a gallery.

"What I've enjoyed most is knowing that my artwork is in a position to do what I worked hard for it to do in a way my art has never been before," Snellen said. "It has only made me more driven to make art for future exhibitions and start conversations."

They also found the experience of installing their exhibits to be very insightful. Junior studio art major Miranda Tynes elaborated on this insight.

"I learned some valuable skills while work-

ing with the other students and installing the art, and I definitely will feel more comfortable installing work in galleries from now on," Tynes said. "I liked putting my technical skills to use in the gallery, and I could see myself doing that more in the future."

The Professional Blend XII exhibit will remain open to the public through March 4. The University Galleries are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Department of Art and Design will also be hosting its annual student-juried exhibit, "The OMAS Show," starting March 11. The exhibit will be displayed March 11 through 29, and a reception event will be held for the exhibit on March 11 at 5 p.m.

The department will be taking submissions from students March 2 through 4, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Students in the Organization of Murray Art Students will receive two free submissions. All students are welcome to submit to the show.



Raleigh Hightower/*The News*
Untitled oil painting by Olivia Swaidner depicting rolling hills.



"Small Snapshot" a graphite drawing by Paige Smalls is composed of objects from around her home.

Raleigh Hightower/*The News*

ALPHA DELTA PI PRESENTS

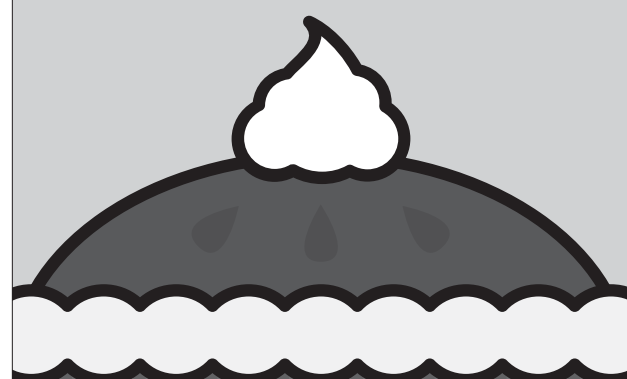
PIE A PI

Pie a sister - or a friend!

MARCH 10 | 11AM TO 3PM
JOHN W. CARR LAWN

Buy a pie in advance! Visit our table in the Curris Center 2nd floor March 7th through the 9th from 10AM to 2PM.

Pie a sister.....	\$3
Pie a President.....	\$5
Celebrity Hour.....	\$10



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