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Photo courtesy of murraystate.edu
Murray State police received four reports of stolen catalytic converters in February.

News Briefing: Students report stolen car parts

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Repeated theft of car parts have been reported to the Murray State Police Department, according to the Murray State Crime and Fire Log. A string of four theft and criminal mischief reports were made Feb. 7, 8 and 9. Specifically, catalytic converters were stolen from parked vehicles. The time of the incidents range from 1:30 a.m. to 3:40 a.m. and occurred in the Biology Building and Richmond Hall Parking Lots. Disposition at the time of publication is listed as inactive/investigation suspended pending evidence and one case remains open.

Murray State Chief of Police Jeff Gentry said this is a widespread issue across the nation—not just locally. “The precious materials inside of the parts have high salvage value, and it’s easy and quick for the thief to steal,” Gentry said.

For crime prevention, Gentry said he encourages the public to report crimes when they see them happen. As far as an immediate response, Gentry said he suggests engraving the operating license number on the catalytic converter or visiting a third-party store for an anti-theft kit. Murray State Police are responding by enacting proactive patrols, monitoring video surveillance cameras and increasing awareness of these thefts to the campus community, Gentry said.

According to Louisville Automotive Shop’s website, individuals can know if their catalytic converter has been stolen based on the sound—the empty space where the converter was will result in an abnormally loud sound when starting the engine.

If your catalytic converter is stolen, report to your local law enforcement agency. If this crime occurs on campus, call 270-809-2222 or use the LiveSafe app. Contact your insurance provider to see if they will cover repairs.



As COVID-19 cases decrease, admin follows CDC

Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Students sit in the Starbucks dining room in Curris Center without masks. Administration lifted the campus mask mandate on Feb. 28.

Students, faculty voice relief, worries on lifted mask mandate

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Murray State administration lifted the campus mask mandate on Feb. 28, citing new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines that reduce restrictions for communities with low or medium risk.

Jackson said in the email sent out at 10:15 a.m. Murray State will lift its masking requirement effective immediately, but those who want to remain masked can continue to do so.

Executive Director of Marketing and Communication Shawn

Touney said the administration also sought out information from the state and the Calhoun County Health Department before the decision was made.

“[This] has allowed Murray State University, like many other institutions and organizations across Kentucky, our multi-state region and the entire country, to lift its face mask requirement for all buildings and locations on the Murray campus at this time, strictly adhering to the new CDC Community Transmission Levels,” Touney said.

Touney said the administration will continue to follow all COVID-19 guidance from local,

state and federal healthcare professionals, as well as the CDC.

Philomena Hempel, a junior organizational communication major, said she is super pumped about the mask mandate being lifted. Hempel said her sister told her about the email, but she had to check for herself that it was true.

“I was really excited, because the masks made it hard for me to breathe sometimes, and I would get headaches—and strangely enough, heartburn—when I had to wear one for a long time,” Hempel said.

see MASKS, page 2

Faculty Senate voices concern to admin

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Faculty members voiced their concerns surrounding the mask mandate’s repeal, the current University budget and how the current legislative session may affect higher education at the March Faculty Senate meeting.

President Bob Jackson and Provost Tim Todd were guests at the March 1 meeting. With Kentucky’s General Assembly in session, Jackson discussed bills in the State Senate and House of Representatives that may play a role in how Murray State operates if they are voted into law.

“Since the first of the year we have spent a great deal of time, primarily Jordan and Smith and myself in Frankfort, meeting with legislators, presenting to

committees and working on state-wide budgetary items for the good of the institution,” Jackson said.

Beyond monitoring the possible operating budget for the Murray State budget, Jackson has been meeting with faculty and staff leaders concerning bills geared toward higher education.

In conjunction with the budget, Sen. Andrew Black said he and his colleagues are concerned about how moving to the Missouri Valley Conference may affect the rest of the University’s budget.

“Many of my colleagues are concerned about this new move to an athletic conference when we have

been under an austerity budget for the last several years,” Black said.

Black requested for Jackson to provide a budget in order to ease his concerns of the lack of shared governance he felt in the Faculty Senate not playing a role in this decision to change conferences.

But there is not a clear way to gauge how the move will affect the University yet because the budget is still being discussed in the General Assembly.

“We do not know what the budget out of Frankfort looks like at this point, and so I am not sure how austere the budget will be,” Jackson said.

see SENATE, page 3



Faculty Senate
MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate Meeting

March 1, 2022

The Faculty Senate meeting took place on Zoom on March 1.

Screenshot provided by Dionte Berry

MURRAY STATE RELATED COVID-19 CASES

Students (Feb. 28 - March 6)	Faculty and Staff (Feb. 28 - March 6)	Weekly Total (Feb. 28 - March 6)	Overall Total (Since Jan. 17)
3	1	4	194

Source: Murraystate.edu/racerrestart

Dionte Berry/The News

President co-authors book to explore campus history

Jill Smith

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In honor of the University's centennial, President Bob Jackson, along with co-authors Jeff McLaughlin, director of special exhibits and archives, and Sarah Marie Owens, library specialist, wrote the book "The Finest Place We Know," a celebration of the University's unique history.

This book is a collection of photographs and stories from Murray State dating back to the University's founding in 1922. Jackson said this book showcases the unique history of Murray State. "It's going to start in 1922 and end in 2022," Jackson said. "So it's a lot of facts and information that most will not know, many photographs that many have never seen in our archives, both starting in the '20s all the way through today. I think it will be a great addition for this university, for the faculty and staff and students."

Jackson said the title of the book comes from Murray State's alma mater, written in 1932 by Dean A.B. Austin.

Jackson said a book committee of University officials was formed to help assist in making decisions on what to include in the book, including going through thousands of photos.

"We made the final calls on that," Jackson said. "When you look at some of the old photos, they've never been used before. That's what we're trying to do. We wanted to share a story that hadn't yet been fully told."

McLaughlin said there was a lot of guidance on the book.

"The committee included various points, and so I think the collaborative nature of the project made it much better," McLaughlin said. "For me, it was a lot of fun just kind of swapping stories



Murray State Normal School's first board members stand with President Carr. McHenry Rhoads, first board chair, is not pictured.

Photo courtesy of murraystate.edu

in the office and figuring out what made sense for the book."

McLaughlin said they focused on trying to incorporate the right amount of photos and text.

"We began with the original notion that this would be just a really glossy book of terrific photos with short captions under each," McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin said the book contains seven chapters, which will be followed by vignettes to give more context to the history of the University.

The book is being published by the University Press of Kentucky, according to the Murray State website. Jackson said the Press is selective on what they publish, so it's exciting they decided to publish this book.

McLaughlin said when researching for the book, he realized how special Murray State is.

"It kind of really gravitated to the story about integration," McLaughlin said. "The president at the time, Ralph Woods, actively chose to do the right thing and started bidding Black students before there was any pressure from the state or the federal government to do so. I think we should be proud of that."

It was a priority for the committee to ensure the history of Murray State was told well and accurately.

"I think it's vitally important that we tell stories, maybe that haven't been told before, to give everyone an appreciation for the unique history of

this institution," Jackson said. "It's a very good history."

Jackson said this book is a way to remember those who had an important role in founding Murray State.

"It's to remember those that came before us, and to tip our hat and to thank all of those throughout history that have made a difference in this place," Jackson said.

A portion of book sales will go towards Pogue Library, according to the Murray State website.

Jackson said the money will be used to ensure the archives stay protected for the next centennial.

To find out more information about this book, visit www.murraystate.edu/centennial.

MASKS, from page 1

"I work on campus, too, so that meant I had to wear it a lot. It was hard to study in places like the Waterfield Library sometimes because of the side effects I experienced while wearing a mask."

Hempel said the mask mandate being lifted has helped her in classes because she is hard of hearing, and the masks both muffled voices and removed her ability to read lips. She said she appreciates being able to understand people more easily, especially in her Spanish classes.

Mary Clare Mills, junior public and community health major, said she felt extremely relieved about having the mandate lifted.

"We have been wearing masks for about two years now, so it is exciting that we are making progress in regards to COVID-19," Mills said. "[It] feels like we are getting back to normal."

“ We have been wearing masks for about two years now, so it is exciting that we are making progress in regards to COVID-19. ”

— Mary Clare Mills, junior public and community health major

Mills said she was shocked when she received the notification because she assumed the mandate would be in place until the end of the semester, but she agrees with the decision to lift the mandate. She said it is



Rebecca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Students can be unmasked in any Murray State campus building as of Feb. 28.

refreshing to be able to see everyone's faces on campus again.

"I hope we never go back to having a mask mandate," Mills said. "I think it was a good decision, and if someone does not agree with it they have the option to wear their mask regardless, so hopefully this allows everyone to still feel safe."

But not all students are comfortable with the decision. Junior advertising major Taylor Moore said she has mixed feelings about lifting the mask mandate.

"It's discouraging to those of us who have tried our hardest to keep everyone safe and healthy," Moore said. "I do like getting to see people's faces again, and I think it makes interactions within our classes a lot easier, but the health and safety of all Racers should be prioritized first, especially because Zoom options are barely being offered anymore."

When in classrooms or in public spaces like dining services, Moore said she will remain masked. However, when she is around vaccinated individuals, she said she'll choose to take her mask off.

"I came to Murray State when COVID-19 was really picking up, and I don't feel like I've had a very normal college experience, so getting to take off the masks is one step in that direction," Moore said. "[COVID-19] hasn't slowed down, people are just getting tired of it, which I completely understand. Parties and classes are going to continue and people who are unmasked and unvaccinated are more likely to get seriously sick. It really is a hard decision to make."

David Pizzo, history professor and faculty senate member, questioned the administration about the time of

the announcement during the Faculty Senate meeting.

Pizzo said he understood the decision, but from the faculty perspective, the announcement seemed abrupt. He said he ultimately wanted more communication from administration.

"I absolutely understand why the masks are gone," Pizzo said. "We got, as you know, an email and a text in the middle of a class period. In the middle of classes, [students] were whipping their masks off, and I get that. It was this moment of freedom for them and they were so happy ... I think this was coming at some point, but why did it not come at the end of the workday?"

“ I think this was coming at some point, but why did it not come at the end of the workday? ”

— David Pizzo, history professor and Faculty Senate member

Provost Tim Todd said he advised Jackson on when to send out the announcement.

"The president sought advice, he got advice, and advice I gave him falls on me," Todd said. "Let me take that [responsibility]."

Jackson said in the email if Calloway County returns to a "high" community risk level, the mask mandate will be reinstated on campus.

Check the CDC's "Know Your COVID-19 Community Level" to see what is recommended.

SENATE, from page 1

The State Senate and House of Representatives will have to agree on a budget by April 15 when the legislative session ends.

As a result of the confusion between Faculty governance and the actions of the athletics department, Sen. Randy Keller asked if there was an active Council for Intercollegiate Athletics.

"I'm representing Murray State at the Coalition for Intercollegiate Athletics and went to a meeting two weekends ago ... we zoomed in on the University of Houston, which had an advisory board consisting of faculty, faculty senate and athletics administration," Keller said. "This model was recommended to other universities to address budgets and transparency."

The committee was mentioned in the Faculty Handbook but did not seem to be active.

In order to have a better sense of communication between the faculty and athletics, Keller invited other senators to work toward making a committee with the purpose of creating a line of communication between the athletic department and the faculty to not only address budgetary questions but to focus on student athletes as well.

Along with concerns about the budget, masking was an issue brought up by Sen. David Pizzo, not concerning it being gone but looking at how the administration went about it. The mask mandate was lifted

on Feb. 28, at 10:15 a.m. via an email from President Jackson.

At 10:15 a.m. classes were in session, and Pizzo said the announcement was disruptive to classes and asked why the end of the mandate was not announced at another time.

"Students looked and they had their phones out and checked those texts and emails, and in the middle of class they were whipping their masks off and I got that," Pizzo said. "This was a moment of freedom for them and they were so happy, but instructors were freaking out."

Pizzo further said he believes lifting the mask mandate was the right decision, but the announcement was made at an inappropriate time because it gave no warning to campus workers.

"I'm shocked that anyone was surprised [about the lifting of the mask mandate]. This has been

pending for sometime, we have talked about it," Jackson said. "It's on the nightly news and other universities have made the change. I'm not trying to debate the topic."

Concerning the mask mandate, Jackson said if Calloway County is to move back up to the "high" COVID-19 transmission zone, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, then masking will be reinstated.

Kentucky Legislation concerning masking is something else the Faculty Senate is keeping an eye on.

Further concerning legislation, Governmental Affairs Chair and Sen. Michael Bordieri noted there are around 60 pieces of legislation being tracked that could have an impact on higher education.

"This is the major legislative year, Kentucky runs on a biannual model, and the even years are budget years that last for

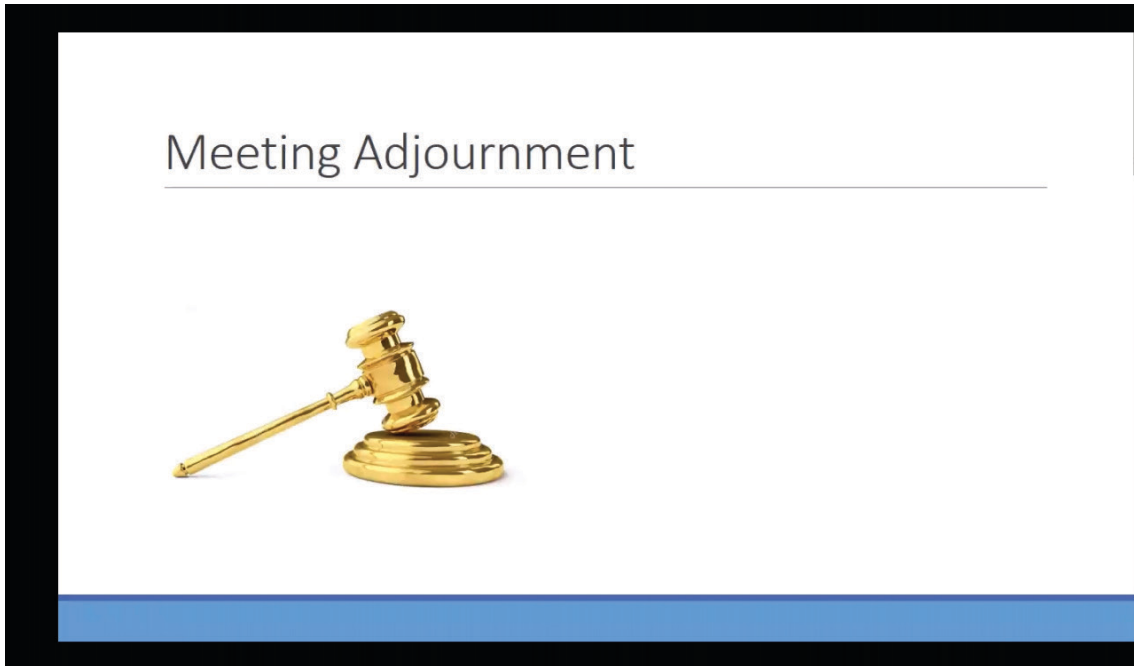
60 days ... so this is the bigger session," Bordieri said. "The budget is the most significant piece of legislation that will impact Murray State and that's where quite a bit of our attention is at."

Bordieri said the House of Representatives budget's preliminary numbers look promising with a slight increase, and so the governmental affairs committee is waiting for the Senate's budget.

Beyond the budget, there is proposed legislation to rid of mask mandates in schools, ban critical race theory and financially compensate collegiate athletes.

More will be known about the progress of bills affecting higher education and the operating budget by the next Faculty Senate meeting, which will be held on April 5.

Faculty Senators voiced concern about the timing of the announcement to lift the mask mandate. The next Faculty Senate meeting will be April 5. Screenshot courtesy of Dionte Berry.



Racer fans are invited to the NCAA Selection Party at the CFSB Center on Sunday, March 13.



2022 OVC CHAMPIONS. 18x. 51-64-88, 90-91-92, 95-97-98, 99-02-04, 06-10-12, 18-19-22. Wilson basketball and OVC Championship trophy.



The CFSB opens at 4 p.m. Fans can watch the 68 teams be selected for the NCAA Tournament. A video of the Murray State Men's Basketball team's journey to the NCAA Tournament will be broadcasted at the event. Photos Courtesy of Dave Winder/Racer Athletics

YOUR GATEWAY TO MURRAY Kentucky. A guide to the friendliest small town in America! A special publication of The Murray State News.

Your Gateway to Success!

The 2022 edition of Gateway Magazine is your gateway to reaching a wide audience for your business or organization. The 2022 edition of Gateway will be distributed on campus and at various locations in town near the end of the semester.

Reserve your space in this full-color magazine which will be in newsracks and online through February 2023. The advertising deadline is March 31. To speak with an advertising representative call 270-809-4478 or contact us at msunewsads@gmail.com.

The 2021 magazine cover is shown.

Our View: We need laws to keep police accountable

Along with power comes responsibility and accountability, almost like a system of checks and balances, but it seems as though our state government gives the police the ability to misuse their power and not be lawfully held accountable.

Former Louisville Metro Police Officer Brett Hankison was charged with three counts of wanton endangerment after firing 10 rounds into Breonna Taylor's apartment with fellow officers Myles Cosgrove and Johnathon Mattingly on March 13, 2020.

Although some of his rounds did hit Taylor, investigators concluded it was not Hankison who delivered the fatal shot; however three of the 10 rounds he did shoot went through a sliding glass door to the apartment neighboring Taylor's. Court testimony shows he couldn't see beyond the door.

Kentucky law defines wanton endangerment, a Class D felony, as someone deliberately acting in a way that results in the endangerment, death or physical injury of another person.

Unknowingly shooting into someone else's home is an obvious act of endangerment. But the issue is more complex.

According to the Louisville Courier-Journal's article "Dozens rally to protest not guilty verdict for Brett Hankison in Breonna Taylor raid," Hankison said he was acting in defense of his fellow officers.

Before forcefully entering into Taylor's home at around midnight in plain-clothes and without any body cameras, the officers announced their entry, which was not audible to Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker.

Thinking the officers were intruders, Walker fired shots. The officers responded with shots of their own, and Taylor was killed in the process.

Although the shooting was initiated by Walker, with their power, police should be able to wisely respond in a way safe for everyone. This was not an equal playing field: it was one person vs. law enforcement.

Trained with de-escalation methods, law enforcement have alternative

"I can't believe they're letting criminals walk free!" *"Tell me about it!"*



Cade Utterback/The News

methods to handle a situation rather than resorting to deadly force first.

Police officers should have a plan when executing a warrant and – should it become chaotic – be able to contain an incident rather than escalate it.

Hankison's acquittal symbolizes how police have acted without a regard toward the lives of the people they are meant to protect in order to pursue what is seen as justice.

We at *The News* believe Hankison could have acted differently in order to not endanger the lives of those in the neighboring apartment.

The officers executing a "no-knock" warrant at around midnight was their first mistake that sparked the endangerment. Any reasonable person would expect that at around midnight people may be asleep.

Although Hankison will not see punishment by the law, at least the incident has served as a wake-up call to Kentucky lawmakers. According

to the NPR piece "Kentucky task force recommends search warrant changes after Breonna Taylor's death," lawmakers are working toward adding additional guidelines to the search warrant process.

Possible guidelines include changes such as more training in executing search warrants, considering appropriate times in the day when going about search warrants and having to get clearance from a prosecutor before pursuing a search warrant.

We at *The News* are happy to see lawmakers making an effort to create more stringent guidelines, but on the flipside, options exist to no-knock warrants. To date, four states have banned no-knock warrants.

The goal of a no-knock warrant is to surprise and surround a suspect and preserve evidence. Experts have suggested following or surveiling a person away from home and attempting warrant service on the street, using similar "surprise and sur-

round" tactics. Or, if home is the best option, surveil the home over time to determine the routine and catch a person home alone. Last, rather than barging in, announce that the home is surrounded and demand a person come out and surrender.

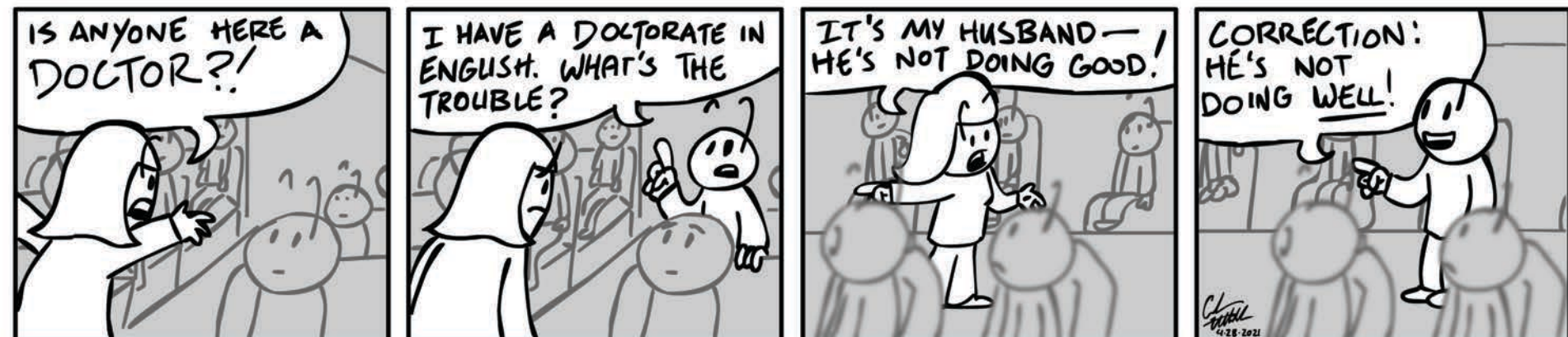
We at *The News* are watching legislation in the 2022 General Assembly focusing on increasing the power of police officers.

The law allows police to claim "self defense" even in situations in which the danger is one law enforcement have created, such as the situation Brett Hankison created by shooting into an adjacent apartment. On a spectrum between power and responsibility/accountability, American law enforcement seems to sit further on the power scale rather than the responsibility and accountability scale.

The police do not need more power, period. They need laws to govern how they enforce the laws.

"DR. GRAMMAR, PhD"

Written & Illustrated by Cade Utterback



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Men's basketball wins OVC Tournament

Racers punch ticket to March Madness tournament

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Murray State was officially crowned OVC Men's Basketball Champions after they defeated Morehead State 71-67 on Saturday, March 5.

Junior forward KJ Williams, junior guard Tevin Brown and sophomore guard Justice Hill were all named to the All-Tournament Team. Hill also took home Tournament MVP.

Brown was the leading scorer for the Racers with 23 points on 7-18 shooting from the field and 6-8 shooting from the free-throw-line. Hill followed with 21 points on 8-19 shooting. Williams had eight points and 10 rebounds.

Speaking about his MVP award after the game, Hill said he's just glad his hard work finally paid off when the team needed it most.

"I don't really mind not being looked at like the others on the team," Hill said. "I really just wanna win. Knowing I've got [Williams and Brown] next to me that can go for 30 points each night really takes a lot of pressure off me knowing they will be the main focus of the other team."

Head Coach Matt McMahon said the game went exactly how he believed it would, with a close finish.

"Two really good teams having to fight and scrap for every point they could get. This is what March Madness is about," McMahon said. "It was a war of a game. I'm proud of our players and how they did what they've done all year: they found a way to win."

It seemed as though all of Evansville, Indiana, packed inside the Ford Center for the championship matchup. Williams and freshman forward Johni Broome lined up across from each other for the jump ball, and the Racers came away with the ball to get the game started.

Brown got the scoring started with a three-pointer from the right wing and followed it up with another three-pointer from the left wing to put the Racers up 6-2.

Brown scored another three points at the free-throw line, and then Williams followed it up with a three-pointer that put the Racers up 12-2 and forced the Eagles to call a timeout.

Morehead State had been a tough opponent in the OVC all season, finishing third in the regular season OVC standings. It was only a matter of time before the Eagles were caught up with the Racers.

And catch up they did as the Eagles went on a 15-0 run to answer the Racers hot start. Sopho-

more guard Ta'lon Cooper started it with a mid-range jumper, and junior forward Jaylon Hall followed it with a three-pointer.

Hall and graduate guard Tray Hollowell each made a three-pointer before Brown ended the run with a layup to make it 17-14 in favor of the Eagles.

Another three-pointer from Hall attempted to keep the momentum in the Eagles favor, but back-to-back threes from sophomore guard DaQuan Smith tied the game at 20 apiece with 8:13 left in the first half.

Neither team could get much of an advantage over the other as the half continued on. Even a three from senior guard Carter Collins was answered with a 7-0 run from the Eagles, with six of the points coming from Broome.

The Racers managed to climb back with a three-pointer from Hill, but Broome took the lead back with an and-one play. Another layup from Hill tied the game at 34 as the time expired in the first half.

At halftime, Brown led the Racers with 11 points, four rebounds and three assists. Hill had seven points, while Smith had six points on 2-2 shooting. Williams and sophomore forward DJ Burns each had a team-high five rebounds.

Broome led all scorers at half-time with 15 points on 7-11 shooting from the field, as well as four rebounds. Hill had eight points on 3-5 shooting, and Cooper had five points and two assists.

The battle was back on in the second half, and similarly to the first, neither team could take a substantial lead. Broome started the scoring with a layup, but Hill countered with an and-one to put the Racers on top.

Broome landed another layup, but Hill again answered with a three-pointer. Hollowell was able to tie it back up with a three-pointer, and then Broome went 2-2 at the free throw line to put the Eagles up by two.

Brown got another three to go to give the Racers the lead, and then Burns followed it up with a layup to make it a three-point lead. However, an and-one play from Broome brought the game back to a deadlock.

As the game continued, the teams remained at a deadlock with neither defense giving in. The Racers lead hit six points at one point, as Hill made a three-pointer and both Hill and Brown made layups.

As the clock dipped under the five-minute mark, the Racers fought to keep their lead alive. Brown made a pair of layups, but Broome answered with a layup to keep the Racers lead at three points. Following a free



(Top) Murray State celebrates after defeating Morehead State 71-67 on Saturday, March 5. (Middle) Head Coach Matt McMahon cuts down the ropes after the Racers' 18th OVC Championship. (Bottom) The Racers show off the 2022 OVC Men's Basketball Championship trophy.

throw from Cooper, Williams made a jumper and Hill made a free throw to extend the lead to five points.

Hollowell kept the dream alive for the Eagles with a three-pointer as the clock dipped into the final minute, and then another three-pointer from Hollowell with just eight seconds left cut the Racers lead down to a single point.

In the closing second, Brown was able to come up with a steal against Hall, but he landed hard on the ground after Hall fouled him just a second later and had to be looked at by the staff.

After he laid on the ground for a few minutes, Brown stood up, walked to the free throw line with tears in his eyes and sank the free throws to put the Racers up by three. Williams got the final free throw to go and concluded the epic finale to the OVC basketball season.

Broome led all scorers with 32 points on 13-20 shooting and tacked on eight rebounds as well.

Cooper had 12 points on 5-10 shooting from the field, while Hollowell had 12 points on 4-7 shooting from three-point range.

Williams, who was named OVC Player of the Year just a week before, discussed after the game about how the team sticks together in a tight game like this. He said the game speaks to how well they are able to perform under pressure.

"It shows the great character of our team," Williams said. "We've been in situations like this in away games and sometimes in home games. But it just shows that no matter what the score is, we're gonna stay calm and collected and get the job done."

The Racers finish their season with a 30-2 record and on a 15-game win streak. With the win, Murray State punched their ticket to March Madness. The Racers first round matchup is still to be determined. Selection Sunday is set for March 13 to determine the seeding and bracket for the tournament.

Jakob Milani/The News

Women's basketball season ends in heartbreak

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Falling short of glory, the Murray State women's basketball team lost 68-62 to Tennessee Tech in the OVC Semifinals on Friday, March 4.

Despite 22 points from sophomore forward Katelyn Young and a career-high 16 rebounds from senior forward Alexis Burpo, the Racers fell just short of a trip to the OVC Championship.

Postgame, Head Coach Rechelle Turner said though the team ran the plays called, the shots just wouldn't fall in their favor. "We drew up some good plays and got some good looks," Turner said. "We had some good layups from some set calls, and had some open threes to tie the game. It's no one person's fault for missing shots, it's just some days they go and some days they don't."

The Racers were quick to get a lead with a layup from senior guard Macey Turley and jumper from Young followed up by a three-pointer from sophomore forward Hannah McKay.

Young managed to land another layup, but an and-one from graduate forward Anna Jones and a three-pointer from junior guard Maaliya Owens brought the Golden Eagles to within one point of the Racers.

Murray State was able to expand its lead with an and-one from sophomore forward Bria Sander-Woods and a layup from Turley to put the Racers up 14-10.

Another layup from Turley put the Racers up by six points, but graduate forward Mackenzie Coleman got a layup to fall to end the first quarter. The Racers led the Golden Eagles 16-12 heading into the second quarter.

Burpo struck first in the second quarter with a layup, but Jones and sophomore forward Anna Walker answered with a quick 5-0 run to bring the Golden Eagles within one point of the lead.

Young made another layup that was countered by a jumper from junior guard Jada Guinn. Then, senior guard Lex Mayes landed a layup from under the basket, but a three-pointer from graduate guard Megan Clark tied the game at 22.

A jumper from Clark and a three-pointer from Walker put the Golden Eagles up by five points. Young countered with back-to-back baskets as the half ended, cutting the Golden Eagles lead to just one point. As the teams went to halftime, the Golden Eagles led 27-26.

Young led all scorers at halftime with 10 points on 5-8 shooting from the field and grabbed four rebounds. Turley had six points on 3-9 shooting, and Burpo had 11 rebounds in the first half.

The Racers took an early lead in the first half with a layup from Burpo but were quickly answered with a jumper from Guinn. McKay then hit a jumper from the elbow, and Mayes hit a three-pointer that put the Racers up 33-29.

Despite the Golden Eagles cutting the lead to one point, the Racers managed to stretch their lead with a pair of free throws and a layup from Young. McKay followed it with another jumper and the Racers were up by eight points with 2:24 left in the third quarter.

Jumpers from Walker and Owens cut the lead to four points, but a buzzer-beater three from Turley gave the Racers a seven-point lead heading into the fourth quarter.

The Golden Eagles were quick to cut the Racers lead as they went on a 6-0 run to start the fourth quarter, with points coming in



Dave Winder/Racers Athletics

Senior forward Alexis Burpo grabbed a career-high 16 rebounds in the Racers' final game of the season.

from Clark, Jones and Guinn. But, Turley managed to counter the run with an and-one, keeping the Racers up by four points.

Walker had an answer, though, as she scored five straight points to put the Golden Eagles up for the first time since early in the third quarter.

Burpo grabbed the lead back for the Racers with a pair of free throws, but as the clock dipped below four minutes to go, Walker hit another jumper to keep the lead in the Golden Eagles favor.

Despite their best efforts, the Racers were unable to close out the game and were forced to foul with time running out. The Golden Eagles made their free throws, and when time expired, the lead had hit six. The Golden Eagles ended the Racers season with a 68-62 defeat.

Young was the leading scorer in the game with 22 points and 10 rebounds on 9-18 shooting. Turley had 12 points on 5-17 shooting and five rebounds. Burpo had 10 points and a career-high 16 rebounds in

possibly her last game as a Racer.

Burpo spoke after the game about it possibly being her last game as she is one of the five seniors on the team. She said she'll take with her some of her favorite memories ever made with some of her favorite people she's ever met.

"My teammates are like my closest friends," Burpo said. "We've all just grown together. Not just on the court, but off the court as well. That's just basketball to me."

Turner also said the team was blessed to be where they were in that game and how close they were to championship glory.

"We had a very blessed season," Turner said. "To have the opportunity to be in this position and to coach these young women is a blessing. At the end of the day, it stinks. But these kids played hard and gave it their all ... it just wasn't meant to be."

The Racers end their season with a 22-8 record overall and a 13-5 conference record.

AP Top 25 Men's College Basketball



(Week 18)



(Week of March 7)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Gonzaga (24-3) | 14. Texas Tech (23-8) |
| 2. Arizona (28-3) | 15. Arkansas (24-7) |
| 3. Baylor (26-5) | 16. Illinois (22-8) |
| 4. Auburn (27-4) | 17. Saint Mary's (24-6) |
| 5. Kentucky (25-6) | 18. Houston (26-5) |
| 6. Kansas (25-6) | 19. Murray State (30-2) |
| 7. Duke (26-5) | 20. Connecticut (22-8) |
| 8. Villanova (23-7) | 21. USC (25-6) |
| t-9. Purdue (25-6) | 22. Texas (21-10) |
| t-9. Tennessee (23-7) | 23. Colorado St. (24-4) |
| 11. Providence (24-4) | 24. Iowa (22-9) |
| 12. Wisconsin (24-6) | 25. North Carolina (23-8) |
| 13. UCLA (23-6) | |

Jakob Milani/The News

Reading series hosts James Han Mattson

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As part of the spring reading series, the creative writing program hosted author and former faculty member James Han Mattson on March 3.

Mattson is the author of the novels “The Lost Prayers of Ricky Graves” and “Reprieve,” and he discussed the latter novel at the Faculty Hall event. This was the first in-person reading since fall 2019.

Carrie Jerrell, coordinator of the creative writing program, said Mattson joined the reading lineup several months in advance.

“He left the University on good terms, and we knew he was going to have a book coming out,” Jerrell said. “We asked him ahead of time if he would be willing to come back and read from it.”

Jerrell said she wanted to choose a time when Mattson could safely come back in person.

“That’s why we pushed it later in the spring rather than having it last fall when the book was first released,” Jerrell said. “We were hoping we could have the event on campus so people could come in person, and also so he could come back to Murray and see friends.”

Mattson worked on the novel while he taught at Murray State from 2018 to 2020. He said he owed much of his inspiration to students and faculty.

“It was just being in the environment of eager creative writers,” Mattson said. “As a fiction writer, a lot of times, you’re isolated. Having a good community of fiction writers, not only faculty-wise but student-wise, was enough inspiration in itself.”

Aside from the book’s recognition from well-known organizations like *The LA Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, Entertainment Weekly and TODAY, “Reprieve”

received a positive review from *The New York Times*.

“Insightful and gripping ... On the surface, ‘Reprieve’ is a story about an attack at a haunted house, but Mattson also is investigating questions of identity and power, namely who in this story controls fears and who is subject to them,” the review read.

The story is set in Quigley House, a full-contact haunted house, in 1990s Nebraska. Participants in the haunted house are challenged to make it through all six rooms and gather all of the planted envelopes to win a large sum of money. However, Quigley House is turned on its head when a real murder occurs.

Mattson was born in Seoul, Korea, and raised in North Dakota. In addition to Murray State, he has taught at the University of Iowa, the University of Cape Town, the University of Maryland, George Washington University and the University of California at Berkeley. In 2009, he moved back to Korea and reunited with his birth family after decades of separation.

Jerrell said Mattson’s book explores important themes like race, identity and socioeconomic conflict.

“Each of the characters who is a participant in the haunted house has a really interesting backstory that they’re all bringing into this house together,” Jerrell said. “The novel explores how these people interact with each other and how the setting of a haunted house may bring out certain aspects of what we believe.”

While writing a novel about a haunted house, Mattson was also working on a novel set in Thailand. When he realized the two narratives were thematically related, he fused them together to create the idea for “Reprieve.”

Mattson sold television rights for “Reprieve” to Hulu.



Photo courtesy of jameshanmattson.com
James Han Mattson worked on his 2021 novel, ‘Reprieve,’ while teaching at Murray State.

The streaming service is currently negotiating with comedian Kevin Hart’s production company, HartBeat Productions, on making a television series adaptation of the book.

“There’s a whole lot of things that go into making a TV series, and it wouldn’t be for a while, if it does get made,” Mattson said. “The option has been sold, so they have the option to make it. If they exercise the option, that’s when the production begins.”

In the meantime, “Reprieve” is

available for purchase on Amazon and in bookstores.

The next event in the Reading Series will showcase current creative writing faculty members Gwendolyn Edward and TJ Martinson. It will be held March 31 at 7 p.m. in the gallery of Waterfield Library.

Jerrell said she encourages students to attend future readings and to follow @murraystateenglish and @murraystatecreativewriting on Instagram for updates.

Mock trial wins awards at regional competition

Raleigh Hightower

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The Murray State Mock Trial team has once again overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and brought home several awards in the virtual American Mock Trial Association Regional tournament.

The competition was hosted on Zoom by Colorado College and the United States Air Force Academy on Feb. 26 and 27. Some other notable participating universities include Emory University, University of Chicago, University of California Irvine and Texas Christian University.

This competition consisted of 22 schools and was the first round of the American Mock Trial Association’s (AMTA) national tournament structure.

The Mock Trial team finished the competition with an overall win-loss record of three winning ballots and five losing ballots.

The team received the AMTA Spirit Award, and team member Travis Conner won an “outstanding attorney” award. The ATMA Spirit Award is given to the team that best exemplifies the ideals of honesty, civility and fair play.

In addition to competing in Georgia State University’s virtual “Concrete Jungle” tournament last semester, the Mock Trial team has

also met every Tuesday and Thursday this semester to prepare for the AMTA Regional tournament.

Mock trial is an imitation of a court trial. It gives participants a play-by-play of how a court trial moves and operates.

The case the Mock Trial team prepared for involved an aggravated arson in which a bar owner burned down his bar for insurance money and accidentally caused the death of a firefighter. Students worked to both defend and prosecute the bar owner.

Students involved with mock trial serve either as attorneys, character witnesses or expert witnesses. Attorneys are tasked with questioning witnesses and cross-examining opposing witnesses.

The team’s student attorneys included junior political science majors Case Thomason, Ashlyn Tracy and Travis Conner. The group of student attorneys prepared for the tournament by studying affidavits, case files, preparing questions for witnesses and training witnesses in their roles.

“I loved all of the witnesses who put their hearts into mock trial but it is a lot of work,” Thomason said. “You should have seen how much time my fellow attorney, Ashlyn Tracy, put in. You can tell who put in the work and I thank all my witnesses and Ashlyn for that.”

Tracy said, the team performed



Photo courtesy of Department of Political Science and Sociology
The Mock Trial team won awards at the American Mock Trial Association regional tournament.

well and worked diligently to overcome several challenges ahead of the competition.

“I believe that the team performed very well in each competition we had,” Tracy said. “I felt the most proud of the team because many came in with no experience and were trained in a little over a month. There were also many occasions where we were presented with unforeseen circumstances and each team member took these challenges head on.”

Associate Professor of Political Science, Paul Foote, serves as the coach and faculty advisor for the mock trial team. Practicing Attorney and Murray State alumnus, Addam Holder, also assists in coaching the Mock Trial team.

“Everyone involved in Mock

Trial is so great, from Dr. Foote starting all of this and guiding the team to our attorney coach Addam who has helped us obtain knowledge of what to do and say in our trials to the rest of the attorneys, witnesses and everyone else on the team,” Conner said.

The Mock Trial team has already gotten back to work after their competition hoping to improve their skills to advance their careers and increase their competitiveness ahead of future competitions.

“Mock trial is the best way to learn how to be a future attorney,” Thomason said. “I recommend it for you if you plan on going into law because I have learned so much that I will take with me for years to come.”

Sondheim's 'Company' sings its way to campus

Hannah Foote
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The Department of Global Languages and Theatre Arts will perform the musical comedy, "Company," this weekend starting Thursday night in the Robert E. Johnson Theatre on campus.

Associate Professor of Theatre Daryl Phillipy is directing the show. Aside from "Company," Phillipy also directed "The Importance of Being Earnest" during the Fall 2021 semester.

"Company" is a joint production with the music department. Associate Professor of music Maribeth Crawford is serving as musical director for the show.

Phillippy said the approach of this production will focus on themes of isolation.

"It's really about people being lonely and being isolated,"

Phillippy said "How do we reach out, share our lives and engage with life, with other people, realizing that it's not all going to be happy? We are going to have moments in our lives and our relationships of struggle, and it's nice to be able to have someone that can hug you and

hurt you at the same time."

"Company" is a romantic musical comedy, and it contains elements of a dark comedy. The plot follows Robert, a 35-year-old, unmarried man, in New York City as his friends offer up romantic advice and try to set him up on dates.

Robert sees the flaws in each of his friends' relationships, and the show is arranged with funny scenes featuring the chaos of their marriages.

The show features songs such as "Getting Married Today" and "The Ladies Who Lunch," which balance comedy with hard emotional truths and adult themes. In the end, Robert must confront his fear of commitment and reclaim "Being Alive," which is the name of a pivotal song in the show.

The music and lyrics of "Company" were written by the late Stephen Sondheim, who died in November 2021. Sondheim was known for being one of the greatest American theatre composers. He worked on many successful musicals over his career, such as "Gypsy," "Into the Woods" and "West Side Story." Murray State's production will be a tribute to him.

"It's been a real honor to



Cast of the 'Company' musical prepares for their March 10 debut in the Robert E. Johnson Theatre.
Photo courtesy of Daryl Phillipy

work on a Stephen Sondheim production in memoriam, dedicating this production to his memory," Phillipy said.

Phillippy said, "Company" was one of Sondheim's first successes for which he had written both music and lyrics himself.

The subject matter and style of the musical were groundbreaking when it was released. "Company" was nominated for 12 Tony Awards during its 1971 production, and won six of them, According to Internet Broadway Database.

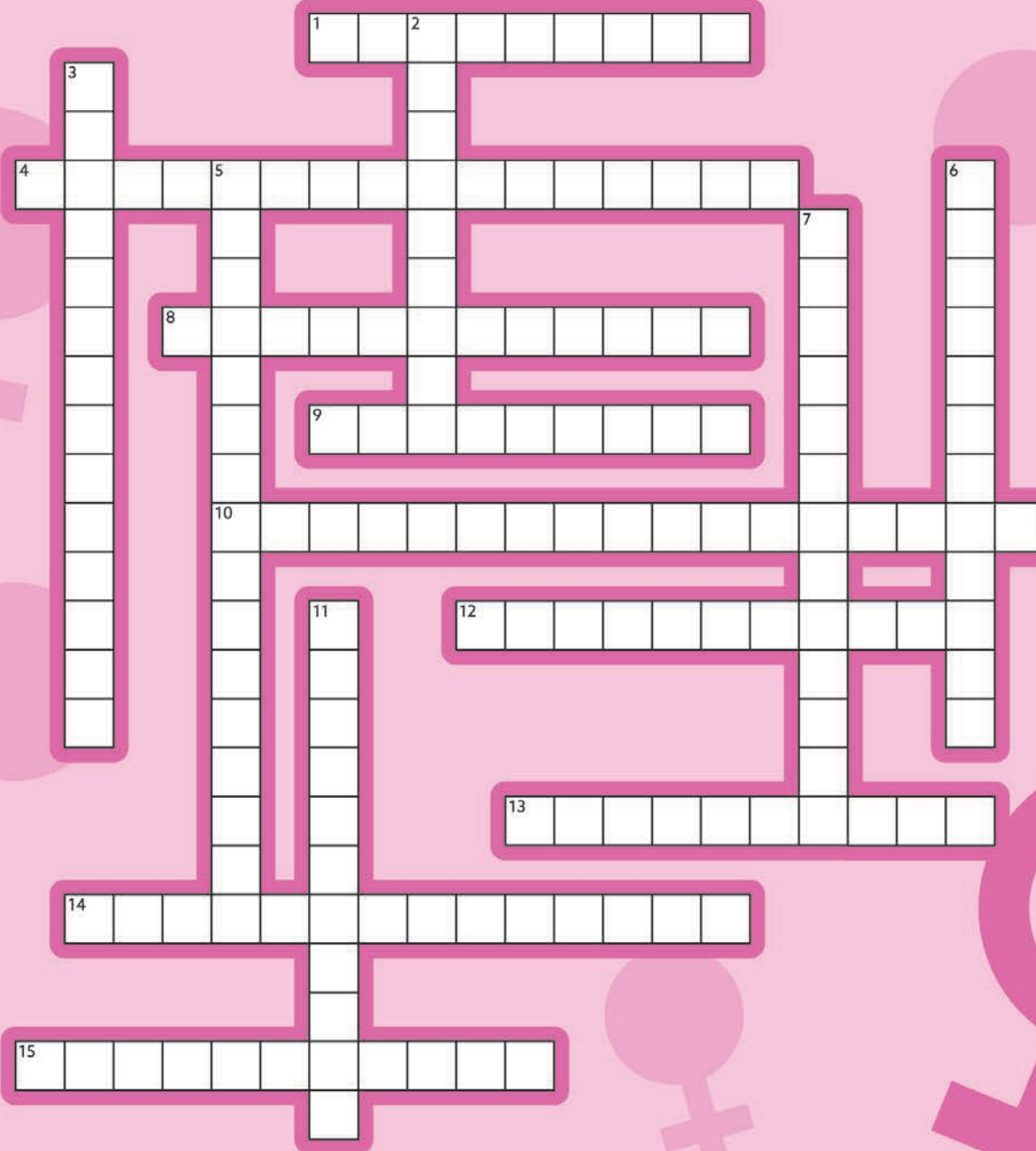
"I think now particularly with

COVID over the last two years, and oftentimes people having class on Zoom ... in general, the population of the students on campus, and across the world really, have been feeling isolated. They don't necessarily have someone they can reach out and touch ... ["Company"] touches on that notion of being isolated and how painful that can be ... " Phillipy said.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m., except for the 2:30 p.m. performance on Sunday.

Students get in free with their Student ID, and general admission is \$20.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Down

2. First woman to propose Equal Rights Amendment in 1923.

3. First female artist to debut at number one on the Billboard 200 chart with her 1987 album.

5. Political figure, diplomat, activist, humanitarian, and former First Lady.

6. First African American female to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993.

7. British royalty, most known for her charitable work in over 100 organizations. Once wife of the Prince of Wales.

11. Country singer who donated to the research of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

Across

1. Journalist and anti-lynching activist who was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

4. American civil rights advocate and one of the scholars responsible for founding and coining the term "Critical Race Theory."

8. First female Vice President of the United States.

9. First female astronaut to travel to space.

10. Former ACLU attorney and associate justice of the United States Supreme Court.

12. Civil rights activist who was the African-American child to desegregate an all-white elementary school.

13. Mexican painter known for her self-portraits that depict themes such as identity, the human body, and death.

14. First female inducted in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, known as the "Queen of Soul".

15. Primatologist who provided ground breaking discoveries about primates.

Shannon Riley/The News