



THE MURRAY STATE
NEWS

March 14–April 10, 2024
Vol 97, No. 21



Women's History Month at Murray State



ZINES

spark conversation

Photos by: Emma Fisher

In honor of International Women's Day, Gender Equity Caucus (GEC) hosted a zine making event on Friday, March 8.

A zine is a hand-made mini magazine created with original artwork or "appropriated" text and images, according to the GEC's Instagram page.

Students, faculty and staff made zines in response to this question: "What does gender equity look like at Murray State?"



The Pink Tax: A look at its effects on women

Jill Smith

Co-Editor in Chief/News Editor
Jsmith194@murraystate.edu

The pink tax isn't a federal tax that affects income tax refund, but it is a type of price discrimination that impacts millions of women's personal finances and lives annually.

The "pink tax" is the concept that women's products and services tend to be priced higher than men's, a type of gender-based price discrimination. Over the years, this tax has been coined as the "pink tax" because most manufacturers use the color pink to market and brand products specifically designed for women.

The pink tax doesn't only apply to period products. Over the years, advocacy organizations have pointed to different examples of the pink tax including pricing discrimination. Examples include:

Higher cost and smaller sizes of products like women's razors, shampoo and deodorant, relative to similar personal hygiene products designed for men.

Higher prices of toys or equipment marketed to girls, like pink bikes, scooters and helmets, relative to identical red or blue bikes, scooters and helmets.

“

On average, personal care products cost women 13% more than men. In total, one of each average item cost women \$57.18, and cost men \$50.75, a difference of \$6.43.

”

A 2015 study from New York City's Department of Consumer Affairs, found women pay more for almost every product they purchase over the course of their lives. For the study, the DCA analyzed seven types of personal care products, including hair care (shampoo and conditioner), razors, razor cartridges, lotion, deodorant, body wash and shaving cream.

"On average, personal care products cost women 13% more than men," the study reported. "In total, one of each average item cost women \$57.18, and cost men \$50.75, a difference of \$6.43."

The study determined the price differences between products were most often because of differing quantities.

"For example, deodorant was often sold to men in quantities of 2.7-ounce sticks, and women were often sold quantities of 2.6-ounce sticks at the same price," the study continued. "Similarly, men save at the register by requiring fewer products for the same advertised claims. For example, body washes are often sold "for men" with claims of doing double (or triple) duty as a shampoo and/or conditioner."

The only beneficiaries of the "pink tax" are the companies that charge women more than men.

Several states have passed laws against discriminatory gender-based pricing of products and services. In 2018, Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) introduced the Pink Tax Repeal Act. The goal is to regulate seemingly unjust price discrepancies out of existence. The bill failed.

Similar to the pink tax, the "tampon tax" specifically refers to the sales tax on the already-high price of tampons or other menstrual products. Like other period products, tampons are frequently taxed as luxury goods, even though millions of menstruating individuals consider tampons to be necessities.

Kentucky currently taxes these items as "luxuries." In recent years, there has been a push in the state to remove the sales tax on these items.

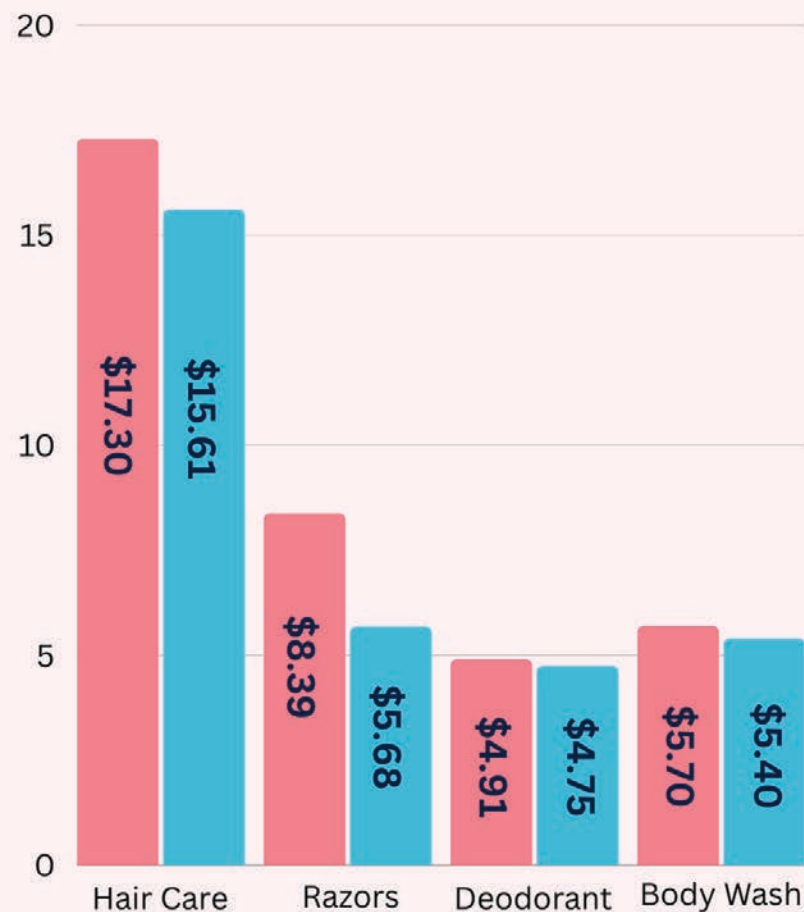
The most recent piece of legislation, House Bill 142, introduced by Rep. Lisa Willner (D-Jefferson) last year, aimed to remove the sales tax placed on period products.

Rising costs of period products have also led to an epidemic of "period poverty"— meaning that an estimated one in four women and girls cannot afford menstrual products.

One organization, Period Law, found the tampon tax adds up, with an estimated annual cost to consumers of \$80 million. The organization also found 21 states still tax period products, and, as mentioned earlier, Kentucky is one.

The organization launched the Tampon Tax Activation in 2019. This re-

Pink Tax by the Numbers



Pink= Women and Blue=Men

Source: From Cradle to Cane: The Cost of Being a Female Consumer

Jill Smith/The News

source is available in 33 states and allows individuals to request a sales tax refund after purchasing period products.

The best way to avoid paying the "tax" is to do some homework and look into the male versions of certain products, like razors. Another option is to create a Facebook group and share product alternatives.

Currently in Kentucky, House Bill 148 was introduced by Rep. Lisa Willner, D-Louisville in January. The bill would eliminate the sales tax on period products and require middle and high schools to make products available for students. The bill is still awaiting a committee assignment.

Individuals wanting to voice their concerns surrounding this topic, can reach out to their state legislators. For Kentucky, individuals can call and leave a message for their representative with the Kentucky Legislative Research Committee by calling 1-800-372-7181.

Students in need of menstrual products can visit the Women's Center on campus, located C102 Oakley Applied Science. Products are available for a one-time need or for short-term supply due to financial issues.

A look back at historic alumnae

Madison Miller

Contributing Writer
mmiller103@murraystate.edu

Dr. Kala Stroup (1937- present)

In 1983, Kala Stroup was elected the seventh president of Murray State, marking her as the first woman to hold the presidency at the University and within Kentucky's higher education system.

Throughout her career, Stroup was at the forefront of representing women in higher education. Besides her time at Murray State, she served as the first female vice president of academic affairs in the Kansas Board of Regents system and later became the first female president of Southeast Missouri State University and the first female president of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference.

"We must understand that if we do not enter into controversy and dialogue about what we are doing, if we don't evaluate what we are doing as educators, then we have lost the importance of what we are all about," Stroup said in a 1983 interview with a student reporter.

Throughout her presidency, she implemented a strategic plan to raise education standards, initiated an Honors program, established the on-campus National Museum of the Boy Scouts of America, and increased endowments and private funds by over 250%.

Ruth E. Cole (1920-2014)

Ruth E. Cole, a pivotal figure in the Murray State Nursing Department, left a legacy of dedication through her commitment to education and service to our country.

After graduating high school in 1939 and experiencing financial struggles from the Great Depression, Cole was presented with the opportunity through the National Youth Administration (NYA) to enroll in a three-year nursing program at Murray College.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Congress prioritized military employment over NYA funding, altering Cole's journey. She joined the Junior Red Cross, then transitioned to the War Commission Nursing Procurement and Assignment. After graduating, she returned to Murray as a 4A classified nurse. By 1945, she attained a 1A classification and joined the Navy Nurse Corps.

Cole and 34 other nurses reported to the Great Lakes Naval Hospital expecting to undergo a six-week orientation and then be relocated. However, after one week, the need was too substantial and they were given uniforms and permanent staff positions in the overrun clinical wards. Additionally, they worked with a Marine Sergeant to learn the military protocol.

Throughout her time at Great Lakes, she worked in orthopedics, infectious diseases, neurosurgery and plastic surgery. "Duties of a nurse in my World War II experience were just commonplace nursing



Photo from Pogue archives
To read the full story, visit
thenews.org

tasks that needed to be done in an uncommon time," Cole said.

Cole remained on Ready Reserve for 35 years. In 1946, Cole returned to Murray where she worked with Dr. A.D. Butterworth and attended classes at Murray State. At the time, Murray State lacked a bachelor's program in nursing, she continued her education at the University of Texas. In the fall, she again returned to Murray State and was named the director of nursing education.

Cole returned to active duty in 1951 due to the Korean conflict. During this time, Cole received the rank of Lieutenant and supervisor of 10 surgical wards. "The greatest difference was the patience... as soon as they were stable for travel they were flown to the hospital closest to their home.. One flight nurse reported that she flew with patients that had surgery and had not fully recovered from anesthesia ...," Cole said.

After two years of active duty, she went on to complete a master's degree at Teacher College, Columbia University. She returned to Murray, as the director, in June of 1954. In 1964, she secured a grant to fund the construction of the nursing building and directed the development of the bachelor of science in nursing.

"My assignment for active duty proved much more varied, educational, and interesting than during WWII or Korea... I saw the use of plasma, bone transplants, and radiation therapy and observed the first monkeys that went into space," Cole said

Cole was promoted to captain in 1969.

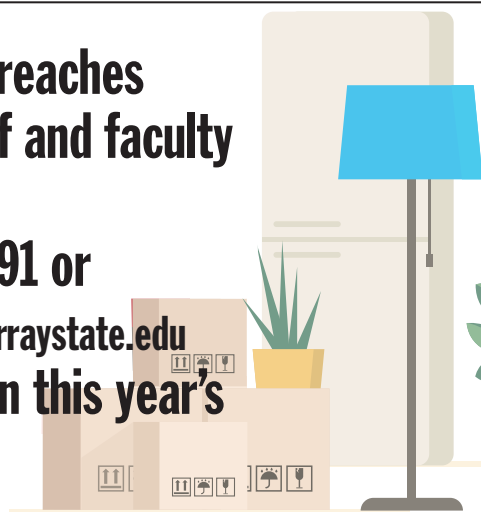
Cole retired from Murray State as chairman and professor of nursing in 1977.

The *Mane Event*
hair designs

305 North 12th · University Square · 753-6263

Racer Guide reaches
incoming students, staff and faculty

Call 270-809-4491 or
email msu.thenewsads@murraystate.edu
to reserve your space in this year's
edition!



Saying Goodbye
with
Compassion & Dignity

AllPAWS
— PET CREMATION SERVICES —



THE J.H. CHURCHILL FUNERAL HOME
& CREMATION SERVICES

270-753-2411 • 201 S. 3rd St. • Murray, Ky
www.AllPawsPetCremationServices.com
www.JHChurchill.com



ADVANCE to host gender equity workshops

Nate Hunt
Staff Writer
nhunt3@murraystate.edu

Murray State is holding an ADVANCE workshop aimed to encourage men to become effective allies for gender equity.

This workshop will be held on March 14 at 8:30 a.m. or noon, or on March 15 at 8:30 a.m. The workshop will last about 90 minutes and will be led by Roger Green, an electrical and computer engineering professor from North Dakota State University.

It will also include interactive conversations with opportunities to learn, practice skills through scenario-based exercises and ask questions.

This session isn't the only workshop that ADVANCE will be hosting for Murray State this year. ADVANCE will be holding a writing retreat for up to 20 female faculty members from June 10-14.

The goal of this workshop is to allow these faculty to have a dedicated time and space to invest in their writing skills. The retreat will last one week during the summer but will lead into an eight-week self-managed writing session with a follow-up meeting in August.

Maeve McCarthy, director of Murray State ADVANCE and assistant dean of the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology, said ADVANCE is a national organization that aims to help women faculty in STEM.

"ADVANCE is a National Science Foundation funded project that has been at MSU since 2016 (and) focuses on the recruitment and retention of women faculty in STEM," McCarthy said. "The workshops are one of the programs we offer."

Every year, ADVANCE holds many different workshops that benefit women and cover a range of topics.

"Speakers come to share the kind of work they've done at their institutions, and we learn from that," McCarthy said. "In the fall, we had a speaker talk about tenure reform. This spring, it's about advocacy and support structures. The workshops benefit our faculty by offering outside perspectives to issues that we are addressing at MSU."

WORKSHOPS

-MARCH 14 AT 8:30 A.M. OR 12 P.M

-MARCH 15 AT 8:30 A.M

EACH SESSION WILL LAST ABOUT 90 MINUTES

**HOSTED BY MURRAY STATE ADVANCE
LED BY ROGER GREEN, ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER
ENGINEERING PROFESSOR, NORTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Jiill Smith/The News

More information can be found on the Murray State website.

These workshops are usually held once a semester. More information can be found at www.murraystate.edu/advance.



HARLAN
AUTOMOTIVE
Service & Repair

**TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE
& THE CARS THEY DRIVE**

408 North 4th St., Murray
(270) 638-4442

2500 Wayne Sullivan Drive, Paducah
(270) 201-7573

www.HarlanAutomotive.com



SHAFFER COFFEE CO.
WELCOMES MURRAY STATE STUDENTS

SHAFFER COFFEE CO.
MURRAY KY

404 NORTH 4TH STREET | (270) 708-1020

Dining Guide



SIDE OF THIS.
SCOOP OF THAT.
SNACK AWAY



818 N 12th St.
Murray, KY 42071
(270) 761-2858

Culver's of MURRAY

10% MSU DISCOUNT
Join our E-club for more sweet deals!

culvers.com



**GOOD TIMES
GREAT PIZZA**



MRGATTISPIZZA.COM

THE GREAT PIZZA IS ONLY THE BEGINNING!

(270) 753-6656
804 CHESTNUT ST,
MURRAY, KY 42071



The Legendary
Big Apple
GRILL & BAR



1005 Arcadia Circle, Murray

Where friendships become legendary!

● Call 270.759.8866 ●



Follow us on Facebook!
@DumplinsofMurray

15% DISCOUNT MSU*

MURRAY'S FAVORITE
LUNCH & DESSERT SPOT!

Monday-Saturday
10-4

Call us today! 270-753-0000



305 S. 12th St. Murray, KY

*excludes wine, beer, and spirits. Dine-in only.

Dining Guide



Reservations are now being accepted for the spring Dining Guide.
Call 270-809-4491 or email msu.thenewsads@murraystate.edu
to reserve your listing.



SIRLOIN STOCKADE
THE CHOICE IS YOURS™
STEAKHOUSE & BUFFET

932 S. 12TH STREET
MURRAY, KY
270.753.0440
SIRLOINSTOCKADEMURRAY.COM

DELIVERY AVAILABLE 

**ENDLESS CHOICES
FOR EVERYONE!**

**10% STUDENT DISCOUNT
WITH STUDENT ID.**





Spring break marks the arrival of some of college’s greatest things; most notably, a week-long vacation from the schoolyard routine. And while there are many destinations we could go—the sunny but ever-policed

beaches in Miami, a three-day cruise with a Carribean view to boot or even visiting the Western majesty of the Rocky Canyon—there are woefully few stories of where we wind up, and how we use that time.

While the concept of leisure travel traces back to the Ancient Romans, vacations became an enshrined ideal through the first and second Industrial Revolutions, as jobs within America’s cities created more structured, though time-consuming work days.

However, the first official college “spring break” still hadn’t arrived on the scene—and wouldn’t for another thirty-six years, until one fateful summer in 1936.

Sam Ingram was a swimming coach for Colgate University in Hamilton, New York. That year, Ingram brought his team to Ft. Lauderdale; Florida had just built its first Olympic-sized pool. Two years later, it would welcome more than 300 competitive swimmers during the 1938 College Coaches’ Swim Forum.

This swimmers’ tradition later cemented Florida as a prime spring break destination. Where the Boys Are created a sun-kissed fantasy for college students; one where men and women vacationed in Florida to swim, party and even find love. That ideal has remained as strong as ever.

And yet, it remains just as far from reality for many.

Ask enough college students and you’ll start to hear a common thread; school can be intense. The stress of exams, maintaining grades, and sheer rigor in pursuit of knowledge will burn anyone out eventually. A break can be a blessing granted.

However, that doesn’t always have to be an elaborate—and expensive—trip to sandy beaches and blue seas.

Sometimes, just coming home to familiarity can be a resort. These breaks offer the chance to sleep in or even laze around. More than that, vacations like these offer the opportunity to choose: whether it is to enjoy our time with family or dedicate it to forming relationships with new communities across the country.

Life post-graduation doesn’t instinctually remind us when to recharge; barring a return to academia, there are no week-long fall or spring breaks. Few organizations will structure vacations for you, which makes this time all the more precious—and perhaps inspirational.

Traveling down to Miami may not be a present reality for some students, but intentionally taking time for ourselves can be a future worth building. By having these breaks throughout our school careers, it reminds us we can and should do so even after we leave our institutions.

- Scottlynn Ballard

House Bill 509 threatens access to public records

As Kentuckians, our right to information could be radically changed for the worse.

In the Kentucky House of Representatives, House Bill 509 has been making its rounds through committee. This bill entails that public agencies create some sort of officer or officer account to deal with the Open Records Act, but it also amends KRS 61.870’s to adjust the procedures that allow a resident to inspect public records. This change to the definition can affect transparency between the public and public institutions and allows these institutions to hide more information from the public.

How will this bill change transparency between the public and your publicly funded institutions?

The first thing to point out is the exact wording of what a public record is. A public record under KRS 61.870 is “All books, papers, maps... and other documentation regardless of physical form or characteristics which are prepared,

owned, used in the possession of or retained by a public agency.” Under Kentucky law now, it allows for all residents to be able to openly inspect public records.

HB509 would now require substantial compliance with requirements of KRS 61.810, 61.815, 61.820, 61.823, and 61.840 or the shall be voidable by a court with competent jurisdiction. This change can greatly affect ease of access to public records for a resident by requiring a much higher bar to be able to access these records.

The process to access public records before this bill was generally easy. A resident or organization would put in a request to access certain public records, and that public institution would then provide those records or could deny the request which the filing organization could then take them to court to try and get the records and other rewards but now it would require substantial compliance which is then decided

by a court. This addition will weaken the ability to access these records.

Many organizations, such as *The News*, need to be able to have easy access to these records to allow for transparency between the people and our government. With these additions, public agencies will be able to put blockades and deny requests on the grounds that the request wasn’t substantially compliant. Although this decision can be overturned in a court, that will require time and money which most people do not have.

The News believes that this bill is an infringement on the the First Amendment rights of residents and greatly affects the transparency between the public and public agencies. The right to access public records is an important right to Kentuckians, and it should be protected at all costs.

- Nate Hunt

Editorial Board

Jill Smith
Co-Editor-in-Chief/News Editor
jsmith194@murraystate.edu

Jakob Milani
Co-Editor-in-Chief/Sports Editor
jmilani@murraystate.edu

MacKenzie Rogers
Lifestyle Editor
mrogers42@murraystate.edu

Rebeca Mertins Chiodini
Photography Editor
rmertinschiodini@murraystate.edu

Contact Us

2609 University Station
Murray State University
Murray, Kentucky 42071-3301
MurrayStateNews.org

Bri Hunter
Chief Copy Editor
bhunter5@murraystate.edu

Leigh Landini Wright
Faculty Adviser
ewright@murraystate.edu

Scottlynn Ballard
Opinion Editor
sballard11@murraystate.edu

Ania Boutin
Chief Videographer
aboutin@murraystate.edu

Charlee Settle
Social Media Manager
csettle6@murraystate.edu

Caroline Blakeman
Assistant News Editor
cblakeman3@murraystate.edu



The News welcomes commentaries and letters to the editor. Submissions should be 600 words or less, and contributors should include phone numbers for verification. Please include hometown, classification and title or relationship to the University. *The News* reserves the right to edit for style, length and content. No anonymous contributions will be accepted. All contributions should be turned in by noon on Monday of each week via email to msu.the-

news@murraystate.edu.

Contributions to *The News* are the opinion of the author and not that of *The Murray State News*. *The News* is a designated public forum. Student editors have authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval. The paper offers a hands-on learning environment for students interested in journalism.

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.

The News is an independent weekly student-run newspaper published at Murray State. The content does not reflect the opinions of the Murray State Journalism and Mass Communications Department.

Chief Copy Editor reflects on life experiences

Bri Hunter

Chief Copy Editor

bhunter5@murraystate.edu

I am not your average tvshka. Tvshka is a funny word, mainly because it just looks like a typo or a bunch of letters just thrown together. Tvshka is a Choctaw word meaning warrior and can apply to both women and men. Throughout my life so far, I have been fortunate to partake in varying opportunities — all of which have allowed me to realize how special it is to be a woman.

Native American Pride

My dad has taken great pride in his Native American roots for as long as I can remember. Although we aren't official tribal members because we do not meet the blood quantum requirement, we are still proud to have indigenous roots. For those who don't know, Choctaw tribes are matrilineal. This means the bloodline and social status was derived from the clan mothers, or matriarchs. To me, this places a special emphasis on women.

While Western culture has stereotypical roles of homemaker and provider, the uniqueness of women in Choctaw culture is intriguing. From what I learned, they weren't afraid of much. Historically, women were given high consultation when it came to any matter, whether it was engaging in a conflict with another tribe or who their son(s) would marry. Some women would go as far as feeding their husbands arrows during active combat and even taking up their husbands' bows if they fell to injury or sudden death.

While Natives are typically overlooked, I am proud to see representation has increased. In 2018, Deb Haaland (D-N.M.) and Sharice Davids (D-Kan.) became the first Native women to be elected into congressional office. Lily Gladstone was the first Native American woman nominated for an Oscar in the category of Best Actress. Sally Wells, a friend of my late great grandmother, is a Choctaw elder who founded the Native American Indian Association in Nashville and still serves the Native community to this day.

Enlistment

As a young girl, I never knew what I wanted to do with my life. Some of my peers knew they wanted to become doctors or nurses, some wanted to work in an office and others were stuck just as I was.

Little did I know I would enlist in the Army at 17 years old. I had never even considered joining the military until a recruiter contacted me and provided details about benefits I could use. While I am still working on my bachelor's degree in journalism and plan to obtain my master's degree in business administration, I am switching hats constantly.

I joined the Army National Guard as a military police officer before I graduated high school in 2020. I really didn't know what I was getting myself into, but I figured it would at least get me somewhere (and keep me from drowning in student loan debt). I've been able to do some once-in-a-lifetime things so far, such as traveling overseas and working in Washington, D.C., and at local events.



Photo by Military Public Affairs
Kentucky Army National Guard Spc. Bri Hunter and Spc. Abigail Potts conducts a training exercise focusing on tactical combat care.

Some may think that, simply because I am a woman, I don't have a place in the Army. I'll still proudly wear the uniform and serve my country regardless of what anyone thinks. Since my initial enlistment, I have definitely developed a greater sense of confidence in myself and what I can do.

Hammers, nails and other tools

While the Army is the first male-dominated field I've tackled, I didn't know construction would be next. My husband grew up with a background in construction and wanted to open his own business focusing on remodeling and repairs. While we were deployed, he obtained his limited liability corporation from the state in 2022 and got to work once we got home.

With every business, there will be a trial and error phase. I had never considered starting a business, so I didn't feel very useful. I wasn't very involved with it in the beginning because I was catching up on school work. I also didn't care much about physical labor, such as building or repairing.

Since then, I have learned quite a bit about the construction realm. Although my role is to help manage the business, especially in marketing and advertising, being able to help him with odd jobs and new construction has made me grateful I am on this path. My original plan, aside from my Pony Express dream as a child, was to become a news reporter immediately after graduating from Murray State.

Since March is Women's History Month, I think it is important to recognize how resilient and powerful women are. Women have the capability to bring life to the world while also pursuing something great. Some are meant to be homemakers, some to be mothers and others are meant to go another direction in life. No matter what women choose to do, women's effects on the world deserve to be celebrated.



Photo courtesy of Bri Hunter
Hunter poses beside her husband, John Wayne Parish, at Paris Station.

Sanctuary owner creates community

Gray Hawkins

Staff Writer

ghawkins4@murraystate.edu

Local businesses are the hearts of small towns like Murray, Kentucky. Beth Wilhelm-Atkins understands the importance of small businesses better than most.

Wilhelm-Atkins co-owns A Place to Be Farm Sanctuary with her husband Greg Atkins. A Place to Be is a nonprofit livestock rescue that hosts many pet therapy events for the community. For the past 11 years, it has been Calloway County's only sanctuary for abused and displaced farm animals.

The couple inherited a small farm, where they house pigs, goats, horses, chickens and more. Some of the animals come from neglect or hoarding cases in and around Murray. Others were displaced from their original farms by natural disasters. The farm's owners and volunteers dedicate their time to rehabilitating these animals in the hopes that some may be adopted.

The sanctuary gained nonprofit status in 2021. Wilhelm-Atkins said she hesitated to take the nonprofit path because of the intimidating and complicated process. However, a friend with rescue work history helped the couple through the accounting work necessary to start.

Wilhelm-Atkins graduated from Murray State with a degree in music education. While she ultimately decided teaching in public schools was not the path for her, her schooling still helps her at the farm sanctuary.

"I'm able to take what I learned in the education classes and apply it when kids who come out (to the farm) are going through some stuff," Wilhelm-Atkins said.

A Place to Be strives to make a safe space for people as well as animals. Wilhelm-Atkins said as someone

" I'm able to take what I learned in education classes and apply it when kids who come out (to the farm) are going through some stuff.

-Beth Wilhelm-Atkins

who has struggled with depression and anxiety all her life, she knows working with these animals can be very healing. She had the idea to open the farm up to the community and local schools so she could share the farm's comforting atmosphere.

One of the biggest influences that led to the owners' work was the passing of Wilhelm-Atkins's mother. Like her daughter and son-in-law, she cared for livestock and saw them as more than future meals. They used their loss as motivation to help others through hard times.

"We were very fortunate that we were able to take in her animals," Wilhelm-Atkins said. "Dogs and cats are a lot easier to place, whereas livestock, you never know where they end up. A lot of times, it's the dinner table."

She said starting a business was a daunting process, especially as a nonprofit, when success and safety nets are not guaranteed. In the farming industry, the work she and others have done in livestock rescue has not always been taken seriously. However, she said pursuing her work came with the freedom to set her own rules and a sense of community with other local businesses.

Wilhelm-Atkins said knowing other small business owners support and lift each other up is a big part of



Photo courtesy of Beth Wilhelm-Atkins

Owner Beth Wilhelm-Atkins strives to create a safe community, applying her degree at Murray State to her experiences and interactions with visitors.

what keeps her going. As a nonprofit organization, donations and partnerships with other businesses help keep A Place to Be running. Their community programs, like last summer's "Kiss the Pig" fundraising event for teachers' supplies, rely on neighboring organizations that have been nothing but supportive as the farm has thrived in recent years.

"It was worth going through all those hoops to get nonprofit status, and it has actually helped establish stronger bonds with other business owners," Wilhelm-Atkins said. "Small businesses have their own little community, and it's a good one here in Murray."

Needleworking hobby turns into business



MacKenzie Rogers/The News

Owners Janeen Sutton and Susan Williams explore their passions for needlework and how it influenced their entry into the business world.

MacKenzie Rogers

Lifestyle Editor

mrogers42@murraystate.edu

What started as hobbies have long since turned into a business for two passionate needleworkers.

Red Bug Yarn & Gifts opened in 2010 when Trudy McFarlane decided to open a yarn shop. A year later, McFarlane sold the business to Jill McElya, sticking around as a customer and knitting instructor. In 2015, McFarlane reacquired the business and brought in Cindy McDaniel and Susan Williams. McElya and McFarlane both retired in 2019, and in 2021, Janeen Sutton joined the team. At the end of 2023, McDaniel also retired and left the business to the current co-owners, Sutton and Williams.

This is Sutton's "second rodeo" in the business-owning world, as she formerly owned a quilt store from 2000 to 2006. Having learned to knit from her mother, Sutton has spent her entire life knitting while picking up other needlework along the way.

When Sutton joined the team, she brought with her the knowledge she picked up from her previous business venture and her love for all things needlework.

"I learned a lot... when I had the quilt store," Sutton said. "I had a lot to learn. There is so much more to running a business than doing the thing that you like."

Williams, on the other hand, said she never imagined she would one day own a business. Before joining Red Bug Yarn & Gifts, Williams was a guidance counselor and, before that, a teacher.

"I never ever would have said that I was going to be in retail," Williams said. "Nor did I ever imagine that I could take the thing that I enjoyed and have a business with it."

With both owners passionate about yarn and needlework, the two continue to maintain a small space on 4th Street, where they strive to create a sense of community.

"You (can) just come and knit, and if you're not a knitter, crochet (or do) needlepoint," said Williams, referring to the center of the store: a large table where customers can work on their needlework projects alongside others. "We want everybody that comes in to feel like they can sit down and just hang out, knit, crochet, stitch, ponder, get away from it all. That's what drives us."

Outside of selling yarn, the shop offers lessons and beginner classes for those interested in learning how to knit or crochet, but Sutton said she would love to be able to put on bigger workshops or retreats.

"Almost without exception, 99% of the time, it lifts my spirits to walk in that door," Williams said.

The News Reviews: 'Visions' Norah Jones



Photo by Yaffa Phillips.

Norah Jones performing at Bright Eyes in 2007.

Ben Overby
Staff Writer
boverby1@murraystate.edu

Norah Jones' ninth studio album, "Visions," is a soulful assortment of poignant pop songs.

I'm far from a contemporary pop music enthusiast, but there are certain artists that demand my attention. Norah Jones falls into that category. For one thing, any artist who can do justice to Ray Charles' portion of "Seven Spanish Angels" is a formidable vocalist.

Beyond her vocal talent, Jones' skills as a musician also set her apart. Across this album, she plays piano on every track and guitar on most, as well as scattered appearances on other keyboard instruments throughout. "Visions" is a collaboration with producer Leon Michels, who also co-wrote eight of the 12 tracks with Jones.

"The reason I called the album 'Visions' is because a lot of the ideas came in the middle of the night or in that moment right before sleep, and 'Running' was one of them where you're half asleep and kind of jolted awake," Jones said in the album's promotional material. "I like the rawness between me and Leon, the way it sounds kind of garage-y but also kind of soulful, because that's where he's coming from, but also not overly perfected."

I feel "rawness" can be a tricky word when describing music. This album isn't "raw" in terms of harshness like punk or heavy metal music often is. Its rawness

stems more from deep emotion, and the purposeful simplicity of the instrumentation and delivery allows that emotion to shine through unobstructed.

A standout in this regard is "Swept Up in the Night." It has, to me, the most poetic lyrics on the album and one of the best vocal performances. It's a stirring song about love and longing. The album's lead single, "Running," is also excellent. The melody and instrumentation are both enchanting.

Another aspect of Jones' work I appreciate is the fusion of genres that make up her style. The influence of elements of jazz, soul, r&b, rock and country are sprinkled throughout these tracks. Most of these elements are subtle, but one song I found particularly interesting in this regard was "Queen of the Sea." There's a strong riff that I find very reminiscent of early rock 'n' roll.

There is also a sense of playfulness to the album. One example is the chipper delivery of the refrain on the final track, "That's Life." That refrain is simply a repetition of the title, which provides a static through line between verses that encapsulate the highs and lows of life. The nature sounds added to the instrumentation on the opener, "All This Time," also come to mind.

While "Visions" may fall out of the purview of my usual taste, it is a reminder, to me at least, to keep one's ears open to every genre. This album reflects the multitudes of Jones' artistry while still feeling grounded and coherent. All of her influences and experiments converge into a very good piece of modern pop.

Ariana Grande's 'eternal sunshine'

Jakob Milani
Co-Editor in Chief/Sports Editor
jmilani@murraystate.edu

It's been 14 years since fans first saw Ariana Grande on "Victorious" and 11 years since the release of her debut album, "Yours Truly." Now, in 2024, Grande is back with her seventh studio album, "eternal sunshine."

Grande has earned millions of streams and recorded with some of the biggest artists in the world, like Lady Gaga, Mac Miller, Nicki Minaj, Pharrell Williams and many more. However, for "eternal sunshine," Grande handles nearly all of the vocals herself, with just a few lines from her producer, Max Martin.

She did include features from Troye Sivan and Mariah Carey on the deluxe of the album, but the feature from Carey was a remix of the single "yes, and?"

The intro track leads listeners straight into the premise of this album, with Grande saying in the first line, "How can I tell if I'm in the right relationship?"

The song "bye" has Grande saying bye to her current relationship because of the lack of happiness she feels. That is followed up with the song "I don't wanna break up again," which is, ironically, a breakup song. Seems to be a pattern here.

The title track sees Grande reminiscing about a past relationship, perhaps regretting her past mistakes. It's a very vibey song that I definitely return to often. While the tracks before have been about breaking up, "supernatural" seems to be the first real song showing Ariana Grande happy to be in a relationship. It is a phenomenal song, one of my favorites so far.

"True story" feels like a very basic pop, R&B love song you would hear nowadays. The production really carries Grande throughout the track and she doesn't necessarily shine in any specific way.

"The boy is mine" gives off 2000's pop vibes which make me feel nostalgic, and I really enjoy the song for that reason. It's followed by "yes, and?" which is a very dancey club track that makes you, well, dance. Back-to-back solid tracks.

The tenth track, "we can't be friends (wait for your love)," has been one of the more popular since the album's release, but I personally don't really like it. I can see where some people may enjoy it, but it's not for me.

The final three tracks, "i wish i hated you," "imperfect for you" and "ordinary things" are all very good in their own rights. Each one has a different vibe, but hits in its own way.

Looking at the deluxe, there are four songs added, but they are all just different versions of songs on the album. Troye Sivan added a very solid verse to "supernatural," and though it was nice, I think I still prefer the original version.

There is an acoustic version of "imperfect for you," which really adds a certain bit of pain to the song, making it feel more personal or hurtful, even. I love this version of the song.

Then, of course, we have the a cappella version of "true story," which I feel was unnecessary, but is there. Finally, there was the Mariah Carey version of "yes, and?" that falls short of the original and doesn't add anything special.

While this album is solid, I find myself wanting to return to Grande's past music more. I replay songs



Photo by Emma Sheehan

Ariana Grande performs her Dangerous Woman tour on Feb. 19, 2017.

like "Honeymoon Avenue" and "The Way" from her first album to this day. I can see myself listening to some of these tracks again, but overall, I feel like the album was not for me.

That being said, I give this album a 7/10. The production was solid across the entire project, capturing the vibe of the song perfectly most of the time. It was Grande's performance that I wasn't the biggest fan of, as I know what she is capable of and feel she didn't stick the landing.

Parker's passion fuels successful business



Owner Melissa Parker provides insight into her journey in the business world.

Makayla Mckinzie

Contributing Writer

mmckinzie1@murraystate.edu

The Mane Event Salon is a woman-owned business that has been in Murray for the last 36 years. Melissa Parker, the current owner of the salon, took over in 2000.

Mane Event opened its doors in September 1988 under the ownership of Wanda Brown and Brenda Lawson. Parker, who graduated from cosmetology school in 1986, started working at Mane Event shortly after its opening.

Parker's interest in cosmetology began at a young age.

"My mother was going to do that," Parker said. "And so she had an interest in that, but it was way before I was born, but it must have been through her."

When she was a freshman in high school, Parker started to highlight her father's hair.

"It was kind of like a natural thing for me," Parker said. "I just enjoyed the new way of making someone happy, just by changing their haircut is a pretty powerful thing."

Parker had always wanted to own her own business, which led her to take ownership of The Mane Event in 2000. When both of the previous owners retired, she was quick to step in and take on the full-time role.

"I was always there, and I wanted to own my own business, and it was the right thing to do," Parker said.

"I was very fully invested in my clients and taking care of people who I met."

The support from the community not just regarding the salon, but also Parker, has never been short. Community support being one of key factors, into the spark of the salon.

"I've always felt a lot of community support," Parker said. "I feel like I've never been slighted in support because I was a woman."

Some of Parker's clients have been with her since she first began working at the salon, illustrating her connection to her clients and the wider community.

"This industry is a very special place to work in; not many people let you enter their personal space," Parker said. "In this industry, you have the power to change and brighten someone's day, not knowing what that person walks in carrying on their shoulders. Being able to be there to lift them up, and make them feel confident about themselves, is what makes this industry so special."

This industry is important to so many people, younger generations should realize the impact it has on people.

"Just be a listener, even if their haircut just was a trim, and you didn't change their haircut, that conversation alone has helped them," Parker said.

Along with working and running the salon full-time, Parker also travels to different beauty schools in the surrounding areas to talk to them about her journey working in cosmetology, hoping to aid future cosmetologists on their hair adventures.

Alumna advocates for community journalism

Laurel Brown

Staff Writer

lbrown81@murraystate.edu

March is not only Women's History Month but also Colon Cancer Awareness Month. As the owner and editor of *The Crittenden Press*, Allison Mick-Evans utilizes the paper as an outlet for inspiration amongst her community. As a colon cancer survivor, she has used this platform to do so much more.

The Mick family's ownership of *The Crittenden Press* began in the '50s, when Evans' grandfather bought the paper. Evans' journey into journalism began two generations before her, when her grandfather became the publisher of *The Crittenden Press*.

"I hesitate to say that I would even be in the newspaper business if it weren't for my family," Evans said.

As a third generation member of the journalism industry, teenager Evans was introduced into the paper during the '80s. Like today, she worked as a photographer for *The Press*.

Evans went to Western Kentucky University but transferred to Murray State after her first year. Being immediately placed into print journalism classes and having a deep-rooted history in news writing, she was undoubtedly going to serve as the editor for *The Murray State News*. Being editor of *The Murray State News* allowed Evans to be a strong female leader. However, she also had to navigate situations where, as a woman, she was not always comfortable.

"I had to go and cover the Board of Regents meetings, and talk about intimidating," Evans said. "There

may have been one woman on the board, but I can't remember."

While covering meetings like the Board of Regents, Evans was put into a position that a young woman historically did not fit into. Regardless, she never allowed herself to submit and continuously persevered.

"I just had to push through," she said. "I had to learn to do the best I knew how even though I didn't know how."

Reflecting on how she overcame these challenging moments, Evans noted just how important the college experience was for her.

"Every experience I had in college and as editor prepared me for all the more difficult things," she said.

Today, Evans owns and operates *The Crittenden Press* with her husband Chris Evans. Together they also have three children. A community-oriented family, they raised their children attending the Marion United Methodist Church and playing nearly every sport Crittenden County Schools had to offer.

Being a mom, Evans has found some difficulty in reporting on the activities her children are involved in, but nonetheless has managed to find a balance.

"There's been many times since Elliot started playing high school ball that I'm playing mom, bookkeeper and photographer," Evans said. "It's hard sometimes when I'm on the sideline with my camera 'cause I try not to be that annoying mom cheering for her, but I am a mom."

If being a female journalist and a multitasking mother wasn't enough to be an inspiration in a small-town community, Evans photographing and reporting

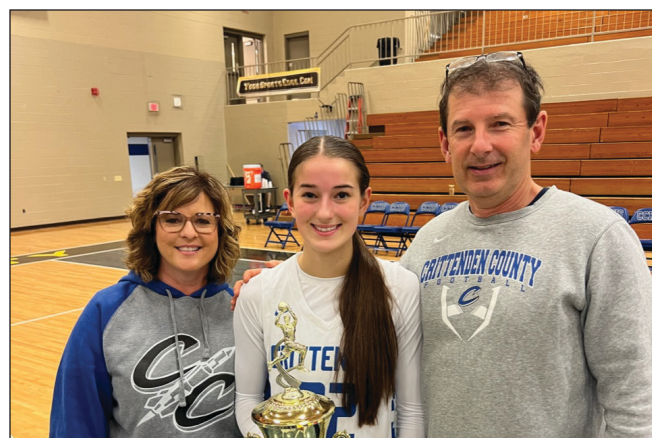


Photo courtesy of Allison Evans
Evans celebrates with her husband Chris and daughter Elliot, after the Lady Rockets won the 2nd Region All A Classic in January.

through chemo and becoming a colon cancer survivor sure was. Two years ago, during a routine colonoscopy, she received a life-altering diagnosis.

"I had a portion of my colon removed and had six months of chemotherapy," Evans said.

Scan this QR code
to read more



AT. YOUR. SERVICE.

LOCAL BUSINESSES OFFERING
SERVICES EVERYONE NEEDS!



**Women's Health
of Murray**

270.762.1562

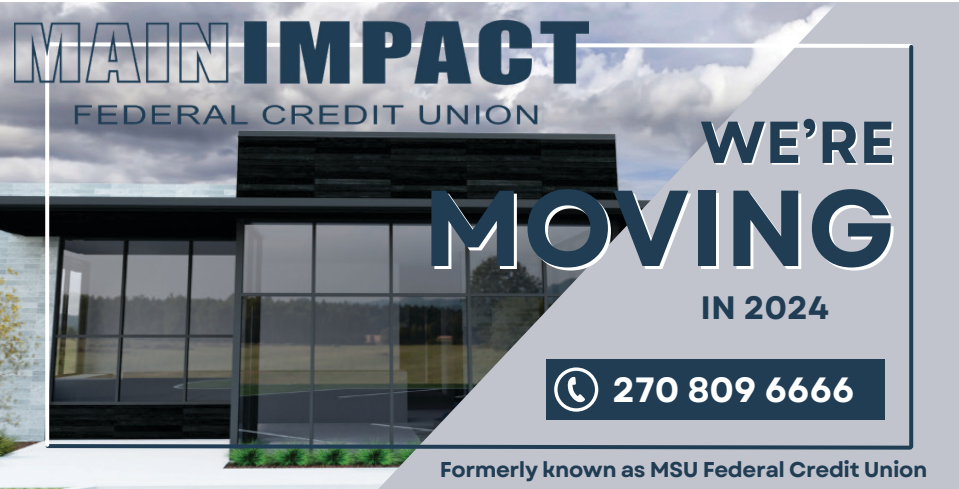


MAIN IMPACT
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

**WE'RE
MOVING**
IN 2024

📞 270 809 6666

Formerly known as MSU Federal Credit Union



**Max's
641 Towing & Service**

 **24 Hour
Service**





270.753.9131 🚚 516 S. 12th St. (U.S. Hwy. 641 S. Murray)



**SULLIVAN
DENTAL**

Modern dental practice in southwest Kentucky

Accepting new patients |

CONTACT US

(270) 753-1206 📞
mymurraydentist.com 🌐

Now open

**Paducah
DERMATOLOGY**



Monday-Friday 8am-4pm
270-761-8477

Murray satellite office

**1710 Highway 121N,
Northpoint Office Park, Suite I**



Natalie Travis, PA-C


College of Education and Human Services

**KENTUCKY
NEEDS
EDUCATORS!**



Scan QR Code to
learn more!

<http://www.murraystate.edu/coehs>

Call 270-809-4478 or email msu.thenewsads@murraystate.edu
to reserve your space in At.Your.Service.

More than just radio.

Trustworthy News.

Music Discovery.

Community.

From student reporters gaining real-world experience in our award-winning newsroom, to playing local music & being active in our community, WKMS is proud to be Murray State's NPR Station.



See the headlines, stream music, and find community events at wkms.org!

PREVIEW: Racers go hooping in the Heartland

Ronan Summers
Staff Writer
rsommers6@murraystate.edu

In the world of college basketball, the month of March brings an entirely new level of excitement to the game every season.

Dreams are either made or crushed in this portion of the season. Teams go on Cinderella runs deep into post-season tournaments. Names are made in March.

After going 3-2 in the last five games of the season, the Murray State Racers head to Moline, Illinois, to participate in the Missouri Valley Conference tournament, "Hoops in the Heartland."

The MVC Tournament seeds each team based off of their conference record. If two teams have the same conference record, their overall record is used as a tiebreaker.

The Racers enter the tournament as the sixth seed after going 12-8 against conference opponents and 19-10 overall. Their first tournament game will

be at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 14 against the Bradley Beacons.

The Beacons are the eleventh seed in the MVC Tournament after going 2-18 in MVC play and 6-25 this season. The Racers defeated the Beacons both times during the regular season. Murray State hosted the first matchup, and won the game 99-52. The two teams clashed in the Racers' regular season finale, where Murray State picked up an 81-64 road win.

Of the four Racers to average double-digit points, senior forward Katelyn Young led the team and the MVC in points per game, averaging 19.7 points.

Junior forward Ava Learn averaged 10.9 points, and freshman guard Haven Ford averaged 10.3 points this season, with both of them coming off of the bench. Senior forward Hannah McKay finished the season averaging 10.2 points.

The Racers led the MVC in points per game (85.52) and finished the season with the second-best field-goal percentage in the conference (45%),



Jakob Milani/The News

The Racers' bench explodes in celebration after a play from freshman guard Zoe Stewart.

but they allowed the second-most points per game (76.17). Murray State was no slouch in the rebound game, as they had the third-best rebound margin (+4.14).

The winner of the matchup between Murray State and Bradley will go on to play at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, March 15, against the third-seed Missouri State Bears.

The Bears went 15-5 in MVC play and 21-8 overall.

The winner of that game will play at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 16, in the semi-finals.

If the Racers were to make it to the semi-finals, either Belmont, University of Illinois-Chicago or Valparaiso would be their opponent.

The MVC Championship will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 17.

If you cannot make it to Moline this weekend for Hoops in the Heartland, you can watch every game live on ESPN+.

STUDENTS ARE THE HEART OF MURRAY STATE. WE WANT TO RECOGNIZE THEM FOR HELPING OTHERS.



Hey there, Racers! As part of our commitment to making a positive impact in our community, we're gearing up to launch an exciting student philanthropy campaign. But we can't do it alone - we need YOUR input to make it a success!

Send your input to Walter Steely, Assistant Director of Annual Giving at wsteely1@murraystate.edu



MURRAY STATE
UNIVERSITY

Office of Development



Photos by Brock Culp/*The News*

Left: Men's head coach Steve Prohm calls a play for the team during a game against the Valparaiso Beacons.

Right: Women's head coach Rechelle Turner looks toward the bench in disappointment during the Racers' game against the Belmont Bruins.

Opinion: What's the wage gap at Murray State?

Jakob Milani

Co-Editor in Chief/Sports Editor
jmilani@murraystate.edu

The gender wage gap has been a hot topic for a long time. In college basketball, where more and more women are taking over as coaches, that gap is still noticeable and that remains true at Murray State.

Murray State has seen both the ups and downs of basketball in the University's second year in the Missouri Valley Conference, though the success came from the program that few expected.

Rechelle Turner, head coach of the women's basketball team at Murray State, led her team to a 19-10 record overall and a 12-8 record in the MVC, grabbing the six-seed in the MVC tournament.

On the flip side, Steve Prohm, head coach of the men's basketball team,

coached his team to a 12-20 record overall and a 9-11 record in conference play, with the Racers' season ending in the first round of the MVC tournament.

Turner has a decorated career in her seven years as head coach. In the 2020-21 season, her fourth season as head coach, she led the Racers to its first season above .500 in wins in both overall record and conference play.

The next season, the Racers tied the program record of 22 wins in a season and competed in the Women's National Invitational Tournament. Now, in the 2023-24 season, Turner and her team are set to make the Racers' first run at the NCAA Tournament since the 2007-08 season and the program's second appearance at March Madness ever.

Prohm's career has also had a lot of ups at Murray State, including a 104-29 record

across his first four seasons as coach from 2011-15. During that time, the Racers made it to the NCAA tournament once in 2012, participated in the NIT twice and the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament once.

After his first stint at Murray State, Prohm left for Iowa State University before returning to the Racers in 2022. He has yet to make it past the second round of the MVC Tournament in his two seasons.

So, with the extended success of Turner at the helm of the women's side and the lack of success from Prohm on the men's side, the question becomes: Are they making what they are worth?

People can say things like "the men's program is more profitable" or "people don't go to the women's games." However, it's hard to argue against the two teams' finishes this

past season and how great Turner has been as a coach in the program's second team in a much harder conference.

Here's what the money looks like: Over four years, from 2022 to 2026, Prohm makes \$395,000 per year, plus \$125,000 per year from radio and TV appearances.

Turner, after her extension a few years ago, makes \$110,000 per year. No radio, no TV, no other sort of pay. Turner is one of just 11 female coaches on campus and the one of two that are head coaches.

According to The Collegian, the average gap nationally between head coaches for men's teams and head coaches for women's teams has been shrinking since 2016, with men's coaches making just under \$192k and women's coaches making around \$112k in 2021. Three of Turner's assistants make \$50k or more

per year, with three other coaches across campus making between \$40k and \$50k a year.

Murray State has earned over \$3 million in donations to the athletic department since the start of 2024, but the budget remains the same for these salaries.

While Turner doesn't have the question of being fired next to her name, Prohm is on the hot seat heading into the 2024-25 season, as he has put together just one winning season over the last four years.

It's a conversation that has been happening for years and will probably continue to happen in the coming future. Should women's coaches earn more due to higher success, or should the men's programs continue to lead the way in terms of pay? The change seems to be coming, but it could still be years before we see equal pay.



214 North 15th Street, Murray
(270) 761-4444
www.theburritoshacker.com

We're now serving breakfast!

Monday - Saturday:
Breakfast: 6:30 — 10:45 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
(closed Sundays)



Look for our app
in the app store!

Murray State's own home cooking.