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**Calendar of Events**

**National Agriculture Week: Collegiate Farm Bureau information session**  
Thursday, March 30 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.)  
Curriss Center

The Murray State Collegiate Farm Bureau will host games, give out prizes, share recipes and teach students how to stock their kitchens.

**Cinema International**  
Thursday, March 30 (7:30 p.m.)  
Saturday, April 1 (7:30 p.m.)  
Faculty Hall Room 108

Cinema International hosts a showing of the Chilean film "Machua."

**Una Voce and EQ Blu**  
Sunday, April 2 (2 p.m.)  
Performing Arts Hall

Choral ensemble Una Voce and a cappella ensemble EQ Blu will perform a concert free to the public.

**German Language Table**  
Monday, April 3 (4:30 p.m.)  
Collins Center for Industry and Technology Conference Room 206

Students of any level will have an opportunity to practice their German in an informal setting.

**Spring Games Week: Trivia Night**  
Tuesday, April 4 (5-7 p.m.)  
Waterfield Library

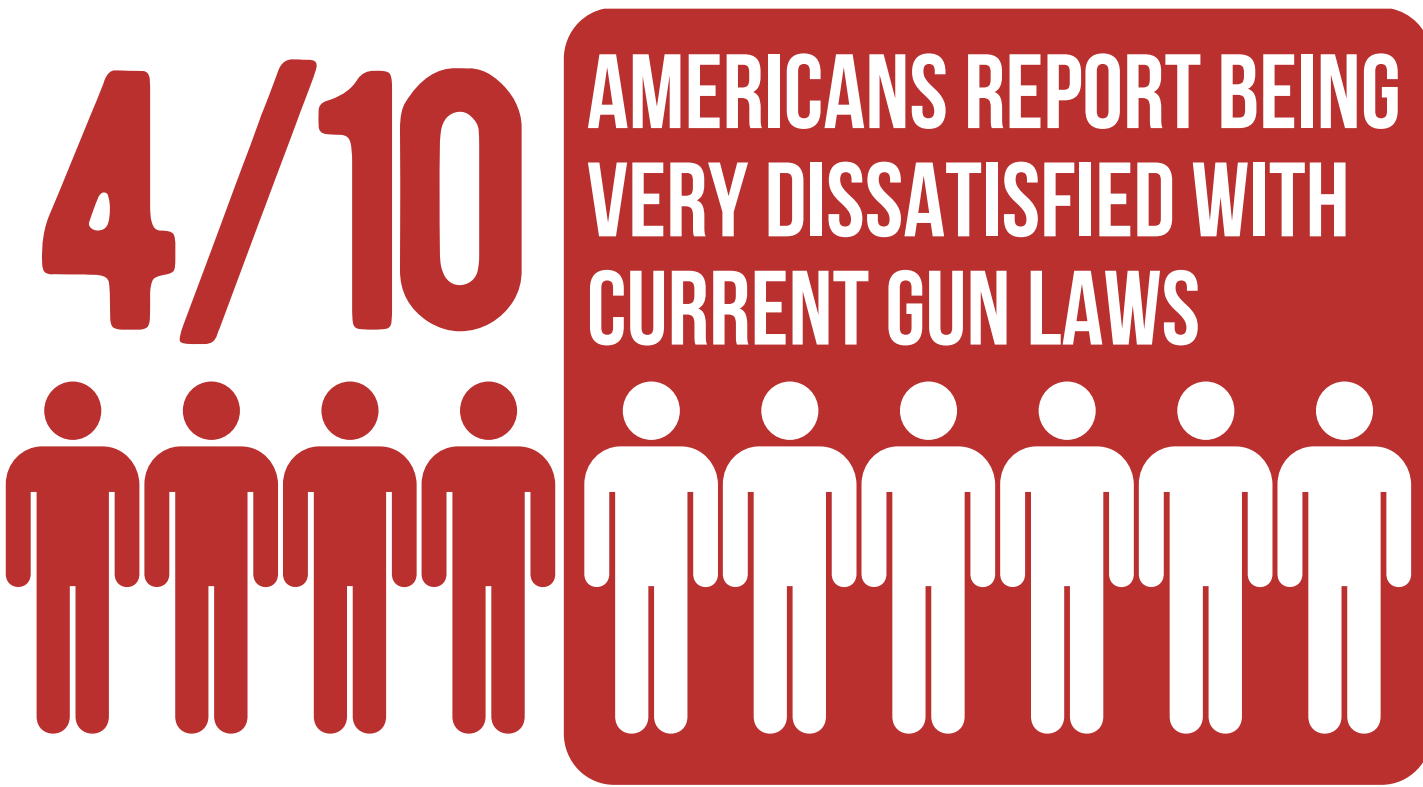
Trivia will be played in teams of three to four. Refreshments and prizes are provided.

**Swing into Spring**  
Tuesday, April 4 (7:30-9:30 p.m.)  
Lovett Auditorium

The Swing into Spring concert will features the Jazz Ensemble, including the Jazz Band, Jazz Orchestra and the Jazz

**Murray State Reading Series: Matt Bell**  
Wednesday, April 5 (7:30-8:30 p.m.)  
Faculty Hall Room 208

Author Matt Bell will visit Murray State to read from his work and talk about his journey as an author.



In 2023, 23% of Americans were somewhat dissatisfied with current gun laws, while 40% were very dissatisfied (Source: news.gallup.com/poll/1645/guns). Dionte Berry/The News

**Kentucky gun bills focus on colleges**

**Jill Smith**  
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Kentucky Rep. Savannah Maddox, R-Dry Ridge, introduced two bills aimed at easing gun restrictions on college campuses, but both have failed to receive enough votes to pass the House. House Bill 542 would prevent public colleges and universities from banning guns on their campus, and House Bill 138 would work to eliminate gun-free zones on college campuses. Maddox cited the Michigan State University shooting as the catalyst for introducing these bills. "Banning firearms on campus is clearly not a deterrent for those who would willingly harm others," Maddox said in a committee meeting about the bill. "Yet it

ensures innocent victims are defenseless in the face of the unthinkable." HB 542, originally written to address workforce development, was a "shell bill" that would allow people to conceal carry firearms at colleges, universities and other postsecondary education campuses in Kentucky.

**“ While I strongly believe in the Second Amendment, there are certain areas like our public schools that is appropriate not to allow weapons and concealed weapons... ”**  
— Andy Beshear, Kentucky Governor

A "shell bill" is when legislators file a low-stakes bill late in the legislative session in order to

later amend it to include often controversial legislative proposals. These are amended at the last minute, typically to limit public input. In a statement, Maddox said this bill would allow Kentucky citizens to exercise their Second Amendment rights. "I feel as the Kentucky General Assembly has a responsibility to do away with ineffective policies such as gun-free [zones], which are clearly proven not to work and not to keep our citizens safe," Maddox said. Executive Director of Government and Institutional Relations Jordan Smith said "shell bills" are very common toward the end of the legislative session.

see **GUN LAWS**, page 2

**State lawmakers take on hot button issues**

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**Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear veto of anti-trans bill overridden.**  
Senate Bill 150, which easily passed the Kentucky House and Senate by votes of 75-22 and 30-7 respectively, bans all gender-affirming care for transgender youth in the state of Kentucky. This bill would also allow Kentucky teachers to refuse to use a student's pronouns and force doctors to medically detransition all trans youth in Kentucky. Beshear's veto was overridden Wednesday, March 29, by the Republican legislative supermajority. Only a simple majority vote was necessary to override the governor's veto.

**Executive order limits U.S. use of spyware**  
President Joe Biden signed an executive order Monday, March 27, limiting the U.S. government's usage of NSO Group's tech spyware Pegasus. This spyware allows governments to access smartphones to read text messages and emails from these devices. However, this order does not ban all spyware usage by the government.



The 2023 Kentucky legislative session is set to conclude today. Photo courtesy of kentucky.gov

The virtually untraceable Pegasus software is highly criticized for its use as a deterrent to free speech, and its use against human rights organizations in other countries.

**Law enforcement legislation signed by Beshear**  
Senate Bill 89 and House Bills 380 and 540 passed Beshear on Friday, March 24. SB 89 allows the rehiring of retired law enforcement officers and lets them retain their retirement benefits. HB

380 loosens restrictions on training for officers, allowing them to enter basic training before the age of 21 as long as they turn 21 before the end of training. HB 540 would also expand Beshear's previous legislation that provides funding for student resource officers in public schools to include private and parochial schools.

see **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**, page 3

# RCA members reflect on hosting conference

**Ava Chuppe**

Senior Writer

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Murray State's Residential College Association (RCA) hosted the South Atlantic Association of College and University Residence Halls (SAACURH) Regional Business Conference, bringing in 28 universities and 150 attendees.

The latter organization, one of the largest affiliates of the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH), was founded in 1968 to promote satisfactory experiences for students living on college campuses.

The SAACURH region comprises universities in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and the Bahamas.

Each region within NACURH holds two conferences each year. The Regional Leadership Conference is held in the fall, and the Regional Business Conference is held in the spring. The organization relies on member schools to host both events.

RCA President and Conference Chair Nicholas Novotka said Murray State has been affiliated with the organization for decades.

"It's a business conference because it's small," Novotka said. "You're meant to only bring five people at most per institution, whereas at the spring one...you're encouraged to bring sometimes 10 people because it's a leadership



Residential College Association members network with students from across the South. *Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News*

conference, so there's more networking, games and opportunities."

In contrast to the Leadership Conference, Novotka said the Business Conference incorporates more legislation and case studies.

"They would have a presentation about, say, you're put in a situation where you're the president for the year, but you have no exec," Novotka said. "How do you go about recruiting people and planning for the rest of the year? People then give their input. ...It's a way for people to learn from other people from across the country, in our region, what to do."

The conference also allowed students to present bids for board positions. It allots awards for the region's best residential college programs and the students and advisers behind them.

Novotka said Murray State's role was to build a space for such activities to happen.

"All we had to do was literally provide the avenues for 150 people across nine or so different states to be able to travel, whether by air or car, shuttle them if they need to from the airport, house them in a hotel," Novotka said. "It allows everyone to network, learn things, get perspectives."

Novotka said the conference was the most influential learning experience in his life to date.

"I've said this a lot over the course of the few months, but it literally takes a team to put something on like this," Novotka said. "I think that is a perfect example for anything you do in the future. You want to put on a big event? You want to work on a huge project? You want to make a change? You need a team of people behind you to help make it happen."

The team of students took about five months to prepare for the conference.

Hospitality Co-Chair Tessa Bradley said being a part of the team taught her to be more communicative and open to asking for help when she needed it.

"None of the chairs had ever worked on anything of this scale before, so we all had to rely on each other to give feedback and advice," Bradley said. "Transparency really was key to the success of this conference because without it we wouldn't have been able to work together as a team and support one another's efforts."

Bradley's position meant she was responsible for coordinating break-room activities and purchasing snacks and goodies for attendees. At first, she said planning was difficult because the group did not have a set budget or know how many people would attend.

"Trying to get things done with minimal information was stressful at times, but our advisor and conference chair always helped to point us in the right direction," Bradley said. "We just had to work with what we had, adjust our plans as the conference crept closer and have faith that everything would turn out right in the end."

Though several team members came in unaware of their responsibilities, Novotka said they became independent with patience and teamwork.

"It showed them there's more than just what happens in my building down the hall," Novotka said. "There's a whole thing above us, there's opportunities that you just have no idea about. Once you get involved...the sky's the limit, really. Doing the conference just really showed that."

## GUN LAWS, from page 1

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education sent a letter in opposition of HB 542 to Kentucky legislators on March 9.

The letter calls for legislators to consider the safety concerns posed by the bill. All Kentucky public college and university presidents, including President Bob Jackson, signed the letter in opposition of HB 542.

"...College campuses play a unique role in our communities and should be afforded special protections," according to the letter. "For our colleges and universities to fulfill their goal of educating our future workforce in an environment where ideas are freely exchanged, students must feel that campuses are generally safe from violence."

While the bill passed in the Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection Committee with a vote of 16-3, the bill failed to receive enough votes to pass the House.

**“Therefore, just as we do every legislative session, we will do everything we can to educate lawmakers on the concerns voiced by our students, faculty and staff on this issue and others.”**

— Jordan Smith, Executive Director of Governmental and Institutional Relations

Maddox said in a Tweet it was a sad day in Kentucky after HB 542 failed to pass.

"Neither the Democrats nor the governor can stop good legislation from passing in Kentucky with our Republican supermajority," Maddox said.

Smith said the University appreciates the legislators who voiced their concerns about HB 542.

"President Jackson and I also have met with lawmakers

throughout the session voicing our concerns on this legislation, as well as many other pieces of legislation that would negatively impact our Murray State students, faculty and staff," Smith said.

Student Government Association President Ellie McGowan, the executive board and SGA Governmental Relations Chair Luke Wyatt also voiced their concerns with this bill on a recent trip to Frankfort.

On HB 138, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said he supports Second Amendment rights but questions the specifics of the bill.

"While I strongly believe in the Second Amendment, there are certain areas like our public schools that it is appropriate not to allow weapons and concealed weapons, specifically," Beshear said in a statement. "That's why I also believe that we each [have] to work to get a school resource officer in each of our public schools trained and ready to ensure that the worst fear that we have as parents never happens."

As Kentucky legislators discuss the prevalence of guns on college campuses, Smith said mental health and personal safety are important to Murray State administration for the 2023 legislative cycle.

"Therefore, just as we do every legislative session, we will do everything we can to educate lawmakers on the concerns voiced by our students, faculty and staff on this issue and others," Smith said. "We also encourage students to reach out to our many mental health counseling opportunities on campus through the Counseling Center and Psychological Center at any time."

Kentucky's 2023 legislative session ended today. These high-profile bills will die in the House with no votes or introduction.



Racers Helping Racers food pantry is located in Blackburn Science Building Room 144. *Jill Smith/The News*

## University food pantry focuses on food insecurity

**Jill Smith**

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Food insecurity affects 40% of college students according to a study from counter.org. Murray State is one of many universities hoping to alleviate this problem through an on-campus food pantry.

The Racers Helping Racers food pantry opened Feb. 14, 2014, with the intent to help students succeed in college. The food pantry is open to all students.

Curriss Center and Student Life Director Re'Nita Avery said food insecurity is a problem at Murray State.

"We have a lot of different students that come in," Avery said. "You have those students that are regulars that come in, and then you have those students that come in that didn't know about the pantry on campus."

The pantry offers students a variety of items including breakfast items, ready-to-eat meals, vegetables and toiletries.

The pantry currently is in need of ready-to-eat meals and breakfast items Avery said.

"Our biggest hot commodity items are breakfast, so cereal and granola bars and ready-to-eat meals for sure," Avery said. "We have been out of those for a while."

For those interested in donating, contact the leader of your student organization. Avery said student organizations bring in a lot of donations.

"We really appreciate student organizations," Avery said. "They come in and raise food for us, so that's where students can actually help with raising food for the pantry."

Student organizations can contact the Curriss Center and Student Life office at 270-809-6119 about organizing a food drive and finding out which items are needed, Avery said. Once in contact with the office, organizations will then receive a Google Doc of needed items.

Avery said they also receive donations from both alumni and community members.

see **FOOD PANTRY**, page 3

# JPEGMAFIA, Danny Brown experiment with rap on new album

**Dionte Berry**

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Riding along the outer limits of rap, "SCARING THE H\*\*\*" is a maximalist maelstrom of hip-hop experimentation engineered by a boundary-pushing duo who have carved their own respective lanes in the music world.

Bursting at the seams, "SCARING THE H\*\*\*" is a joint album by rappers Barrington DeVaughn Hendricks and Daniel Dewan Sewell, better known as JPEGMAFIA and Danny Brown.

Both rappers gained traction in the music world in the early 2010s. Before becoming JPEGMAFIA, Hendricks' stage name was Devon Hendryx, and under that moniker, he released the mixtapes "The Ghost Pop Tape" in 2013 and "Communist Slow Jams" in 2015. Both introduced him as a bold and politically fueled lyricist with an experimental production style.

His 2016 debut studio album "Black Ben Carson" solidified his voice and style.

After gaining a following for releasing several mixtapes, Sewell released his 2010 debut studio album "The Hybrid," which introduced listeners to his life and upbringing in Detroit, Michigan. His 2012 sophomore album "XXX" received critical praise, further cements his place on the music map.

When "SCARING THE H\*\*\*" was announced, I was excited for the collaboration because both Hendricks and Sewell are standout talents in the hip-hop world who work against the grain, and by doing so, they have gained dedicated followings.

Despite the album being a collaboration, "SCARING THE H\*\*\*" takes listeners on a ride through the Peggy-verse, with each song marked by Hendricks' distinct producer touch.

Across the 14-track album, Hendricks incorporates samples from early 2000s R&B and hip-hop songs, beat changes and an electronic influence. Overall, it holds a microscope to detail, packing an array of sounds into one song.

Often, one song sounds as if it's a combination of two or more, which can be said about



Album cover courtesy of spotify.com

"SCARING THE H\*\*\*" was released on Friday, March 24 under AWAL Records.

the album's dynamic opener and lead single, "Lean Beef Patty."

Starting with a jittery and warped interpolation of "I Need A Girl (Pt. 2)" by rapper Sean Diddy Combs, Hendricks raps over the sample, which builds into booming bass kicks and writhing synths. After a beat-focused bridge, Sewell is saved for the song's finale.

"Lean Beef Patty" was first played on Sewell's podcast, "The Danny Brown Show." I was amazed at the many diverse sounds the duo were able to pack into a song not even two minutes long.

Hendricks and Sewell stretch their legs on track two, "Steppa Pig," which is over three minutes long. The song still maintains an intricate sense of production but feels less dense than "Lean Beef Patty." Hendricks does a great job of controlling the energy with high and low moments.

Grinding bass and twinkling synths gives the listener a headrush during Sewell's opener, but during Hendricks' verse, the energy calms down, only to amp back up before coming back down toward the end of the song.

The title track, "SCARING THE H\*\*\*," is the track that is least like

the others, with a more industrial approach. The song begins with clapping to hold the beat and is then joined by a clarinet. By the one minute mark, both of these disjointed yet strangely harmonic elements are pulled together by a grinding beat.

I also enjoy the sentiment of the song because it shows Hendricks and Sewell know their audience. The pair knows this is an ambitious project that may not reach or be favored by mainstream rap listeners.

"Burfict!" features a brass ensemble, which adds a sense of grandeur and regality to the song. Hendricks' and Sewell's lyrics really shine through here. The song is heavy, but gives the listener a moment to breathe in between denser and more volatile tracks.

I like seeing them take a moment to venture beyond electronic themes.

"Shut Yo B\*\*\*\* A\*\* Up / Muddy Waters" is a standout track with multiple vocal interpolations in the instrumental. Sewell takes on the "Shut Yo B\*\*\*\* A\*\* Up" half of the song, and Hendricks finishes the song with "Muddy Waters."

Sewell's half of the song sounds as if it's about to croak, but Hendricks breathes life back into it in a way that made me do a double take. The main thread between the halves is the vocal interpolation.

The transition feels like day and night, with Hendricks' half having an undeniable dark electronic jive to it.

"Kingdom Hearts Key" feels like music that could be from a Tekken game especially with the "KO" sample. The song has the album's only feature, 18-year-old American rapper redveil who closes out the song.

Being younger and newer to the game, I was worried whether redveil could hold up to Hendricks and Sewell, but his verse is solid and fits the energy of the song.

This wouldn't be a Hendricks project if he didn't poke fun at a mainstream rapper. That's where "Jack Harlow Combo Meal" comes in: Backed by a piano and a streaming beat, Hendricks' verse shines.

During a slow moment of the song, Hendricks raps, "You get used to these crackers accusin' you / When you Black, it's a regular thing." Hendricks has always had the talent of being able to insert social commentary in casual ways because at this point, racism is casual.

Overall, "SCARING THE H\*\*\*" is the essence of what a collaborative album should be. It oozes with Sewell's and Hendricks' personalities and is like nothing else in the pair's discography.

I don't understand how the duo could pluck these samples and think to themselves, "This will make for a solid track," but I love it. On most of the tracks, there are voices in the background instrumental, but it doesn't clash with the duo's vocals.

Hendricks does an amazing production job. Some songs feel overcrowded by the instrumental, but for those denser songs, they all have shorter runtimes, so they don't feel suffocating.

I'm certain "SCARING THE H\*\*\*" will be blaring through my earbuds and car speakers for months to come. For this collaborative experience, "SCARING THE H\*\*\*" deserves a nine out of 10.

On his Twitter, Hendricks said the album was volume one, and I hope he means it because I would love to see more of the duo making hits together.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, from page 1

### Biden signs executive order to reduce gun violence

In response to the Monterey Park shooting, Biden created an executive order to fight the rising gun violence epidemic. In addition to requesting a bipartisan bill banning assault weapons, the order requires the attorney general to enforce background checks for gun sellers in states that require them. Biden also plans on working with his Cabinet members to encourage the usage of and educate state leaders on the benefits of red flag laws, which allow temporary court injunctions to prevent a person from purchasing or owning a gun if they pose a risk to themselves or others.

### Book banning bill passed into law without governor's signature

Senate Bill 5, introduced by Sen. Jason Howell, R-Murray, would give parents more discretion in deciding which materials are available to their children in school and what teachers are allowed to teach their students. The bill garnered criticism from members of the LGBTQ+ community, as the bill could easily be used to discriminate against books written by LGBTQ+ authors or regarding LGBTQ+ topics. Beshear refused to take action on the bill and allowed it to become law without his signature.

## FOOD PANTRY, from page 2

"We receive donations from alumni," Avery said. "They might see it in the parent's weekly email, so we have community members that give to the food pantry, and Needline still gives to the pantry when we are running low on items."

The Murray-Calloway County Needline is a social welfare program offering food initiatives and other need-based programs.

The Curris Center and Student Life Office promote the food pantry around the University and in weekly newsletters.

"We put it in the 'Greek Weekly,' which is a big population of the students here on campus, and we'll also sporadically post on the Racer Bulletin," Avery said. "If there's people that don't know about it, I'm trying to see if we can put [flyers] in the residential colleges."

Avery said the time of the year can impact the number of students visiting the pantry.

"Usually, towards the end of the semester, we see a bit of an increase, and then just a steady flow throughout the semester," Avery said.

Since January 2022, the pantry has seen 136 students used the service and another 28 students using curbside pickup.

The food pantry offers curbside pickup for students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m to 2 p.m according to murraystate.edu.

**Racers helping Racers**

For Questions, please contact The Curris Center Administration Office at 270-809-6921

Curbside Food Pantry  
Tuesday Thursday

**Food Pantry for Students**  
**270-809-4499**  
244 Blackburn Science Bldg.  
msu.racershelpingracers@murraystate.edu

Graphic courtesy of murraystate.edu  
The Racers Helping Racers Food Pantry serves to help those who need food assistance.

Curbside pickup started during the COVID-19 shutdown to ensure students had access to the food pantry.

For curbside pickup, students can fill out a form online and list what items they are in need of. Avery's office will box up the requested items and bring the box to the student's vehicle.

Avery said a lot of students are using the curbside pickup—about 103 students per month.

Students visiting the pantry for the first time will be required to fill out an application,

and returning students will fill out an abbreviated form.

Students can visit the Racers Helping Racers Food Pantry located in Blackburn Science Building Room 244 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m to 2 p.m during the regular semester. "During summer and winter break, students can visit the pantry Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m to 2 p.m." Students can also visit murraystate.edu/campus/CurrisCenter/racershelpingracers.aspx to sign up for curbside pickup.

# Our view: TikTok ban rooted in xenophobia, fear of Gen Z

TikTok's 150 million U.S. users could find themselves without their favorite app after a highly aggressive congressional hearing about its potential security risks.

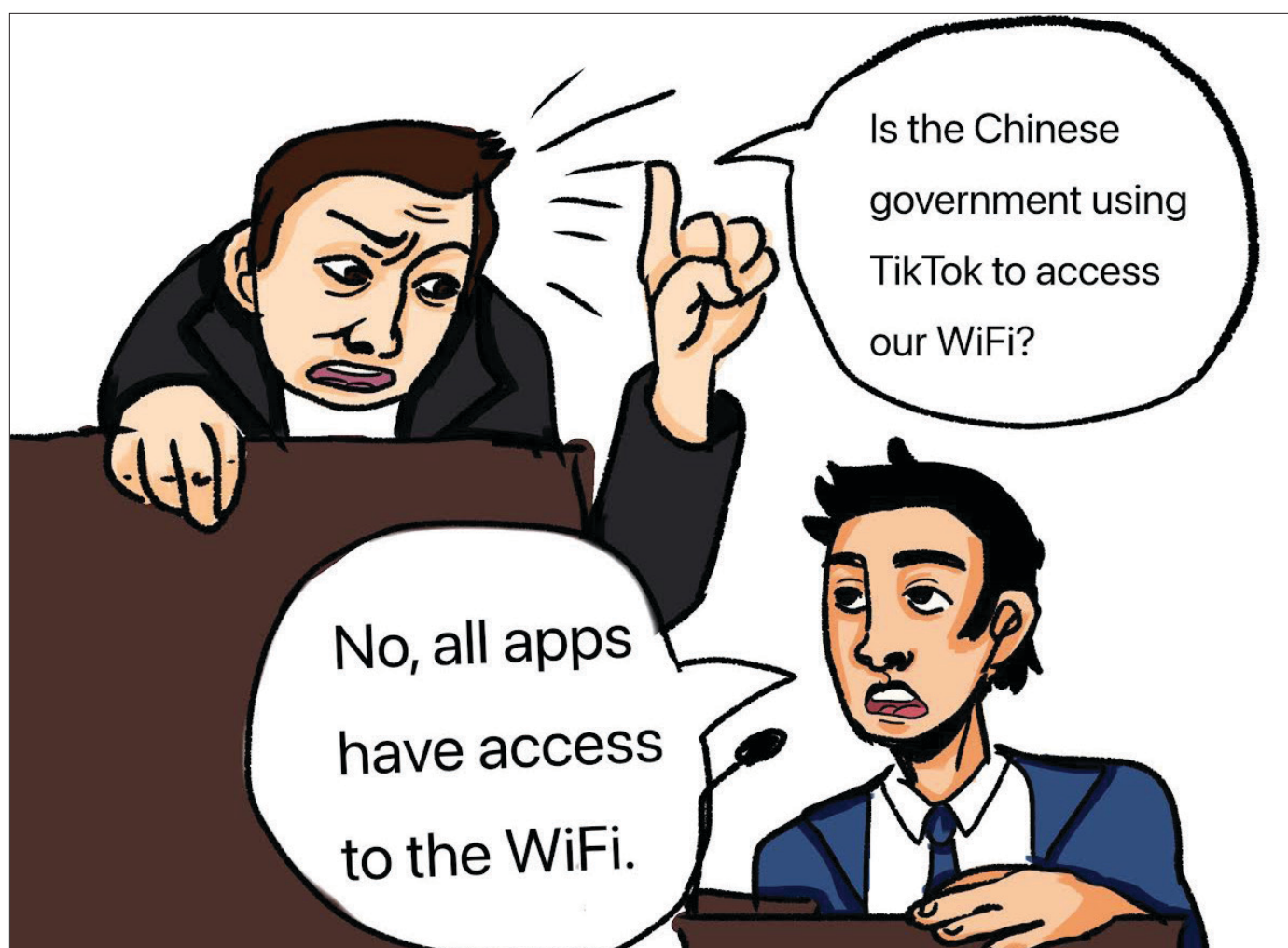
TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew detailed the privacy policies of the app and the speculated relationship to the Chinese Communist Party during a March 23 hearing held by the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

The committee's speculation is fueled by TikTok's parent company, ByteDance, locating its headquarters in Beijing. The concern over ByteDance comes from a Chinese law that states any Chinese company must turn over all user data if the Chinese government requests it. This sentiment seems worrying at first glance, but TikTok has begun storing all U.S. user data in the storage platform Oracle. This data-shifting plan is known as Project Texas.

The hearing itself was seemingly decided from the start. Chair Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Washington, began the hearing by claiming TikTok should be banned, which set the tone for an extremely contentious hearing with very little time for Chew to respond to the representatives' targeted questions. The representatives bombarded Chew with seemingly unrelated questions about communism and even how wi-fi in the home works.

This congressional hearing proves two things to the U.S. public: our legislators do not understand how social media apps like TikTok work or how digital technology operates. They should not be making decisions on either.

The U.S. Senate has already taken action against foreign tech countries with legislation. The RESTRICT Act, if passed, gives the federal government the ability to regulate tech in six



Wesley Hammer/The News

competing countries, including China. This bill gives President Joe Biden the means to ban TikTok in the United States, and it has his support.

Facebook's parent company Meta fell into hot water with the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for possibly opening user data to developers in China and Russia. The committee treated Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg with similar disdain, but no regulations came out of the committee's hearings.

Chew's hearing was wholly unfair, specifically meant to make TikTok and Chew look dangerous and irresponsible. Aside from the mispronunciation of Chew's name, the hearing was riddled with anti-Chinese rhetoric, even though Chew is from Singapore.

Republican politicians have something to gain from the banning of TikTok. The app has been used to rally political action against former President

Donald Trump. Trump's 2020 political rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma, may have failed because of a viral TikTok calling members of Gen Z to sign up for multiple free tickets to the event, according to CNN. Trump's campaign manager bragged about over 1 million people signing up for the event just for the 19,000-person event center not to be filled with avid fans.

TikTok can and has been used for political action and sharing of political information, especially among younger voters, which scares our politicians.

The banning of TikTok is expected to come with many challenges. Trump attempted a ban on TikTok in 2020, but it was overturned by two district court judges in Pennsylvania and Washington. If Biden does decide to ban the app, he will likely face multiple First Amendment challenges from citizens who feel as though their outlets of communication have been cut

off. To successfully ban TikTok, the government must prove the danger of TikTok outweighs free speech of millions of Americans.

We at *The News* believe banning TikTok is an extreme restriction on the free speech rights of over 150 million U.S. citizens, and it fails to meet the requirements for doing so.

TikTok poses no real threat to U.S. citizens and any concerns with the sharing of data can be easily solved by storing the data on American soil. This proposed TikTok ban is anti-communist and anti-Chinese hysteria disguised as national privacy protection by legislators who need their grandchildren to help them open their Facebook accounts.

A specter is haunting the U.S. government—the specter of dancing videos and food tutorials. TikTok poses no real threat to American citizens and the U.S. government is trying to regulate a nonexistent communist villain.



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

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Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News  
Graduate outfielder Brennan McCullough makes the last catch in the fifth inning. McCullough recorded three hits and a home run against the Austin Peay Governors on Tuesday, March 28.

# Baseball swings for the fences in rivalry game

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Sports Editor  
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The bats were hot in Clarksville, Tennessee, as the Murray State baseball team defeated the Austin Peay Governors 12-6 on Tuesday, March 28. The teams combined for 24 hits and seven walks across 74 at-bats in the game. Graduate outfielder Brennan McCullough led the Racers at the plate, going 3-4 in the game with a walk and a two-run home run. After a scoreless start from the Racers, the Governors jumped out to a lead in the bottom of the first inning. Sophomore infielder Jon Jon Gazdar grounded into double play, but it was enough to allow junior outfielder Clayton Gray to score. Across the next three innings, the Governors scored three more runs, with two of those runs coming off doubles from Gazdar and sophomore outfielder Nathan Barksdale. After the fourth inning, the

Governors led the Racers 4-0. The Racers got on the board in the top of the fifth inning with a two-run home run from junior infielder Logan Bland. In the top of the sixth inning, McCullough tied up the game with a two-run homer of his own, making it 4-4 heading into the bottom of the sixth. The Governors took back the lead with a run from sophomore catcher Trevor Conley, as he scored off a throwing error by the Racers. As the game headed to the final three frames, Austin Peay led 5-4. The seventh and eighth innings were quiet for both teams, as only one person got on base from a walk by Austin Peay. When the ninth inning rolled around, it was do or die for the Racers, who were still down a run. After a double from McCullough and a single from sophomore infielder Carson Garner, junior infielder Drew Vogel stepped up to the plate and hammered a three-run homer down the left field line to put the Racers up 7-4. Two batters later, junior catch-

er Ethan Krizen singled down the right field line, which set up another two-run home run from Bland to extend the Racers' lead. After a double from senior outfielder Seth Gardner, and a fielding error that allowed junior infielder Jacob Pennington to reach first base, the Governors were forced to switch pitchers. Sophomore outfielder Dustin Mercer was the first to face the new pitcher, and he quickly put in work with a double to bring Gardner around third base to score. After a walk from McCullough, Garner stepped up and doubled into left field to bring in Mercer and freshman utility player Gunnar Bringham, who pinch ran for Pennington. When the dust settled and the top of the ninth inning came to its eventual end, the Racers were on top 12-5. In the bottom of the ninth, the Governors were down to their last out when senior utility player Garrett Martin stepped up. After taking a first-pitch ball, he smashed a home run

to give the Governors a bit of hope. That hope was swiftly crushed, as Gazdar grounded out, giving the Racers a 12-6 win on the road. Murray State totaled 15 hits in the game. McCullough led the way with three hits, while five other Racers each had two hits, and another two Racers had one hit. Bland led the Racers in RBIs with four, followed by Vogel with three. Despite the strong bats, the Racers struck out 11 times as a team. Austin Peay had nine hits as a team. Conley and Martin led the team with two hits each. The Governors struck out just four times in the contest and drew five walks but left seven runners on base across the nine innings. Murray State improves to 12-13 on the season, but the team's 1-2 conference record stays. Conference play resumes for the Racers on Friday, March 31, as they travel to take on Valparaiso in a three-game series. They return home on Tuesday, April 4, for a head-to-head game against SEMO in a nonconference matchup.

Shann Riley/ The News



## THE NEWS' ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**LOGAN BLAND**  
Junior, Baseball

**.319** season batting average      **4-11** Batting  
**7** RBIs  
**3** Home Runs  
**3** Walks

Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/ The News



Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Freshman infielder Ailey Schyck hits a double to bring freshman outfielder Jady Thompson home to score against the Austin Peay Governors on Wednesday, March 29.

## Win streak ends in Battle of the Border

**Pitching struggles early, gives up four runs in the first inning**

**Ronan Summers**  
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Murray State needed four pitchers in the 6-4 loss on Wednesday, March 29, in the annual Battle of the Border against Austin Peay.

Murray State's all-time record against the Governors was 23-14 heading into Wednesday's matchup. Austin Peay won the last matchup 4-3 on April 27, 2022.

Freshman right-handed pitcher Ava Ozment got the start for the Racers. She struggled as the Governors recorded a single, a fielder's choice and a walk before senior infielder Gabi Apiag hit a grand

slam in the first inning to give her team a comfortable early lead.

The Racers brought in freshman right-handed pitcher Bre Haislip in to relieve Ozment following the grand slam. Ozment recorded just a third of an inning pitched.

Austin Peay scored again in the third inning after senior outfielder Kendyl Weinzapfel hit a single to drive in a run. A sacrifice flyout from junior infielder Morgan Zuege in the same inning drove in Apiag and increased Austin Peay's lead to 6-0.

The Racers were able to get on the board in the bottom of the third inning after freshman infielder Ailey Schyck doubled to bring freshman outfielder Jady Thompson home. The score was 6-1 after three innings.

The Racers began building off the momentum, as redshirt senior infielder

Lindsey Carroll stole home plate in the bottom of the fifth inning, narrowing the lead 6-2.

Carroll then hit a sacrifice flyout in the bottom of the seventh, allowing senior infielder Gracie Osbron to tag up and score from third base.

The Racers' luck continued, as freshman catcher Taylor Jackson struck out but made it to first base on a passed ball. Red-shirt junior infielder Lily Fischer scored on the passed ball to gain even more ground on Austin Peay, but the Racers were unable to add more runs to the board and fell to the Governors 6-4.

The Racers had a rough day at the plate, striking out 11 times. As a team, they recorded three hits, two walks, four runs and two RBIs in the loss to the Governors.

Through seven innings, the Racers' four pitchers

combined to allow eight hits, four earned runs, six total runs and two walks, and they struck five Austin Peay batters out.

The Racers are now 19-13 on the season. Murray State has the second-highest number of overall wins in the MVC, but they have a conference record of 4-3, which puts them in sixth place.

Murray State will have multiple opportunities to climb the standings for the rest of the season. If the Racers can catch fire against conference opponents, they could end the season as a top three seed entering the MVC Tournament.

The Racers' next matchup will be a conference series from Friday, March 31 to Sunday, April 2 in Des Moines, Iowa, against the Drake Bulldogs. The Bulldogs are 7-20 on the season and 0-6 against conference opponents. The first game of the series will be at 3 p.m.

# Murray State

## ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

Shann Riley/The News



**MARCH 30**  
Tennis vs. Illinois State @ Normal, IL **NOON**

**MARCH 31**  
Baseball vs. Valparaiso @ Valparaiso, IN **TBD**  
Tennis vs. UIC @ Chicago, IL **1 p.m.**  
Softball vs. Drake @ Des Moines, IA **3 p.m.**

**APRIL 1**  
Track vs. Joey Haines Invite @ Cape Girardeau, MO **ALL DAY**  
Baseball vs. Valparaiso @ Valparaiso, IN **TBD**  
Softball vs. Drake @ Des Moines, IA **2 p.m.**

**APRIL 2**  
Baseball vs. Valparaiso @ Valparaiso, IN **TBD**  
Softball vs. Drake @ Des Moines, IA **NOON**

**APRIL 3**  
Men's Golf vs. Bellarmine @ Louisville, KY **ALL DAY**  
Women's Golf vs. Jan Weaver Invite @ Murray, KY **ALL DAY**

**APRIL 4**  
Men's Golf vs. Bellarmine @ Louisville, KY **ALL DAY**  
Women's Golf vs. Jan Weaver Invite @ Murray, KY **ALL DAY.**  
Softball vs. Middle Tennessee @ Murfreesboro, TN **3 p.m.**  
Baseball vs. Southeast Missouri @ Murray, KY **5 p.m.**

Sophomore Natalie Slezakova, tennis  
Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

For more information  
visit [GoRacers.com](http://GoRacers.com)



(From top left) 'Elsewhere' by Sarah Smith; 'Narcissus' by Katie Hart; 'March' by Lyle Smith; and 'Hazel Eyed' by Rebeca Mertins Chiodini on display in Waterfield Library Gallery. Student and family view 'Daytime parking' by Seth Watkins and 'Lost Away' by Olivia Swaidner at the ART 384 Darkroom Exhibition reception on Wednesday March 29.

Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

# Exhibit showcases students professional skills

**Raleigh Hightower**  
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Students across several majors came together to explore feelings such as vanity and loneliness through photography in the ART 384 Darkroom photography exhibition.

The Darkroom Photography exhibit held in the Waterfield Library Gallery features 16 photographs from eight different students who are enrolled in the ART 384 course. The exhibit opened on Monday, March 27, and a reception was held on Wednesday, March 29.

Junior graphic design major Lyle Smith contributed two photos, "March" and "Constrained."

"March," which depicts a set of flowers in a mirror shot at ankle height, was the result of an ART 384 class project, Smith said.

"The medium format photo project was all about reflections and mirrors, so 'March' is a result of me and my brother experimenting with a mirror outside," Smith said.

Smith's other piece, "Constrained," which depicts the ceiling inside a building, also came from a class project designed to encourage students to use

contrast in their photography.

Another contributor, senior studio art major Olivia Swaidner, presented two pieces exploring loneliness.

The first piece, titled "Hidden Angels," depicted a storefront with street lamps hanging above two empty flower pots on opposite sides of a doorway. Swaidner's second piece, "Lost Away," depicts a weathered wooden bridge that sits in a forested area.

**"This is the first photography exhibit I've been able to participate in, and it was interesting to get a behind-the-scenes view..."**

— Lyle Smith, junior graphic design major

Junior professional writing major Sarah Smith contributed work with images of nature and wildlife. Sarah Smith contributed two pieces, "Elsewhere" and "Corroding."

"Elsewhere" depicts a flower in a field that appears close to the viewer in the frame but contrasts with a large hill in the photo's horizon. "Corroding" explores reflection through its depiction

of a large piece of driftwood washed up on a lake's shore.

Sophomore studio art major Katie Hart submitted two pieces, "Narcissus" and "On the Rocks."

Hart explores reflection in "Narcissus." Hart captured the self-portrait outside and on campus with a film camera in a mirror. "On the Rocks" explores the texture and contrast of several large rocks.

Assistant Professor of Art and Design Cintia Segovia Figueroa teaches ART 384, an upper-level course. The class helps students refine technical and conceptual skills learned in their previous photography courses.

"I'm happy to have a professor who is able to share her knowledge of film with her students," Sarah Smith said. "I've learned so much from Professor Segovia, and I'll be able to apply this knowledge to my work in the future."

In addition to giving students an opportunity to exhibit their work, the course places an emphasis on film photography by taking students through the shooting, editing and printing processes.

One key takeaway among ART 384 students was a changed perspective on what goes into a photo exhibit.

"This is the first photography exhibit I've been able to

participate in, and it was interesting to get a behind-the-scenes view of how it was put together," Lyle Smith said. "After learning the process for putting an exhibition together, I'm no longer intimidated by putting my work on display, and I'm excited to do more in the future."

**"I'm happy to have a professor who is able to share her knowledge of film with her students. I have learned so much from Professor Segovia."**

— Sarah Smith, junior professional writing major

Hart also said having the chance to present her work is something she will take with her into the future.

"What to expect is something I will value from this exhibit," Hart said. "It'll be nice to have some insight to what it'll be like in the future. It's not as intimidating as I thought originally."

Today is the last day to view the Darkroom Exhibit.

To stay up to date with future exhibits, follow the Department of Art and Design at @murraystateart on Instagram.

# Student group aims to open painting to all majors

**MacKenzie Rogers**  
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The art-focused Paint Club is joining the roster of clubs on campus. The new club was created for anyone interested in painting—new artists and pros alike.

The club is led by faculty adviser Jessica Fife, assistant professor of art and design. Fife said she hopes to one day see the club become part of the community, both here on campus and throughout Murray.

“Some students aren’t able to take a painting class in their schedule, so this gives them an opportunity to paint as a group...”

— Jessica Fife, assistant professor of art and design

“My number one reason for wanting to start and advise this club was to give the students a community of fellow students that are also interested in painting,” Fife said. “Some students aren’t able to take a painting class in their schedule, so this gives them an opportunity to paint as a group and get peer and adviser critiques.”

Club President Benson Greenwell said he looks forward to

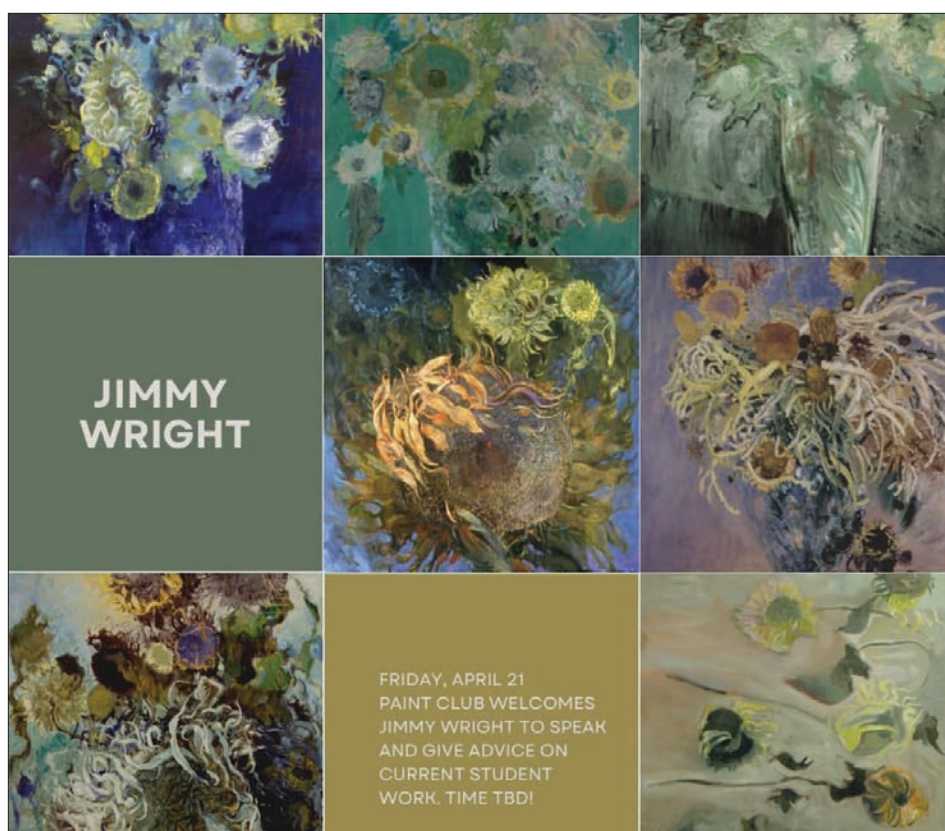


Photo courtesy of @msupaintclub on Instagram  
The Paint Club will host its first meeting on April 14 in New Fine Arts room 711.

meeting everyone at the club’s next meeting.

“I am very excited to build up a community of fellow painters, both new to the medium and skilled,” Benson said. “I believe that the MSU Paint Club will be a great opportunity for members to further enhance their paint skills and get more involved within the art department.”

The club is free to join and open to students of all majors. The club plans to host numerous activities like solo and group painting, painting challenges, gallery and museum

visits, game nights and potential exhibition opportunities.

Social Media Manager and Treasurer Brooklyn Burnett said she is looking forward to jump-starting the club before she graduates.

“I am excited to leave a legacy behind at Murray State University,” Burnett said. “There are not many avenues for non-art students to take painting courses while staying on track to graduate. Making painting more accessible to everyone and providing professional experience to studio art majors is the whole reason the club was started.”

Burnett said she would love to see the club learn about watercolor painting in the near future.

“Watercolor is a medium not taught until advanced painting, so it would be an excellent introduction to the medium,” Burnett said. “I would also love to see us do some form of group painting to be able to display or donate to the annual art auction.”

“I am excited to leave a legacy behind... There are non many avenues for non-art students to take painting courses while staying on track...”

— Brooklyn Burnett, Paint Club social media manager and treasurer

The club’s next meeting is at 4 p.m. on April 14 in the Price Doyle Fine Arts Building room 711. The club also has organized to have visiting artist Jimmy Wright speak and give painting advice to students on April 21 at a to-be-determined time and location.

To keep up with the Paint Club and its future activities, follow the club’s Instagram @msupaintclub.

## Women’s History Month

Shann Riley/ TheNews

### Across

**2.** This professional U.S. soccer player is best known for advocating for equal pay in women’s sports when she’s off the field.

**3.** This American painter has been called the “Mother of American Modernism.”

**6.** This aerospace engineer became the first woman to qualify for the Daytona 500 and the Indianapolis 500 races.

**7.** This author became the first woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for her novel “The Age of Innocence.”

**10.** This education activist is the youngest Nobel Prize winner for her campaign for women’s and children’s right to an education.

**11.** This transgender rights activist is known for her participation in the Stonewall Inn riots and her “Y’all Better Quiet Down” speech, which she delivered at the 1973 Christopher Street Day Liberation Rally.

**12.** This tennis player is the first and only to achieve a Career Golden Slam in singles and doubles.

**13.** This activist is best known for starting the #MeToo movement in 2006.

**14.** This musician holds the record for having the most Grammys won in a lifetime.

### Down

**1.** This reproductive health activist founded the American Birth Control League in 1921, which later became known as Planned Parenthood.

**4.** This artist was the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

**5.** This entrepreneur became the first self-made female millionaire after making beauty care products for Black women.

**8.** This weightlifter became the first openly transgender athlete to compete in the Olympics.

**9.** This Harlem Renaissance-era sculptor is known for depicting the lives of Black Americans. Her sculpture “Gamin” is on display in the Smithsonian American Art Museum.