

INSIDE

NEWS/OPINION
Lana Del Rey bares her soul on new album
page 3

OPINION
Tennessee legislators ignore First Amendment
page 4

SPORTS
Trio nabs six runs en route to softball win
page 5

LIFESTYLE
Annual event connects local art community
page 7



Abbie Michalek/The News
The new nursing building is set to be constructed north of Faculty Hall, which will affect parking.

Students, faculty express concerns over parking loss

Dionte Berry
Editor-in-Chief
dberry11@murraystate.edu

As campus construction plans come to fruition, faculty and students talk about the impact to campus parking and their concerns on parking availability in the future..

The Board of Regents announced on Feb. 24 the new nursing building will be built north of Faculty Hall with plans to be open by January 2025. However, that space is now used for parking.

Senior graphic design major and commuter student Meg Slatton said parking is already tight as is and is glad to be finishing undergraduate track, so she won't have to deal with the possibility of limited parking.

“...We generally plan to have alternative parking when major construction projects take place. Our goal is to have a net zero or positive impact to parking when projects are complete.”
— Jason Youngblood,
Facilities Management director

“Today [Monday, April 3], I went to two different parking lots, and there were no empty spaces, and depending on the time of day and how many classes are going on at that time, usually from nine to noon, that's the busiest time for parking,” Slatton said. “I'm feeling really lucky to graduate soon.”

Slatton typically parks toward the back of the Regents parking lot. However, with one parking lot impacted, Slatton said all parking across the academic side of campus will have to deal with the overflow.

“There are usually a few spaces free in the back, but in the future, I don't know if that will be the same,” Slatton said.

Senior finance major Laney Priest has been a commuter student since fall 2019 and hasn't noticed campus parking changes over the years, but sees how construction north of Faculty Hall could cause issues.

“I would not go as far as saying parking is the biggest issue that we might have, but I do believe that it can be a problem because we do have a lot of commuters,” Priest said.

Beyond a possible shortage of parking space, Priest said some of the current parking lots on campus might need maintenance.

see **PARKING**, page 2



Photo courtesy of Ellie McGowan

Kade Gambill, Jacob Frits, Gabe Maynard, Ellie McGowan and Luke Wyatt traveled to Frankfort to meet with Kentucky legislators to discuss higher education.

Student rally highlights higher education

Jill Smith
Assistant News Editor
jsmith194@murraystate.edu

Four Student Government Association members joined Kentucky college students in Frankfort to lobby for the importance of higher education in the state.

The Rally for Higher Education, an annual event organized by the Board of Student Body Presidents, is composed of university student body leaders across Kentucky and the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

Jeanie Morgan, SGA adviser, said the rally gives student leaders the opportunity to network with Kentucky lawmakers.

“The Higher Education Rally allows students to meet legislators and share their opinions regarding Higher Education and what the effects their

votes have on education and the future of our state and country,” Morgan said.

The rally allows student leaders to advocate for the University and its student body and provide suggestions for potential improvement.

SGA President Ellie McGowan served as the vice chair on the Board of Student Body Presidents. She said it was an incredible experience.

“The rally brings together students and SGA bodies together from all across the Commonwealth,” McGowan said. “The students who attend participate in a short rally where they hear from different individuals involved in the legislative process, and then, each school is encouraged to schedule their own independent meetings with legislators.”

Students met with legislators to discuss a number of issues impacting education in the state. Among

those legislators were Rep. Richard Heath, R-Mayfield; Sen. Danny Carroll, R-Benton; Rep. Mary Beth Imes, R-Murray; Rep. Chris Freeland, R-Benton; Rep. Danny Bridges, R-Paducah and Rep. Matt Lockett, R-Nicholasville.

McGowan said the FAFSA Requirement Bill, Senate Bill 33 and mental health initiatives were discussed.

The FAFSA Requirement Bill would require all high school seniors to fill out the financial aid application prior to graduation. Students can waive the requirement by filling out a form saying they are not applying to college or are granted a hardship waiver by a school superintendent.

see **STUDENT RALLY**, page 3

Legislators override anti-trans bill veto

Ava Chuppe
Senior Writer
achuppe@murraystate.edu

Kentucky's Republican supermajority overrode Gov. Andy Beshear's veto of Senate Bill 150 on March 29, which most notably bans transgender health care such as surgery, hormone replacement therapy and puberty blockers for minors in the state.

If minors are already undergoing hormone therapy, doctors are required to de-transition their patients once the bill takes effect in June.

Along with setting restrictions on classroom discussions about sexual orientation and gender identity, SB 150 allows teachers to refrain from using students' pronouns and requires students use restrooms for their gender assigned at birth. Students may request “acceptable accommodations,” including single-stall restrooms, with parental permission.

On the morning of March 29, hundreds of teenagers gathered on the Kentucky Capitol lawn to protest the bill. Police also escorted protesters out of the House chamber.

The bill passed the veto override with a 29-8 vote in the



Dionte Berry/The News

Students protested Senate Bill 150 and other anti-LGBTQ bills like it on Feb. 23.

Senate and a 76-23 vote in the House with a near party-line vote. Sen. Danny Carroll, R-Benton, was the only Republican in either chamber to vote against the override.

Attorney General Daniel Cameron praised the bill for “protect[ing] our youth from irreversible procedures.”

“Beshear vetoed this bill because he is beholden to the far left,” Cameron said. “I stand ready to defend this law and

protect the well-being of our most precious resource, our children.”

Others, including Sen. Gary Boswell, R-Owensboro, echoed Cameron, saying the bill protects Kentucky's children.

“I have eight granddaughters,” Boswell said on the Senate floor. “Who here could support a man going into my granddaughter's bathroom?”

see **SB 150 VETO**, page 3

Faculty Senate proposes new promotion track

Caroline Blakeman

Contributing Writer

cblakeman3@murraystate.edu

Faculty senators discussed plans to revise their handbook policy regarding tenure status and qualifications for promotion at their Tuesday, April 4 meeting.

Senate President David Roach proposed an addition to the faculty handbook, which would allow certain faculty members who are not currently on the tenure track to qualify for promotion. “There are a large group of faculty—over 130—that are not on the promotion track,” Roach said. “We need to think about how to approach this problem, how to give them compensation for all their hard work.”

Currently three ranked faculty titles exist: assistant professor, associate professor and professor, according to the handbook, which was last updated in June 2019.

Roach said some faculty members, mainly those who work in a clinical department, do not qualify for tenure, and some faculty who work as assistant professors but are not on the promotion or tenure track.

Barbie Papajeski, senior instructor of Veterinary

Technology and Pre-Veterinary Medicine, said she feels there are excellent faculty at the University for whom no one is advocating.

“We don’t fit in the handbook,” Papajeski said. “That’s the problem. I served on this committee. There’s no guidelines for any promotion unless you are a tenure track faculty.”

Faculty consists of three groups: ranked regular faculty, ranked administrative faculty and special appointment faculty, according to the handbook.

Roach’s solution is to add a fourth rank: ranked clinical faculty.

“This is just an idea, as a recommendation, to take some baby steps towards getting promotion to some of our faculty groups that don’t have access to it,” Roach said.

Papajeski said it’s not about money but rather recognition.

During the meeting, officer positions were also discussed. Roach was reelected as senate president. Heidi Ortega was reelected as senate vice president. Sarah Martin recently stepped down as senate secretary, and Michael Bordieri was elected to replace her.

Jen Super, chair of the Finance Committee, discussed the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and consumer price index.



Dionte Berry/The News

The Faculty Senate discusses a revised promotion track and the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on April 4.

COLA is generally expressed as a fixed percentage of a salary. Super said over the last five years, it has ranged from 0% to 3% and is not keeping up with inflation.

In the 2022 fiscal year, faculty received a tiered COLA. On average, it ended up being 2.15%, Super said.

“If you are in the higher brackets in terms of your income, that was a dramatic loss,” Super said.

For the 2023 fiscal year, faculty received a 3% COLA.

Super said a COLA gap in purchasing power for the upcoming year was calculated on average as 6.1%, which is down from 9.8% in 2013.

The Finance Committee is continuing to monitor the situation and measure the impact.

Faculty Senate’s next meeting will be May 2.

Recent graduates receive law school offers

Caroline Blakeman

Contributing Writer

cblakeman3@murraystate.edu

Murray State history and political science students who have applied for law school have a 100% acceptance rate, with a majority receiving scholarships, according to a University press release.

Among these students is 2021 political science and pre-law alumna Mercedes Rutledge. She attends the Southern Illinois University School of Law.

“I appreciate the tougher professors now much more than I did before,” Rutledge said. “We were always told, ‘Law school is a marathon and not a race.’ I wasn’t sure what that meant then, but I for sure do now. When my studies seem overwhelming, I always have to remind myself of that.”

Another recent graduate is 2020 political science alumna Abby Rock. She attends the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law and plans to graduate in May.

“While no undergraduate course will mimic a law school course in every way, I found that the content of many political science courses provided me with a basic understanding of common principles that my law school experience expanded upon,” Rock said.

Kathy Callahan, history department chair, said the department fosters the development of analytical skills and the ability to articulate ideas in both oral and written form.

“One of the things that I think is important to student success is the rigor our faculty builds into our courses,” Callahan said. “Students who go to law school pay attention to what they are doing.”

Callahan said characteristics of successful students include seeking challenging classes, reading and writing with a critical eye and learning to speak up in class.

Rock said her LST 240 Business Law course with Associate Professor Ihsan Alkhatib was a great introduction to the principles of contract law and business organizations, and her LST 447 Constitutional Law course with Associate Professor Paul Foote was helpful in providing an overview of the history of law school.

“We encourage our students to be well-rounded and to take courses outside the department that will also foster

the skills necessary to be strong law students and lawyers,” Callahan said. “For example, we encourage our students to take philosophy classes, as critical thinking is integral to their success.”

The University also provides many programs to assist these students with their journey to law school, like simulated LSAT exams, board panels and law school visits.

Rock also used programs offered by the University, specifically the law school admissions panel, which hosted admissions counselors from all three Kentucky law schools.

“This panel was very helpful for me as a first-generation law student who knew nothing about the law school admissions process,” Rock said.

“We encourage our students to be well-rounded and to take courses outside the department that will also foster the skills necessary to be strong law students and lawyers.”

— Kathy Callahan,

History Department chair

In the original press release, the University failed to highlight women who are currently in law school or recently graduated.

After reading it, Rutledge made a Facebook post expressing her frustration on the lack of representation in the press release.

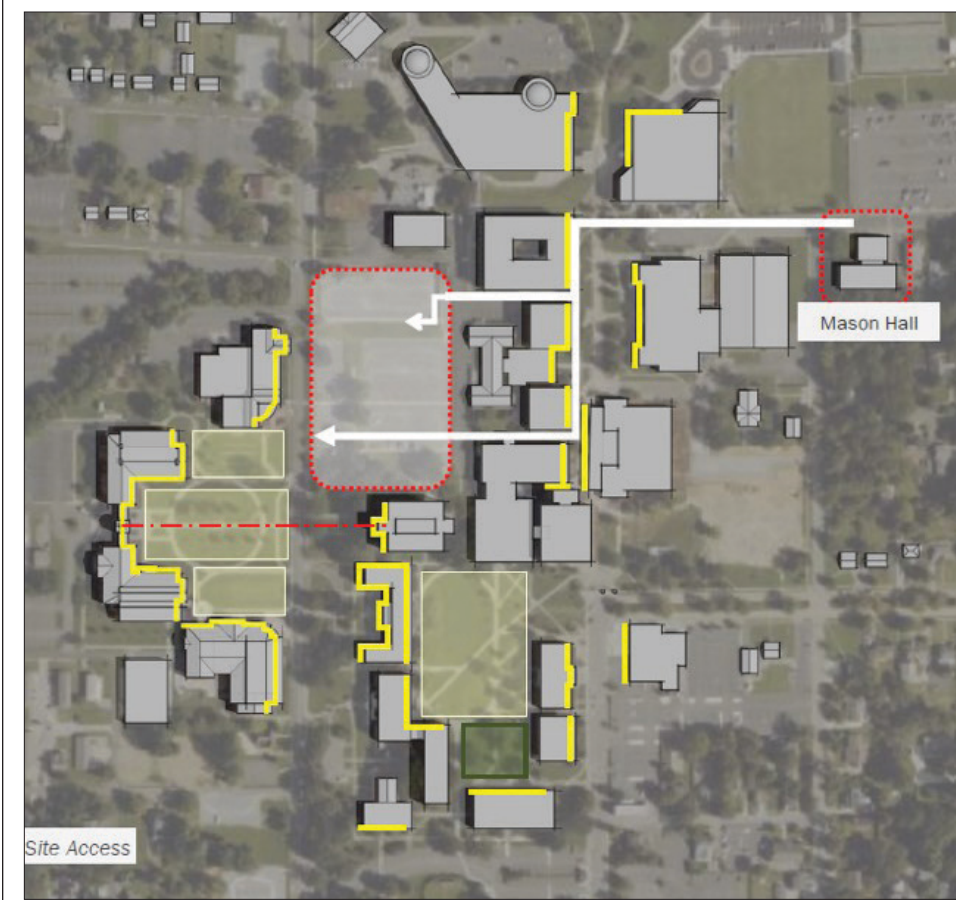
“There is a gap in the legal field between male and female colleagues, as there are in many fields,” Rutledge said. “The media has such an important role of not continuing to normalize this behavior.”

Shortly after her post, the University updated the article to highlight Murray State alumnae and their accomplishments.

“I think that it was awesome the University responded to the criticism so quickly,” Rutledge said. “It’s such a small effort to be socially aware, and in the end, it’s worth it to set the status quo.”

The updated press release also highlighted how each department saw success in their students for various reasons.

“The Department of Political Science and Sociology was instrumental in preparing me for law school,” Rock said.



Graphic courtesy of Shawn Touney

The new nursing building is slated to be between Blackburn and Alexander Hall will open in January 2025.

PARKING, from page 1

Priest parks across from the Business Building in the parking lot near the Pi Kappa Alpha house, and as of right now, it is an unlined gravel parking lot.

“Parking has always been a small issue at Murray even with changes, which is normal for a university with almost 10,000 students,” Priest said. “I do believe we need to focus more on making sure all of the parking lots are paved.”

Along with students, faculty members also have discussed their concerns for the future of campus parking. Parking was on the agenda for the Faculty Senate’s Tuesday, April 5 meeting, in which members voiced concerns about where faculty would be expected to park.

Senator Brian Bourke mentioned parking that was changed from both faculty parking, which is color coded as blue, and commuter parking, which is color coded as red, to just commuter parking.

“Bigger lots behind the science buildings used to be blue and red,” Bourke said. “Now they’re just red... We’ve lost a lot of parking available to us in this timeframe.”

The Faculty Senate Parking Committee has not been updated on what the future of parking will look like.

Facilities Management Director Jason Youngblood said plans for parking have not yet

been solidified, and plans are still in the “infancy stage,” but new parking will be added.

“The only thing I can say for certain is that we generally plan to have alternative parking when major construction projects take place, and our goal is to have a net zero or positive impact to parking when projects are complete,” Youngblood said.

“We don’t have an exact number of parking spots that will be impacted since the project details aren’t finalized yet.”

— Katrina Carr,
Parking Services manager

Parking Services Manager Katrina Carr echoed the same sentiments as Youngblood and noted Parking Services evaluates the use of campus parking lots and found there are many that are rarely used.

“The campus has abundant parking on the west side of 16th Street that can be used to make up for any lost parking spots during or after construction,” Carr said. “We don’t have an exact number of parking spots that will be impacted since the project details aren’t finalized yet.”

Locations for additional or temporary parking if needed has not yet been determined.

Check back in *The News* for campus parking updates.

Lana Del Rey bares her soul on vulnerable new album

Dionte Berry

Editor-in-Chief
dberry11@murraystate.edu

Rich and writhing with candid confessions, introspective exploration and a poetic voice like none other, Lana Del Rey lifts up the curtain of her persona and tosses perfection aside on her awaited ninth studio album, “Did you know that there’s a tunnel under Ocean Blvd.”

Elizabeth Grant has played a handful of music personas, from Sparkle Jump Rope Queen to May Jailer, and she officially debuted as Lizzy Grant in 2010 before settling on Lana Del Rey and releasing her second and widely acclaimed album “Born to Die” in 2012.

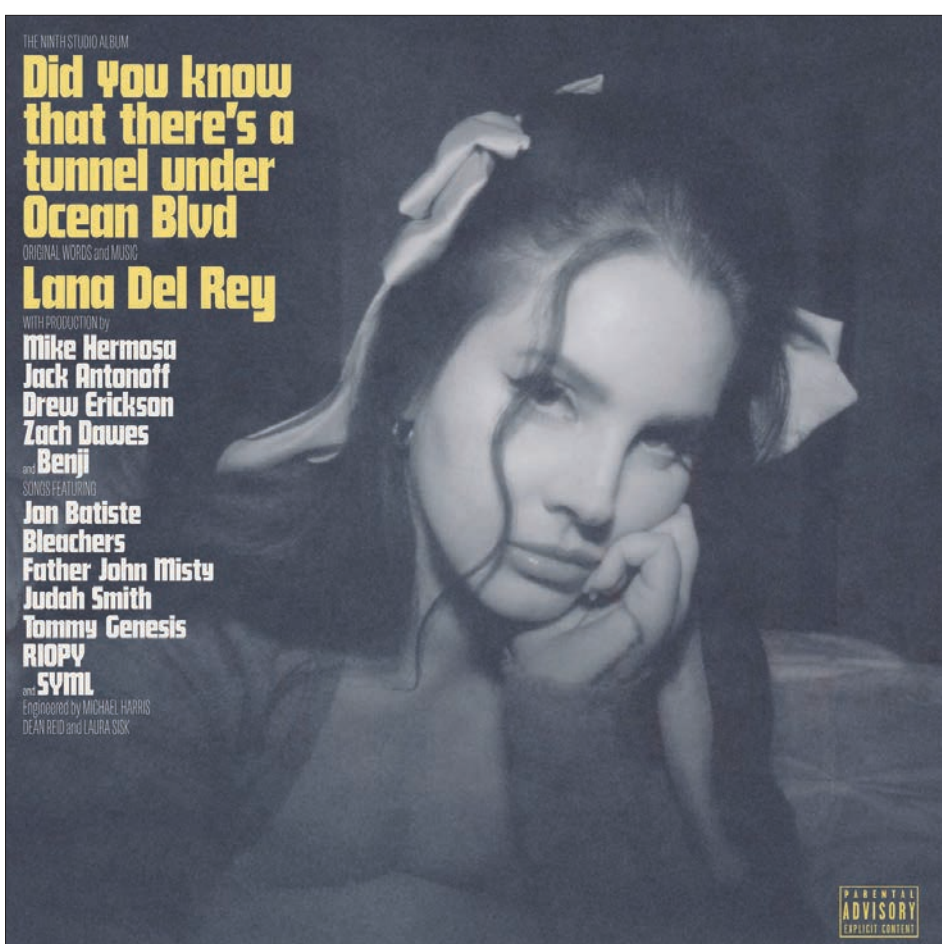
As Lana Del Rey, Grant made a name for herself as a romantic and melancholic voice reminiscent of old Americana. In “Did you know that there’s a tunnel under Ocean Blvd,” Grant’s songwriting tells a narrative, and through storytelling, she takes her listeners through internal monologues.

“Did you know that there’s a tunnel under Ocean Blvd” is Grant’s most robust and unfiltered project and her longest album. The production feels loose and unquestioned at points. Grant feels as if she is creating for her own sake, and I love it.

“The Grants” is the starting point of this project’s meandering 16-track journey. Beginning with the gospel harmonies of Pattie Howard, Melodye Perry and Shekinah Jones, Grant sings of the sentimentality she has for her family. In the chorus, she sings, “And I wanna take mine of you with me”—for all of those in her life whom she loves, she has something to remember and cherish them by.

Grant ends the song on one of the most tender moments of the album, singing, “My sister’s first-born child / I’m gonna take that too with me / My grandmother’s last smile / I’m gonna take that too with me.”

The title track and the lead single, “Did you know that there’s a tunnel under Ocean Blvd,” embraces raw emotion, whether it is flawed or not.



Album cover courtesy of spotify.com
“Did you know that there’s a tunnel under Ocean Blvd” released on March 24 under Polydor Records.

Grant references Harry Nilsson’s 1974 song “Don’t Forget Me,” and she mentions the 2:05 point of the song where Nilsson’s voice cracks with emotion.

Grant’s reference sets the tone for the rest of the project by embracing the imperfections and rawness in emotional expression.

“A&W” was the second single to be released from the album, and it feels like an amalgamation of Grant’s journey as an artist. First, she dives into personal, peculiar poetry-like lyrics, singing, “I haven’t done a cartwheel since I was nine / I haven’t seen my mother in a long, long time.”

Grant sings from the perspective of the “other woman,” who is seen as alluring, unorthodox and independent; she is branded as a volatile lover and inevitable victim who belongs to everyone and no one.

But instead of longing, the chorus stings with a sense of venom as she sings, “This is the experience of being an American wh*re.”

What started as a piano and bass-driven ballad turns into a playful rap toward the middle of the

song. I enjoy seeing a heavy poetic moment devolve into a jaunty finale.

“Judah Smith Interlude” and “Jon Batiste Interlude” add to the meandering mystery of the album by going on for far too long, but in all their length, their effect falls flat.

With a six-minute runtime, “Kintsugi” is pure poetry backed by piano and birds tweeting. Kintsugi is the Japanese art of recrafting broken pottery and fusing it back together with gold, which has become a symbol for embracing imperfections.

Grant started writing “Kintsugi” when her family visited her Great Uncle Dick at his hospice center before he died; fifty of her family members were in attendance.

Track 11, “Grandfather please stand on the shoulders of my father while he’s deep-sea fishing,” is a mouthful of a song title. On this song, Grant confronts the role her persona plays in her career, singing, “I know they think that it took somebody else / To make me beautiful, beautiful.”

By this, Grant means that it didn’t take Lana Del Rey to make her

beautiful or make her an artist—she wasn’t a curation launched by a label.

“Let The Light In” features American singer-songwriter Father John Misty and is a warm collaboration that makes for an upswing in an emotionally heavy front-loaded album. The guitar-led song is summery and romantic.

As a feature, Father John Misty remains in the background, and I wish he had his own verse or moment on the song.

“Let The Light In” is easily a stand-out song. I could listen to a whole Grant and Father John Misty collaboration project.

In “Peppers,” Grant gives her loosest and most playful delivery alongside Canadian rapper Tommy Genesis. Although Tommy Genesis is a feature, the only element featured from her in the song is a sample of her 2015 song “Angelina,” which left me feeling disappointed.

The sample sounds good, but I wish this was more of a collaboration. Tommy Genesis could have definitely written a catchy hook that fit Grant’s vision. The collaboration is not a collaboration, but despite that, Grant delivers some fun lines.

The songs run unforgivingly long, but Grant is telling her listeners a story that winds down dark and personal roads. With how deep the songs run, “Did you know that there’s a tunnel under Ocean Blvd” is Grant’s hardest album to digest, but I admire the risks she is taking.

Being so raw and unfiltered, “Did you know that there’s a tunnel under Ocean Blvd” feels like Grant’s magnum opus as a musician. I feel like this is Grant; it isn’t her producers, record label or a reflection of what her following wants. Although tighter production wouldn’t hurt this project, it would lose a special touch.

Overall, Grant focuses on straying away from flawlessness with voice and production that rings with authenticity and a close personal touch.

“Did you know that there’s a tunnel under Ocean Blvd” deserves an eight out of 10. I admire the risks Grant took on this project and look forward to whatever career steps she takes next.

[Read the full review at murraystatenews.org](http://murraystatenews.org)

STUDENT RALLY, from page 1

SB 33 would create a Center for Cybersecurity at the University of Louisville.

“SB 33...would have harmed our current Cybersecurity Program and Cybersecurity Center,” McGowan said.

House Bill 542, which would prevent public colleges and universities from banning guns on their campus, was another key issue addressed at the rally.

“Myself and other students who participated in the rally were incredibly thankful for the opportunity to converse with our legislators and...how invested they were in hearing our experiences...”
—Ellie McGowan, SGA President

McGowan said lawmakers she spoke with told her they would ensure bills that could impact students, particularly HB 542, wouldn’t pass.

“I hope students know that Rep. Imes in particular and many others in the West Kentucky Caucus were instrumental in killing bad bills that were of concern to Murray State University students, such as the guns on campus bill,” McGowan said. “We really appreciated our legislators listening to our

concerns about that bill and many others and taking action on our behalf.”

In addition to McGowan, Center for Student Involvement Office Coordinator Kade Gambill and SGA members Gabe Maynard, Jacob Fritts and Luke Wyatt also attended the event.

Gov. Andy Beshear and Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education President Aaron Thompson spoke on the need for more mental health resources on college campuses and better access to resources for incoming college students.

Thompson said in his address mental health cases have increased over the last several years.

“The pandemic really brought it into bear,” Thompson said. “This has quickly become an item we didn’t talk about because of the stigma years ago to now the No. 1 thing we talk about—not because it’s popular. We do it because it’s real.”

McGowan said she is hopeful legislators took her concerns into consideration.

“At Murray State, we are blessed to have heavily integrated relationships with our elected officials from all over the state, but specifically in western Kentucky,” McGowan said. “Myself and other students who participated in the rally were incredibly thankful for the opportunity to converse with our legislators and ever appreciative of how invested they were in hearing our experiences and student testimonies.”

SB 150 VETO, from page 1

The bill faced staunch opposition from Democrats, including Sen. Karen Berg, D-Louisville. Berg, who lost her transgender son to suicide last year, said the claim the bill protects children is “completely disingenuous.”

“This is an absolute willful, intentional hate for a small group of people that are the weakest and the most vulnerable among us,” Berg said to her colleagues. “What was your purpose in choosing to serve? Because if it was to help the least among us, you are failing miserably.”

Abigail Cox, director of the Pride Center, said her position has allowed her the opportunity to interact with many trans students.

“These amazing people are beginning to consider whether or not they can pursue their goals and ambitions in a state that does not value who they are and what they have to offer,” Cox said. “These legislative actions take an emotional and mental toll on the people they directly impact, the people that care about them and the communities they belong to.”

Cox said she hopes the Pride Center improves these students’ experiences.

“The Pride Center is committed to providing support and inclusion for our students,” Cox said. “We are committed to demonstrating

how much we value their authenticity, and we are committed to voicing their concerns and needs to decision-makers.”

“We are committed to demonstrating how much we value their authenticity, and we are committed to voicing their concerns and needs to decision-makers.”
—Abigail Cox, Pride Center coordinator

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Kentucky, the bill represents an assault on the state’s LGBTQ youth.

“Trans Kentuckians, medical and mental health professionals and accredited professional associations pleaded with lawmakers to listen to the experts, not harmful rhetoric based in fear and hate,” the ACLU said in a statement. “Their pleas fell on deaf ears as the General Assembly passed the bill in a matter of hours.”

In the same statement, the ACLU announced their plan to sue over SB 150.

“To all the trans youth who may be affected by this legislation: we stand by you and we will not stop fighting,” the statement read. “You are cherished. You are loved. You belong. To the commonwealth: we will see you in court.”

Our view: Tennessee legislators ignore First Amendment

The right to protest peacefully is one of the most important rights under the First Amendment and the Tennessee House of Representatives has directly attacked these voices of protest.

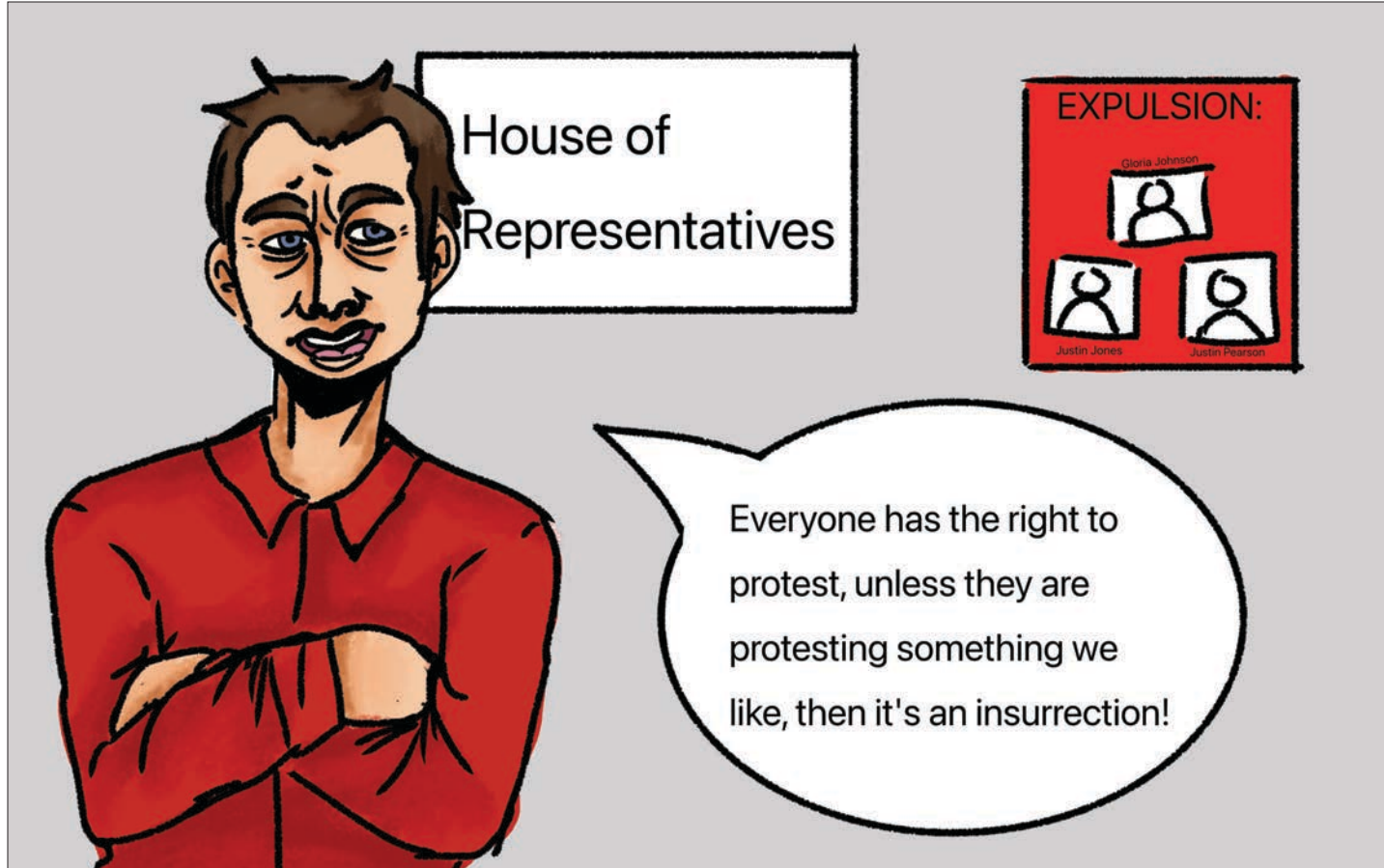
On Thursday, March 30, the House chambers moved for debate on Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee's \$205 million plan to add resource officers to all Tennessee schools. Lee created this plan in response to the March 27 mass shooting at Covenant School in Nashville.

The bill made no mention of gun restrictions, although Lee has voiced hesitant support for red flag laws that allow temporary court injunctions to prevent a person from purchasing or owning a gun if they pose a risk to themselves or others.

Over 1,000 protesters were present at the Capitol building, protesting Lee's plan and the extremely lax restrictions placed on the sale and carrying of firearms. Protesters entered the Capitol building through legal means and remained in the gallery or outside the House chambers.

During the debate over Lee's proposed bill, Reps. Justin Jones, Gloria Johnson and Justin Pearson, after reportedly having their speech buttons turned off, stood by the Speaker's stand for a short time with a megaphone and led chants for the protesters in the gallery until the debate was halted. As a result of their actions, Speaker of the House Cameron Sexton removed Jones, Johnson and Pearson from all of their committee assignments the following session.

A few days later, three Republican representatives brought removal charges against the three Democrats for their role in the protest.



Wesley Hammer/*The News*

House Minority Leader Karen Camper described the three members' actions as "good trouble," according to CBS News. "Good trouble" was coined by former U.S. Rep. John Lewis who believed it was necessary to act out of the norm and speak out to create real social change.

The action of protest by the three Democratic House members is protected by the Tennessee Constitution and U.S. Constitution. Article 2 Section 27 states Tennessee legislators have the "liberty to dissent from and protest against" actions they believe could cause injury to the public. Guns have caused so much injury to the people of Tennessee and the U.S., so the Democrat representatives are constitutionally justified.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to protest. The removal of these representatives would rob over 100,000 Ten-

nesseans of their voice in the legislature.

This may come as a surprise to Sexton, but there is a difference between leading chants and lawless action. Sexton likened the gun law protests to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection after President Joe Biden's presidential victory in 2020. The Tennessee protesters entered the Capitol peacefully and did not injure or kill anyone. The Jan. 6 insurrection left many injured, five dead and millions of dollars worth of damage. The two are not the same in the slightest.

We at *The News* believe this is a gross exaggeration of the protest in an attempt to demonize students who simply want to feel safe at school.

Media sources have focused on former President Donald Trump's indictment on 34 felony charges instead of this egregious dispelling of democracy. While we at *The News* agree with the charges placed against

Trump, we believe major news sources should also prioritize the potential harm caused by the Tennessee House GOP and should not be giving Trump more media attention.

Sexton is purposefully removing members of an opposing party for partisan reasons. Removal proceedings for members of the Tennessee legislature have been used in the past to remove members accused and convicted of crimes including wire fraud and sexual harassment. No crime was committed by the three Democrats. Why, other than pure Republican partisanship, are the three Democrat members being removed?

The acts of protest from the Democratic representatives are fully protected by the Tennessee state constitution U.S. Constitution, and the House representatives and speaker are unfairly attacking ideological opponents. This sounds like something straight out of an authoritarian government.



@TheMurrayStateNews



@MurrayStateNews



The Murray State News



www.MurrayStateNews.org

Editorial Board

Contact Us

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

Dionte Berry
Editor-in-Chief
dberry11@murraystate.edu

Emery Waincott
Chief Copy Editor
ewaincott@murraystate.edu

Jakob Milani
Sports Editor
jmilani@murraystate.edu

Rebeca Mertins Chiodini
Photography Editor
rmertinschiodini@murraystate.edu

Shann Riley
Graphic Designer
sriley11@murraystate.edu

Wesley Hammer
Editorial Cartoonist
khammer@murraystate.edu

Raleigh Hightower
Lifestyle Editor
rhightower@murraystate.edu

Dr. Carol Terracina-Hartman
Faculty Adviser
cterracinahartman@murraystate.edu

Braylee Finck
Ad Sales Representative
bfinck1@murraystate.edu

Jill Smith
Assistant News Editor
jsmith194@murraystate.edu

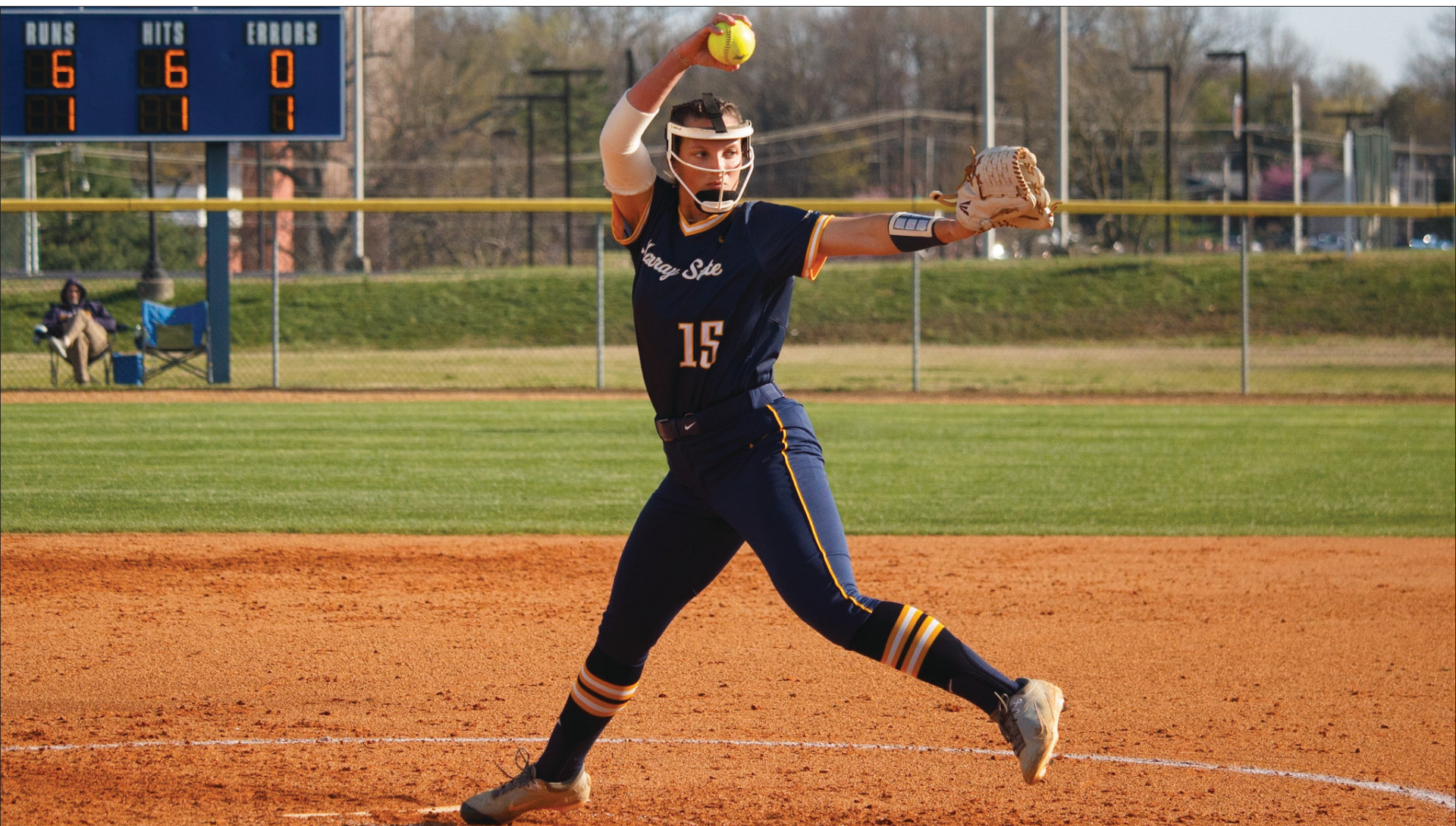
Will Groves
Opinion Editor
wgroves@murraystate.edu

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.thenews@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 campus press should be free from censorship and advance approval of copy and its editors should develop their editorial and news policies.

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.



Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Senior right-handed pitcher Hannah James gets one of her five strikeouts against the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders on Tuesday, April 4.

Trio nabs six runs en route to softball win

Ronan Summers
Staff Writer
rsummers6@murraystate.edu

Three Racer batters recorded two runs each to make up all of Murray State's runs in its 6-3 win over the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders on Tuesday, April 4.

Junior catcher Taylor Jackson got the game started at the top of the first inning, as she singled up the middle to drive home senior infielder Gracie Osbron and sophomore outfielder Erin Lackey. The Racers added onto their lead after senior infielder Lindsey Carroll hit a double to allow junior infielder Lily Fischer to score.

The Racers had a 3-0 lead going into the bottom of the first inning, but the Blue Raiders were able to even things out.

Freshman right-handed pitcher Bre Haislip got the start for the Racers, but she didn't stay on the mound for long. Junior outfielder Amaya Harris got on first base after a Murray State error. Junior infielder Shelby Echols scored on the play, recorded as an unearned run for Haislip.

Sophomore infielder Claire Czajkowski then singled to bring Harris home. This set up junior outfielder Shelby Sargent to tie the game up at three runs apiece after a single that allowed Czajkowski to round third and score. Haislip was relieved, and Murray State brought in senior right-handed pitcher Hannah James to finish the inning out. The score was 3-3 after the first inning.

Lackey reached first base on an error in the top of the second inning, and she advanced to

second base on the throw. Lackey reached third base on a fly out, putting her in position to tag up at third base and score after Osbron flew out to left field.

Osbron started off the top of the fifth inning with a double. Fischer helped add onto the Murray State lead after hitting a single to drive Osbron home in the next at-bat. Carroll singled to drive Fischer in to give the Racers a 6-3 lead.

Junior pitcher Jenna Veber was brought in at the bottom of the fifth inning to relieve James and close out the game. She did not allow a run for the rest of the game, and the Racers won the game 6-3.

James received the win while Veber got the save. The Murray State pitchers allowed seven hits, three runs, no earned runs and two walks, while

striking out eight Blue Raiders.

Lackey did not record a hit, but she drew a walk and accounted for two of the Racers' six runs in the win. Osbron finished with a walk, a hit, an RBI and two runs. Fischer totaled a hit, two runs and an RBI. Carroll and Jackson had two hits and two RBIs each, while freshman outfielder Jacy Thompson recorded a hit.

The Racers' record improved to 22-14 after the win over Middle Tennessee State, and they currently sit in sixth place in the MVC with a 6-4 conference record.

Murray State will host the Valparaiso Beacons Friday, April 7 to Sunday, April 9.

The first game of the weekend series is set for 5 p.m. on Friday. The second game is set for 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 8, and the final game is set for noon on Sunday.

THE NEWS'

ATHLETE WEEK

OF THE

TRACK & FIELD REDSHIRT SENIOR
RACHEL HAGANS

LONG JUMP
6.43M

NCAA

#5 IN DIVISION ONE



Win over SEMO elevates baseball over .500

Jakob Milani
Sports Editor
jmilani@murraystate.edu

An 11-8 home win over SEMO on Tuesday, April 4, put the Murray State baseball team above the .500 win percentage mark for the season.

It was a back-and-forth battle between the Racers and the Redhawks at Johnny Reagen Field, with the lead changing three times over the nine-inning contest.

The teams used a combined 14 pitchers throughout the game, with a combined 22 strikeouts and 13 walks across 93 at-bats in the game.

Senior outfielder Brett Graber got the scoring started in the top of the first inning with a single to bring home senior outfielder Jevon Mason to put SEMO up 1-0.

The Racers answered in the bottom of the first with a double from graduate first baseman Brennan McCullough that brought senior infielder Riley Hawthorne around to score.

The scoring didn't stop there for the Racers as the very next batter, junior infielder Drew Vogel, hit a sacrifice flyout that allowed sophomore outfielder Dustin Mercer to tag up and score from third base.

Another run was added on two batters later, as junior catcher Taylor Howell hit a single that brought McCullough home, making it 3-1 Racers after the first inning.

Despite seven different players reaching base across the second and third innings, the score remained unchanged until the top of the fourth.

With a ground out from junior utility player Chance Resetchich to McCullough, junior catcher Yanluis Ortiz dashed home from third base to add another run for the Redhawks.

Junior infielder Lincoln Andrews added on another run for



Sophomore infielder Riley Hawthorne catches a pop-fly against the SEMO Redhawks on Tuesday, April 4.

Rebecca Mertins Chiodini/The News

the Redhawks with a single up the middle, bringing junior outfielder Josh Cameron home to tie the game at three runs apiece.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, the Racers added on two more runs with a single from Mercer that brought senior outfielder Seth Gardner across the plate, then a walk by junior infielder Jacob Pennington brought in Hawthorne. Heading into the fifth inning, the Racers led 5-3.

The top of the fifth inning saw the lead change, though, as Resetchich hit a bases-loaded triple to bring three players home and put the Redhawks up 6-5.

In the bottom of the sixth inning, the Racers took the lead back with a single from Pennington that allowed both

Mercer and Vogel to score.

Another single from Hawthorne in the bottom of the seventh inning allowed for two more Murray State runs, extending the lead to three runs for the Racers.

The bottom of the eighth inning brought two more runs for the Racers as freshman utility player Gunnar Bingham tripled to right field, bringing two runners home to put the Racers up 11-6 as they headed into the last inning.

The Redhawks had to attempt the comeback in the top of the ninth, and with three runners on base, they managed to get a pair of runs, thanks to wild pitches from the Racers.

But that was all they could gather as Cameron grounded out to end the game. The Rac-

ers defeated the Redhawks 11-8.

Hawthorns led the Racers at the plate, going 3-4 in the game with two RBIs and a walk. Seven other Racers had a hit in the game. Murray State drew eight walks while striking out 10 times.

Graber and Andrews combined for six of the Redhawks' 11 hits. SEMO struck out 12 times as a team and drew five walks.

The Racers improve to 15-14 on the season after winning five of their last six games. The game against SEMO was nonconference, so the Racers' conference record remains at 3-3, and they sit at fifth place in the Valley.

Murray State hosts Valley opponent Illinois-Chicago for a three-game series next, with game one set for 5 p.m. on Friday, April 7.

Murray State ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

Shann Riley/The News



APRIL 6
Tennis vs. Missouri State @ Springfield, MO **NOON**

APRIL 7
Track vs. Joe Walker Invite @ Oxford, MS **ALL DAY**
Softball vs. Valparaiso @ Murray, KY **5 p.m.**
Baseball vs. UIC @ Murray, KY **5 p.m.**

APRIL 8
Track vs. Joe Walker Invite @ Oxford, MS **ALL DAY**
Men's Golf vs. Indiana @ Bloomington, IN **ALL DAY**
Tennis vs. Northern Iowa @ Murray, KY **11 a.m.**
Softball vs. Valparaiso @ Murray, KY **2 p.m.**
Baseball vs. UIC @ Murray, KY **2 p.m.**

APRIL 9
Men's Golf vs. Indiana @ Bloomington, IN **ALL DAY**
Softball vs. Valparaiso @ Murray, KY **NOON**
Baseball vs. UIC @ Murray, KY **1 p.m.**

APRIL 11
Baseball vs. Arkansas State @ Jonesboro, AR **TBD**
Softball vs. Belmont @ Nashville, TN **4 p.m.**

APRIL 12
Tennis vs. Belmont @ Murray, KY **1 p.m.**

Sophomore McKenna Stahl, women's golf
Photo courtesy of Dave Winder, Racer Athletics

For more information
visit GoRacers.com

Annual event connects local art community

MacKenzie Rogers
Staff Writer
mrogers42@murraystate.edu

Formerly annual Murray Art Guild event, the Art Hop, is returning with four different exhibits after being canceled for three years because of COVID-19.

The guild is excited to have the event return, said Debi Danielson, executive director of the Murray Art Guild.

“It’s just a fun community-wide event, and the energy of the people going to all the different places has always been super fun,” Danielson said. “It’s an opportunity for some people, as this might be the only guild event they do all year.”

The Art Hop will be taking place across four different locations: the Murray Art Guild, Murray Convention & Visitors Bureau, Shaffer Square and Clara M. Eagle Gallery.

The Murray Convention & Visitors Bureau’s exhibit “Proofs” is a regional juried photography exhibition. The reception and award ceremony will take place during the Art Hop, with selected winners receiving their cash prizes. Winners were selected by juror Glenn Hall, a commercial photographer based in Paducah, Kentucky.

In one of the storefronts in Shaffer Square will be the event “Night of 1000 Drawings,” a fundraiser for the Mayfield Ice House Gallery, which was destroyed in the Dec. 10, 2021, tornado. All donated drawings will be put on sale for \$10, with all proceeds going to the rebuilding fund for a new Ice House Gallery.



A piece from Isaiah Kennedy’s ‘Hope in Blue’ exhibit will be on display at the Murray Art Guild Gallery until April 22. Photo courtesy of murrayartguild.org

“It’s a beautiful cause, and we’ve never done that before,” Danielson said. “I think that it’s going to be really fun having different groups in Murray bringing and donating drawings.”

Danielson said the guild has received donated drawings from Florida, Texas and Tennessee.

The Clara M. Eagle Gallery exhibit will feature 15 senior capstone exhibits so students can fulfill their graduation requirements. The capstone exhibits generally take the form of concurrent exhibits or consist of small groups of students presenting their capstones within

the gallery space.

“For the Eagle Gallery to be open at night is another really great opportunity,” Danielson said. “Usually, the Eagle Gallery is just open during the day, and sometimes that’s hard for people in town, but with it being open at night, it’ll be easier for some people to go and see the exhibit.”

The Murray Art Guild exhibit “Hope in Blue” by Tennessee artist Isaiah Kennedy will feature his contemporary take on American modernist paintings covering a variety of topics.

“‘Hope in Blue’ represents the hope for the future while being

tinted with moments of fear and anxiety,” Kennedy said. “The body of work shows aspects of life that I look forward to and also potential moments in the future I fear.”

Through partnering with Murray State’s Town and Gown, an on-campus organization focused on improving communication between the University and Murray citizens, the guild will have two rented Murray Calloway Transit buses running a continuous loop between the exhibition sites.

The Art Hop is from 5 to 8 p.m. on April 15. The event is free and open to the public.

University crowns 53rd Ms. MSU in renovated Lovett

MacKenzie Rogers
Staff Writer
mrogers42@murraystate.edu

For the first time since COVID-19 and campus renovations, the Ms. MSU Scholarship Pageant was held in Lovett Auditorium, where 15 students competed on Saturday, April 1.

Upon introducing the top 15 contestants, the crowd was on their feet, showcasing their support for each contestant and their nominating organizations. Following the reveal of the newly crowned Ms. MSU, family and friends flocked to the stage to capture a photo with the contestants.

Ellie McGowan, nominated by Alpha Omicron Pi, was crowned Ms. MSU 2023. McGowan is the Student Government Association president and

“After graduation, McGowan plans to go to law school and work in policy,” according to a Ms. MSU Instagram post.

McGowan received a sash, crown, plaque and an \$850 Ms. MSU Scholarship.

“Honestly, this is such an unbelievable experience, and I’m incredibly honored to be able to represent everything that Murray State University stands for in this upcoming year and every student who walks through this campus,” McGowan said. “I’m so honored it’s unbelievable, but I’m so thankful for the opportunity.”



Junior agriculture business major Ellie McGowan receives the 2023 Ms. MSU crown from 2022 Ms. MSU Hanan Stiff. Rebecca Mertins Chiodini/The News

In ranking order, the runners-up are: junior Ella Robinson, representing Kappa Delta; junior Emma Gage, representing Alpha Gamma Delta; sophomore Claire Whitaker, representing Alpha Gamma Delta; and junior Claudia Sweeney, representing Alpha Omicron Pi.

The pageant also recognized the top 15 contestants. Those contestants were: sophomore Olivia Burris, representing the Honors Student Council; senior Allye Culp, representing Alpha Omicron Pi; junior Kelli Gore,

representing Alpha Delta Pi; junior Megan Hasty, representing the Panhellenic Council and COEHS Student Ambassadors; sophomore Cayden Hinde, representing Delta Zeta and Alpha Sigma Pi; junior Keeli McKeel, representing Order of Omega; junior Jayden Hayn, representing Racer Report; junior Nelli Walker, representing Alpha Gamma Delta; sophomore Sara Morgan, representing Alpha Sigma Alpha and Lee Clark Residential College Council; and sophomore Anna

McGreevy, representing the Honors College.

Hayn was voted Ms. Congeniality by her fellow contestants and was awarded a plaque.

Hinde was voted Most Photogenic by the judges based solely on the contestants’ headshots and also received a plaque.

In the fall semester, registered university organizations nominated women from their organizations to compete in the MSU pageant.

see Ms. MSU, page 8

Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/*The News*

Contestants from the 2023 Ms. MSU pageant line up on the Lovett Auditorium stage after the crowning of Ms. MSU.

Ms. MSU, from page 7

The Ms. MSU Board considered over 40 nominations. The board interviewed the nominees, and from there, they selected the 15 women advancing to the pageant.

The top 15 performed the opening dance in dark green dresses before introducing themselves and the organizations that nominated them.

The Ms. MSU competitions consisted of three categories. The interviews were the first category, and the speech and communication category was the second, in which contestants presented one-minute speeches on a topic of their choice.

The third category, the evening gown competition, took place during the live event. The contestants strutted the stage in their ball gowns one by one, each getting their moment in the spotlight.

Their ball gowns varied in style and shade. Each ball gown reveal was met

with applause from the audience.

Afterwards, the event went into a brief intermission as the judges chose the top five contestants who would continue on to present the same one-minute speeches they had performed before.

From there, the judges tallied up their scores one last time before Ms. MSU and the runner-ups were revealed.

2022 Ms. MSU Hanan Stiff performed her final walk as Ms. MSU. Stiff will go on to represent Murray State in the Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival in May for the chance to be crowned queen of the festival by Gov. Andy Beshear.

The Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival is an annual event in which colleges and universities select one representative each, with Murray State sending the Ms. MSU winner as their representative.

McGowan will head to the Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival in May 2024 to represent Murray State.

Women's History Month

Crossword Puzzle Answers

ACROSS

2. Megan Rapinoe
3. Georgia O'Keeffe
6. Janet Guthrie
7. Edith Wharton
10. Malala Yousafzai
11. Sylvia Rivera
12. Serena Williams
13. Tarana Burke
14. Beyonce

Down

1. Margaret Sanger
4. Aretha Franklin
5. Madam C. J. Walker
8. Laurel Hubbard
9. Augusta Savage

Shann Riley/*The News*

Arboretum event celebrates nature, local resources



On Tuesday, April 4, the Murray State Arboretum hosted the sixth annual Four Rivers Watershed Sustainability Festival "Family Day." The "Family Day" event is part of a month-long event series celebrating local water resources and was designed to bring together community members of all ages. The event featured activities geared toward children, such as interactive bee, goat, owl and turtle demonstrations. "Family Day" also gave adults the chance to learn about green living, wildlife conservation and enter their names in a tree giveaway. (From top left) Community members gather to see an owl demonstration; students and community members walk through local organizations tabling; Hutson School of Agriculture department head Alyx Shultz and representatives demonstrate the life cycle of the alpine strawberry; and students from the Murray State Horticulture Club table with plants.

Photo courtesy of Dava Hayden