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Calendar of Events

Veterans Lunch

Thursday, April 13 (11 a.m. - 1p.m.)
Blackburn Science Building 444

All military service-connected students can go to the Veterans Affairs Lounge for a free meal.

Honors Thesis Presentations: Department of English and Philosophy Brown Bag Series

Thursday, April 13 (12:30 p.m.)
Faculty Hall Room 507

English Students will be presenting their Senior Honors theses projects.

Cinema International

Thursday, April 13 (7:30 p.m.)
Saturday, April 15 (7:30 p.m.)
Faculty Hall Room 208

Cinema International hosts a showing of the American film "The True Cost."

Trombone Choir Concert

Thursday, April 13 (7:30-8:30 p.m.)
Performing Arts Hall

The Trombone Choir will perform music from "Game of Thrones," "Candide," "Pirates of the Caribbean" and more.

German Language Table

Monday, April 17 (3:30 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.

Orchestra Performance

Tuesday, April 18 (7:30 p.m.)
Lovett Auditorium

The Murray State Orchestra hosts a Spring performance.

Cinema International

Thursday, April 20 (7:30 p.m.)
Saturday, April 22 (7:30 p.m.)
Faculty Hall Room 208

Cinema International hosts a showing of the British film "A Life on Our Planet."

Active April and Pet Therapy

Monday, April 24 (noon - 1 p.m.)
Alexander Hall Atrium

This event focuses on mental and emotional wellbeing, destressing and celebrating the semester's end.

Source: murraystate.edu/calendar



The Murray State Planned Parenthood Generation Action Chapter hosts a rally on Tuesday, April 11 to inform the campus of ways to support Trans Youth in Kentucky.

Students share resources for trans youth

Dionte Berry

Editor-in-Chief
dberry11@murraystate.edu

Across the nation anti-trans legislation, including Kentucky Senate Bill 150, have led to a number of protests around the state following the end of Kentucky's 2023 legislative session.

Along with other Kentuckians, students at Murray State are making their voices heard regarding the harm the bill will perpetuate.

SB 150 has received national attention from organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign who said the bill is a "shameful mean-spirited bill designed to make LGBTQ+ students feel isolated." The bill intends to prevent transgender individuals

under the age of 18 from accessing any form of gender-affirming care.

"We are here for the community to reach out and be able to use their voices because even though the legislation has gone ahead and passed, your voice still matters."

—Julian Lamson,
Planned Parenthood Generations
Action chapter President

Locally, members of Murray State's Planned Parenthood Generations Action chapter hosted a rally on Tuesday, April 11, to spread awareness and raise money for trans youth.

Chapter President Julian Lamson said they want people to be aware of

what is happening but more importantly, for Murray State administration to express how they are feeling.

"We're trying to get Murray State to acknowledge what is going on because thus far, Murray State has yet to actually acknowledge the actual SB 150 passing," Lamson said. "And it does concern Murray State University, whether they like it or not... We are a school with minors [attending]. ...It's important for Murray State to acknowledge that they have their trans students' backs and that they are protected."

Lamson said they found it important to share there is a community at Murray State that is accepting and respectful to trans identities.

see **TRANS RALLY**, page 3

Report shows student stress level hike

Jill Smith

Assistant News Editor
jsmith194@murraystate.edu

As the Counseling Center notices more students reporting they are stressed, University organizations and leaders are working to ensure students know how to cope with their stress.

April is recognized as National Stress Awareness Month, aiming to highlight the negative impacts of stress.

There are three different types of stress: acute, episodic and chronic, according to the American Institute of Stress.

As a way to promote April as Stress Awareness Month, Active Minds has shared tips on coping with stress on their Instagram page. These tips encourage students to engage in deep breathing techniques, exercise, good sleeping habits, setting boundaries and celebrating small victories.

"We all experience stress, and it's not easy," an Active Minds' post read. "There are many aspects of life that cause stress, and though we can't control them all, we can try our best to support ourselves through stressful times."

Counseling Center Director Angie Trzepacz said she has seen an increase in students reporting

2023 STRESS AWARENESS MONTH

- 48%** of college students reported moderate or severe psychological stress. (American College Health Association)
- 39%** of students say mental health struggles have made it difficult for them to succeed in their classes. (Insider Higher Ed)
- 89%** of college students reported experiencing stress or anxiety as a result of COVID-19. (Active Minds)

Shann Riley/ The News'

Shann Riley/The News

National Stress Awareness month is an opportunity to focus on ways to handle stress.

cases of stress and encourages students to use coping strategies.

"Some of the easiest things to help with stress are learning time management techniques, because many people are not good at time management, but if they have some techniques that work for them, that can relieve their stress," Trzepacz said.

Trzepacz said stress can cause students to feel buried under their responsibilities.

"People get overwhelmed with all of their responsibilities and commitments and feel like they are not prepared for them, they can't handle them and don't have time for them," Trzepacz said. "They feel stress about the things that they're supposed to do and whether or not they're able to do those things."

see **STRESS LEVELS**, page 2

NEWS BRIEF

Nurse practitioner joins on campus medical clinic

Caroline Blakeman

Contributing Writer

cblakeman3@murraystate.edu

Janna French, a family nurse practitioner, joined the medical team during February at the on-campus Village Medical clinic.

French began working on campus Feb. 27, focusing on family medicine.

"I love taking care of people, and they needed someone here at Murray State to be here more consistently," French said.

French previously worked for Primary Care Clinic before it became Village Medical.

After working in orthopedics in Paris, Tennessee, she came back to Village Medical, which led her to the campus NP position.

"Taking care of people is the passion," French said. "And remember that we are on a college campus. And there are things that this population is more susceptible to or more exposed to than other people that we would see off campus."

French said she wants to highlight that all kinds of STD testing is available to students.

She also said the clinic is working closely with the Counseling Center for mental health services.

An office visit on campus is \$65 for students.

Village Medical offers this same price at their main location off-campus if students present their Racercard.

French said she remembers being a college student and not knowing what to do when feeling sick, which fueled her passion for the medical field.

"I didn't know I was supposed to talk about pap smears and STD testing at a certain age," French said.

"So I'm excited to be on the college campus because I think that trying to educate our college students about overall health in general is important."

She said it is important for students to be able to make their own appointments and have adult conversations once they graduate.



Dionte Berry/The News

Murray State Health Services is located in the first Floor of Wells Hall.

She hopes to educate students and make them more prepared.

"I'm eager to do that and be available more during the day," French said.

"So I'm happy to fill that role and try to offer the best care to our students, faculty and staff—anyone who needs it."

The clinic is located on the 1st floor of Wells Hall. Walk-in appointments are available, or appointments can be scheduled by contacting Health Services at msu.health-services@murraystate.edu.



Dionte Berry/The News

Southernequality.org offers ways to support and resources for trans people in the southern U.S.

TRANS RALLY, from page 1

"I want trans youth to know that people at Murray State do not stand with [or] support these laws and will always respect children's pronouns and respect their preferred names," Lamson said.

To show their support to trans Kentucky youth, Lamson and the Planned Parenthood chapter shared information so people can donate to the Southern Trans Youth Emergency Fund. The campaign aids individuals and families who are in areas where gender-affirming care is inaccessible.

Donations can be made at southernequality.org.

The fund will help those who need access to gender-affirming care by providing impacted families with navigation resources and grants.

Chapter Treasurer Katherine Stark believes people should have the ability to express themselves, which includes gender expression.

"I'm a firm believer in that we should just let people live how they want to, and it shouldn't matter to anyone—or to the government—about how someone identifies or lives their life," Stark said.

At the end of the day, Stark wants to help ensure Murray State is home to a trans-supportive community.

"I'm hoping that we can influence people to support or make people aware of the legislation that's being passed, as well as provide a safe environment for people who are trans and LGBTQ at Murray State, and that they have people that support them," Stark said.

Despite SB 150 being overridden, Lamson doesn't see this as a time to stay silent.

"We are here for the students," Lamson said. "We are here for the community to reach out and be able to use their voices because even though the legislation has gone ahead and passed, your voice still matters."

STRESS LEVELS, from page 1

About 49.3% of college students feel moderately stressed.

"College students' stress statistics...show that almost half of the students in the U.S. are experiencing moderate stress," according to the American College Health Association. "Moreover, nearly a third, 29.5 percent, endure high stress, while 19.7 percent report low stress levels."

Their study found some of the leading causes of stress among college students are financial related.

“Some of the easiest things to help with stress are learning time management techniques, because many people are not good at time management, but if they have some techniques that work for them, that can relieve their stress.”

— Angie Trzepacz, Counseling Center Director

On campus, the Racers Helping Racers food pantry and the Women's Center are working to alleviate financial stress students face each semester.

Located in Blackburn Science Building Room 244, students can fill out a confidential form to let the office know what items students are needing. After the form is complete, students can grab a grocery bag and “shop” for necessities.

The Women's Center has the Bra Closet and period products available to students in need. Items are donated by student organizations, including sororities and the Residential College Association.

Stress can affect a person's mind and body.

"A little bit of stress is good and can help us perform daily activities, [but] too much stress can cause physical and mental health problems," according to the World Health Organization website. "Learning how to cope with stress can help us feel less overwhelmed and support our mental and physical well-being."

Trzepacz said stress can be different depending on the person and the severity of stress they are experiencing.

"Somebody who is mildly stressed might have their regular schedule of the week, but they have one paper that they're stressed about," Trzepacz said. "Somebody who is severely stressed might be thinking about all of their [responsibilities] and thinking about when [they're] going to do them."

Trzepacz said it is important for students to identify coping strategies.

She encourages students to develop a list of hobbies and interests. This list can provide students with options on ways they can calm down during a stressful situation.

To schedule an appointment with University Counseling Services, email msu.counselingcenter@murraystate.edu.

POLICE BEAT

6:25 P.M.

Hester Hall

Criminal mischief was reported after a fire exit sign was damaged.

10:48 A.M.

Chestnut Street

An individual was arrested for being intoxicated in a public place.

12:33 P.M.

University Drive

Theft reported of services from illegal trash disposal.

11:50 P.M.

RH White Residential Hall

An individual reported that a gaming console was stolen.

3/09

3/10

4/5

4/7

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

Not all dispatched calls are listed.

Tyler, The Creator surprises listeners with deluxe album

Emery Wainscott
Chief Copy Editor
ewainscott@murraystate.edu

Tyler, the Creator returns to the breezy, soulful sound he revealed first on “Flower Boy” in “CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST: The Estate Sale.” It’s a perfect springtime set of tracks to play with the windows down and the wind blowing on your face.

Tyler Okonma, known as Tyler, the Creator, is an American rapper and singer-songwriter with two Grammy awards. He is one of the founding members of the hip-hop collective Odd Future, whose other breakout members are Frank Ocean, Syd Tha Kyd and Earl Sweatshirt.

“CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST: The Estate Sale” is a continuation of his sixth studio album released in 2021, “CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST.” This deluxe version could function as a post-album EP itself; it incorporates recurring themes from his “Flower Boy” and “Igor” era personas, but maintains a distinct narrative thread.

The deluxe album was released on March 27 and includes songs that were recorded for “CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST” but did not make the final cut.

Okonma starts with “EVERYTHING MUST GO,” a reference to a yard sale-type sign, and reflects on his career so far and thanks his listeners. “Thank you to every ear that listened, bought a ticket ... thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you,” he says.

“STUNTMAN,” the following track, ventures into a bounce and trap sound with rapper Vince Staples. Bringing back the sea-ocean breeze-sound with introspective lyricism, “WHAT A DAY” is laced with self-questioning. He shouts out Black women for raising him and reflects on his fears: “I’m so scared of going back to my past ... white boy said I brag too much, the Black kid said, ‘It’s inspiring duality is tiring.’”

“WHARF TALK” uses the 70s synth-funk sound he introduced on “Flower Boy”



Album cover courtesy of spotify.com
“CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST: The Estate Sale” was released on March 27 under Columbia Records.

The next song, “BOYFRIEND GIRLFRIEND,” is a 2020 demo. Okonma continues the narrative thread: “I just want someone to talk to whenever I start feeling alone ... You should be my boyfriend, girlfriend.” Instead of reflecting on a perfect future, he delves deeper into his loneliness while retaining his flippant persona in between his pitched rapping.

The closing track, “SORRY NOT SORRY,” continues the idea explored on “WHAT A DAY.” The track starts with a grandiose intro, pumping up as the sample says: “I’m sorry / I’m f***** sorry.” His stream of consciousness-style writing shows in this song, as he explains the duality of feeling both sorry and not sorry for who he is and what he has done in his past.

He dives into what is speculated to be about his sexuality: “Sorry to the guys I had to hide / Sorry to the girls I had to lie to.” He apologizes—but not really; he knows these things are not something he should be sorry about and almost teases his listeners—for the distance and boundaries he has with his fans, knowing he gives enough vulnerability in his art, and tells listeners who want to creep in on his personal life that they need to “know [their] place.”

Okonma begins to discuss broader concepts, like the social construct of gender and pronouns, climate change and Blackness in the U.S. “I’m sorry to my ancestors / I’m so sorry / I know I’m supposed to fight ... I’m not Superman, but I could try,” Okonma says.

He wraps up this chapter of his music career in the final seconds, saying, “I guarantee another era is upon us / So once again, we gone.”

Again, Okonma has created a piece that draws me in. He finds new ways to describe his recurring feelings. Though he ventures back into his older “Flower Boy” sound, which I actually really like, he makes up for it with his imagery and writing ability.

I give this an 8.5 out of 10 for its vulnerability, catchiness and honesty. It’s a great way to close a chapter with the idea of “everything must go” in this estate sale. As usual, I’m excited to hear what his next era will be, and you know I’ll be listening.

“CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST:
The Estate Sale”

ALBUM RELEASE DATE: March 27

RECORD LABEL: Columbia Records

FEATURE LIST: Vince Staples & A\$AP Rocky

FAVORITE SONG: “DOGTOOTH”

with his distinctive sing-rapping as he mumbles underneath the beat while A\$AP Rocky sings about spoiling his girl.

“DOGTOOTH,” my favorite track, adopts a traveling synth and piano chords in the background with Okonma singing “Oh,” in the background. “If you don’t know my grandma name / Then we ain’t really dogs, b****.” He begins to describe a concept of domesticity and intimacy that he’ll return to in the next track, “HEAVEN TO ME.”

“HEAVEN TO ME” finishes this thought: “The lake water getting warmer from the radiant sun / My baby mama and my daughter getting chased by my son.” He is both grateful for his present and looking forward to his future, thankful for his wealth and health and reflects on what he viewed as Heaven when he was a child compared to now. Okonma likes facetiousness, but he constantly returns to his desire for intimacy and settling down on his newer albums.

Community celebrates the 64th All Campus Sing

Savannah Hamilton
Contributing Writer
shamilton17@murraystate.edu

The community and Murray State students gathered outside Lovett Auditorium on Wednesday, April 12 for All Campus Sing, a long-lasting tradition for students to showcase their singing, dancing and performance talents. This year’s grand champion was Pi Kappa Alpha.

Though the tradition started in 1958, this year was All Campus Sing’s 64th iteration. The event has had a rocky couple of years: it was canceled in 2020 because of COVID-19, held virtually in 2021 and was rescheduled in 2022 because of severe weather.

During the event this year, though, Emcee Logan Stout said it was the biggest crowd he has seen so far.

The event involves campus groups, residential colleges, professional organizations, Greek organizations and more.

Sigma Alpha Iota hosts the event each year during the spring semester.

SAI is an International Music Fraternity dating back to 1903. The organization also hosts Campus Lights, a student run production which raises funds for music scholarships

and is led by the University’s two music fraternities, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Sigma Alpha Iota.

These two events also incorporate one of the oldest buildings on campus. Built in 1926, Lovett happens to be one of the four original structures on campus, according to murraystate.edu.

One important part of All Campus Sing is the hard work that students put into their performances. Each group of performers is responsible for choreographing and performing a brief musical number. All Campus Sing is not only an evening of entertainment but a representation of friendly competition.

Teams are judged based on several different standards, such as creativity, choreography and costume. Awards are given to the top performances, best director and best choreography.

Another important aspect that goes into All Campus Sing is that SAI generates proceeds from the gathering and puts them toward the philanthropy project associated with their Greek chapter. The philanthropy program is called People to People.

People to People provide material assistance and encouragement to schools, music organizations and musicians.



Sigma Alpha Iota puts on a show at the 2023 All Campus Sing.

Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Prior to All Campus Sing, flyers are hung up around campus showcasing donations for used instruments. These will go to support local children who may not be able to afford their own musical instruments.

The main importance of a tradition like All Campus Sing is the connection it gives viewers as a community. There are hundreds of people who come out to support and watch these performances.

Even students who may not have an involvement

within the musical department still partake in All Campus Sing.

Liz Roy shared her thoughts on the special tradition as a first-time viewer.

“Hanging out with friends and enjoying campus life is one of the most important things for Murray State’s community,” Roy said.

Events like All Campus Sing gives communities like Murray State the opportunity to connect on things that they all have in common: love for music. Support from people on and off campus is important to keep these traditions alive.

Our view:

Clarence Thomas erodes Supreme Court integrity

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas finds himself in an ethical dilemma ever since a *Pro-Publica* report revealed he had been receiving fully paid trips from Republican billionaire and donor Harlan Crow. These trips includes a \$500,000 trip to Indonesia, a men's retreat in California and multiple other trips over a span of 20 years.

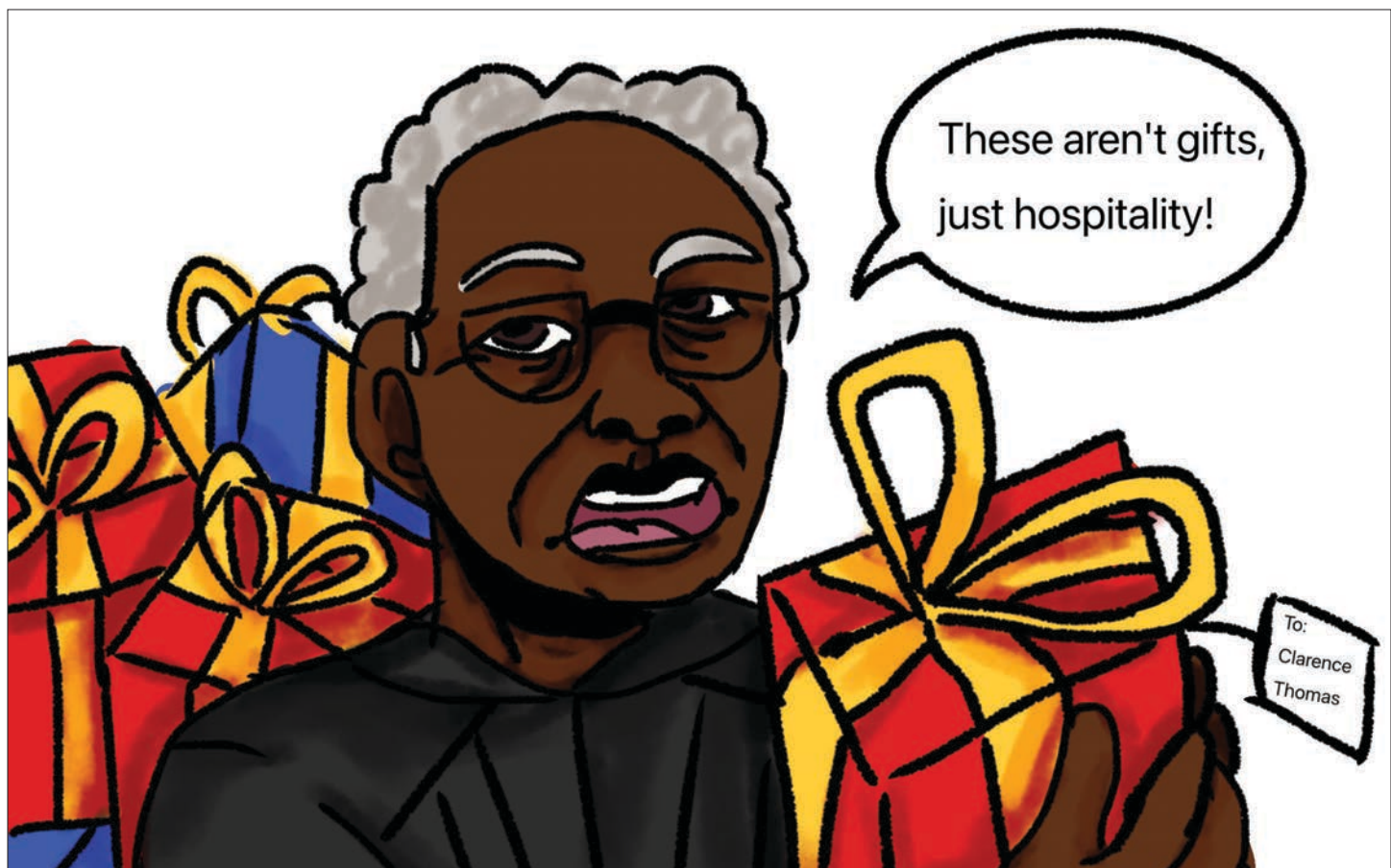
Justices at every level are supposed to be impartial and interpret the law objectively in their rulings. They should not be accepting elegant trips from billionaire donors meant to influence their decisions.

Under the Ethics in Government Act, all governmental figures, including Supreme Court justices, must report all gifts valued over \$415 they receive. There is an exception known as personal hospitality that includes "food, lodging or entertainment," but transportation like a personal plane or yacht excursions do not fall under this exemption, despite what Thomas claims he was told by fellow justices.

We at *The News* believe Thomas should have reported these vacations at the time he took the trip, not as a reaction to the expenses being published by the media.

All other judges aside from those on the Supreme Court are bound by the Judicial Conference's Code of Conduct for United States Judges, which provides guidelines for how the judges should conduct their business. The Supreme Court is not bound to this code of ethics. But it should be. Our justices are not above the law; this code should apply to them as well.

Legislators have even stricter rules for receiving gifts. Congressional members are



Wesley Hammer/*The News*

generally not allowed to accept gifts, but there are exceptions for gifts from friends and family, government officials and colleagues.

Thomas claimed he and Crow had been friends for 25 years, but Thomas has been on the Supreme Court for over 30 years. This means they became friends while Thomas served on the Court. While we at *The News* do not believe Crow became friends with the Thomases to buy influence, we do believe the financial benefits of their friendship poses an ethical problem to the legitimacy of the Supreme Court.

This is not Thomas' first time ignoring common judicial and personal ethics. Aside from being credibly accused of sexual harassment during his nomination process by former coworker Anita Hill, Thomas and his wife Virginia "Ginni" Thomas have had issues with political conflict of interest.

Usually, whenever a justice

is nominated to the Supreme Court, their partners do not engage in much partisan work, and the justices do not rule on cases where they have a special interest. For example, when Chief Justice John Roberts was nominated to the Supreme Court, his wife Jane Roberts quit her law practice to avoid any potential conflicts with her husband's rulings.

But Ginni Thomas has continued her work as a conservative activist throughout her husband's judicial career, even taking a major role in the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection. Ginni Thomas had connections to many anti-abortion groups through her position as a board director for conservative networking group the Council for National Policy. This group wrote amicus briefs, or letters to a court that voice support for one side of a suit, but Clarence Thomas refused to recuse himself from these cases.

We could still have a federal

right to abortion if Clarence Thomas had done the right thing and recused himself from *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the Supreme Court case from 2022 officially overruling the super precedent case *Roe v. Wade*.

More than 20 Democratic legislators have called for an external, and most importantly, transparent investigation into Clarence Thomas' unethical actions, according to CNN. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-New York, called for action on the part of Chief Justice John Roberts and for the impeachment of Clarence Thomas. While it is unlikely Clarence Thomas's impeachment proceedings will succeed, it is still a big deal to draft impeachment proceedings against a sitting justice.

Billionaires have a heavy influence on American politics right now, so let's not allow them to keep our Supreme Court justices in their pockets.



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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 Wainscott
Chief Copy Editor
ewainscott@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

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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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Rebecca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Senior right handed pitcher Hannah James throws a strikeout, leading to one of her 13 strikeouts in the Racers win over the Belmont Bruins on Tuesday, April 11.

James strikes out 13 batters in victory

Wins Pitcher of the Week after perfect game and 700 K's

Ronan Summers
Staff Writer

rsummers6@murraystate.edu

The contest between the Murray State Racers and Belmont Bruins went to the tenth inning to decide a winner on Tuesday, April 11.

Senior right-handed pitcher Hannah James recently was recognized for her success on the mound and was awarded the MVC Pitcher of the Week after going 2-0 with a save. It was a weekend worth celebrating, as she also recorded her 700th strikeout on Friday, April 7 against the Valparaiso Beacons.

James pitched a perfect game on Saturday, April 8 against the Beacons in a nine strikeout effort. In total, she allowed only a

hit and a walk in 11.1 innings last week. She is 11-5 this season with an ERA of 1.31.

Junior right-handed pitcher Jenna Veber also had an eventful day, as she recorded career win No. 40 in Friday's win over the Beacons. Veber has a 11-4 record this season with a 2.06 ERA.

It was James who got the start for the visiting Racers on Tuesday in a pitching duel that went into extra innings.

There were 19 straight outs recorded between both teams to start the game. Freshman outfielder Jady Thompson singled with one out in the top of the fourth inning, recording the first hit of the game. She was left on base after the next two Racers struck out swinging, sending the game into the bottom of the fourth inning.

The next hit of the game did not come until the top of the tenth in-

ning when junior infielder Lily Fischer hit a solo home run, breaking the tie and putting the first run of the day on the board. This was Fischer's third home run of the season.

The Bruins were finally able to get on base in the bottom of the tenth inning after a double by sophomore infielder Emily Cockrill. Belmont was unable to drive her in, and the Racers won the game 1-0 after 10 innings.

Junior right-handed pitcher Emma Summers received the loss after being put into the game in the tenth inning and giving up the home run to Fischer. Freshman left-handed pitcher Maya Johnson got the start for the Bruins. She pitched nine innings and struck 20 batters out, while allowing a hit and a walk.

James got the win after pitching all 10 innings. She allowed one hit, no walks and struck 13 batters out.

Thompson's single and Fischer's

home run made up both of the Racers' two hits on Tuesday. Freshman outfielder Adison Hicks was the only Racer that walked in the win.

The battle between Johnson and James was fierce, and neither pitcher was willing to let up. Racer and Bruin batters combined to strike out for a total of 34 times. Murray State batters struck out 21 times, as Belmont batters struck out 13 times.

Murray State is now 2-0 against Belmont. The next meeting between the two teams will be at 3 p.m. on April 26. The Racers are now in fifth place in the MVC with an overall record of 26-14 and a conference record of 10-4.

Murray State will be celebrating Alumni Weekend from Friday, April 14 to Sunday, April 16. The first game of the weekend series will be at 5 p.m. against Evansville on Friday at Racer Field. The Racers then play at 2 p.m. on Saturday and again at noon on Sunday.



SHANN RILEY / THE NEWS

Baseball comeback falls short on the road

Jakob Milani
Sports Editor
jmilani@murraystate.edu

A late-game push wasn't enough for the Murray State baseball team, as the team fell one run short against the Arkansas State Red Wolves.

The Racers hit three home runs in the game, including a grand slam in the fifth inning. However, unable to get any more runs to cross the plate, the Racers lost to the Red Wolves 8-7 in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Junior infielder Logan Bland batted lead-off for the Racers, and on the very first pitch of the game, he hit a home run deep to right field, putting Murray State up early.

But, it wasn't long before the Red Wolves answered.

After a lead-off double from sophomore infielder Wil French in the bottom of the first inning, sophomore first baseman Cason Tollett hit a home run to center field, giving the Red Wolves a one-run lead.

Junior infielder Drew Vogel got the second inning started with a walk and advanced to second base on a groundout from junior designated hitter Jacob Pennington.

The play set up an RBI chance for junior outfielder Cade Sammons, and he took full advantage with a triple. This allowed Vogel to score and tied the game at two runs apiece.

Once again, the Racers had trouble holding the lead as freshman left-hander starting pitcher Ethan Lyke walked the first batter, then gave up a single to the next batter.

After another walk and a mound visit, Lyke gave up a sacrifice fly-out that allowed freshman outfielder Cross Jumper to tag up and score from third base, giving the Red Wolves the lead.

A wild pitch advanced the runners on base, and Vogel, who was playing shortstop, bobbled the throw on a groundout chance. This allowed junior outfielder Allen Grier and sophomore infielder Daedrick Cail



Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News

Senior outfielder Seth Gardner had two of the Racers seven hits in their 8-7 loss to the Arkansas State Red Wolves on Tuesday, April 11.

to score, making it 5-2 Red Wolves.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Red Wolves continued adding to their lead with a double from junior infielder Brayden Caskey that scored French and Grier, putting two more runs on the board.

The next batter, Tollett, hit a single into right field, and Caskey came around to score, making it 8-2 Red Wolves.

The Racers had work to do, and to work they went in the top of the fifth. Sammons got the inning started with a single, followed by a bunting single from senior outfielder Seth Gardner.

After Bland loaded the bases by getting hit by a pitch and sophomore outfielder Dustin Mercer struck out, graduate outfielder Brennan McCullough stepped up.

With a full count and bases loaded, McCullough hit a grand slam to right field, cutting the Red Wolves' lead to just two runs.

The Racers came close to scoring again in the top of the sixth inning with a pair of walks, but left the runners stranded on base.

The top of the ninth inning came around, and Murray State needed two runs to keep the game going. The team got one of those runs in the form of a solo home run from Bland, cutting the lead to just one run.

But the rest of the batters weren't able to get on base, leaving the Racers just short of a win. The Red Wolves defeated the Racers 8-7.

Murray State had seven hits in the game, with McCullough, Sammons and Gardner each having two hits.

Bland had the only other hit. The Racers struck out eight times in the game, walked three times and left four runners on base. They also recorded the only error of the game.

Arkansas State had eight hits in the game, with Tollett slashing two of them to lead the team. The Red Wolves struck out six times and walked three times, leaving four runners on base.

Murray State drops to a 16-17 record on the season, sitting at sixth in the MVC with a conference record of 4-5.

Conference play resumes for the Racers on Friday, April 14, as they travel to Normal, Illinois, taking on the Illinois State Redbirds in a three-game series. The first pitch for game one is set for 5 p.m.

Murray State ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

Shann Riley/The News



Junior Jenna Pauly, track and field
Photo courtesy of Dave Winder, Racer Athletics

For more information
visit GoRacers.com

APRIL 14

Track vs. Austin Peay @ Murray, KY
Softball vs. Evansville @ Murray, KY
Baseball vs. Illinois State @ Normal, IL

ALL DAY
5 p.m.
5 p.m.

APRIL 15

Softball vs. Evansville @ Murray, KY
Baseball vs. Illinois State @ Normal, IL

2 p.m.
3 p.m.

APRIL 16

Women's Golf vs. MVC @ Waterloo, IL
Men's Golf vs. Wright State @ Springboro, OH
Softball vs. Evansville @ Murray, KY
Tennis vs. Drake @ Des Moines, IA
Baseball vs. Illinois State @ Normal, IL

ALL DAY
ALL DAY
NOON
1 p.m.
1 p.m.

APRIL 17

Women's Golf vs. MVC @ Waterloo, IL
Men's Golf vs. Wright State @ Springboro, OH

ALL DAY
ALL DAY

APRIL 18

Women's Golf vs. MVC @ Waterloo, IL
Baseball vs. Alabama A&M @ Murray, KY

ALL DAY
5 p.m.

APRIL 19

Baseball vs. UT Martin @ Martin, TN
Softball vs. SEMO @ Cape Girardeau, MO

2 p.m.
3 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Carrie Bryant

The Main Street Market building at 416 Main St. after the closing of the Wild Raspberry scrapbooking store (left) and the building following Bryant's renovations (right).

Grocery store aims to provide variety, local sourcing

Raleigh Hightower

Lifestyle Editor

rhightower@murraystate.edu

After leaving corporate America behind in pursuit of a simpler lifestyle with her husband, Murray transplant Carrie Bryant has decided to open the Main Street Market, a locally sourced gourmet grocery store in downtown Murray.

Bryant was born and raised in Waco, Texas, and received a degree in poultry science at Texas A&M University. After college, Bryant began working in the poultry industry in Colorado, where she would spend the next eight years.

During her time in Colorado, Bryant not only met her husband but also began her master of business administration degree at Colorado State University.

Bryant and her husband made the decision to move to Murray a year ago and initially bought some farmland before getting the idea for the grocery store.

"We were kind of looking into our second career," Bryant said. "What did we want to do? We bought some farmland in the Calloway County area... and we started to raise animals. We got to talking about what we are going to do with the meat."

Bryant said the idea for the grocery store came from a desire to own the supply chain process for the food and to increase the variety of food available locally.

"The idea came from a sense of appreciation for how food is grown and raised as well as the varieties, tastes and product options," Bryant said. "Murray is a small town, and unfortunately, sometimes with that you are limited to whatever Walmart and Kroger has."

With both she and her husband having studied business administration, Bryant said owning a business was a natural fit for them.

Having decided to open the store, there was then the challenge of finding the store's location. Bryant

decided to open the store in downtown Murray, somewhere she said she had been fascinated with since arriving in Murray.

"We loved the charm of downtown Murray," Bryant said. "It's old school, it's fun and ultimately, I think that there were opportunities for new businesses."

The Main Street Market's location is on the Court square between two other businesses, Modestly Murray and Granola Girls. The location was the former home of a scrapbooking store named Wild Raspberry.

Though she had found a location for her business, Bryant has had to complete many renovations to the building in order to bring her grocery store to life.

So far, Bryant has stripped the buildings flooring, stripped a drop ceiling to reveal the building's original copper ceiling, repainted the building, rewired the building's lighting and is currently working on the building's awning and signage.

With renovations nearly complete,

Bryant hopes the Main Street Market will be able to open during the month of May.

The Main Street Market will feature a wide variety of products and emphasizes local sourcing and collaboration with Kentucky farmers.

"We are targeting a lot of Kentucky Proud items," Bryant said. "Those items are grown or manufactured in Kentucky, sourced from Kentucky."

Main Street Market also plans to feature several different small-batch items. These are items produced in limited quantities by vendors. Many of these items were discovered at specialty food shows in places such as Dallas and Las Vegas, Bryant said.

Bryant said she looks forward to the opportunity to get to know the community and to open the doors to her store.

"Our store shelves will be stocked with [good] food," Bryant said. "We are going to understand it, and we are going to be able to help customers with whatever need they have."

Reading series explores climate change, exploitation

MacKenzie Rogers

Staff Writer

mrogers42@murraystate.edu

As a part of its Reading Series program, the creative writing program hosted Arizona State University creative writing Professor and The New York Times Notable Book author Matt Bell on April 5.

Bell is the author of novels "Appleseed"; "Scrapper"; "In the House upon the Dirt Between the Lake and the Woods"; a nonfiction novel, "Baldur's Gate II"; a short story collection, "A Tree or a Person or a Wall"; and a craft book, "Refuse to Be Done."

His publications have appeared in The New York Times, Esquire, Tin House, Fairy Tale Review, American Short Fiction and Orion.

At the event, Bell read three sections from his most recently published novel, "Appleseed," which covers themes of climate change, manifest destiny, exploitation of natural resources and the magic contained inside every apple. "Appleseed" was named the best book of the summer by The New York Times and received the Indies Next List Pick and Amazon's Book of the Month.

The novel travels through three storylines.

The first takes place in the 18th century and tells the story of two brothers seeking to gain large profits from planting an apple orchard.

The second storyline takes place in the 20th century with a scientist who seeks to destroy the corrupt, environmentally damaging company he once helped build.



Michigan-born author Matt Bell shared passages from his novel 'Appleseed' as a part of the English department's reading series on April 5.

The third storyline takes place a thousand years into the future with a lonely sentient being who takes on a seemingly impossible quest to follow a homing beacon across the now-ice-covered North American continent in search of discovering the last remains of civilization.

Assistant Professor of English T.J. Martinson said he has been a long-time fan of Bell's work.

"The entire English and Philosophy Department was thrilled, but I was especially excited," Martinson said. "Selfishly, I was just looking forward to getting to talk to him about books, writing processes and all that other

dorky stuff writers talk about when they get together."

Bell is currently working on a new trilogy series, though no other information was revealed.

In addition to the evening reading, Bell also gave a lecture to the novel writing and short fiction classes. During the lecture, Bell explained the significance of sentence structure in acoustics, syntax and style.

"He's one of the best sentence-level writers I've ever read," Martinson said. "I frequently assign his novels and short stories to my students because his writing is a great example of how a story can have both an excellent plot

and stunning lyricism."

Martinson said there were a few lessons from Bell's visit he hoped others would take away.

"Matt Bell exemplifies two very important things related to creative writing," Martinson said. "You can and should write whatever you want to write, and you should treat your writing with the seriousness and care that it deserves."

For more information about the future Reading Series events, visit @murraystatecreativewriting on Instagram or the Murray State Creative Writing Program and Reading Series page on Facebook.

Student, professor donate break to river cleanup

Ava Chuppe
Senior Writer
achuppe@murraystate.edu

A professor and student in the nonprofit leadership studies program spent Spring Break volunteering for the Living Lands and Waters organization, cleaning up tributaries of the Mississippi River in the Memphis, Tennessee, area.

The organization, founded in 1998, is headquartered in East Moline, Illinois. It focuses on rivershed cleanups, watershed conservation projects and other conservation initiatives, including educational programs.

Living Lands and Waters has conducted its alternative Spring Break program for 12 years. This year, volunteers like Professor Mike Gowen and senior NLS major Zach McCarver picked up around 80,000 pounds of trash over three weeks.

They helped to clean up McKellar Lake, Wolf River and Nonconah Creek.

Gowen has been acquainted with the organization since its founding. He and McCarver underwent this particular Spring Break program after the education coordinator for Living Lands and Waters served as a guest speaker in Gowen's Nonprofits and the Environment class.

Gowen was previously involved with the organization's educational workshops when he taught outdoor recreation at the University.

"They recently came back into the radar in a big way because they came after the tornadoes in Mayfield and western Kentucky and all the damage at [Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley]," Gowen said. "They started their



Photo courtesy of Mike Gowen
Nonprofit Leadership Studies major Zach McCarver (front) cleaning on the Mississippi River.

season early in late December, early January that year and cleaned up 1.3 million pounds of tornado damage in the lakes."

McCarver said he did not know much about what to expect going into the program.

"I knew, very basically, we were going to pick up trash," McCarver said. "The first full day we got there, there was actually a film crew there. There's a different nonprofit that does storytelling work around different conservation efforts around the world, and they reached out and wanted to do this short 10-minute film for them."

Student volunteers spent some of their time participating in interviews for the documentary, which McCarver said was a delicate balance.

"The rest of the week, we hit it pretty hard picking up trash, filling bags and getting chunks of styrofoam out of the banks," McCarver said.

Living Lands and Waters does a good job of interacting with their volunteers, McCarver said.

"They're really doing everything right, and you can kind of tell how that influences the energy of the volunteers," McCarver said. "That's the kind of organization that I want to work for. People that are on the front lines, doing things that nobody else is really doing, being innovative and kind of pushing the boundaries when it comes to climate solutions."

Gowen echoed McCarver's sentiment, saying the organization engages with volunteers in an interesting way.

"They make cleaning up trash fun," Gowen said. "They have a person drive the DJ boat and play music while students are picking up trash. They're having a dance party picking up trash... It's kind of that combination of fun and rewarding."

According to their website, the organization has cleaned up around 13 million pounds of trash since its founding, which Gowen said is a testament to the work it has done.

"It's one of the reasons I love the organization so much," Gowen said. "They really also have a parallel of education components, so everybody that does these cleanups learns why it's important, learns how they can take it home with them and kind of prevent some of the things that cause such a need for this."

Gowen said witnessing college students give up their Spring Break made him hopeful for the future.

"That's amazing in and of itself to go do what they did, but it's how hard they worked and how much they put into it that was," Gowen said. "They didn't come to it just to put on their resume that they did an alternative Spring Break. They were working extremely hard."

For anyone interested in helping the environment, Gowen says he suggests getting involved with initiatives or the community.

"I would just encourage people to get involved with not even necessarily nonprofits but just with helping others in the way they can," Gowen said. "It can be fun, and it's not just drudgery to go and do things. You can make anything fun when you look at it with a particular attitude."

All Campus Sing celebrates 64th year on Lovett Steps



The 64th annual All Campus Sing was held on Wednesday, April 12. All Campus Sing is a singing and dancing competition hosted by the Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternity. All campus organizations are welcome to participate and the event's proceeds go toward providing musical instruments to schools in need. The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity was crowned as this year's grand champion. Other first place winners included the Pre-vet vet-tech Club, in the independent category; Alpha Gamma Delta, in the sorority category; Hester college, in the residential category; and Alpha Sigma Phi in the fraternity category. (Counterclockwise from left) First place fraternity Alpha Sigma Phi; Music fraternities Sigma Alpha Iota and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia; and the Pre-vet/Vet-tech Club perform on the steps of Lovett Auditorium.

