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A special publication of The Murray State News



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

To those reading, as I write this I am surging through my final semester at Murray State and getting ready for life after college. In writing that sentence, it's hard not to choke up thinking about my last four years in Murray, Kentucky.

The time I've spent in this community has led to so many great memories, a lot of personal growth and friends that will last a lifetime; whether it was through work, being on campus or the ample amount of pickup basketball games I've played.

Most importantly, the people of Murray, Kentucky, have shown me love and support since the second I stepped in this small town that my parents met in 28 years ago. I just want to say thank you to everyone who has stayed tuned in and supported not only my coverage, but the amazing staff members with whom I've gotten to work with along the way.

This town is a huge part of my life and who I am as a person, and Murray will always hold a special place in my heart. It's only right to show those who might be new to town a gateway to Murray and to shine light on the town for those who have been a part of the community for years.

I can only hope that this magazine does justice to an amazing town that has meant so much to so many people.

Sincerely,
Gage Johnson, Editor-in-Chief

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Oh, the Things
You Can Do in

MUR

*Story by Gage Johnson
Photos by Gage Johnson, Jillian Rush,
Sam Stewart, Paige Bold, Blake
Sandlin, Bryan Edwards and Jenny Rohl
Photos courtesy of The Murray Bank and
Murray-Calloway Co. Parks Facebook page*



John Mack Carter
Nature Trail



RAY!

*A guide to the local parks,
events and entertainment*

**TEST
YOUR MURRAY
KNOWLEDGE**



DOWN:

- 1) collegiate athletic conference that Murray State participates in
- 3) couples who meet on Murray State's campus hang their shoes on this
- 4) homecoming event with nearly 50 tents set up
- 5) program that showcases international films at the Curris Center
- 7) Murray State's mascot
- 9) the first building constructed on Murray State's campus
- 10) former Murray State basketball player who plays for the Memphis Grizzlies
- 11) annual festival to celebrate Independence Day

ACROSS:

- 2) one of the oldest community theatres in the state of Kentucky
- 6) thoroughbred who runs around the Murray State track when the football team scores a touchdown
- 8) the longest running student-produced musical in the south
- 12) first president of Murray State
- 13) founder of Murray State

1) Ohio Valley Conference 2) Playhouse in the Park 3) Shoe Tree 4) Tent City
 5) Cinema International 6) Racer One 7) Dunker 8) Campus Lights 9) Wreath Museum 10) Jo Moran 11)
 Freedom Fest 12) John W. Carr 13) Rainey T. Wells



Local

Parks

Murray is home to three different parks: Bee Creek Park, Central Park and Chestnut Park.

Located on Bee Creek Drive, Bee Creek Park has a walking trail for those who want to go for a stroll or get some miles in under the sun.

Near the walking trail, there are a number of fields for the community's youth athletics. The Bee Creek Soccer Complex has 19 soccer fields and is the home of the Murray Calloway County Soccer Association (MCCSA) and the Murray Calloway County Revolution.

The MCCSA offers recreational soccer leagues across a plethora of age groups including Pee Wee, 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 19U. For those visiting the complex, there is a concession stand, playground area, restrooms, pavilion and picnic tables as well.

Located behind Chestnut Hills, Central Park also offers a number of amenities including a dog park, disc golf course, skate park, rotary tree park, the Maple Trail, Rotary Amphitheater, John Mack Carter Nature Park, Pool and Spray Park and a quartet of baseball fields.

The 18-hole disc golf course has the option to play two separate paths with yellow and red baskets, both differentiating in difficulty. Peyton Raley, a Murray State alumna who lives in Murray, has tried to play the course once or twice a week over the last five years and thinks its a great course for anyone to play.

"I think the course is wonderful," Raley said. "It is the right degree of difficulty where someone who has played it for years can still be challenged to shoot a really good round and at the same time new players can play and still have fun without feeling like the course is too difficult. I would highly recommend it to new and experienced players alike. The course is beautiful and it is a great place to get out into nature."

Toward the back end of the disc golf course sits the dog park, which has two large fenced in areas to allow for large and small dogs to be separated. Each area includes agility equipment, plenty of room to run, a water fountain and a clean up station.

The Pool and Spray Park operates from noon. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 6p.m. on Sunday.

For information on admission, pool parties and more, visit the Calloway County Parks website.

The Murray Lions Club Community Skate Park that opened in May 2019, is open to the public during normal park hours and is available for rent at a rate of \$50 per hour for private events.

At Chestnut Park across the street from Pagliai's, there are three basketball courts that are available to the public. There are multiple baseball fields throughout the park, a par-3 foot golf course and a walking trail.

Golf Courses

For those interested in hitting the links, Murray has a number of golf courses in the area including Sullivan's Par 3 Golf, the Murray Country Club and Miller Memorial Golf Course, the official course of Murray State men's and women's golf teams.

Sullivan's—a locally owned public golf course—has a par-3 golf course, mini golf and a driving range for practice. The course is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. everyday.

Another playable golf course is the Murray Country Club's course, but it does require a membership to play. For more information on hours of operation, cost and other amenities, visit their website.

Miller Memorial Golf Course is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. everyday, offering the ability to play its 18-hole golf course as well as the opportunity to practice at its driving range.



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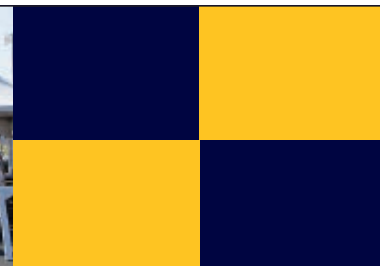
Trail of Treats

“Trail of Treats began a little over 10 years ago and it was an event that was held at what was then called Amerihost Inn which is currently Quality Inn here in Murray,” said Calloway County Parks Director Ryan Yates. “At that time it was called “Haunted Halls” and trick or treaters would go along the hall and get their treats. It outgrew that location and was then moved to Chestnut Park 10 years ago.”

When it was moved to Chestnut Park, the event officially adopted the name of Trail of Treats, giving trick or treaters the ability to walk along the path and get candy. The event continued to grow over the years and now happens in Central Park to allow even more ghosts and goblins to participate.

Even when weather or other unforeseen circumstances puts a hitch in the event’s plans, the town has always found a way to make Trail of Treats happen.

“The event has happened every year despite some years of snow and some years of severe weather in which the event was held at the CFSB Center at Murray State,” Yates said. “Most recently the event was modified to accommodate for the global pandemic created by COVID-19, we adapted it to be a drive thru event and it happened flawlessly.”



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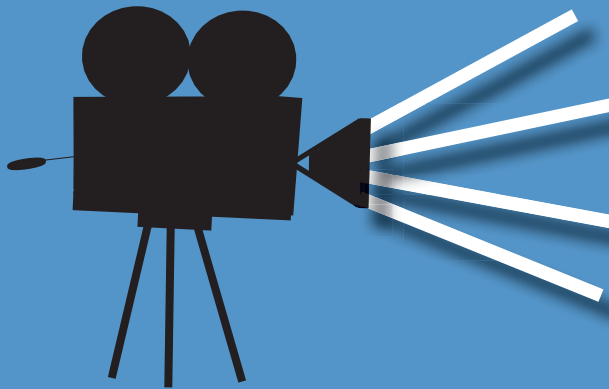
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Entertainment

Whether it's a trip to the bowling alley, catching a movie or participating in one of the various events put on throughout the year, there's never a dull moment in Murray.

Folks can make their way to Corvette Lanes for bowling and then 7-10 split their way over to the Corvette Cafe for some great food. Corvette Lanes is open from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday.

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If bowling isn't up your alley, why not join family and friends to go see the latest movies at Cheri Theatres? Movie times run from 3:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Monday through Friday and 12:15 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Prices range from \$6.50 to \$8.50 for admission depending upon age.

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Tentative 2021 Schedule



Movie: *Madagascar*

Date: May 7



Movie: *Top Gun*

Date: June 18



Movie: *Independence Day*

Date: July 2



Movie: *American Graffiti*

Date: August 13



Movie: *The Mighty Ducks*

Date: Sept. 10



Double Feature: *Scooby*

Doo & Psycho

Date: Oct. 15

Murray State Basketball



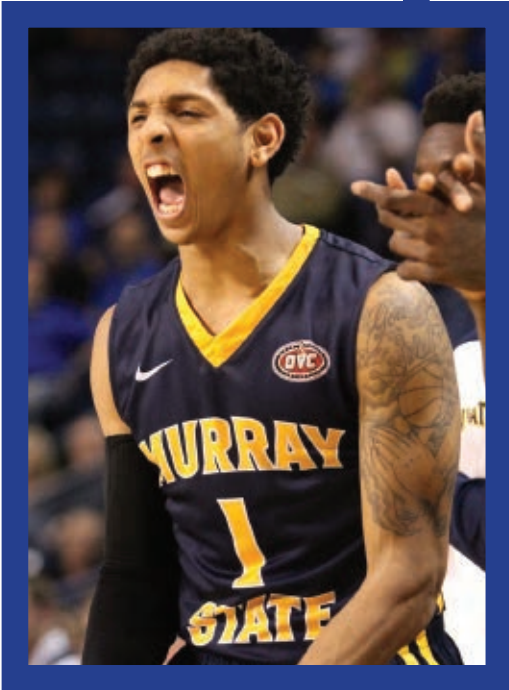
*Ja Morant
2017-2019*

Murray is also home to the Murray State Racers, providing those in town with plenty of sporting events to attend throughout the year.

Murray State men's basketball has been a staple in the community for years, with players like current Memphis Grizzlies Ja Morant, current Phoenix Suns guard Cameron Payne and a plethora of other players who went on to play professionally like Isaiah Canaan and Jonathan Stark.

Along with an improving women's basketball program, a nationally ranked football program and a history of winning across all sports, Murray State's athletic prowess is something to behold every year.

*Isaiah Canaan
2009-2013*



*Cameron Payne
2013-2015*



Another locally sponsored event is the Murray Bank Festival of Lights, which spreads Christmas joy each winter by lighting up the night.

“The Murray Bank Festival of Lights actually has origins to the early eighties,” Yates said. “At that time it was called Christmas in The Park and the displays were created out

of Christmas Greeting card scenes which were cut out of plywood and painted by local artists and sponsored by local merchants and organizations. The scenes became in bad disrepair and the show was discontinued in 2002. In 2006 the event was revived with new lighted displays and has grown each and

every year.”

You can experience this holiday tradition nightly from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. In 2021, the Festival of Lights will run Nov. 27 to Jan. 2 at Central Park.

Admission is free but you are encouraged to bring five canned goods that will be donated to Need Line.

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Downtown Farmers Market

Story by Cady Stribling

Photos by Paige Bold and Jillian Rush

*Photos courtesy of Stephanie Anderson
and Jennifer Rukavina Bidwell*



The beloved tradition of Murray's farmers market provides fresh produce and fun handcrafted items to the community on Saturdays. Surrounded by local shops, restaurants and the court square, the farmers market is vital to Murray and surrounding areas.

Murray Main Street, which is directed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Kentucky Main Street program, coordinates the Downtown Farmers Market.

Murray Main Street is a nonprofit and nationally certified main street program, created to help the city and to stimulate economic development downtown. Since 1998, when it began, the market has flourished into a successful Saturday event.

Executive Director Deana Wright began as a volunteer in 1998 when the market only had about six vendors and was located on South Fifth Street. She said she has tended to it since and helped it grow over the years.

In the beginning, the farmers market had a few vendors who sold veggies, one who made handmade baskets and one who brought live animals. Laughing, Wright said they didn't think bringing live animals was the best idea and shut that down quickly.

As the market expanded, organizers moved it to Maple Street on the court square between Fourth and Fifth Streets. Although it took two decades, the planted roots of the 1998 market sprouted into a must-attend Murray tradition that encompasses more than just the Murray community. The market is more regional, Wright said, with vendors coming from Paducah, Metropolis, surrounding areas in Tennessee and more. Now, 23 years later, they have as many as 52 vendors.

Today's vendors offer a multitude of items from fruits and vegetables to meats to handcrafted products and fresh flowers. As the market developed over the years, the types of products people sold have developed as well, offering duck and chicken eggs, homemade jams and even wool items from an alpaca farm.

Wright said they are particular about keeping the non-food items locally made.

"We want people who handcraft their items, and that shows in the wood items we have and the stone items we have," Wright said. "They take pride in their product and bring it here."

Wright said they've had many vendors return for at least 15 years, with Paul McDade—or the Bread Man as he

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is often called—being the longest returning member.

Every year, the market begins the weekend of Armed Forces Day, which lands on the third Saturday of May, and goes to the end of October. Since the farmers market extends through such a long period of time, the vendors offer various fruits and vegetables as the seasons change. They also sell handmade gifts during the holiday seasons.

“As the season goes on our vendors are going to have different products and produce, so people definitely need to come and check it out at different times of the year,” Wright said. “At the beginning of the season we’re going to have strawberries, in the middle of the season we’re going to have corn and at the end we’re going to have pumpkins and gourds.”

Fresh fruits and vegetables are just the beginning of what is offered at the market. Many vendors also sell fresh flowers and bouquets. Jennifer Rukavina Bidwell and her husband Jeff Bidwell opened The Murray Flower Company on Maple Street in July 2020. She said the Downtown Farmers Market gave an added boost to her shop.

“As a new small business on the Town Square, participating has allowed us to greet new faces and make personal connections in a more relaxed and easy going environment while allowing us to feature different aspects of our business,” Rukavina Bidwell said. “Whether it’s summertime wreaths, sunflower stems or flower bouquets, we love providing a little added sunshine to the event.”

Rukavina Bidwell said she loves that the highly anticipated weekly community event exposes the

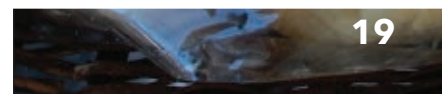
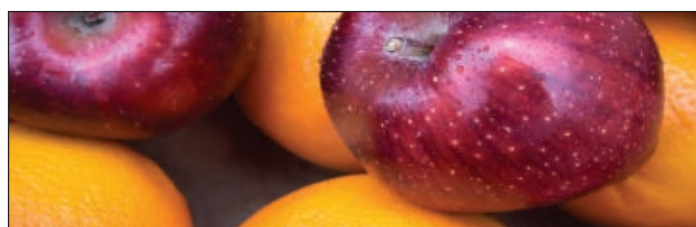




Photo courtesy of Jennifer Rukavina Bidwell
Jennifer Rukavina Bidwell sits outside the flower shop during the farmers market.

the wealth of small businesses in the area all in one place.

Even if people who sell products do not have their own business, Wright said each vendor is a business at the farmers market. With the opportunity to build their business every Saturday, vendors can acquire a following.

“We’ve had multiple vendors over the years come in as a small vendor in a 10 by 15 space in the court square at the farmers market, and they built it up so much that they actually moved into a brick and mortar building and became a true brick and mortar business,” Wright said. “The farmers market gives them the opportunity to build their business even more.”

Wright said college students are more than welcome to sell things at the farmers market. Murray State students and departments have sold items before.

For students who have never attended the farmers market, Wright said to bring cash. Not all vendors have card machines; so bringing cash is beneficial. However, there is an ATM on the court square if needed.

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WHERE ARE *You?*

Life, they say, is a journey. Some of us have a sense of peace about the world, and some of us are searching for answers. Some need help, and some can give it.

Wherever you are on the path, one of us is probably there, too. If you have doubts and questions, you'll find a kindred spirit among us. If you have an insight that might help, we need your wisdom. If you want to help those in need, roll up your sleeves and join in.

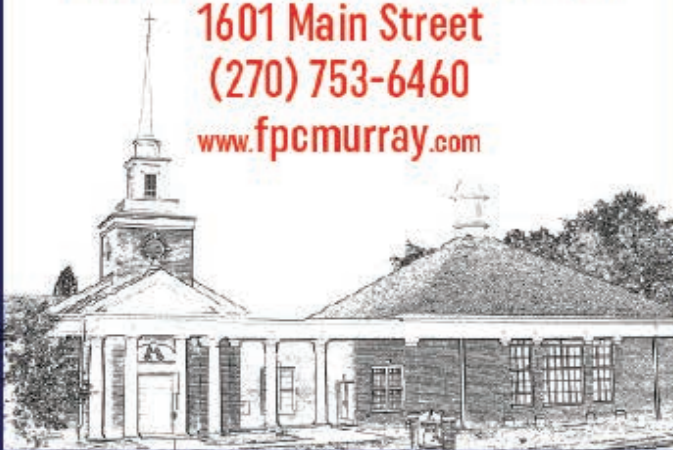
The road to peace and understanding is a long one, and it's nice to travel with friends. If you'd like some company, we're right on the corner. Drop by and take a little stroll with us, or take a virtual look on Facebook or our website.

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- The Keg
- Tom's Grille
- Tres Habaneros
- Victor's Sandwiches
- Wendy's
- Willow Bistro
- Zaxby's

A close-up photograph of a Dairy Queen ice cream cone. The cone is filled with chocolate ice cream and topped with a generous amount of colorful sprinkles in shades of pink, blue, yellow, green, and white. The cone is held by a hand, and the Dairy Queen logo is visible on the wrapper. In the background, a large Dairy Queen sign is visible against a clear blue sky, and the storefront of a Dairy Queen restaurant is partially visible.

Murray's Sweetest Tradition

*Story by Andrea Jameson
Photos by Paige Bold
and Ashley Traylor
Photos courtesy of Dairy Queen*



Did You Know?

The Murray location is one of the last remaining walk-up Dairy Queen's still open.

It's 1949, you are getting ready for Sock-in' Buskin' on the campus of Murray State College and have a craving for ice cream. You and your friends walk up to the window of this new restaurant on Main Street and order a milkshake. Little did you know, this little slice of heaven would still be around, serving hot dogs, blizzards and a good time 72 years later.

That restaurant is Dairy Queen. It was not the first DQ to open up but it is one of the last original walk-up stores that remains of the international chain. For over seven decades, Murray residents have lined up outside this local staple on March 1 to get that first dessert of the season. It's one of Murray's strongest and sweetest traditions.

“We go through the grand-opening every year, just like any other store opening for the first time of the year,” said Dairy Queen manager Misty Long. “We enjoy seeing everyone and look forward to seeing them every season.”

However, 2020 brought challenges to this small store as COVID-19 forced owners to rethink how they can keep their doors, or in this case, their windows open. Turning to another more traditional way of being served, DQ brought back car-hopping.

“Due to COVID, we are car hopping in the parking lot as we are trying to live up to the regulations,” Long said.

Despite the new format, Dairy Queen still drew a traditionally large crowd for its 2021 grand opening. Instead of a long line out front, cars parked in the back and a car-hop came to their window to take orders.

While many Dairy Queens around the world offer combos like the chicken finger basket and the bacon cheeseburger, you won't find those at this DQ. It's as original as they come.

“We offer the normal treat menu and local hotdog and chili dog menus,” Long said.

Do you know how the name Dairy Queen came about? “Grandpa McCullough, the driving force behind the restaurant's creation, dubbed the store Dairy Queen because he believed his soft serve was a “queen” among dairy products,” according to Dairy Queen's website. And the “queen” it is. Be sure to grab your Blizzard or other favorite treats before October 31, when the windows close for the season.





A newcomer's guide to

Land Between the Lakes

When I stepped onto Murray State's campus as a student in fall 2019, I had never even heard of Land Between the Lakes. It sounded like some kind of fairytale pasture, but so many of my classmates spoke as if they grew up there, so I knew it had to be real. At the same time, I didn't want to look like a fool by asking what LBL was. It wouldn't be until I was tasked with writing this article that I made myself ask that fateful question by typing it into a search engine.

Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area's 170,000 acres of inland peninsula have been conserved and immortalized by the upkeep employees and tourists from miles around have done in order to to enjoy the spectacle of nature. Since it's only 20 minutes away from campus, I decided to see it for myself.

LBL is home to some of Kentucky's finest views

Story by Simon Elfrink

Photos by Jillian Rush and Paige Bold



and tourist attractions. According to its official website, LBL features 300 miles of shoreline, 200 miles of paved roads and 500 miles of trails for hikers who are willing to test their legs in a forested setting.

Fans of the outdoors can enjoy camping, hiking, fishing, picnicking and water sports. Hunters can partake in seasonal licensed hunts for deer, turkey, squirrel and other small game animals.

Individuals who don't find excitement at the mention of the 500 miles of hiking trails might instead enjoy a scenic drive through the wildlife viewing areas from the comfort of their vehicles. After crossing Kentucky Lake for the first time, I took the main drag headed south, where the road wound me through wooded areas that opened up to reveal popular attractions, such as the South Bison Range, the Homeplace 1850s Working Farm and Cedar Pond.

Biking trails and horseback riding are other available methods of transportation.

The horse camp stays open throughout the year for campers of any season, and 106 miles of horse trails allow plenty of space for horses to stretch their legs. Trailers will need a license which can be purchased at the Wranglers Gatehouse or online. A one day permit is \$10 and an annual permit is \$100. Rocking U Riding Stables will provide guided tours if desired.

Some of the greatest attractions LBL has to offer





are the Elk & Bison Prairie, the Woodlands Nature Station, the Golden Pond Planetarium and the Homeplace 1850s Working Farm and Living History Museum.

The Woodlands Nature Station offers visitors the chance to see America's national bird, the bald eagle up close and personal. There are also turkeys, vultures, a bobcat, several owls and a red wolf, among others. Explore the indoor animals before stepping out into the gorgeous scenery and learn about these special creatures. The admission fee for the Nature Station is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

Land Between the Lakes Public Affairs Officer Christopher Joyner said that LBL isn't a reservation in the traditional sense because most national parks are guided, tour-based operations. The conserva-

tionists at LBL are employed by the U.S. Forest Service, and they stay true to their name by focusing on conservation rather than tourism.

"We're more of a private discovery type of recreation," Joyner explained. "We have hiking trails and we do have some amenities for environmental education. We have elk and bison prairie, and for \$5 you can drive through the elk and bison prairie. For the southern end, you can park right alongside it and check them out."

The \$5 drive through the prairie is more than worth it. You can travel along the paved windy roads and see nature at its finest. You can stop on the side of the road and watch the elk feeding themselves or watch the bison travel across their land in a pack. It is a sight the whole family can enjoy.

"I took my family in early March to see the elk

and bison,” said Stephanie Anderson, assistant professor. “We found that the best viewing time was between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. We saw dozens of elk just grazing the land and the bison were on the move. My kids thought it was hilarious that we had to stop the car to let the bison cross the road. There is a nice

effects. Shows run about 40 minutes in length and are based upon earth science subjects including weather phenomena and other topics, according to its website. You can even learn about NASA at the Planetarium as it serves as a NASA Educator Resource Center. The laser light show is a must-see!



picnic area less than a mile away from the prairie, which made for the perfect lunch spot before checking out these amazing animals”

The Golden Pond Planetarium features a 360 degree, surround-sound 40-foot domed theater that allows visitors to truly get an out of this world educational experience. Shows are related to astronomy creating celestial

The Observatory offers visitors the chance to view the universe through the lens of a telescope. You can even safely look at the sun through one of these special telescopes. In the summer, Star Parties are a big hit with tourists and are free with admission to the Planetarium. Admission into the Planetarium is \$6 for those ages 13 and older, \$3.50 for

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those ages 5 to 12 and free for anyone 4 and under.

The Homeplace 1850s Working Farm and Living History Museum gives tourists an opportunity to experience Victorian-era America on a more personal level. Interpreters dressed in historically accurate attire will guide you back in time to the way farmhands made a living in the 1800s.

Between visits to the vegetable garden and crop field, animal lovers can learn about the importance of livestock by seeing the farm's sheep, chickens, oxen and other animals farmers depended on in those times.

Joyner also said while there aren't as many opportunities to be shown around the massive recreation area, tourists and hikers are more free to go off the grid.

"Most of our attractions are at no cost for private discovery," Joyner said. "People use this land to go hunting, mountain biking, swimming, fishing, horseback riding [and] birdwatching."

LBL truly has something for everyone. So pack a picnic, throw on your boots, grab your camera and explore this great treasure just a few miles outside of Murray.

THE ARTS OF MURRAY

Story by Dionte Berry

*Photos by Jillian Rush, Sam Stewart
Photos courtesy of Debi Danielson, Terrence Little and
the Terrapin Station Facebook page*

The art scene in Murray has offered artistic people ways to share their talents, explore something new and find their place in the community. Maintaining a sense of community during a pandemic hasn't been easy for the art community, but they have found it imperative to try.





Playhouse in the Park

Led by Executive Director Lisa Cope, Playhouse in the Park is a community theater made up of volunteers that provides ways for people to get involved with productions and see a variety of shows.

“Anybody in the community is free to audition for a show, to come work on a crew, help with costumes or paint a set,” Cope said.

Playhouse in the Park was founded in Murray in 1977, and it was only a parcel of what it has grown to be today.

In its early years, the Playhouse didn’t have a building, so they would put on shows wherever they could.

“They performed in the library, church basements and outside in parks before they were able to get the train depot, the building we’re in now,” Cope said.

Although the Playhouse has evolved since its inception, its purpose remains the same.

“We want to educate as well as entertain, and just be a part of the community,” Cope said. “People refer to the Playhouse as a family and I think that’s often what people are looking for when they come, just a place to belong.”

Traditionally the Playhouse performs 10 shows a year. Six of these shows are part of the regular season, and the other four shows are with the following programs.

Once a year Playhouse does a dinner theater where they have a family-friendly show. Later in the season, the After Dark program puts on a show with a darker and more contemporary theme. The program performs plays that have more mature content for an older audience.

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Terrapin Station

Playhouse is also involved with the Penguin Project, a national program that gives children and young adults with physical or cognitive disabilities an opportunity to be a part of a show. Along with its two-week summer camp, the Playhouse does two summer shows.

“When we get back to normal there will be a lot more opportunities for people to get involved,” Cope said.

For 2021 Cope has planned to continue the outdoor shows and is hoping by the second half of the year Playhouse will be able to safely go back into the theater and continue normally.

To get involved, Cope said people can come to the theater located at 701 Gil Hopson Drive, email her at playhouse@murray-ky.net or call the theater at (270) 759-1752.

“We have folks with the job of taking on new volunteers and just sort of introducing them to different tasks and helping them find a fit,” Cope said. “There is so much that goes into keeping a theater going so truly everyone can find a place here.”

Information about shows and ticket prices can be found at www.playhousemurray.org.



Terrapin Station offers guests new music, books, vinyls, clothing and jewelry, but overall it offers an experience in a community atmosphere.

Passed on to her from her parents, Cassidy Copeland is the co-owner of Terrapin Station alongside Conner Hicks.

Copeland’s parents opened Terrapin Station in Murray in 1985 and ran out of their living room before it moved to its current location on 12th Street.

“We provide something different for the community,” Copeland said. “It’s a place for art, music, for people to come together and have a sense of community.”

With an eclectic scene, summing up Terrapin Station doesn’t capture what all there is to the store. Copeland said it’s a place that needs to be experienced.

“It’s a place you have to see and experience for yourself,” Copeland said. “It’s meant to be a place

where you can come and feel welcomed and be able to shake off the day.”

In the back of the store, there’s a seating area where people can hang out.

“The seating area is a part of the vibe here,” Copeland said. “You can come in and sit down, read a book or listen to some tunes.”

Terrapin hosts a wide range of music genres from local and regional singer-songwriters in genres such as alternative, punk, metal and many others at both in-store concerts and within their expansive inventory of CDs and vinyls.

“It’s great that there’s a thriving music scene not just in Murray but in our region of Kentucky,” Copeland said.

Terrapin is a reflection of the community because much of what is in their store was given to them by those in the community.

“Beyond music, people will bring everything from paintings to wood carvings and jewelry,” Copeland



said. “Terrapin is a place where people can come and find out what is happening in the community.” Copeland describes Terrapin as a place better experienced than explained. To sum up the eclectic space, it offers guests a wide variety of music from live concerts in the store to vinyls and CDs. They also have a strong visual arts presence with a variety of pieces

available to shoppers.

Overall, the sense of community and the avenue to experience new things is a big piece of what Terrapin Station is offering guests.

Terrapin Station is located at 920 South 12th St. and has a Facebook and Instagram page, both at @terrapiystationmky where they post updates and events.



Murray Art Guild

Led by Executive Director Debi Danielson, the Murray Art Guild is a visual arts community center that offers opportunities for community members to get involved with the arts.

Danielson promotes the arts in Murray by offering events, workshops and by posting exhibitions.

“A part of our philosophy is that art is for everybody, so one of our goals is to be inclusive,” Danielson said. “Artists who have no experience are welcome and we have art workshops that are appropriate for beginning artists, and we also work with artists that are professional.”

The Guild offers a wide range of workshops such as painting, drawing, spindle making, graffiti art and far more. Danielson also offers classes for all ages and in multiple art fields, but in the wake of COVID-19 these events have shifted to online.

“Over the summer we typically do workshops for the youth, and we were still able to do them,” Danielson said. “They were just virtual.”

As a result of COVID-19,

Danielson was inspired to do projects to continue creating the sense of community that is a part of the guild.

“One project that we did was a mail in exhibit,” Danielson said. “We invited people to make small pieces of art on postcards and mail them in.”

Before the Guild’s gallery was reopened, Danielson displayed

the postcards in the Guild’s window so people walking by could see them.

Another project the Guild hosted was a collaborative canvas for the community to paint. With a 9 foot by 12 foot canvas, Danielson provided safety precautions and invited the community to paint circles on the canvas.





“We painted circles as a symbol of unity during social distancing,” Danielson said. “Even though we couldn’t have a big public event we still engaged the public.”

Danielson said it’s important to not just keep art in this building but have it out in the community as well. One way she does this is by featuring an art haul where art exhibits are set up across Murray.

Sixty-seven years later, the Guild and the same principles it was built upon are still a part of what drives it today. The desire to have a place to create, sell and exhibit artwork inspired the Guild’s formation.

Since its inception, the Guild has grown to not just be a place for artists, but for those who are simply drawn to the

arts.

“The Guild has evolved to have a very big community aspect to it,” Danielson said. “It’s not just a place for artists, but a bigger place for the community to celebrate creativity.”

For 2021 Danielson is planning on continuing with virtual workshops, and are looking forward to possibly having some more in-person events during the summer.

Towards the end of 2021 Danielson hopes to be able to operate closer to full capacity.

The Guild’s website at murrayartguild.org is home to online exhibits, has a new section for their art shop and has options for registering for workshops.

The Murray Art Guild is located at 500 North Fourth Street.

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Freedom Fest

Murray's Independence Day celebration

Murray's Independence Day celebration is unlike any other and encompasses what this city is all about: fireworks, family fun, delicious food and celebrating the founding of this great country.

Freedom Fest is a day-long celebration of events that are free to the community. Examples of these events include a parade, a veteran's remembrance ceremony, a boy scout ham breakfast, a family night in the park, a town & gown community band performance and a fireworks show.

The Murray Convention and Visitors Bureau is the umbrella organization for Freedom Fest and gathers information for the individual events, which are executed by individual organizers and organizations. FNB Bank, The Murray Bank, The Murray

Story by Ben Overby

Photos by Lori Stark

*Photos courtesy of The Murray
Convention and Visitors Bureau*



Rotary Club, the Murray Art Guild and Boy Scout Troop 2045 sponsor events.

Freedom Fest began in Murray in the late 1980s and has evolved over the years. Originally, a large committee started Freedom Fest as a way to keep tourists in town over the summer. It began as a month-long event and remained that way until the late 1990s. Freedom Fest is now a one day event that focuses more on Murray residents rather than tourists.

“I love the sense of home it brings to the community,” Murray resident Emily Weatherford said. “We used to always go as a family with my grandparents when my sisters and I were younger. It was something yearly we looked forward to.”



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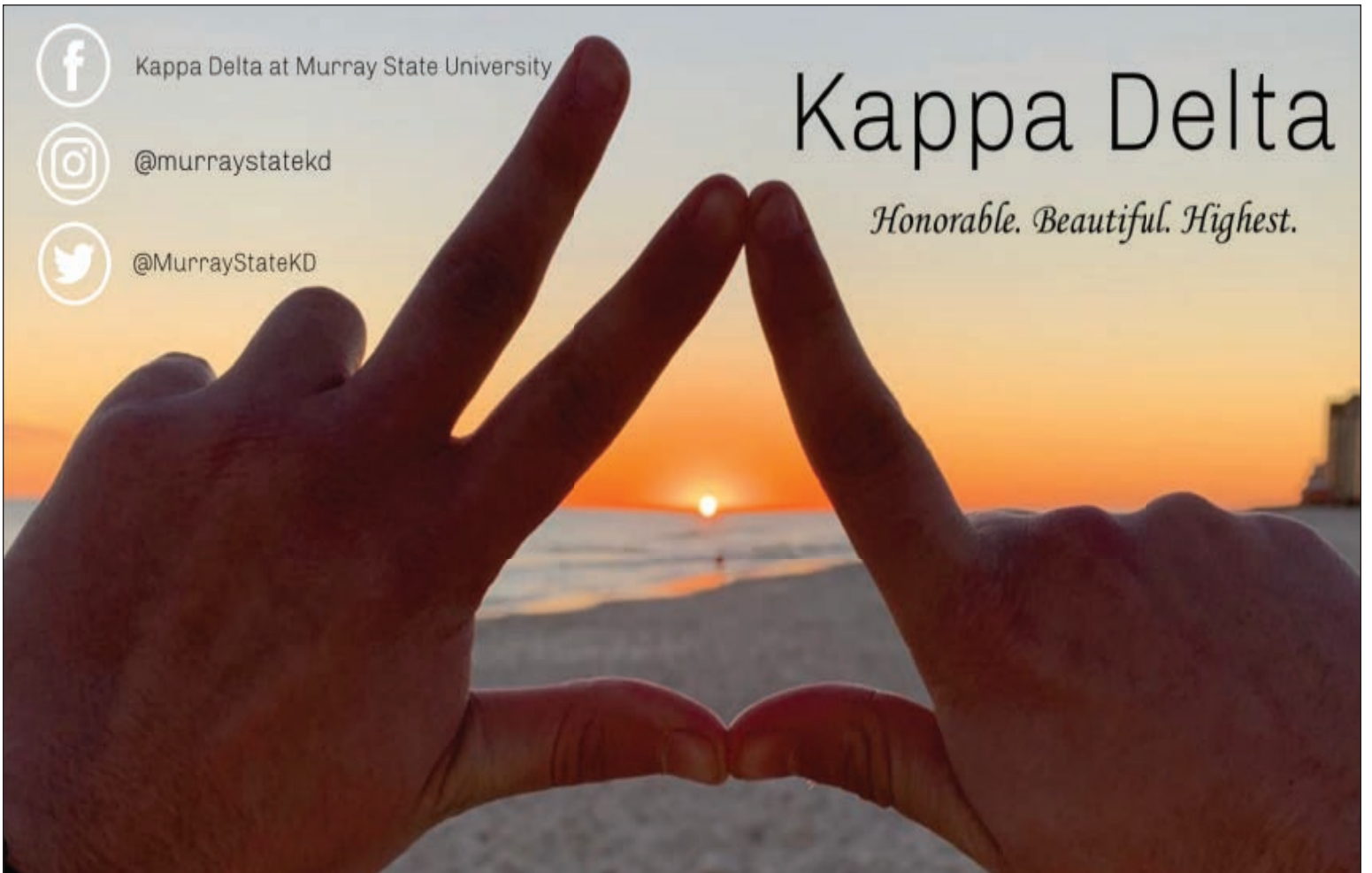
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The two events that draw the largest crowds at Freedom Fest are the parade and the fireworks display. The FNB Bank Freedom Fest parade begins at 9:30 a.m. It starts on 10th Street and moves downtown through the court square. It consists of antique cars, marching bands and floats decorated in red, white and blue.

“FNB is a community bank and we are proud to sponsor the Freedom Fest Parade year after year,” said Brooke Wiles, marketing director for FNB. “There’s no greater sense of community than walking down Main Street and seeing all the smiling faces and kids jumping for toys and candy during the parade. We truly enjoy giving back to the community with this rewarding sponsorship.”

The Murray Bank Fireworks Extravaganza begins at 9:30 p.m.

“The Murray Bank has been invested in Murray and Calloway County since we started in 1999,” said Tim Stark, vice president and marketing director of Murray Bank. “A few years ago we were presented with an opportunity to be a part of one of the biggest celebrations that takes place here and we didn’t want to turn it down. Freedom Fest is something that everyone looks forward to, and last year the Fireworks were one of the only events that got to take place, so it took on a whole new meaning.”

It’s best to arrive early to get a good seat. Spots along 641 North will give you the best view. The University Church of Christ parking lot, Lowe’s and the parking lot next to Captain D’s are all popular viewing locations. The fireworks are considered the highlight of Freedom Fest.



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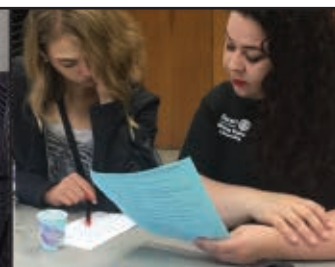
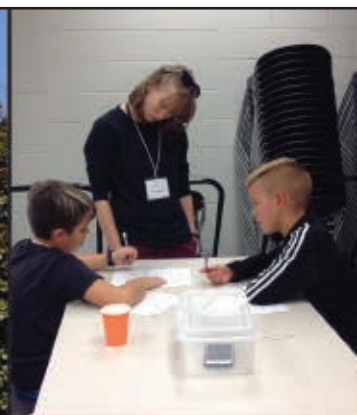
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