



BOWLING GREEN DAILY NEWS

INDEX



Western sweeps North Texas

The Hilltoppers earned a 9-2 win over the Conference USA opponent on Sunday.

INSIDE 1B

Help is coming

Federal aid is coming to Mississippi where a deadly tornado killed at least 25 people.

INSIDE 4A

NEWSMAKER

“The twice-impeached former president’s rhetoric is reckless, reprehensible and irresponsible. It’s dangerous, and if he keeps it up he’s going to get someone killed.”

– Hakeem Jeffries on Trump using his possible indictment as a rally cry to garner supporters for the 2024 election.

INSIDE 6A

WEATHER

TODAY

68 48

MOSTLY SUNNY
FULL FORECAST ON A2

Classified	7B
Crossword	7B
Deaths	5A
Sports	1B
Sudoku	7B
TV	4A

NO. 72, 2 SECTIONS, 14 PAGES
INSERTS VARY BY AREA



6 56590 00001 4
\$1 NEWSSTAND
63¢ DAILY HOME DELIVERY

Ky. Supreme Court affirms conviction in 2020 murder case

By JUSTIN STORY
justin.story@bgdailynews.com

The Kentucky Supreme Court upheld the conviction and 45-year sentence for a man who was tried for murder in connection with a deadly stabbing from 2020.

Mach Sar, 38, was found guilty by a jury of murder at a 2021 trial stemming from the Jan. 30, 2020, killing of Somrhut “Sam” Phan, 29, of Bowling Green, who was stabbed multiple times in a trailer at Wheel Mobile Home Park on Dishman Lane, where both men were

staying with the family of Sar’s brother. Sar appealed the conviction, raising two issues for the state supreme court to consider. Sar contended that the Warren Circuit Court should not have allowed the jury to view a clip of crime

scene footage from Bowling Green Police Department Officer Tyler Norris’ body camera that showed Phan’s face and upper torso, arguing that it had a prejudicial effect on the jury.

The supreme court
See CONVICTION, 3A



MACH SAR



Visitors of the annual SOKY Book Fest chat with other readers on Saturday as they meet with over 90 authors featured at the event at the Knically Conference Center.

PHOTOS BY GRACE RAMEY/grace.ramey@bgdailynews.com

Finding Inspiration

SOKY BOOKFEST BRINGS PERSONAL CONNECTION

By SARAH MICHELS
sarah.michels@bgdailynews.com

The Knically Center conference room is silent, save for the hum of the building and the scratching of pen on paper. It’s Saturday morning, at the 24th annual SOKY Bookfest, and a group of about 30 writers are building worlds and the characters that live within them.

New York Times best-selling author Sharon Cameron guides them in the brainstorming exercise, leading them through setting, character, motivation and plot.

“It’s great to watch everyone thinking,” Cameron says, breaking the quiet.

It’s much louder across the building, in the ballroom. Hundreds of readers and aspiring writers flock to booths featuring stacks of books and their authors, ready to offer their advice and



Visitors of the annual SOKY Book Fest flip through a copy of “Lark Ascending” by Silas House on Saturday at the Knically Conference Center.

signatures.

A line to talk to Wil Wheaton, a Star Trek actor and author, stretched across one side of the ballroom. In his speech, Wheaton spoke against recent attempts to

“ban books” and the importance of protecting access to truth.

Bex Hall and Nikki Watt, SKYCTC students, came together to see Wheaton. Hall said she didn’t know what to expect, since

it was her first book festival, but that the experience was cool.

As she waited, Watt wrote what she wanted to tell Wheaton in a note on her phone.

“Your speech was refreshing and made me cry,” the note said. “I loved you on TableTop, Critical Role, and on The Guild. Thank you for everything.”

Melinda Whitfield also stood in the queue. She said she loves reading and writing, although she hasn’t published any of her creative writing. Whitfield was motivated by Crystal Wilkinson’s poetry session at the book fest.

“I always get inspired when I listen to the authors’ talks to write more,” she said. “It makes you feel like you can do anything.”

Others attendees waited to talk to Silas House, a prolific writer known for his novels on Appalachia, family and nature.

See BOOKFEST, 3A

‘Permanent pipeline’ the goal of teacher apprenticeship program

By JAKE MOORE
jake.moore@bgdailynews.com

Western Kentucky University is collaborating with Nelson County Schools in a unique apprenticeship program to combat the state’s teacher shortage.

Gov. Andy Beshear announced recently that Nelson County Schools had received approval for its program, which establishes a high school to college teaching pipeline.

“It is a win for our state as we expand our homegrown pool of teachers and a win for students who continue earning a college degree while being able to start

their teaching career two years earlier,” Beshear said.

The apprenticeship program is a first for Kentucky.

“This is the first and only,” said Dr. Corinne Murphy, dean of WKU’s College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. “This is the start of a very large and needed opportunity for educators in our region and in our commonwealth.”

The program consists of two parts. Nelson County Schools students can earn 2.5 hours per day of place-based learning starting in the ninth grade. Throughout high school, students can earn up

See PROGRAM, 3A

9TH ANNUAL DANCE BIG RED



GRACE RAMEY/grace.ramey@bgdailynews.com

Western Kentucky University students dance to songs played at the ninth annual Dance Big Red on Friday to benefit Norton Children’s Hospital at WKU’s Raymond B. Preston Health & Activities Center. Look for more photos online at bgdailynews.com.