

NEIGHBORS

Three BG residents to compete in Miss Ky. Teen competition

Addison Day, Kendall Stamps and Madison Taylor, all of Bowling Green, will compete in the 2025 Miss Kentucky Teen Competition June 10-13 at SKyPAC. Day currently holds the title of Miss Green River’s Teen.



MADISON TAYLOR



KENDALL STAMPS



ADDISON DAY

She is the daughter of Mark and Syntonia Day and is a student at Bowling Green High School and a member of the cheerleading team at BGHS. For the talent portion of the competition, Addison will be performing a jump rope routine. Day’s community service initiative is Threads of Hope. The goal of Threads of Hope is to make sure students have the basic necessities to help them be successful at school. Stamps currently holds the title of Miss Heart of the Commonwealth’s Teen. She is the daughter of Meg (Rusty) Thomason and Mark Stamps. She is a recent graduate of Bowling Green High School and will attend Western Kentucky University in the fall of 2025. For the talent portion of the competition, Kendall has prepared a vocal performance of “Never Enough”. Her service initiative is Courage through Cheer, a cause to mentor and guide young girls to be their confident authentic self. Taylor currently holds the title of Miss South Central Kentucky’s Teen. She is the daughter of Dana and Melissa Taylor and is currently a rising senior at Bowling Green High School. For the talent portion of the competition, she will do a vocal performance of the song “The Impossible Dream”. She advocates for her service initiative, S.O.S., Stomp Out Stereotyping.

2025 WKU Distinguished Educator Awards announced

Educators across Western Kentucky University’s service area have been honored as recipients of the 5th annual Distinguished Educator Awards. They are Kyle McGraw, Principal, Bowling Green High School; Ecil Miller, Innovation, Glasgow Middle School; MacKenzie Minton, Adair County High School; Marcia Sharp, Elementary, Campbellsville Elementary; Melissa Embr, Middle, Daviess County Middle School; Sarah Dakin, Special Education, Central Hardin High School; Jennifer Coldiron, Literacy, Hopkins Elementary School (Somerset); Heather Baker-Rigney, PE/Health, Somerset High School; Trisha Hall, Visual and Performing Arts, Green County Primary School; Danielle Meade, Belonging, Daviess County Middle School; and Sara Appleby, Teacher Mentor, Daviess County Middle School. School districts across the region nominate stand-out educators each spring. Superintendents submit district-level nominations, which are then evaluated by a selection committee composed of faculty from WKU’s School of Teacher Education.

All nominees received certificates. Finalists received recognition through WKU’s College of Education and Behavioral Sciences website and social media platforms. Category winners received a cash award, commemorative plaque and a place of honor on a perpetual plaque displayed in the Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame inside the Gary Ransdell Hall on WKU’s Bowling Green campus.

Several area students named to Belmont University dean’s list

Several area students were named to the dean’s list at Belmont University for the spring 2025 semester. They are Joshua Bracken, Emerson Carrigan, Lila Chelf, Westray Daugherty, Elizabeth Genter, Abigail Orr and Krisha Patel, all of Bowling Green; Zoie Roberts, Eliza Cook and Mary Jackson, all of Franklin; Brendan Wilson and Briana Crowder, both of Glasgow; and Samuel Lock of Alvaton. Dean’s list eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality GPA of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Britt named to dean’s list at University of Evansville

Lucy Britt of Scottsville was named to the spring 2025 dean’s list at the University of Evansville. To be named to the dean’s list, a student must carry a full academic load of 12 hours or more and earn at GPA of 3.5 or above.

Runner family reunion scheduled for June 8 at Richardsville

The Runner Family Reunion will be held June 8 at the Richardsville Community Center. A potluck meal will be served at 12:30 p.m. All friends and family are invited.

Loose pet kangaroo keeps Colorado police hopping

(AP) — Chasing a loose kangaroo is getting to be part of the job for police in a southwestern Colorado city. Irwin, the pet kangaroo, wasn’t difficult to nab when he got loose last fall in Durango. Still quite young at the time, he leaped into a bag similar to a mother kangaroo’s pouch. On Monday, Irwin got loose again. A police caller was worried he might get hit by a car. This time, Irwin had

grown too big for a bag. “That technique wasn’t going to work. The officers were debating whether they needed to lasso it or what the plan was,” police commander Nick Stasi said Tuesday. Officer Shane Garrison — described by Stasi as a “farm boy” with animal-handling experience — figured it out after following Irwin down an alley and into a backyard. Irwin was still small enough, about as big as a medium-sized dog, for

Garrison to corner him near a house, sneak up close and grab him. He carried the kangaroo to a police truck’s back seat and shut the door, as seen in a different officer’s body camera video. Kangaroos are among the unusual but legal animals to keep in Colorado. Irwin was taken home to his family in downtown Durango, a tourism hub of 20,000 residents that is known for mountain tours on a narrow-gauge train.

Stasi wasn’t sure how Irwin got out, but this 2-year-old pet will get only harder to catch. By age 4 or 5, kangaroos can grow taller than most men and weigh 200 pounds (90 kilograms). They can hop much faster than a person runs and deliver a powerful kick. “We want all pet owners to be responsible with their pet, how they keep it and keep it safe,” said Stasi.

From Page 1C CAMINO

structure in a kind of shell shock reverence. Due to my lower-leg injuries, my remaining stretch of my Camino had taken much longer than it takes most pilgrims. Within the last five days I spent 70 hours walking, whereas many might have done it in 25 hours. I leaned on a cane for most of the way while other pilgrims flew past me. I recited the 23rd Psalm just to keep my mind occupied. Pilgrims would see me aside the trail, struggling, and say, “You can do it!” Each in his is her own language. The cathedral stood high into an impossibly blue sky. I nearly fell to my knees. Not out of exhaustion. But because I was overcome. My wife was beside me. She, too, had her cross to bear. She was sick with a cold. She had been hacking and coughing along the trail for the last three days. She was sweating from a mild fever.

But we were here now. And then came the people. All the familiar faces from the trail. The cohort of fellow pilgrims we loved along the way. We were all embracing. There was Martin, from Switzerland, who became my trail brother. We pressed our foreheads together and cried. Francisco and Monique, who attacked my wife and I with a four-person hug. Julia, Germany, who wept into my shoulder because she saw tears falling from my eyes. Coline, Belgium, whose blisters were the size of nickels. Who helped me navigate Ponferrada when I was limping badly. Stefanie, mid-50s, Holland, who I met the very first day of our walk, back in France, some 200 years earlier. Suzanne, a middle-aged environmentalist, Toronto, who used homeopathic remedies to treat my swollen calves; who doctored my wounded legs each morning; who prayed aloud for me while massaging my

burning muscles with her gentle hands. Jean, from France. The old man who found me hobbling on the trail when I was at my lowest. That day he stopped hiking to pray for me in his own tongue, gesturing for me to keep breathing deeply. He hugged me beneath the shadow of the great cathedral as we both laugh-cried. And then there was Jamie. The woman I married 22 years ago. The woman with whom I have been with for more years than I’ve been without her. The star of my life. The center of my world. We, too, embraced and said not a word. No words were needed. You don’t need words when you just know. And at this moment, I expected to feel proud. Triumphant, maybe. Like a runner who just passed the finish line. Or a guy who won a game show. I thought I’d be overjoyed with a major sense of completion. But I felt none of these things. I felt, instead, like a beggar. A small and ragged old tramp, standing before the gates of the grandest pal-

ace in all history. Tired, a little humiliated, injured, ugly, filthy and destitute. But just when I couldn’t feel any less important, or any more ridiculous, or foul smelling, I see the gates to a Santiago are wide open. Open to me. A pilgrim who has been humbled greatly by his journey. The gates are welcoming me into the most unbelievable city. A city reminiscent of another yonder city. Where there will be joy on every face. Where I will receive new clothes, new shoes for my battered feet, and my heavy pack will finally be removed. Where the Great Shepherd will prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies. And anoint my head with oil. My cup runneth over. A place where surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. And ever. And ever. — Sean Dietrich is a columnist, and novelist, known for his commentary on life in the American South.

From Page 1C TREES

blood trees are paying the price. In 2015, a devastating one-two punch of cyclones — unprecedented in their intensity — tore across the island. Centuries-old specimens, some over 500 years old, which had weathered countless previous storms, were uprooted by the thousands. The destruction continued in 2018 with yet another cyclone. As greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, so too will the intensity of the storms, warned Hiroyuki Murakami, a climate scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the study’s lead author. “Climate models all over the world robustly project more favorable conditions for tropical cyclones.”

INVASIVE GOATS ENDANGER YOUNG TREES

But storms aren’t the

only threat. Unlike pine or oak trees, which grow 25 to 35 inches per year, dragon’s blood trees creep along at just 2 to 3 centimeters (about 1 inch) annually. By the time they reach maturity, many have already succumbed to an insidious danger: goats. An invasive species on Socotra, free-roaming goats devour saplings before they have a chance to grow. Outside of hard-to-reach cliffs, the only place young dragon’s blood trees can survive is within protected nurseries. “The majority of forests that have been surveyed are what we call over-mature — there are no young trees, there are no seedlings,” said Alan Forrest, a biodiversity scientist at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh’s Centre for Middle Eastern Plants. “So you’ve got old trees coming down and dying, and there’s not a lot of regeneration going on.” Keybani’s family’s nursery is one of several critical enclosures that keep out

goats and allow saplings to grow undisturbed. “Within those nurseries and enclosures, the reproduction and age structure of the vegetation is much better,” Forrest said. “And therefore, it will be more resilient to climate change.” CONFLICT THREATENS CONSERVATION But such conservation efforts are complicated by Yemen’s stalemated civil war. As the Saudi Arabia-backed, internationally recognized government battles Houthi rebels — a Shiite group backed by Iran — the conflict has spilled beyond the country’s borders. Houthi attacks on Israel and commercial shipping in the Red Sea have drawn retaliation from Israeli and Western forces, further destabilizing the region. “The Yemeni government has 99 problems right now,” said Abdulrahman Al-Eryani, an advisor with Gulf State

Analytics, a Washington-based risk consulting firm. “Policymakers are focused on stabilizing the country and ensuring essential services like electricity and water remain functional. Addressing climate issues would be a luxury.” With little national support, conservation efforts are left largely up to Socotrans. But local resources are scarce, said Sami Mubarak, an ecotourism guide on the island. Mubarak gestures toward the Keybani family nursery’s slanting fence posts, strung together with flimsy wire. The enclosures only last a few years before the wind and rain break them down. Funding for sturdier nurseries with cement fence posts would go a long way, he said. “Right now, there are only a few small environmental projects — it’s not enough,” he said. “We need the local authority and national government of Yemen to make conservation a priority.”

From Page 1C HAKA

how — or whether — their protest of it should be punished. WHY IS DEBATE ABOUT IT STILL GOING? Usually there’s agreement among parliamentarians about penalties for errant behavior. But this episode polarized the committee considering the lawmakers’ actions. Its report recommended Maipi-Clarke, who the committee said showed contrition in a letter, be suspended for seven days and her colleagues for 21 days. That’s the harshest penalty ever assigned to New Zealand lawmakers; the previous record was three days. Parliament Speaker Gerry Brownlee this month scheduled a rare, unlimited debate in Parliament until all parties could find consensus on the penalty, citing the severity of the proposed bans. But minutes after the debate began Tuesday, it was adjourned at the government’s behest after they allowed the Māori

party lawmakers to stay until after Thursday’s budget was delivered. It permitted the government their budget week agenda and meant the Māori lawmakers — opponents of the government — wouldn’t miss one of Parliament’s most significant dates. But the debate about the bans will then resume. Opposition leader Chris Hipkins, the only opponent of the sanctions to speak before debate was suspended, cited episodes where lawmakers have brawled in Parliament and driven a tractor up the building’s steps, but were not suspended, as evidence that the bans weren’t fair. But Judith Collins, the chair of the committee that produced the sanctions, said the penalties were “not about the haka.” Collins said the lawmakers’ behavior was the most egregious she’d ever witnessed.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? The debate will resume on June 5, when it threatens to stall usual government business once more. The government said Tuesday that it would not back down from

the punishments suggested and opposition parties said they couldn’t be swayed from disputing them. Outside Parliament, activist Eru Kapa-Kingi told the

assembled crowd that the haka was “a source of fear” in Parliament. “Even though when the All Blacks do it it’s a good thing,” he added.



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Thank you, Bowling Green.

I love being here to help life go right™ in a community where people are making a difference every day. Thank you for all you do.

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