



BOWLING GREEN DAILY NEWS

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SINCE 1854

Pay increase proposed for city commissioners

By **WES SWIETEK**
wswietek@bgdailynews.com

A proposal to raise the pay of Bowling Green city commissioners was met with a mixed reaction at Tuesday's city commission meeting.

Mayor Todd Alcott presented a proposal to raise commissioner pay from \$16,451 to \$32,500, with the hike going into effect next year.

The proposed change does not increase the mayoral salary of \$19,741.

Alcott noted that commissioner salaries have not been increased since 1999.

He said a 2008 salary study by the city recommend-

ed that commissioner pay be increased to \$22,000, but the recommended pay hike was not voted on by the commission at the time.

Alcott said the increase would "make a statement" about the important role commissioners play in leading the third-largest city in the state.

He noted that Warren Fiscal Court magistrates earn \$39,000 and called the proposed commissioner pay increase "a reasonable rate."

There are five members of the city commission — four commissioners and the mayor. Warren County has six magistrates and a judge-executive.

See PAY, 3A

DRAGONS IN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



GRACE RAMEY/photo@bgdailynews.com

The Warren Central Dragons celebrate beating Covington Catholic 61-58 in the KHSAA Boys' Sweet 16 semifinals at Rupp Arena. The Dragons advanced to play George Rogers Clark for the state title Saturday night after deadline. For coverage, go to bgdailynews.com.



GRACE RAMEY/photo@bgdailynews.com

University of Kentucky College of Medicine-Bowling Green student Caitlyn Galloway hugs her father, Phillip, after she learns she will spend her residency in Psychiatry and Adult Child Integration at the UK Medical Center. The medical school held its first Match Day event Friday at Fountain Square Park. For additional photos, go to bgdailynews.com.

College of Medicine's inaugural class celebrates first Match Day

By **JOHN REECER**
jreecer@bgdailynews.com

After four years of hard work, the first class at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine-Bowling Green Campus filled the downtown area with cries of joy and relief Friday morning.

More than 20 students from the class were surrounded by mentors, instructors, peers and family members at Fountain Square Park, where they opened letters to learn the location of their future residency programs.

The ceremony was part of an annual medical school tradition called Match Day when students from across the country simultaneously find out the immediate future of their medical careers.

Dr. Todd Cheever, associate dean of the University of Kentucky College of Medicine-Bowling Green Campus, called students in the school's inaugural class "pioneers" who were ready to lead communities.

"Today was a special day. It was our first-ever Match Day," Cheever said. "And we have been waiting for this for literally four years. ... I could not be prouder or happier for this class. This first

class has been amazing. When they applied here to come to our school five years ago, we didn't have a building. They came here on faith that we would have an amazing facility, which we did, and that we would provide a world-class medical education, which we have."

The National Resident Matching Program pairs the wishes of the students with the needs of hospitals' residency programs. Students interview in the fall at multiple locations and then they rank their choices.

See MATCH, 5A

Wilson guilty in BG murder plot

FACES 35-YEAR SENTENCE

By **JUSTIN STORY**
jstory@bgdailynews.com

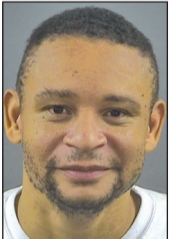
A Warren Circuit Court jury on Thursday convicted Antonio Marsonel Wilson of murder by complicity, finding him guilty in connection with the 2019 death of Smajo Miropija.

The jury of eight women and four men deliberated about two hours Thursday before determining Wilson, 42, of Smiths Grove, was guilty of the charge, finding that he engaged Jeffrey Smith in a plot to kill Miropija, 49, of Bowling Green.

Wilson was acquitted on additional counts of tampering with physical evidence and abuse of a corpse.

Attorneys for the prosecution and defense negotiated

See GUILTY, 7A



ANTONIO MARSONEL WILSON

City gets \$1.6 million from state to rehab pedestrian bridge

By **DON SERGENT**
dsergent@bgdailynews.com

Two projects expected to enhance recreation opportunities along the Barren River near downtown Bowling Green got boosts Thursday.

WELDON PEETE PARK SLALOM COURSE ALSO FUNDED

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear made a quick stop at the Warren County Courthouse to announce funding for the city of Bowling Green's project to rehabilitate the

College Street pedestrian bridge and a Warren County Parks and Recreation plan to build a dual slalom mountain bicycle racing course at Weldon Peete Park.

Beshear presented a ceremonial check for \$1.6 million to the city, with the money coming from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's federally funded Transportation

Alternatives Program. The city will ante up another \$400,000, money needed to complete the \$2 million rehab of a bridge that dates to 1915.

The governor also brought

See BRIDGE, 5A

TODAY

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MOSTLY SUNNY

INSIDE 3A

Kentucky House passes bill to legalize sports betting. Governor vetoes bill revamping jobless benefit rules.

IN OPINION 4A

We give our full endorsement to legislation moving through the Kentucky General Assembly that would prohibit transgender girls from competing in girls' sports at the postsecondary, middle and high school levels.

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