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Home / News

http://www.bgdailynews.com/news/used-book-sale-to-raise-funds-for-april-soky-book/article_784f91e5-41a8-544b-8c44-0a88f517f43a.html

Used book sale to raise funds for April SOKY Book Fest

By JACKSON FRENCH jfrench@bgdailynews.com 29 min ago

Thousands of used books will be offered to the public at a three-day sale to fund the annual Southern Kentucky Book Fest.

The SOKY Book Fest on April 20-21 will bring “A Series of Unfortunate Events” author Daniel Handler, better known by the pen name Lemony Snicket, to Bowling Green.

Sara Volpi, WKU Libraries Literary Outreach and SOKY Book Fest coordinator, said thousands of donated books have been gathered at the Warren County Public Library’s Bob Kirby Branch.

“When we say there are thousands of books, we literally mean there are thousands of books,” she said.

Donations for the used book sale, which is the largest annual fundraiser for the SOKY Book Fest, roll in throughout the year but pick up substantially in January and February, Volpi said.

“It always surprises me, the volume of books,” she said. “It was really hard not to buy a lot of books when I went out there today.”

Children’s books and paperbacks will sell for 50 cents. All other books, as well as DVDs, CDs and audiobooks will cost \$1 apiece.

The sale will be at the Bob Kirby Branch from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, according to sokybookfest.org.

Members of the Friends of WKU Libraries and Friends of the Library will be able to attend the sale from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Volpi said.

Ashley Fowlkes, Bob Kirby Branch manager, said the used book sale will feature a wide range of books, from children’s books to cookbooks to fiction.

Though people often have a preconceived notion of used book sales offering nothing but old, decrepit volumes, this has never been the case with the SOKY used book sale, Fowlkes said.

“What we find is that people have bought a new book, read it once and left it on a shelf for a little while or a long while and they’re still in pristine condition,” she said.



The advertisement features a woman with glasses and a blue shirt looking at a document. The TaxAct logo is in the top left. The text 'GOT YOUR W-2'S?' is prominently displayed in white on a dark blue background. A green button at the bottom says 'Start for Free'. An 'AdChoices' icon is in the top right corner.

The sale will also feature CDs, DVDs and audiobooks that many people have been getting rid of in recent years, Fowlkes said.

“With the rise of Netflix and streaming, people are getting rid of their copies of movies for the home and the same with music,” she said.

Typically, the used book sale draws people from all around the area interested in the chance to find some new reading material for low prices, Fowlkes said.

“There’s tons of people from the community and even from the region coming in,” she said. “It’s an enthusiastic response.”

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