



North boys basketball falls
in title game
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The SENTINEL ECHO

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2021 **1 DOLLAR** | LONDON, KENTUCKY

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Letters to Santa
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Second Mile Behavioral Health hosts holiday event

PHOTO BY NITA JOHNSON

Second Mile Behavioral Health hosted a holiday event for families utilizing their services. Second Mile assists individuals seeking help for substance abuse, mental health, behavioral health and other issues. They are located at 280 Jackson Mill Road in London, just before the entrance into Levi Jackson Park. Pictured, Santa poses for pictures with children - but only after they disclose their Christmas wishes.

Council approves surplus equipment for fire, street departments

By Nita Johnson
Staff Writer

Equipment for emergency services is costly, but the London City Council is continuing to support the efforts of city emergency crews in purchasing the needed items.

In a special-called meeting on Friday, the council approved a bid to purchase a new dump truck for the city streets department. Steve Edge, director of the city streets and sanitation department, said only one bid had been received. Edge said the new dump truck was badly needed, with council members voting to purchase the new truck.

Edge also addressed some surplus equipment, which council members agreed to add into the

surplus equipment list from the London City Fire Department. Edge said his department had several trucks, a road tractor and an old dump truck with a “bad motor” that needed to be sold. London Fire Chief Carl Hacker had previously asked for equipment to be advertised and sold as surplus. Those items include a 2003 Ford 550 service truck.

“We just use it to haul hoses. It has a 6.0 motor - this is the third motor we’ve put in it and had the turbo rebuilt,” Hacker said. “We need to buy another one to replace it.”

Councilmen Bobby Joe Parman and Daniel Carmack both questioned the feasibility of selling the old truck and using that revenue as a down payment

on a new vehicle. Edge said he was not sure of the value of the truck, but after more discussion, councilman Judd Weaver made a motion to declare the old truck as surplus and get action moving on getting a new truck for the department.

Hacker added that using the state contractors have said the backup in trucks could prevent the purchase until May, with Mayor Troy Rudder telling Hacker to contact local dealerships for possibly purchasing a truck before then. The estimated price of a new truck ranges between \$30,000 to \$35,000.

The council then went into executive session to discuss potential litigation, with no action taken.

Trials set for several facing murder, assault charges

By Nita Johnson
Staff Writer

Several persons charged with murder and assault appeared in Laurel Circuit Court

on Monday.

These cases are set for pretrial hearings on Jan. 24, 2022:

* Edward Dale Brewer, 43, of Lexington, is

charged with the July 2 murder of James Mays, and leaving his body in Levi Jackson Park.

• John Douglas Clark Jr., 54, of Cincinnati, is

charged with kidnapping an adult and first-degree attempted rape on May 30, 2021.

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Omicron variant detected in Ky.

By Emily Adams-Bentley
Staff Writer

TRI-COUNTY—The Omicron variant has made its way to Kentucky. On Friday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced the first confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the state.

During his COVID-19 briefing on Saturday, Beshear said it was in not one but several Kentucky counties as of Saturday with positive samples in patients from Kenton, Campbell and Fayette counties. Samples of the Omicron variant have also been detected in Jefferson County through wastewater testing performed by the University of Louisville and Louisville Metro Health Department.

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City tourism hires new employees

Plans for 2022 events discussed

By Nita Johnson
Staff Writer

Establishing a finance committee for the London City Tourism board and hiring of employees were two topics addressed during the board’s regular monthly meeting on Monday evening.

The idea of a finance committee was suggested by Board Chair Starr Handy, who said a finance committee might be needed to work with Mayor Troy Rudder on COVID relief funding. Handy said the finance committee would review funding, review the budget, or even put funds in short-term CDs in order to draw interest before being cashed in. Board members Lois McWhorter and Kelly Greene both questioned why a finance committee was needed, since the board oversees the revenues from the city’s restaurant tax. Board members then agreed to table that idea until the next meeting.

The summer concert series was also discussed with a committee established for those events. Handy and Tourism Executive Director Chris Robinson both said a budget for the summer concert

series needed to be established - with those issues needing to come before a finance committee.

Douglas Phelps, who coordinated the 2021 concert series, said preparations for the upcoming year were already overdue, telling commissioners that booking acts should have begun several months ago. Phelps said the production costs and entertainers cost \$64,636 for the four concerts combined, that featured 14 bands.

“We also purchased an \$11,500 drum riser that we have to use in the future and a spotlight and backdrop that we also still have,” Phelps added.

Food, catering, lodging and security for the entertainment acts added another \$11,000 to the list, resulting in commissioners considering setting the budget at \$100,000 for the coming year. Then came a discussion on establishing a committee to oversee those events that would be targeted toward featuring another event on Saturday as a means of getting people to stay overnight. The June concert will tie in with the ASA archery tournament that brings in thousands of visitors

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