



SPORTS 13A
Brown's late heroics
power Cardinals to
district win

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LIVING KING'S DREAM



Attendees begin their march down Main Street with the MLK Laurel County African American Heritage Center sign held up proudly. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

Unity at the forefront during Laurel County MLK Day March and Celebration

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — The Laurel County African American Heritage Center marked its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on Monday with a full slate of activities held at the London Community Center, highlighted by its traditional unity march from the old county courthouse and back to the community center.

The day began with youth-focused programming at 10 a.m., including a youth pageant that invited children from across the community to showcase their outfits for a chance to win prizes, setting an upbeat and family-centered tone for the observance.

Evening events commenced at 5 p.m. as attendees gathered on the steps of the Laurel County Courthouse. Heritage Center founder and director Wayne Riley was joined by Russel Wood, who delivered the opening prayer. Referencing Matthew 6:9, Wood spoke on the strength



Enoch Huff, a 21-year-old Eastern Kentucky native, spoke on the relevance in Dr. King's message to today's current climate. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

found in unity and its importance within the community.

"I really believe brothers and sisters, that's what God would want us to do — come together

in unity, worship together, live together, help one another and pray together," said Wood. "And

the dream that Martin Luther King, if he was here today, that

would be his dream he would tell us."

Riley followed by reinforcing

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Mehler appointed acting chief of London Police

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — The London Police Department announced Thursday the appointment of Gary Mehler as acting chief of police, effective on Jan. 8.

According to the department, Mehler brings more than 40 years of law enforcement experience to the role, with an extensive background in leadership, crisis response and operational oversight. The department highlighted in a Facebook post that his career reflects a longstanding commitment to public service, professionalism and accountability.

Mehler has served with the United States Air Force, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the



GARY MEHLER

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Murder charge tops Laurel County Indictments

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — The Laurel County Grand Jury recently returned several indictments, handing down charges in a series of cases ranging from murder and first-degree assault, to wanton endangerment and failure to comply with sex offender registration requirements.

Among the most serious indictments is a murder charge filed against Courtney Kay Boone, also known as Courtney Kay Gregory, 37, of East Bernstadt. Boone was indicted in Laurel Circuit Court Division II in connection with the July 13, 2025, death of Ronald Sheldon Lockaby.

According to the indictment, Boone is accused



COURTNEY K. BOONE

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