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North and South Laurel
High School finish
strong at UCA Nationals

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City Council reviews storm response, budget figures, mayor/administrator ordinance

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — Members of London City Council met in regular session Monday at the London Community Center — hearing department updates tied largely to the city's winter storm response, approving a resolution recognizing city employees' efforts, and the first reading of an ordinance related to the mayor position's compensation.

Following approval of the agenda and minutes, department head reports highlighted operations during the recent snow and ice event. Phillip Rawlings with Public Works reported 12-hour shifts, assistance

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The London City Council convenes for its regular meeting. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

Lay files for vacant Kentucky Court of Appeals seat

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — Circuit Judge Gregory A. Lay has filed to run for a seat on the Kentucky Court of Appeals, representing the 3rd Appellate District.

Lay announced on Monday that he filed his candidacy in Frankfort, seeking the appellate judgeship vacated by the retirement of James Lambert, who served on the Court of Appeals for nearly 20 years.

Lay has served as a circuit judge for the past 21 years, primarily presiding over cases in Knox and Laurel counties. In his announcement, Lay said his time on the circuit bench has included overseeing thousands of cases and has provided him with broad judicial experience he believes would translate effectively to appellate service.

Currently, Lay serves as Chief Regional Circuit Judge for the Cumberland Region, which encompasses 23 counties. In that role, he is responsible for assigning judges to cases when vacancies, recusals or other needs arise. He was appointed to the position by John Minton, former Chief Justice



Judge Gregory Lay, right, filed Monday to run for a seat on the Kentucky Court of Appeals, representing the 3rd Appellate District. | PHOTO COURTESY GREGORY A. LAY'S FACEBOOK PAGE

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AG rules London City Council did not violate Open Meetings Act

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — The Kentucky Attorney General's Office ruled that the London City Council did not violate the Open Meetings Act in connection with its Dec. 3, 2025, meeting, despite complaints that the meeting space was too small and difficult for some attendees to hear.

In a written decision issued last Wednesday, the Office of the Attorney General found that the council's meeting location, while potentially inconvenient, did not rise to the level of a violation under KRS 61.840, which requires public agencies to provide meeting room conditions that allow effective public observation.

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Two Ill. men arrested in connection with attempted kidnapping in Laurel

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — Two Illinois men were arrested early Saturday morning following an investigation into an attempted kidnapping involving a juvenile in southern Laurel County, according to the Laurel County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff John Root reported that Sergeant Robert Reed and Deputy Robert Smith made the arrests at approximately 6:07 a.m. on Jan. 31, after deputies were dispatched by London-Laurel County 911 to a report of a suspicious vehicle.

According to authorities, deputies responded to a residence off a side road along US 25, about seven miles south of London, where a silver vehicle bearing Illinois license plates had reported-



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SEE KIDNAP, PAGE 12A

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