

LAWSUIT

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protections and in retaliation for complaints she made regarding workplace conduct and misuse of authority.

In the complaint, Berry alleges she was subjected to a pattern of gender-based and sexual harassment by Mayor Weddle and City Attorney Bryson, both individually and through their failure to intervene in conduct by other city employees.

The lawsuit alleges Berry was subjected to repeated comments, rumors and insinuations of a sexual nature, including false allegations regarding romantic or sexual relationships with members of law enforcement.

Berry alleges Bryson not only failed to stop the rumor but instead told her he would “create a false rumor,” stating he would be

“flattered if someone said that about me and someone your age,” and adding, “I’m gonna start that about us,” referring to himself and Berry.

The lawsuit also alleges Weddle made comments questioning Berry’s professionalism and gender, insinuated inappropriate relationships with law enforcement officers, and made remarks of a sexual nature that Berry claims undermined her credibility within city government.

Berry further alleges she reported the conduct to city leadership but that no corrective action was taken. Instead, the complaint states the conduct continued and ultimately contributed to her termination.

The lawsuit asserts the alleged conduct created a hostile work environment in violation of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act.

Berry alleges her termination violated city ordinance, state law, and public

policy. According to the complaint, Berry was entitled to due process protections as City Clerk, including written notice and cause for removal. The lawsuit states those protections were not provided and that Berry was terminated shortly after making complaints regarding harassment, misuse of city resources, and inappropriate conduct. The complaint further alleges Berry was directed to perform tasks outside her job duties, including campaign-related and personal matters, and that her refusal or questioning of those directives contributed to her termination. Berry alleges her discharge was retaliatory and occurred after she engaged in protected activity by reporting alleged misconduct. The lawsuit also alleges tortious interference with Berry’s employment relationship with the City of

London. According to the complaint, Bryson and Weddle allegedly acted outside their lawful authority to interfere with Berry’s employment, including issuing directives before Weddle was sworn in as mayor and directing Berry to comply as if Weddle already held office. The complaint further alleges Bryson directed Berry to copy and reproduce documents related to Doug Phelps, who pled guilty to possessing child pornography and was later pardoned by former Gov. Matt Bevin, using city resources for purposes unrelated to her official duties. Weddle and Bryson are among the defendants in a pending doxing suit filed last fall by Phelps. Berry alleges she questioned the appropriateness of the request and was told she was “not taking this seriously enough,” despite the matter having “nothing

to do with City of London.” Berry alleges these actions placed her in an improper position, interfered with her employment responsibilities, and contributed to the decision to terminate her. Berry is seeking compensatory damages for lost wages, emotional distress, and reputational harm, as well as punitive damages, attorney’s fees, and a jury trial. The lawsuit was filed by attorney Brandon N. Voelker of Gatlin Voelker PLLC on behalf of Berry, the named plaintiff. Voelker is representing a number of plaintiffs in civil suits involving the city.

“The lawsuit has been threatened for several months. I thought maybe it wasn’t going to be filed, but it’s filed by Voelker — another one,” stated Bryson. “I guess he had just been holding it, waiting. He’s filed it now. I am very disappointed in the plaintiff for doing this because she worked for me for a number of years, and (I) recommended her for the position of city clerk when Mayor [Troy] Ruder was mayor. Just really, terribly, disappointed in her.” The Sentinel-Echo reached out to Mayor Weddle for comment, but did not receive one back as of press time.

CITY

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committee, and the matter is expected to be revisited at a future meeting.

Weddle also informed the council and those in attendance that the city’s tornado sirens will be tested Wednesday beginning at 10:07 a.m. The testing follows community concerns after last May’s tornado, when some residents reported difficulty hearing the sirens.

“Wednesday, the siren will go off and when it does, we’ll have units in certain parts of the city to see how far the siren projects,” said Weddle.

He said the cost for full implementation of additional units would be approximately \$33,000 per siren and noted that funding is available within the current budget.

“We really need to add about three more for the city limits of London,” said Weddle.

In legislative action, the council unanimously approved second readings of Ordinance 2026-06, addressing council meeting video sound, and Ordinance 2026-07, related to mayoral compensation.

Council members also unanimously approved a first reading of Ordinance 2026-09, which amends Ordinance 2025-02 regarding the regular meeting date, time and location. While the date and time of meetings will remain unchanged, the ordinance moves the meeting location to the Laurel County Fiscal Courtroom on the third floor of the courthouse unless otherwise notified.

A first reading of Ordinance 2026-10 was also approved unanimously. The measure amends Ordinance 2017-13 to update stormwater development requirements, establishing revised standards for the maintenance of storm lines, soil erosion controls, detention ponds and basins. The ordinance places

responsibility on property owners for upkeep and record keeping related to privately maintained detention and erosion control systems.

Resolution 2026-06, which provides an additional 14 days to respond to Resolutions 2026-03 and 2026-04 and the preliminary investigation of the Doug Harless incident, was also approved unanimously.

The council then turned to requested confirmation of Harold Dyche and Wayne Riley to the Housing Authority Board. Initially, no motion was made nor a signaling of action from council.

“So you’re gonna make a motion not to confirm? I think action has to be taken Christy, whether it’s a motion to confirm or a motion not to confirm,” said Weddle.

Shannon responded that the council had not handled similar matters that way previously. Weddle referenced guidance from the Kentucky League of Cities, stating that if no action is taken, the item is effectively tabled until the next meeting.

“You guys do realize that we have to move forward in these boards. Christy, we’ve gotta move forward,” said Weddle.

Shannon replied that she understood and added, “We need to move forward with the ethics board as well.”

Earlier in the meeting, the council unanimously approved appointments of Shannon Cain and Danny Phelps to the Ethics Board, despite objections from Weddle, who asked that action be delayed pending court review. The mayor has filed a lawsuit against the Ethics Board and the council seeking to halt further ethics actions until a court reviews what he has described as a Declaration of Rights dispute between the executive and legislative branches of city government. See related story on Page 2A.

Following addition-

al disagreement between council members and the mayor, and comments from members of the audience expressing frustration over the delay in board confirmations, council member Donna House called for an executive session. The closed session lasted close to an hour and a half.

Upon returning to open session, the council unanimously approved the appointments of Dyche and Riley to the Housing Au-

thority Board without further discussion.

During public comments, community member David Finley addressed the council and suggested drafting an ordinance prohibiting police from serving search warrants during nighttime hours except in dire circumstances. Council members thanked him for his remarks, and Shannon indicated she would speak with Finley following adjournment.

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Storage4Corbin located at 19 N Hills Rd, Corbin, KY, 40701 intends to hold a public sale to sell the property stored by tenants for default on their rental agreement.

The public sale will occur as an online auction via HYPERLINK www.lockerfox.com on 3/9/2026 at 11:00AM.

This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

Certain terms and conditions may apply.

Line Ads

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT

16x80,
3 bedroom,
2 bath.
\$750 per month +
\$750 deposit.

Call 606-304-3955

MOVING SALE

Moving Sale “Rain or Shine”
March 5th, 6th and 7th
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
1388 Oak Ridge Road
Corbin, KY
For more information call
606-344-8668

COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS RENT

FOR RENT/LEASE
Commercial office and retail spaces for rent at London Shopping Center.
Sizes range from 950 square feet to 2800 square feet.
Prime location on most traveled highway.
Call 606-878-2660 for information or to view these properties.

Call 606-528-2464 and ask for Trish to place your line ad here

PUBLIC NOTICES

3.4.2026

Laurel County Board of Education will be accepting bids for the School Picture bid

The Laurel County Board of Education will be accepting bids until 2:00 pm, Thursday, March 19, 2026 for the School Picture Bid. Copies of bids can be picked up at Central Office, 718 North Main Street, London, KY weekdays 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Bids will be awarded at 5:00 pm Monday, March 23, 2026. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

City of London Tourism is accepting bids from qualified companies for the installation of perimeter fencing at London-Laurel Regional Fairgrounds

City of London Tourism is accepting bids from qualified companies for the installation of perimeter fencing at the London-Laurel Regional Fairgrounds. For detailed information and a specifications sheet, please reach out to Christina Sowders via email: Christina@VisitLondonKy.com Bids will be accepted until Friday, March 13, 12:00p.m. All additional information is provided in the specifications sheet. City of London Tourism reserves the right to reject any bids received.

Laurel Ridge Landfill was in violation of their Industrial User Permit during 2025

As required by State and Federal regulations, the public is hereby informed that Laurel Ridge Landfill was in violation of their Industrial User Permit during 2025 and were identified as being in significant noncompliance under guidelines set by the London Utility Commission, U.S. EPA and the Kentucky Division of Water. For violations of the wastewater discharge permit limit for copper, Laurel Ridge Landfill was issued Notices of Violation (NOVs) and required to conduct corrective actions. The facility complied, returned to full compliance and no further action by the LUC was necessary. Questions regarding this matter can be addressed to Zach Creech, the Utility Manager, at (606) 864-2103 or Cynthia Leasor, the Commission’s Pretreatment Coordinator, at (859) 885-3331.

London Police Department will be conducting traffic safety checkpoints at various locations

Throughout the month of March, the London Police Department will be conducting traffic safety checkpoints at various locations throughout the city. These locations include, but are not limited to:
-HWY 229
-HWY 1006
-West 16th Street
-HWY 192
-HWY 80
-Tobacco Road
-Falls Street
Motorists are encouraged to make prudent decisions when operating a motor vehicle such as obeying speed limits, utilizing restraint devices, and never operating a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicants.

A partition action has been filed against the property that is the subject matter of Laurel Civil Action Number 25-CI-679

Notice is hereby given that I, Attorney Jason Scott Kincer, have been appointed by the Laurel Circuit Court to notify all persons having a claim or interesting in real property located in Laurel County that is subject to Laurel Circuit Court Civil Action Number 25-CI-679. A partition action has been filed against the property that is the subject matter of Laurel Civil Action Number 25-CI-679. This property will be sold on the Courthouse steps or other location as posted or designated by the Laurel County Master Commissioner. The property subject to this action was originally acquired by Jake Burkhart and his wife, America Burkhart, also known as American Burkhart Proffit and is described in Deed Book No. 78, at Page 581, in the records of the Laurel County Clerk’s Office, London, KY. Jake and America Burkhart, also known as America Burkhart Proffit, had four children, Nancy Burkhart, Bertha Burkhart, Birdie Burkhart, and Sherman Burkhart. If you are an heir, descendant, spouse, heir of or descendant of a spouse to any of the aforementioned individuals you may have an interest in the real property subject to this action. If you feel you have an interest in the real property subject to the above described legal action please contact my office at 606-330-0833 or by mailing correspondence to P.O. Box 3435, London Kentucky, 40743, to be received by no later than March 15st, 2026, so I may properly inform you of this action. Jason Scott Kincer Warning Order Attorney for Laurel Circuit Court Civil Action Number 25-CI-00679
606-330-0833 PHONE
606-330-0835 FAX
P.O. Box 3435
London, Kentucky 40743