



SPORTS 13A
North Laurel celebrates 13th
Region championships for
Boys' and Girls' teams

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BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION



The Laurel County magistrates gathered around Judge Executive David Westerfield Monday morning for a photo with the historic chair. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

Levi Jackson chair returns for Laurel Fiscal Court meeting

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — Laurel County Judge Executive David Westerfield presided over Monday's Laurel County Fiscal Court meeting from a chair that carries two centuries of local history.

During the regularly scheduled first fiscal court meeting of the month, a nearly 200-year-old chair once used by former Laurel County Judge Levi Jackson was brought in and placed on display ahead of the upcoming London and Laurel County Bicentennial celebration.

Ron Nicholas, a historian and historical reenactor with Levi Jackson Wilderness Road Park, addressed the court and audience about the significance of the chair and the anniversary of Laurel County's first court meeting.

"Folks, today is the 200th anniversary of the first meeting of the Laurel County Court. It met at Jarvis Jackson's house, just a couple of blocks from here, the first Monday of March of 1826," said Nicholas.

Nicholas explained that at the time of the county's first court meeting, there were no justices of the peace and no county judge position. Instead, the individual presiding over the meeting was known as the lead justice.

According to Nicholas, Laurel County's first county judge was established in 1850 — a role held by Levi Jackson himself.

"Levi Jackson actually found that chair, and used it for all three terms that he was a county judge executive," said Nicholas. "It was in the room where it happened, like I said, made history — and you guys are now part of that history."

The historic chair was brought to



Ron Nicholas, historian and historical interpreter at Levi Jackson Wilderness Road Park, explains the brief history behind the chair. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

the meeting from the Mountain Life Museum at Levi Jackson Wilderness Road Park for the special occasion. A commemorative photo was also taken of Judge Executive Westerfield and the magistrates seated with the chair. The photo will later be framed and displayed inside the museum alongside the chair and gavel.

"It's hard to imagine what those guys must have been thinking 200 years ago when they sat in that little room, probably not half the size of this room, and birthed the county," said Nicholas. "And now you guys are taking up their work, and I think you all are doing a fine job."

Continuing the London and Laurel County's Bicentennial celebration, an event will be held at the Laurel County Courthouse on Thursday, March 26, from 11-1 p.m. to recognize the 200th anniversary of the city and county.

In other business, magistrates unanimously approved a motion to reappoint Jason Handy to the Laurel County Tourist Commission.

The court also approved the appointment of Debbi Owens to the Laurel County Ethics Board following the resignation of Jean Green. Owens' appointment came at the recommendation of Judge Executive Westerfield.



London Mayor Randall Weddle, right, calls the special meeting to order. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

London City Council voids recent housing authority appointments

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — The London City Council met in special session Monday afternoon where members approved Resolution 2026-07, declaring void all actions taken by council following what was described as an improper executive session during last week's regular monthly meeting.

During the Mar. 2 meeting, Mayor Randall Weddle presented appointments for Harold Dyche and Wayne Riley to serve on the London Housing Authority Board. When Weddle asked council for its pleasure regarding

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Laurel school board emphasizes stance on bullying following NLHS incident

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — Laurel County Public Schools Superintendent Denise Griebel addressed the Laurel County Board of Education and the public Monday regarding the recent bullying incident at North Laurel High School that circulated widely on social media and prompted calls from community members for action.

The incident, which involved a video recorded on campus and later shared online, sparked widespread reaction throughout the community and led to a public rally calling attention to bullying concerns. The rally was attended by London Mayor Randall Weddle and Laurel Sheriff John Root.

Speaking before the board, Griebel addressed students, parents and community members while reiterating the district's stance on student safety.

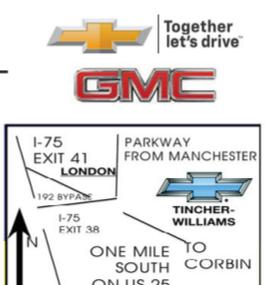
Griebel emphasized that maintaining a safe environment for students remains a central priority for the district.

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