

RIBBON

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to life.

One of the largest moments of the ceremony came during two check presentations. Officials announced a \$64,625 contribution from the London-Laurel County Jaycees/Ruritan Club, along with a separate \$3 million state funding presentation made by Sen. Brandon Storm and Rep. Derek Lewis.

The Levi Jackson Park Mountain Life Museum also received a \$6,870 donation from the Jaycees Club, which officials said will help support the preservation, maintenance and protection of the museum while ensuring its history and educational value are preserved for future generations.

The event center is ex-

pected to host community gatherings, tourism events and large regional competitions, including the ASA Archery Tournament, the Southeast Kentucky Fair, and Red, White, and Boom.

Fairgrounds Director Christina Sowders said the project faced “many, many challenges” throughout construction following the tornado.

“This is one of those situations where we truly saw a community come together,” Sowders said.

Sowders thanked city and county officials, tourism leaders, contractors and volunteers who helped move the project forward over the past year. “We cannot thank those guys enough,” Sowders said while recognizing city and county crews. “Every time we called, they came.”

Tourism Commission Chairman Phil Smith said



Outside of the entrance of the Wilderness Road Event Center. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD



London and Laurel County tourism officials take a picture with Rocky Adkins, the senior advisor to Gov. Andy Beshear. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

the project represents what can happen when people work together, despite disagreements and setbacks.

“That’s what happens when people get together and work on something — you’re sitting in the middle of it today,” Smith said. “What you’re seeing right now is just the beginning of the incredible things that are going to happen on this property.”

Laurel County Judge-Executive David Westerfield reflected on the community’s response after the tornado devastated parts of Laurel County.

“We live in a community where we pull together,” Westerfield said. “We care about each other, and we want the best for our neighbors and friends.”

London Mayor Randall Weddle recalled becoming emotional at the Daniel Boone Jeep Takeover, as it was the first event held at the new event center.

“I’ve come out here and had tears in my eyes because it was unbelievable to see the work that was put in,” Weddle said. “It truly is not just because of one individual or one vision — it’s because everybody worked

together.”

Senior Advisor to Gov. Andy Beshear Rocky Adkins said he toured the destruction with the governor shortly after the tornado, and praised the community’s determination to rebuild. “This community got knocked down,” Adkins said. “But the lesson is not how you get knocked down — it’s how you get back up.”

Adkins also said the new facility creates a strong first impression for visitors and future economic development opportunities.

“When you pull into this place, that first impression

says, ‘This is who we are, and this is how we’re going to build back better than before,’” Adkins said.

During the ceremony, members of the North and South Laurel FFA led the Pledge of Allegiance while Jordan Allen performed the National Anthem. First responders were also recognized for their work during the May 2025 tornado response.

To stay updated on upcoming events and activities at the fairgrounds, follow the Wilderness Road Event Center at Levi Jackson on Facebook.

Line Ads

ITEMS FOR SALE

Refrigerator white in color Amana from Bundy’s, fairly new, dishwasher Bosch, used stove white in color good condition. Antique dining table, good freezer needs condensor & compressor parts can be brought from Amazon. Call 606-401-1475 will call back as soon as possible.

GARAGE SALE

2 bedroom apartment. 3 miles from Aisin Auto in Lily. Washer, dryer and dishwasher included. No pets
\$650 per month
\$650 deposit
1st months rent due at same.
Call 606-312-1071

Multi-Family Garage Sale
Fri., June 5th & Sat., June 6th
7:30am - ?
1928 Mallard Drive., London in the Mallard Point Subdv. off Hwy 192.
Furniture, lamps, tools, shoes, clothes men’s & women’s, girls size 7-8, lots of goodies, too much to mention.
More stuff added on Sat., June 6th.
Rain or Shine

PUBLIC NOTICE

Firearms prohibited on the property belonging to Ben & Maryann Mitchell located at 2123 Farris Jones Road, E. Bernstadt, KY 40729. All violators will be prosecuted.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We will be selling a 1989 Chevrolet Caprice, Vin#1G1BU51E8KR149266 which is registered to Brandon C. Fultz-Ray, 73 Drew Lane, London, KY 40741 on Monday June 15, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at Laurel Service Center, 118 Ridings-Mitchell Creek Road, London, Ky 40741 for towing and storage charges.

YARD SALE

Fri., June 5th & Sat., June 6th
8am-3pm
67 Ellen Lane, London
Household items, tools, lots of misc.

Thurs., June 4th & Fri., June 5th
10am-5pm
Rain or Shine
515 Lily Road, London (4th brick house on right past Sublimity Springs Road). Lots of ladies and men’s name brand clothes, shoes, books, misc. household items.

Huge Garage Sale
Fri., June 5th & Sat., June 6th
9am-5pm
569 Golden Eagle Drive, London.
Take Hwy 229 to round about, turn right, 1st road on right, 4th house on left.
Big garage behind house. Clothes, household items, toys, games, TV’s, bar stools, pool toys. Too many items to list.

Call 606-528-2464 and ask for Trish to place your line ad here. Deadline for placing a line ad is 9:00 am on Monday

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