



Dana Muse, Diane Chambers, Caroline Falin, Mike Warren, Johnny Wilder, A.J. Hundley, Don Crago, Charles Hayes and Jimmy Schneider prepare to read the Declaration of Independence. | PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

LET FREEDOM RING: Celebrating 250 years as a free nation

BY CHARLES HAYES
SAR CAPTAIN CHARLES GATLIFF
CHAPTER

WILLIAMSBURG — The Fourth of July is a holiday that means different things to different Americans. It reminds many veterans of the kinship they feel with other veterans. To the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, it is an opportunity to honor the generation of men and women who helped found the United States of America while at time reminding the current generation and planting seeds

of patriotism in tomorrow’s generation.

During their annual July 4 ceremony at Patriot Park on the University of the Cumberland’s campus, DAR’s William Whitley Chapter and of the and SAR’s Captain Charles Gatliff Chapter presented a crowd with a reading of the Declaration of Independence and the Preamble of the United States Constitution followed by patriotic songs and music.

Dr. Jeff Smoak of the UC Music Department led the crowd in singing “The Star-Spangled Banner,” “My Country Tis of Thee,” and

“God Bless America.” Kevin Rossman, a retired veteran from Barbourville, entertained the people by playing “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” on an accordion. Eugene Madden, owner of Madden Music in London and manager of the house band at the Williamsburg Gospel Barn, sang two songs that he cowrote, “Freedom USA” and “Riding with the Swamp Fox.”

The event concluded with 13 volunteers from the audience (representing the first 13 states in the order they ratified the United States Consti-

tution) ringing the bell. The event concluded with iced tea and lemonade.

Both the DAR and SAR recognized that Lisa Bartram of the University of the Cumberland’s activities office had a large part in organizing the event as well as DAR District Director Dana Muse, who attended from Somerset. Special recognition needs to include the Croley Funeral Home, which erected two canopies last Thursday. Thunderstorms and heavy winds Friday night toppled the canopies. Personnel from Croley’s corrected the problem before it became a calamity.

Lamborghini lawsuit against Weddle dismissed

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — Less than a week after it was filed, a civil lawsuit against former London Mayor Randall Weddle has been dismissed.

Lamborghini Financial Services, Inc. moved to dismiss its lawsuit against London Mayor Randall Weddle last Thursday, after filing the complaint July 6 in Laurel Circuit Court over a default payment tied to a 2019 Lamborghini Urus.

According to a Notice of Voluntary Dismissal Without Prejudice, Lamborghini Financial Services said it was “dismissing its action against the Defendant, Randall Lenn Weddle, without prejudice.”

An order submitted in the case states that the plaintiff’s complaint would “hereby voluntarily dismissed, without prejudice, at Plaintiff’s cost” once it’s been approved by a judge.

The original lawsuit sought repossession of the vehicle and a judgement of \$60,044.56.

The dismissal order submitted along with the notice was signed by Laurel Circuit Court Judge Gregory Lay Friday, officially removing the civil case from the court docket.



FORMER LONDON MAYOR RANDALL WEDDLE

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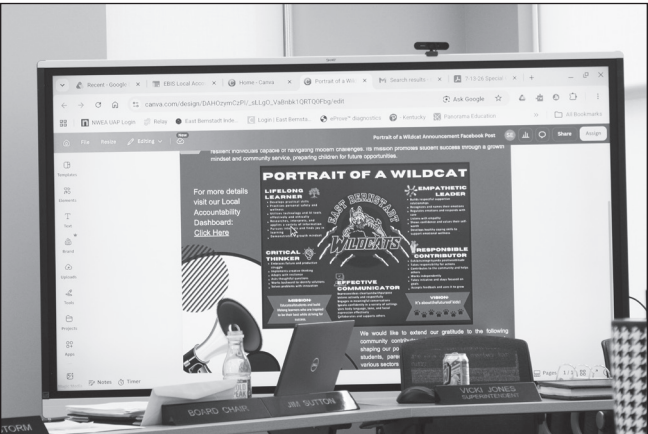
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IN MEMORY OF ROY HOUSE, 1952-2004, SUE MINTON 1950-2017



Principal Susan Elza showed a picture of the new addition to the school’s website, Portrait of a Wildcat and the components of that program. | PHOTO BY NITA JOHNSON

EAST

Continued from page 2A

pand that room if needed,” Hooker said.

Principal Susan Elza showed slides on the newest addition to the school’s website that includes a section about “Portrait of a Wildcat.” That includes

being a Lifelong Learner, Empathetic Leader, Critical Thinker, Responsible Contributor and Effective Communicator. Elza explained that the addition was not currently required but that step was being taken for expected future expectations.

Jones then announced the low bids on bottled water and pizza with Pepsi Cola

getting the bid for water at 21 cents per bottle. Little Ceasar’s won the bid for pizza, at \$6.30 each.

The board tabled hiring a new school resource officer (SRO) until the next meeting. Jones explained that the former SRO has taken another job and the agreement has not been approved with the Laurel County Sheriff’s Office.

Other actions approved during Monday’s meeting were:

- Accept \$25,000 grant from Steele-Reese Foundation
- Hired Stephanie Hammons for Occupational Therapy
- Created a part-time Speech Therapy position upon the retirement of the current teacher
- Continued membership with Kentucky School Board Association and their policies and procedures
- Created two tutoring

the Laurel County Correctional Center in lieu of a \$50,000 bond. According to online jail records, he is expected to be arraigned in Laurel District Court Wednesday morning.

The investigation is being led by Laurel County Sheriff’s Office Detective Sgt. Taylor McDaniel with assistance from Captain Richard Dalrymple.

in identifying three individuals captured on surveillance footage, along with a possible vehicle believed to have fled the scene. According to the sheriff’s office, information provided by the public led investigators to successfully identify the suspects. As of Tuesday afternoon, the department confirmed that more arrests are expected.

Middleton was lodged in

positions from the Gear UP grants

— Reviewed the data security system for using AI in the classrooms

— Approved teacher and substitute teacher handbook.

The East Bernstadt School Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. in the Administration Building. Monday’s special-called meeting was due to conflicts with board members on the usual meeting date.

PUBLIC NOTICES

7.15.2026

All 504 records for students who attended any Laurel County Public School through the school year of 2021-2022 will be destroyed

In accordance with District procedures and Records Retention Guidelines, the following 504 records housed at Laurel County Public schools will be destroyed: All 504 records for students who attended any Laurel County Public School through the school year of 2021-2022.

Parties desiring a copy of his or her records before destruction must contact the last school attended no later than September 1st, 2026.

These records will be destroyed on October 1st, 2026.

All Special Education records for students who attended any Laurel County Public School through the school year of 2022-2023 will be destroyed

In accordance with District procedures and Records Retention Guidelines, the following Special Education records housed at Laurel County Public schools will be destroyed: All Special Education records for students who attended any Laurel County Public School through

the school year of 2022-2023.

Parties desiring a copy of his or her records before destruction must contact the last school attended no later than September 1st, 2026.

These records will be destroyed on October 1st, 2026.

Notice is hereby given that Dr. Sara Eldridge of Kentucky Eye Institute, is leaving the practice located at 130 Thompson Poynter Rd, London, KY 40701

Notice is hereby given that Dr. Sara Eldridge of Kentucky Eye Institute, is leaving the practice located at 130 Thompson Poynter Rd, London, KY 40741. All patients may retrieve their medical records from Kentucky Eye Institute located at 130 Thompson Poynter Rd, London, KY 40741 or by calling 606-878-2012. Dr. Eldridge’s last

day at the practice will be August 21, 2026. It is important for existing patients to schedule an appointment within the next 30 days either with one of Kentucky Eye Institute’s doctors or an outside eyecare doctor to ensure they are receiving ongoing care.

ARREST

Continued from page 2A

3:32 p.m. Sunday at a motel in southern Laurel County. The victim suffered serious injuries in what investigators described as an apparent stabbing.

Since the incident, the sheriff’s office had been asking for the public’s assistance