

London Community Band honors America 250, life of late director



James Adams conducts the band as they perform patriotic anthems. | PHOTO BY MADISON NANTZ

BY MADISON NANTZ
CORRESPONDENT

LONDON — Saturday night, July 4, was bittersweet for many Laurel Countians as the London Community Band honored both America 250 and the life of longtime Director/Conductor Jack Walker.

The band performed its 25th annual Patriotic Concert on July 4 at London First Baptist Church, earning a significant turnout. The

group presents the performance each year to celebrate the freedoms the nation was founded upon, thank veterans and those in active duty, and remember the service members who lost their lives.

This year differed from previous ones, however, in that the band had recently suffered the loss of the 83-year-old Walker, who passed last month. In light of his passing, band members honored Walker’s legacy

and local impact on music throughout the show.

Mark Sizemore, director of the concert, was among those to speak about the loss.

“Many people have asked: How can I honor the life of Jack Walker? Go forward and invest in people and love what he loved, which was band and all the lessons it teaches,” Sizemore said.

James Adams, Band Director at Jackson County High School, conducted a

few pieces as well. Adams, who graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a Masters in Music, served as the co-director of the Patriotic Concert.

The concert began with the “National Emblem March” and a presentation of colors by the Keavy Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter, followed by “The Star Spangled Banner.” A couple pieces, such as “On a Hymnson of Philip Bliss”

and “Kentucky 1800,” were dedicated to Walker as a slideshow by Jason Jones displayed photos of Walker throughout his career in music and education.

Laurel County Clerk Tony Brown, who emceed the event, honored Walker by reading tributes others had shared about the late director. Brown had been a student of Walker’s during his tenure at South Laurel High School.

During the annual “Salute to the Armed Forces” portion of the concert, the band went on to perform the themes of each military branch — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Space Force — encouraging

family members of veterans and current service members to stand as their respective loved one’s theme played. Jacob Smith — a South Laurel High School graduate and current student at the University of Tennessee — conducted the section.

For “The Stars and Stripes Forever,” attendees were encouraged to join in the celebration by waving hand held flags provided by the London Community Band. The band then closed with “God Bless America.”

To learn more about the London Community Band and stay updated on other upcoming shows, visit <https://lccok.com>.



Mark Sizemore spoke of Walker’s impact. | PHOTO BY MADISON NANTZ



The Speed UTV tackles Powerline Hill, a steep rocky hill accented with a rock line midway up the hill. Looking down, the area below is the back parking lot of Wildcat Offroad Adventures. | PHOTO BY NITA JOHNSON

ROBBY

Continued from page 11A

2-seater designed for the younger crowd, while the other models offer a speedier experience. The Boss, for example, seats four people, glass windows and air conditioning with a dump bed. The Rock Series are the sportier, faster models that offer more thrills and chills for those seeking a true adventure in riding and racing, registering up to 120 mph. Gordon pointed out several unique features to his line, including the 5-point seatbelt harness, the window guards to provide more protection, and a sophisticated shock absorption system to ensure the smoothest ride

possible along the ruts and hills of the wooded trails.

Gordon said he began designing the UTVs in 2004, hitting the market in 2007. The RZR was his first design, expanding to the more complex UTV line.

“We sold 3,000 of these online,” Gordon said. “Now we’re launching them to dealers. This line is exclusive to Wildcat Offroad now.”

Another security feature of Gordon’s line is that the vehicles are built on truck beds, which allow for more stability during the rides, as well as Gordon’s models having spare tire mounts.

“This is the only line with the spare tire mounts,” he said.

Wildcat Offroad Adventure Park is a unique facil-

ity designed especially for ATV and UTV riding. A ride through the trails offers steep uphill challenges blended in with flat wooded areas that highlight the scenic eastern Kentucky cliff lines and underlying rock areas that combine with sandy hills that beg to be climbed. Steep turns and rutted trails offset with rocky ridges up and down the hillsides of the park emphasize the power of the UTVs as they plow through the area at the speed choice of the driver. The Speed UTV hugs the terrain, whether a rutted area requiring maneuvering at a 45 degree angle or tackling a 90 degree hillside known as Powerline Hill just off the back park-

ing lot area.

These trails have become a popular drawing for motorsports enthusiasts, offering a rustic getaway into nature and providing a break from the normal day-to-day routines.

Wildcat Offroad Adventures offers campgrounds, both for RVs and primitive camping, with a shop

where guests can purchase snacks, drinks and souvenirs. A food truck with specialty drinks and food items is located outside the shop, along with a washing station for the ATVs and UTVs. The facility hosts concerts, racing and other special events throughout the year, with the public welcome to attend.

Line Ads

CALL 606-528-2464 AND ASK FOR TRISH TO PLACE YOUR LINE AD HERE.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

2 bedroom apartment. 3 miles from Aisin Auto in Lily. Washer, dryer and dishwasher included.

\$650 per month
\$650 deposit
1st months rent due at same.
Call 606-312-1071

DUPLEX FOR RENT

2,000 sq. ft. duplex for rent in town. All utilities are included except cable. Large kitchen & living room, 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath, washer/dryer hookups, 1 car garage.

Absolutely no pets or smoking.
\$1,450 per month \$1,000 deposit.

Serious Inquires Only
606-682-4005

MOTORCYCLE FOR SALE

2005 Suzuki Boulevard with extra lights. Exceeding low mileage.

If interested, call 606-877-5234 ask for Aubrey.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We will be selling a 2014 Nissan Altima, VIN#1N4AL3APX-EN389836 which is registered to Auto Owners, 5801 KASP Court, Lexington, KY 40509 on Monday, July 20, 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

Yard Sale
966 Dolly Miller Rd.
East Bernstadt
Friday, July 17th only
9 am - 6 pm
25 north to 490 north, 2 miles 1394 (Hazel Green School) at school entrance turn right onto Dolly Miller, 4th house on left. Clothing, purses, shoes, quilts, household items. Priced to sell
Canceled if it rains.

Deadline for placing a line ad is 9:00 am on Monday

HELP WANTED Legal Secretary

Williams and Towe Law Group currently has a job opening for a Legal Secretary. Must have strong organizational and communication skills. Experience with the Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, Outlook). Must maintain a courteous and professional demeanor at all times.

Pay is based on experience.

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Please send resumes to sonya@wftlaw.com