

Whitley circuit judge nominated for federal post

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON, DC — President Donald Trump has nominated 34th Judicial Circuit Judge Daniel Ballou to serve on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. Trump announced the nomination the evening of Aug. 19 via a Truth Social post, describing Ballou as a longtime circuit judge and praising his legal and military background.

“I am pleased to nominate Daniel Ballou to serve as Judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky,” Trump stated in the announcement.

Ballou currently serves as circuit judge for Whitley and McCreary counties. He was elected to the position in 2006 — having served a prior four-year term as District Judge — and has subsequently been re-elected without opposition.

Ballou would succeed former U.S. District Judge Gregory Van Tatenhove, who was selected to become the dean of the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law earlier this year. According to Trump’s an-

nouncement, Ballou earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Kentucky and his law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law. He previously served as a law clerk for Judge Eugene Siler of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.



34th Circuit Judge Daniel Ballou

Ballou is also a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. Trump said he believes Ballou would be a “powerful defender of the Rule of Law” on the federal bench.

U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, shared Trump’s post on X about Ballou and said “Congrats to a Great American.” Paul previously supported Ballou when he was running for Kentucky Supreme Court in 2018 against now Chief Justice Debra Hembree Lambert. Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman, also a Republican, also congratulated Ballou on X.

“Judge Ballou’s service on the bench in our Mountain Counties and as a U.S. Marine have prepared him well to uphold the rule of law,” Coleman said. “I look forward to his confirmation!”

— The Kentucky Lantern contributed to this story.

WEEKEND

From page 1A

reflects the connection shared by generations of Laurel County residents who have lived beneath the same sky and moon throughout the county’s history.

Festivities will begin Friday evening at Levi Jackson Wilderness Road Park, with the Moonlight Market and food trucks opening at 6 p.m. Inflatables, a petting zoo and a trackless train will also be available throughout the evening.

Live entertainment will begin at 6:15 p.m. with Mash Grass, followed by magic shows from Mark Comley beginning at 6:30 p.m. A cornhole tournament will get underway at 7 p.m., and London’s Jordan Allen, a 2025 contestant on “The Voice,” will perform at 8 p.m.

The evening will conclude with a new fireworks show at dusk, added to this year’s Homecoming celebration in honor of Laurel County’s 200th anniversary.

Several new activities are also planned, including a Harvest Moon scavenger hunt and a live archery exhibition by AimTakers Archery. The scavenger hunt will take place Friday

and Saturday and will challenge participants to locate hidden moons throughout the woods, with a \$1,000 prize going to the person who finds the designated sequence.

Saturday’s festivities will begin at Town Center Park, where Parade Fest will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The morning will feature bicycle decorating and various circus acts before the Laurel County Homecoming Parade begins at 11 a.m.

Activities will continue throughout the day at Levi Jackson Wilderness Road Park. A men’s doubles pickleball tournament for players rated 3.5 and below will begin at 9 a.m., followed by a putt-putt scramble at 10 a.m.

The Moonlight Market and food trucks will return at 11 a.m., while the Maker’s Market will be held at the Mountain Life Museum. Live music from Kelly Caldwell and Kashmere is scheduled throughout the day.

Additional Saturday activities include the Little Miss & Master Pageant, a second pickleball tournament, a pet parade, Laurel Mountain Bluegrass, a foam party, Doxie Derby and Power Wheels Race.

A special piece of Laurel County history

will also be highlighted Saturday with the rededication of the John and Mary Jackson monument at A.R. Dyche Memorial Gardens at 2 p.m.

The monument honors John and Mary Jackson, who are recognized as founders of London. According to the John and Mary Jackson chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the couple dedicated land for the establishment of the county seat 200 years ago. The City of London dedicated the monument in their honor in 1940 and recently funded restoration work after the monument was identified as needing repairs.

Saturday evening will

bring more entertainment, beginning with Spotlight on Youth at 5:30 p.m. Inflatables and magic shows will follow at 6 p.m., with the London Strong Tribute scheduled for 6:45 p.m. An honoree presentation will take place at 7:55 p.m.

The weekend will conclude with the annual Miss & Teen Laurel County Homecoming Pageant at 8 p.m.

With live music, markets, competitions, family activities, the annual parade and a celebration of local history, this year’s Homecoming will offer residents and visitors an opportunity to celebrate Laurel County’s past while looking toward its future.

Super Crossword

Answers

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