Senator Rand Paul visits Laurel County



Sen. Rand Paul visits with local officials at the London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce and London-Laurel County Tourist Commission building. | MACEE SWAFFORD

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
SENTINEL-ECHO

LONDON — U.S. Sen. Rand Paul visited London last Thursday morning as part of his annual fall foliage tour — discussing regional tourism, economic development and national political issues during the "Coffee with the Senator" event.

Hosted by the London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce and London-Laurel County Tourist Commission, the event brought Sen. Paul to the organizations' offices on Tom Jensen Highway.

Paul, accompanied by his wife Kelley, said the tour is intended to highlight Eastern Kentucky's natural attractions and encourage greater investment in promoting the region.

"The one thing we have, that's free, is our natural beauty," Paul said. "We need to take advantage of it. We need to figure out better how to take advantage of it."

Paul discussed plans to raise $100,000 for a unified advertising campaign promoting the Kentucky Leaf Trail and attractions throughout Eastern Kentucky. The initiative would bring together tourism commissions, chambers of commerce and businesses to pool resources and expand the region's reach.

"I think your money would be better spent if you combined it," Paul said, emphasizing the benefits of regional cooperation over individual counties advertising separately.

The proposed effort would include an interactive website featuring a map of the trail and nearby attractions, allowing visitors to explore destinations throughout the region.

Sen. Paul also addressed national political issues — including socialism, public health mandates and individual liberty — arguing that people should be able to make their own decisions.



State Senator Brandon Storm (R-London) introduces Paul to those in attendance. | MACEE SWAFFORD

"We can all agree," Paul said. "We can all disagree on the fundamental principle, and I'm not gonna make you do something, you're not gonna make me do something."

During the event, local representatives also highlighted Laurel County's economic development and tourism opportunities, including upcoming projects such as the Kroger Marketplace and the area's location along Interstate 75.

Paul compared the region's potential for growth to hometown of Bowling Green, pointing to the advantages of interstate access and proximity to larger cities.

"I think there's only upward growth for us, you know, as far as tourism goes," Paul said.

For updates on more events, follow the London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce and London-Laurel County Tourist Commission on their respective Facebook page.

Ink in the Hills Book Festival to feature 52 authors

MACEE SWAFFORD
THE SENTINEL-ECHO

LONDON — Book lovers and aspiring writers will have an opportunity to meet authors from across Kentucky during the inaugural Ink in the Hills Book Festival, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14, at the London Community Center.

The festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and feature 52 authors representing a variety of genres. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet authors, purchase books, get copies signed and browse offerings from local vendors and participating bookstores.

The event was initially envisioned as a small gathering of approximately 10 local authors at a coffee shop or smaller venue. However, after putting out a call on Facebook for interested authors, the response quickly grew beyond expectations.

"I started getting authors replying from everywhere. I put together a small group of local authors to assist with the planning — Ann Simmons Schwartz, Tonya Ridener Wood and Lee Zephyr to help," said Gary Bryant, the event's organizer.

Bryant also gave credit to the person who came up with the festival's name. "Melanie Jaynes also played an important role, coming up with the festival's name, 'Ink in the Hills,'" he said.

The event will also feature four bookstores, including London's own The Double Veil Bookshop, along with Bourbon Trail

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PUBLIC NOTICES

11.4.26

Laurel County Extension District Board is accepting bids for the purchase of a new 2024 Silverado 2500 HD Crew Cab pickup truck, model CK20743

The Laurel County Extension District Board is accepting bids for the purchase of a new 2024 Silverado 2500HD Crew Cab pickup truck, model CK20743. Specifications include 4WD, leather seats, bed liner, bed cover, and tinted windows. Bids must be mailed or hand-delivered to Laurel County Extension Office, 200 County Extension Road, London, Kentucky. Bids will be accepted until Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at 4 PM. The Laurel County Extension District Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Wood Creek Water District will be accepting sealed bids for the sale of a 2012 Ford F-150 Truck and a 2008 Case 70 Tractor with Rotary Cutter

Wood Creek Water District will be accepting sealed bids for the sale of :
2012 Ford F-150 Truck
2008 Case 70 Tractor with Rotary Cutter
Bid as is with no warranty or guarantee whatsoever on all items.
Bidders assume all liability and agrees to hold the Water District harmless and blameless on all activities associated with this bid. Items may be viewed Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the
Wood Creek Water District Warehouse US Hwy 25, East Bernstadt, KY until bid opening.
Bids may be placed at the Water Office, 1670 Hal Rogers Parkway, P.O. Box 726, London, KY 40743,
Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until bid opening at 3:00 p.m. November 9, 2026
The District reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any and all bids

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