

Longtime local journalist dies in Friday fatal crash



GEORGE CHERRY FERRELL

BY **MACEE SWAFFORD**
STAFF WRITER

EAST BERNSTADT – A London man who spent more than four decades working as a journalist, writer and photographer was killed Friday night in a two-vehicle collision on North Laurel Road.

George Cherry Ferrell, 69, of London, died after the car he was driving allegedly crossed the center line while traveling southbound on U.S. 25 and struck a truck head-on, according to a Laurel County Sheriff’s Office press release. The collision occurred approximately three miles north of London around 11:29 p.m. Aug. 21.

Ferrell was pronounced dead at

the scene by Laurel County Coroner Doug Bowling.

The driver of the truck, 26-year-old Jerry Grady of East Bernstadt, and a 17-year-old female passenger were transported by Ambulance Inc. of Laurel County to CommonSpirit - Saint Joseph Hospital - London for treatment of possible injuries.

Ferrell was remembered in his obituary as a longtime journalist whose career took him through several Kentucky newsrooms and media organizations.

Born Sept 4, 1956, in Lexington, Ferrell was the son of the late Dr. Thomas Ferrell Sr. and Mary Dean Cherry Ferrell. He was also preceded in death by his brother, D.T.

Ferrell Jr.

Ferrell was a graduate of the University of Kentucky, where he earned a Bachelor of General Studies degree with specialized training in journalism, writing, English and marketing.

His newspaper career began with the Richmond Register, where he worked from 1983 to 1986 as a reporter, writer, and photographer. He also worked for WCBR-WMCQ FM in Richmond as a staff writer and reporter before joining on as a sales associate at DeSloover Realty and Auction.

Ferrell also had a long career with The Jackson Sun in McKee, where he worked as a writer and reporter.

His work included freelance photography and journalism for United Press International, the Associated Press and the Berea Citizen.

Funeral services for Ferrell are scheduled for 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, at First Presbyterian Church in Richmond, with Dr. Curtis “T” Christian IV officiating. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until the funeral hour at the church, with burial to follow at Richmond Cemetery, according to the obituary.

The Laurel County Sheriff’s Office was assisted at the crash scene by the Laurel County Coroner’s Office, Ambulance Inc. of Laurel County, East Bernstadt Fire and Rescue and Eco-Tec.

London Police officer suspended following traffic collision

BY **MACEE SWAFFORD**
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — Newly obtained records provide additional details about the July traffic collision that resulted in disciplinary action against a London police officer.

The City of London released the records in response to an open records request, including the Kentucky Uniform Police Traffic Collision Report and body-worn camera footage from the incident.

The collision occurred shortly after 11 p.m. July 25 on West Fifth Street in London. The traffic collision report identifies the driver as Travis D. Farris and lists London Police Officer Andrew Lawson as the investigating officer. The report states the collision involved a single vehicle and a utility pole. No injuries were reported.

According to the narrative in the collision report, officers arrived and made contact with the driver, whose vehicle was stopped facing west with front-end passenger-side damage.

When officers asked what happened, according to the report, the driver told them he was unsure but believed he had “clipped” the utility pole on the right shoulder.

The collision report also indicates the officer didn’t suspect impairment. Under “Method of Determination,” the report lists both “01 — Field Sobriety Test” and “02 — Observation.” The report lists suspected alcohol use as “No” and suspected drug use as “No.”

The records are significant in light of a joint statement issued last Wednesday by Mayor Tracie Handley and Acting Police Chief Gary Mehler announcing the conclusion of the department’s professional standards investigation into the incident.

That investigation found established procedures for assessing impairment at the scene of a collision were not properly followed.

As a result, Lawson received a three-day suspension without pay, was demoted from corporal to patrolperson and was required to undergo mandatory retraining on roadside sobriety assessment procedures and the proper exercise of professional judgment during collision responses.

The city said the disciplinary action was intended to reinforce mandatory safety procedures and address the failure identified during the review.

The joint statement emphasized that while officers must have discretion when handling rapidly developing situations, that discretion does not include bypassing required safety procedures when public safety is at risk.

City officials also said video and other records related to the incident were being made available through Open Records Requests following completion of the investigation, citing transparency and accountability as important components of maintaining public trust in the police department.

department.

“We understand that incidents like this can understandably shake public confidence,” the statement concluded. “We do not take that lightly. The London City Police Department is only as strong as the public’s trust in it, and restoring that trust requires holding ourselves to the same standard we ask Londoners to trust us to uphold. We believe the thoroughness of this review, and the action taken as a result, demonstrates that standard in practice.”

**Call 606-878-7400
to subscribe to the
Sentinel-Echo today!**

**4 Family Garage
Sale 1st one this
year. Thursday
Friday, Saturday
September 3-4-5.
Next house on
East 4th Street
past Benge Farm
Supply.**

Laurel County Board of Education Proposed Tax Notification

The Laurel County Board of Education is proposing a general fund tax levy of 45.6 cents on real property and 45.6 cents on personal property. The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026 was 46.2 cents on real property and 46.2 cents on personal property and produced revenue of \$19,977,831.55. The proposed General Fund tax rate of **45.6 cents on real property and 45.6 cents on personal property** is expected to produce \$21,221,395. Of this amount, \$2,714,756 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax for 2027 is 43.1 cents on real property and 46 cents on personal property and is expected to produce \$20,230,609.

The proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year. The general areas to which revenue of \$1,243,563 above 2026 revenue is to be allocated are as follows: \$186,534 Building fund, \$600,000 transportation, \$457,029 instructional. This information is published pursuant to KRS 160.470. The proposed tax rate is not subject to recall under KRS 132.017.

The General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and information contained herein

The
**SENTINEL
ECHO**

153rd year, No. 34 • www.sentinel-echo.com

Serving Laurel County since 1873

Bill Atkinson Publisher
Janie Slaven Editor
Brad Hall Design Editor
Macee Swafford . . . News Writer

Jessie Eldridge Advertising Sales
Patricia Humphrey .Advertising Sales
Shari Sevier .Production Manager
Rhae Hoskins .Circulation Dist. Manager

818 S. Main Street, London, KY 40741
Phone: (606) 878-7400 | Fax: (606) 878-7404

USPS 490-600 The Sentinel-Echo is published on Wednesdays. Periodicals postage paid at London, KY 40741. Postmaster send address changes to: The Sentinel-Echo, P.O. Box 830, London, KY 40743-0830. Home delivery subscription rates: 12 months - \$91.00; Six months - \$45.50; Three months - \$22.75



Award-winning member
Kentucky Press Association



**KENTUCKY
CENTENNIAL
BUSINESS**
Serving Commerce and Community for 100 Years

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

Project:

KCTCS - Somerset Community College Replace Laurel South Building
100 University Drive, London, KY 40741

Owner:

Kentucky Community and Technical College System
300 North Main Street, Versailles, KY 40309

Bid Date:

Trace Creek Construction, Inc. will receive bids for the KCTCS - Somerset Community College Replace Laurel South Building on **Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 2:00 PM ET**. Bid opening will be held at the Laurel County Public Library, 120 College Park Drive, London, KY 40741. All bids received prior to the closing time will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late bids shall not be acknowledged and will be returned unopened to the contractor. The bids shall be guaranteed for a period of sixty days and no bid may be withdrawn prior to the sixty-day period.

A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **Monday August 31, 2026 at 11:00 AM ET** at the Laurel County Public Library, 120 College Park Drive, London, KY 40741. Attendance at the Pre-Bid is not mandatory but bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. The existing property is located at 100 University Drive, London, KY 40741.

PROJECT CONTACTS:

The following shall be the official contact list for the project. All communication and clarification concerning the bidding documents shall be forwarded through the contacts listed below. All correspondence and questions shall be copied to the Construction Managers and the Architects office by email:

Construction Manager:

Trace Creek Construction, Inc.
Travis Curry, Senior Project Manager
Office: (606) 796-3867
Cell: (606) 202-0413
Email: tcurry@tracecreek.net

Bidding Documents:

•Lynn Imaging: 328 E. Vine Street, Lexington, KY 40508 will be in charge of plan distribution. Plan purchase charges will be listed on the Lynn Imaging distribution website, <https://www.lynnimaging.com/> Documents will be available for pickup/delivery after receipt of the specified payment by Lynn Imaging.

Individual Bid Packages Listing:

The following Individual Bid Packages will be accepted:

- Bid Package 01 Earthwork
- Bid Package 02 General Trades
- Bid Package 03 Masonry
- Bid Package 04 Structural Steel
- Bid Package 05 Roofing
- Bid Package 06 Aluminum Windows & Storefronts
- Bid Package 07 Gypsum Board & Ceiling
- Bid Package 08 Resilient & Carpet Flooring
- Bid Package 09 Ceramic Tile
- Bid Package 10 [Not Used]
- Bid Package 11 Painting
- Bid Package 12 Elevator
- Bid Package 13 Fire Suppression
- Bid Package 14 Plumbing & HVAC
- Bid Package 15 Electrical
- Bid Package 16 Asphalt Paving