

# Obituaries

## Jewel Hamlin

Jewel Hamlin, age 82, of London, Kentucky passed away on Sunday, April 27, 2025.

She leaves behind five children, Marie Bryant of London, KY, Sue Simpson & Sam Campbell of Lily, KY, Bobby Davidson & wife Vicki of Jordan, MT, Linda McWilliams & husband Dan of London, KY, Patricia Sauer & husband Robert of Erlanger, KY; special daughters, Sandra Showalter of Ohio, Donna Hilton & husband Gary of Utah; fifteen grandchildren; thirty-one great grandchildren; two great, great grandchildren; plus a host of nieces, nephews, and other family and friends to cherish her memory.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Fred Hamlin; her parents, Woodrow & Verda Smith Lewis; her son, David Davidson; and by three siblings, Hamp Lewis & wife Joann, Moss Lewis & wife Judy, Rebecca Hurst & husband Ed.

Jewel was a cherished mother, grandmother, and friend. She grew up with a deep appreciation for hard work, family, and the simple joys of life. She spent many years employed at Micro Devices, where her strong work ethic, steady hands, and dependable spirit earned the respect of all who worked alongside her. After retiring, Jewell devoted her time to the many activities that brought her joy and allowed her generous spirit to shine even brighter.

An avid quilter, Jewel found beauty and meaning in every carefully stitched piece she created. She had a lifelong love of the outdoors, taking great pleasure in tending her garden, admiring flowers, and caring for animals. Her hands were always busy with something beautiful — whether cultivating the earth or crafting a quilt that would bring comfort to others.

Jewel's kitchen was the heart of her home. She was a gifted cook and a natural entertainer, welcoming friends, family, and even strangers with open arms and a full table. No one ever left Jewel's home hungry, and more importantly, everyone left feeling deeply loved. Her meals were not just nourishment for the body, but for the soul, and countless memories were made around her table.

Those who knew Jewel will remember her for her warmth, her generosity, and her unwavering ability to make others feel seen, valued, and cared for. Her legacy is woven into the lives of those she loved — in every quilt she crafted, every flower she grew, and every meal she lovingly prepared. Her light, her laughter, and her love will be missed beyond measure.

A funeral service honoring Jewel Hamlin will be held on Friday, May 2, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel of House-Rawlings Funeral Home with Allen Evans officiating. Interment will follow at Locust Grove Cemetery in Keavy, Kentucky. The family will receive friends on Friday beginning at 11:00 a.m. until the funeral hour, also at the funeral home. The family has entrusted House-Rawlings Funeral Home with the arrangements.

## Lucille Baker

Lucille (Pennington) Baker, daughter of the late Farris and Nannie (Johnson) Pennington was born October 12, 1933 in London, Kentucky. She was united in marriage to Carl Baker who preceded her in death. She is survived by her son, Michael Baker and wife Nina of London, Kentucky. She was blessed with two grandsons, Derek Baker and wife Misty and Brent Baker and wife Danielle all of London, Kentucky. She was also blessed with two great-grandsons, Colby Baker and Jacob Baker both of London, Kentucky. Besides her spouse and parents she was also preceded in death by her siblings, Don Pennington, Pauline Lynch, Bob Pennington and James Pennington.

She was a homemaker and a member of Laurel Chapel Christian Church.

Funeral services for Lucille (Pennington) Baker will be conducted Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 3:00 PM in London Funeral Home Chapel with Derek Baker and Brent Baker officiating. Burial will follow at Wiggington Cemetery. The family of Lucille (Pennington) Baker received friends at London Funeral Home from 1:00 PM until the funeral hour on Sunday.

## Charles Whitaker

Charles Edward Whitaker, son of the late D.Y. and Ona (Young) Whitaker, was born June 25th, 1946 in Anco, Kentucky. He was united in marriage to Mary (Morgan) Whitaker of London, Kentucky. He is survived by his daughter, Christina Couch and husband Roger of London, Kentucky; by his siblings, Caleen House and husband Manuel, Ronald Whitaker and wife Beulah, and Gary Whitaker and wife Wanda all of London, Kentucky; by his sister-in-law, Mary Sue Whitaker of London, Kentucky; by his aunt, Hattie Boegel of London, Kentucky. He was also blessed with three grandchildren, Morgan Robinson, Bryson Robinson, and Charlee Grace Couch all of London, Kentucky. He worked as a sales representative for Laurel Grocery before he retired, and was a member of Swiss Colony Baptist Church. Besides his parents, he was also preceded in death by his siblings, Craig Whitaker, Eddie Whitaker, and Evelyn Whitaker. Charles Edward Whitaker departed this life on Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025 being 78 years, 9 months, and 29 days of age.

Funeral services for Charles Edward Whitaker will be conducted 11:00 AM Tuesday, April 29th, 2025 in London Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Jake Brock officiating. Burial will follow at Warrens Grove Cemetery. The family of Charles Edward Whitaker will receive friends at London Funeral Home after 6:00 PM on Monday, April 28th, 2025.

Serving as pallbearers will be: Morgan Robinson, Bryson Robinson, Roger Couch, Michael Whitaker, Landon Whitaker, Logan Whitaker.

Serving as honorary pallbearer will be Charlee Grace Couch.

## Donna Beverly Bell Disney

May 9, 1944 - April 27, 2025  
In Loving Memory of Donna Beverly Bell Disney  
With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Donna Beverly Bell Disney, who departed this life on April 27th, 2025.

Donna was preceded in death by many dear members of her close-knit family, including her beloved mother, Clara Bell Horseman; her cherished sisters, Sandra "Sandy" Bell Dees and Andrea "Andy" Bell Forbes Holt; her loving husband, William "Bill" Gorman Disney; and her precious daughter, Kassandra Renee Rea. Though their absence was deeply felt, Donna carried their memory with grace every day of her life.

She leaves behind a legacy of love and kindness in the hearts of those who survive her; her son Garrett Disney; beloved grandson, Jaden Rea; and her son-in-law, Jason Rea; special nieces and nephews, Debbie Dees (Ray) Keltner, Beverly Forbes (Chris) Clemons, Bill (Cathy) Forbes, Jamie Dees, Chris Forbes, Shelly Forbes Agee and Jon (Julie) Dees, and special grand-dog Jack...all of whom brought joy and comfort to her later years.

A faithful member of Community Christian Church, Donna's life was rooted in faith, compassion, and service. She was employed for many years at Begley Drug and Cumberland Valley National Bank, and later found deep fulfillment in her role as a paraprofessional, where she made a lasting impact on the lives of many children. She retired from that role with the same grace and dedication she brought to every part of her life.

She will be fondly remembered for her generous heart and the steadfast love she shared with all who knew her.

Services to honor and celebrate Donna's life will be held at London Funeral Home on Saturday, May 3rd, 2025 at 4:00 PM, and she will be laid to rest beside her husband at A.R. Dyche Memorial Cemetery, where they will be reunited in eternal peace. The family of Donna Beverly Bell Disney will receive friends at London Funeral Home from 2:00 PM til the funeral hour on Saturday.

The love she gave and the memories she created will continue to live on in all those who knew her.

Serving as pallbearers will be: Chris Forbes, Bill Forbes, Chris Clemons, Grayson Forbes, Jason Rea, and Ray Keltner.

Serving as honorary pallbearer will be: Jamie Dees.

## Edith Edwards

Edith Louise Edwards, age 75, of London, Kentucky passed away on Friday, April 25, 2025.

She leaves behind her husband, Robert Gary Edwards; four children, Melissa Edwards, Mark Edwards, Andy Edwards, Damien Edwards, who she raised as her son; her stepson, Chris Sexton; three grandchildren, Brittany Mullins, Scottlyn White, Ruby Edwards; 5great grandsons, 8 great granddaughters, and one she met again in Heaven, Alexis Baker; a daughter-in-law, Sharietta House who she loved as a daughter; as well as many nieces, nephews, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, and other family and friends to cherish her memory.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Elmo & Martha Sexton; and by four siblings, John Sexton, Jim Sexton, Raymond Sexton, Betty Sexton Floor.

Edith was a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend. She poured her heart into creating a warm and welcoming home where all who entered felt loved and cared for.

Edith found joy in the simple pleasures of life—spending weekends at flea markets, browsing yard sales for hidden treasures, fishing by the water's edge, and camping under the stars. Yet, nothing brought her greater happiness than the time spent with her family. Her grandchildren held a special place in her heart; she never ended a visit without wrapping them in a hug and reminding them how deeply they were loved.

Known for her selfless spirit, Edith always put others before herself, offering kindness, encouragement, and an open heart to everyone she met. Her legacy of love, generosity, and devotion to family will continue to inspire all who knew her.

She will be dearly missed and forever remembered.

A funeral service honoring Edith Louise Edwards will be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel of House-Rawlings Funeral Home with Stephen Null officiating. Interment will follow at Edwards Cemetery in London, Kentucky. The family will receive friends on Tuesday beginning at 12:00 p.m. until the funeral hour, also at the funeral home. The family has entrusted House-Rawlings Funeral Home with the arrangements.

# East Bernstadt man charged with wanton endangerment, DUI after crashing into home

By Madison Nantz  
Staff Writer

An East Bernstadt man was arrested last Wednesday evening after Laurel Sheriff's deputies responded to complaints of a vehicle hitting a home off Moriah Road, about six miles west of London.

According to a press release by LCSO, 27-year-old Christopher Dewoody II of London was arrested around 6:58 p.m. April 23, after deputies determined he had been driving under the influence.

Deputies were dispatched following two complaints — one from a

resident reporting Dewoody had left a home on Moriah Road in a silver Jeep, and another reporting that a vehicle had struck a residence nearby. Once on scene, deputies observed a silver Jeep matching the caller's description and determined the incidents were connected.

Further investigation indicated that Dewoody was operating the vehicle under the influence, and that two individuals were inside the residence at the time the home was struck, which the press release said placed the pair in "imminent danger."

Dewoody was charged with oper-

ating a motor vehicle under the influence (first offense), three counts of first-degree wanton endangerment, first-degree criminal mischief, and second-degree disorderly conduct, among other insurance and driver's license violations. He was arrested by Laurel Sheriff's deputies Zach Allen and Daniel Reed then lodged in the Laurel County Correctional Center, where he remained as of press time Tuesday after pleading not guilty at arraignment.

Dewoody had been scheduled for a preliminary hearing Tuesday, the results of which were not yet available.

## Nancy Ann Reams

Nancy Ann Reams, 95, of Monroe, Ohio died Saturday, April 19, 2025, in Middletown, Ohio surrounded by family.

A native of Laurel County, Kentucky, she is the daughter of the late John Garland and Mary (Hodges) Garland.

A Baptist all her life, her church memberships included East Salem in Maplesville, KY; Corinth Baptist Church in London, KY; First Baptist Church in Trenton, OH; and First Baptist Church in Middletown, OH.

Nancy was a strong woman who raised a wonderful family. She lived every day of her life looking out for others. She took great care in all that she did, from crocheting, to quilting, to making peanut butter fudge to raising her children. She could dress a live chicken, put up beans for the winter and read mystery novels by the dozen. She was never happier than when in her garden. She believed if a job was worth doing it was worth doing well, and she did every job well. She enjoyed playing cards, and took pride in her bridge skills; justifiably so as she earned a lifetime masters award from the American Contract Bridge League. She was the beloved matriarch of her family.

She is preceded in death by her parents; siblings Millie Owens, John Garland, Jr., and Roscoe K. Garland; the father of her children, Charles A. Reams, and their sons Larry Reams and Donald Reams.

Her survivors include her sister: Julia (Garland) Inman; children: Carolyn (Ronnie) Smith, Mary Reams, Douglas (Nicci Weisman) Reams, and Charlotte (Richard) Russeth; grandchildren: Patty Reams, Christy Turner, Ryan Smith, Justin Smith, Amy Vollrath, Joe Creekbaum, Matthew Reams, Jacob Reams, Becky Lee, Brad Combs, Cassie Burdyslaw, Andrew Russeth, and David Russeth; great-grandchildren: Ashley Turner, Max Vollrath, Nicholas Vollrath, Chelsea Turner, Ianna Smith, Kelby Smith, Jordan Giesting, Bryce Giesting, Brett Vollrath, Morgan Creekbaum, Macy Creekbaum, Mason Creekbaum, Andrew Lee, Adeline Lee, Clementine Combs and Alice Russeth; great-granddaughter: Chloe Vollrath; and numerous other family and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held May 10 at Wilson Schramm Spaulding Funeral Home, 3805 Roosevelt Ave. Middletown, OH at 1 p.m. A memorial service will begin at 1:30 p.m.

# No instances of noncompliance found in Laurel Sheriff's 2023 Tax Settlement

By Madison Nantz  
Staff Writer

A report on the audit of Laurel County Sheriff John Root's 2023 tax settlement was released this month, with State Auditor Allison Ball detecting no issues.

"The auditor noted no instances of noncompliance," Joy Markland wrote in the press release. "The auditor also noted no matters involving internal control over financial reporting and its operation that were considered material weaknesses."

The audit, required by state law, examines the sheriff's handling of both tax collections and distributions. This report presents the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period from Sept. 1, 2023, through Aug. 31, 2024. It is one of two annual reports provided by the auditor, the other reporting on the audit of the fee account used to operate the office.

The press release goes on to say Ball concluded that the sheriff's financial statement "fairly presents" the taxes "in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting."

During the aforementioned period, Sheriff Root's office collected over \$31 million in taxes, with the exact amount being \$31,012,426. This included \$2,611,139 for Laurel government, \$6,589,762 for special taxing districts, \$16,830,903 for the school district, and \$4,980,622 for the state. Credits totaled \$1,363,108 across all categories.

Refunds for current and prior years came to \$46,126 with only a minimal amount still due to taxing districts. The sheriff's office owed \$13 to the county, \$32 to special taxing districts, and \$90 to the school district. There was an overpayment of \$34, covering the amounts owed.

The full audit report is available to the public on the Kentucky State Auditor's website at <https://www.auditor.ky.gov/auditreports/Pages/OnlineAuditSearch.aspx>.

