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Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

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Tuesday, November 18, 2025

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75¢



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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Eventful Night

Last night was eventful. It was kind of strange because it was Football Friday and Pappy was home! I know, weird right?

All of the sudden it looked like a strobe light flashing outside. Then, came the thunder. First, kinda rumbling like a train in the distance.

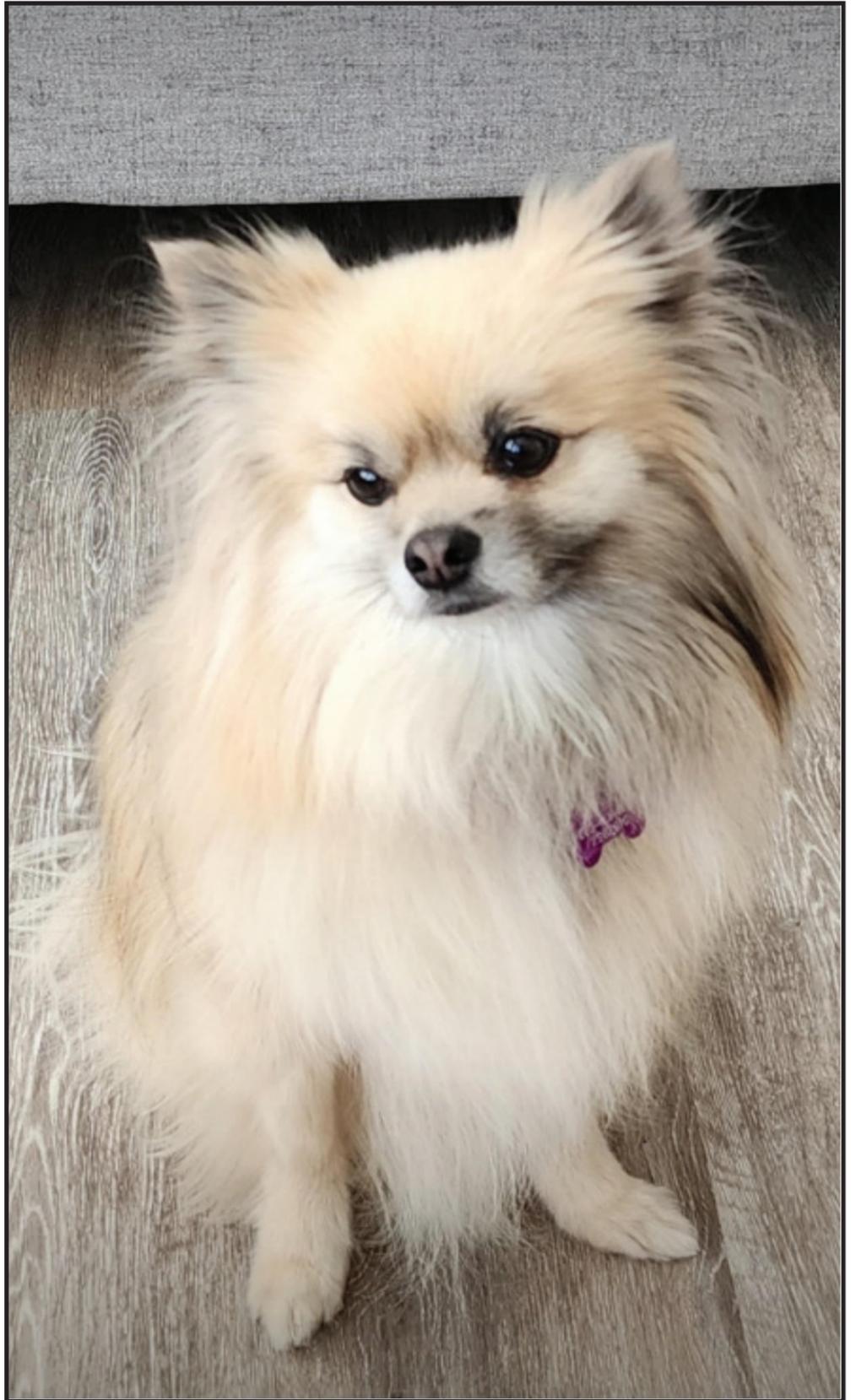
Out of the blue, it happened! The loud BOOM! It scared Ms Ivory and me! We both ran to Mimi.

Ms Ivory jumped on her lap, she was so scared she was vibrating like a cell phone. Me, I stood there for a second. I realized it was just thunder. So, I went back to my bed.

I gotta say that one gave me a little heart attack.

Any-woof, I feel sorry for Ms Ivory. She tries so hard to be brave, like me. I guess we all have something that scares us.

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.



WEEKLY WEATHER
CITIZENS GAS
UTILITY DISTRICT
MONROE of Scott and Morgan Counties

Tue 18	60°/54°	
Wed 19	67°/54°	
Thu 20	64°/53°	
Fri 21	64°/48°	
Sat 22	53°/43°	
Sun 23	51°/38°	
Mon 24	56°/40°	

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizens Building at 6:00 PM.

Morgan County Republican Party meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Wartburg.

SENATOR KEN YAGER'S

30th Annual

Chili Supper & Silent Auction

\$5 tickets 5-7pm Live music

Friday, November 21, 2025

Roane State Community College
Harriman Campus Student Lounge

ALL PROCEEDS FROM SILENT AUCTION GO TO THE KID'S FIRST
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER OF THE 9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



City of Sunbright's Lighting

29 NOVEMBER 2025

LET'S JOIN THE PARTY
STARTING 6 PM
LIGHTS TURNED ON
7PM

Bell Ringers - Carols - Cookies - Hot Cocoa

120 Melton Drive Sunbright 37872



— In Loving Memory —

Betty Ann Mills, 77



Lindsey Mills, along with many cousins who will remember her fondly.

For over 20 years, Betty dedicated her career to helping others in the pharmacy departments of three major hospitals, where she specialized in preparing chemotherapy for cancer patients. A devoted mother and friend, she was also known for her exceptional skills as a pool shooter in her younger days.

A memorial service will be held at a late date.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Betty Ann Mills.

Betty Ann Mills, born on April 20, 1948, in Wartburg, TN, passed away peacefully on October 24, 2025, in Knoxville, TN.

She was the beloved daughter of Bill and Mildred Dyer and was preceded in death by her son Brian Mills, as well as siblings Barbera Hall, James Dyer, Jesse Dyer, Billy Dyer, and David Dyer.

Betty is survived by her loving partner of nearly 30 years, Joe Neff, her son Jason Mills and his wife Jean, and her cherished grandchildren Tyler and

Truman Armes, 77



Darenda Beasley and a host of great nieces, nephews and friends.

Gail loved to cook, clean and be at home with her family. She was a wonderful and devoted mother who devoted her life to taking care of her family.

The family would like to thank everyone for all the thoughts, prayers, text, and calls. Special thanks to niece Darenda for helping care for Gail and beloved cousins Linda Gibson, Donna Newberry, Bob Hamby, cousins really are your first friends.

The family will have a graveside service Tuesday, October 21, 2025 in the Armes Chapel Cemetery in Wartburg at 11:30 a.m. with Bro. Perry Spurling officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Elizabeth Gail Beasley.

Elizabeth Gail Beasley, age 70 of Wartburg went to be with the Lord on October 19, 2025.

Gail is preceded in death by her parents Billy Joe and Sylvia (Hamby) Beasley; sisters Mary Helen Human and Billy Faye Davis.

She leaves behind daughter Sylvia Beasley Morton; grandchildren Elijah Morton Elizabeth Morton and honorary grandson Eli Carroll; sisters Artie Beasley and Kimberly McDaniel; brother Andrew (Beverly) Beasley; nephews Kevin (Ginger) Human, Toby Beasley and Cody Davis, Amos Beasley; niece

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Barbara Ellen (Johnson) Brown, 81



Barbara and made their home in Oakdale.

Lonnie & Barbara had one son, Ricky Brown. Rick was their pride and joy. Ricky married Jae (Hammonds) Brown, and they gave them three wonderful grandchildren, Erin Parks, Cade (Lexi) Brown and Banner Brown. These precious gifts of God added even more blessings with 5 great grandchildren. Carter and Lincoln Jerrell, Berklee, Millie and Elliott Cade Brown.

Barbara accepted the Lord in her heart at a young age and was a lifelong member of Boswell Chapel Baptist Church in Oakdale. Because of this choice she is now in the presence of our Lord and Savior. Barbara always enjoyed singing in the church choir and loved bluegrass music. She loved her family fiercely and always enjoyed her family time. She loved her fur baby, Boaz who always brought her so many smiles.

She is proceeded in death by: Parents: Fred and Velma (Duncan) Johnson Brothers and Sister-in-law: Lowell Dean Johnson, Morris and Jean (Brown) Johnson, Bill Collier Father and Mother-in-law: Wilburn and Elsie (Spurling) Brown Brother and Sister-in-law: Lawrence and Mary Brown Willis Wormsley Leon Brown.

She is survived by her brother, Edward (Edna) Johnson of Oakdale, Sisters: Marie Collier, Linda Johnson and sister-in-law: Frances Johnson all of Oakdale., Janet Wormsley of Deer Lodge Community, James Brown of Deer Lodge and many nephews and nieces who adored her.

Special thanks to Dr. Robert Wilson of Roane County Family Practice for the many years of care you gave Barbara.

The family will receive friends Saturday November 1, 2025 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00, Bro. Rick Brown officiating. Interment will immediately follow at Piney Baptist Church Cemetery in Oakdale, TN.

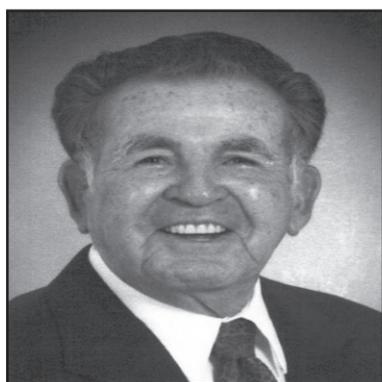
The family wishes to thank each and everyone for every call, flowers and kind words. Pallbearers are: Cade Brown, Noah Gouge, Tim, (Poke) Johnson, Taylor Smith, Edward Johnson Jr., and Jason Johnson.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Barbara Brown.



— In Loving Memory —

Verlin Sweat, 99
United State Navy Veteran, World World War II Veteran



A Glorious Reunion in Heaven.

Verlin Sweat, born May 3, 1926 in Mossy Springs area of Sharps Chapel in Union County, Tennessee to parents George T. (Pop) and Easter Tennessee (Mom, or Tennie) Longmire Sweat passed into the presence of our Heavenly Father on October 20, 2025.

Born the ninth of fourteen children, Verlin experienced a long and loving life filled with family, friends, and experiences. Hardships tempered his tenacity, work ethic, and perseverance, while his Faith tempered his kindness, wit, friendship, and positive outlook.

As a child, TVA relocation project brought the Sweat family to the Joyner Community of Morgan County, TN. Settling on

a farm on Cassell Road, Verlin grew up in the Joyner Community, attending and becoming a life member of Union Baptist Church.

Verlin joined the US Naval Reserve July 22, 1944 and served the United States in World War II as Grade S 2/C, positioned as an anti-aircraft gunner on the USS AMSTERDAM (CL 101) cruiser type vessel. Wartime duty in the Pacific, June 1945 the Amsterdam joined Cruiser Division 18. During 10 July – 15 August, the USS Amsterdam took part in the 3d Fleet strikes against Japan and on 5 September steamed into Tokyo Bay. Verlin received an Honorable discharge March 11, 1946.

Verlin was elected in 1954 to serve Morgan County as a Justice of the Peace (County Commissioner).

Verlin attained third degree Mason with degree of Scottish Rite and was a 68 year member of East Fork Masonic Lodge # 460 F&AM beginning November 30, 1957.

Verlin married the late Reta Maxine Wilson Sweat, also of the Joyner Community, and their

marriage brought 4 children, Lois, Verlin Jr., Varnell, and Anita, all preceding him in Heaven.

Verlin later married Alma Justice and they resided in the Joyner Community before moving to the Dyllis Community of Roane County, prior to her passing.

He is remembered with love by grandchildren Wendy (Aaron), Ashley (Aldo), Spencer (Ashley), Tara, and Chandler (Jessica), along with several great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nephews, and nieces.

Verlin is also remembered by two siblings, Lucy and Houston.

Verlin late of Crossville, TN was well cared for with competence and love by “his 7 daughters” as he affectionately referred, Lynndy Byrge, Adrian Wilson, Candice Burton, Debe Houston, Karen Wyatt, Kristi Tollett, and Vetta Scott, and their families, with special affection of “Peewee”.

Family will receive friends at Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg, TN on Saturday, October 25, 2025 at 11 o'clock a.m., with funeral service at 12 o'clock noon officiated by beloved Pastor Dr. Johnny Nix. Interment

will be at Union Baptist Church Cemetery. At the time of his passing, Verlin was the oldest veteran and member of American Legion Post 149, Wartburg, TN. He will receive full military honors graveside to be performed by his fellow American Legion members.

In lieu of flowers, he may be remembered with a donation to:

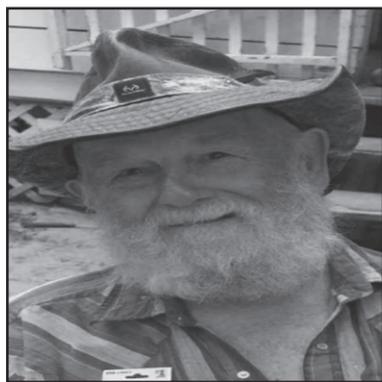
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American Legion Post 149
 202 S. Kingston St.
 Wartburg, TN 37887
 First Baptist Church
 PO Box 846
 Wartburg, TN 37887

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Verlin Sweat.

Charles R. “Charlie” Davis
United State Air Force Veteran, Air National Guard Veteran



Charles R. “Charlie” Davis
 May 19, 1944 –
 October 11, 2025

Charles R. Davis, 81, of Sunbright, Tennessee, passed away peacefully on October 11, 2025, in Rossville, Georgia, surrounded by the family who loved him deeply.

He was preceded in death by his father, John R. Davis; mother, Madeline Summers Davis; brother, J. Thomas Davis; a special uncle, William Summers; and the mother of his children, Deloris Galloway.

Charlie is survived by his ten children — Regina, Kim, Ronda, Patty, Johnny, Charlis, Darcia, Ricky, Candice, and Tendre — along with 24 grandchildren and 44 great-grandchildren and 6 great great grandchildren who will carry his memory forward with love. He is also survived by his brother, Benny Davis; sisters, Betty Presley and Brenda Shannon; and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Charlie's dear friends Freddy Scott, Robert Patrick, and Bill Soldner for their enduring friendship and support. Deep appreciation is also given to the compassionate caregivers at Hearth Hospice in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Charlie proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force and The Air National Guard. A man of many talents, he was a skilled pilot who loved the skies, a master welder, and a dedicated truck driver who spent many years on the road. His life was a testament to hard work, courage, and determination.

Above all, Charlie loved being “Papaw.” He found his greatest joy surrounded by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, always finding ways to make them laugh and creating memories they will cherish forever.

He will be remembered for his strength, humor, and unwavering love for his family. Charlie's legacy lives on in the stories, laughter, and love he leaves behind.

The family is honoring Charles' wishes to be cremated. No services scheduled at this time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Charles R. Davis.



— In Loving Memory —

**William Clifford Cole, 84
United States Army Veteran
Vietnam War Veteran**



and Whitley Johnson - and one great-grandson - Liam Johnson, and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Cliff graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1966 with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. It was there that he met his beloved wife, Janice Dee Staley Cole. He joined the Army, becoming a First Lieutenant, and served honorably during the Vietnam War.

His passions included being a dedicated 25-year member of the American Legion Post 53 in Harriman, Tennessee, serving on the Harriman Utilities Board, and being a long-time member of the VFW and the Harriman Jaycees. He also enjoyed fishing and storytelling, and he was a long-time member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Harriman.

Services will be held at the East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, located at 2200 East Gov. John Sevier Highway (Hwy #168), Knoxville, Tennessee, on Monday, November 24, at 10:00 AM.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of William Clifford Cole.

William Clifford Cole, age 84, of Harriman, Tennessee, passed away on Monday, October 20, 2025, at Select Specialty Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee.

Clifford did not wish to be mourned but rather to be remembered as a person who loved life. Arrangements are being made for a military memorial service on November 24 in Knoxville, Tennessee, to celebrate his life.

Born in Rockwood, Tennessee, Clifford was the eldest child of Ocee Clifford Cole and Pauline Kesterson Cole. He is survived by his loving wife, Janice Dee Staley Cole; two twin sons, William Clifford Cole II, MD (Colleen) of Ohio and Joseph Barclay Cole (Seleena) of New York; his younger brother, Larry O. Cole (Beatrice) of Hartwell, Georgia; as well as his grandchildren - Marcus Cole, Gilbert Cole, Emerald Cole, Zach Cole, Cliff Cole, Abbigail Cole,

Kathy Ann Price Bonifacius, 70



Survivors include her son, Gene Ray Bonifacius; sisters, Joy Jenkins (Jackie) and Judy Waldo; nephew, Avery Price; nieces, Amanda Plaster (Jamey), Summer Bunn, and Laci Burnette; great-nephew, Justin Price (Emma); great-nieces, Emily Peters and Hannah Peters; and many other close friends, relatives, and members of her church family.

Mrs. Kathy Ann Price Bonifacius, 70, a resident of Wartburg, TN, passed away Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge, TN.

She was born November 19, 1954, in Rockwood, TN. Mrs. Bonifacius was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg. She loved her family deeply, especially her late husband, son, sisters, nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews, as well as her beloved friends and church family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Butch Bonifacius; mother, Kathleen Price Delozier; and great-niece, Morgan Peters.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg, TN, or to The Compassion Closet of Oak Ridge, TN.

The family will receive friends Saturday, November 8, 2025 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg from 10:00-12:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 12:00 p.m. with Pastor David Graves officiating. Interment will follow in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Rockwood.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Kathy Ann Price Bonifacius.

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.



— In Loving Memory —

Percy Neal Richardson, 78



Percy Neal Richardson
November 11, 1946 –
November 5, 2025

Percy Neal Richardson, 78, of Lancing, Tennessee, passed away peacefully at home on November 5, 2025, just days shy of his 79th birthday. Born November 11, 1946, in Clarksville and raised in Nashville, Neal was the son of Harvill Percy "H.P." Richardson and Idella Richardson.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, School of Architecture (Class of 1971), Neal joined Upland Design Group in Crossville, where his creativity and vision helped shape schools and public buildings across Tennessee. In 2018, he was honored to deliver the commencement address for the UT College of Architecture and Design.

Guided by a lifelong belief in education and opportunity, Neal and his wife, Jeanne, established and supported multiple scholarships to assist students pursuing careers in architecture, design, education, and agriculture. Their endowments through the University of Tennessee and the Roane State Foundation have provided lasting opportunities for local students. Since his retirement in 2011, they have also distributed dictionaries each year to every third-grade student in Morgan County—an effort close to Neal's heart.

In the late 1960s, Neal and Jeanne embraced the back-to-the-land movement, building a life rooted in simplicity, hard work, and respect for nature. At Richview Angus Farm in Lancing, where he began raising Black Angus cattle in 1980, Neal found deep fulfillment in stewardship of the land and community.

He remained active in civic and agricultural organizations, including the Crossville Rotary Club, the Morgan County Community Fund, the Cumberland Trail project, the Upper Cumberland Angus Association, the Morgan County Cattlemans Association, and was a long-standing member of the American Angus Association. Neal believed deeply in the power of education, service, and community.

He is survived by his wife of over 50 years, Jeanne Taylor Richardson; children, Tonia (William Henry Cox IV) Cox and Tristan Richardson; grandchildren, Emma Sophia and Isabelle Madeline Cox; and his brother, Harvill Richardson Sr. of Biloxi, Mississippi.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Morgan County Community Fund, part of the East Tennessee Foundation, at https://etf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=4997.

No funeral is planned at this time, and Neal's ashes will be spread at Richview Angus Farm in Lancing per his wishes.

Cynthia Ann Wicks, 55



Cynthia Ann Wicks, age 55, of Lancing passed away suddenly at her home on November 8, 2025.

Cynthia is preceded in death by her grandparents Hazel and Amos Wicks; father David Wicks; and beloved son Amos Wicks.

She is survived by the father of her children Ricky Lowe; son Jakob Lowe; daughter Jennifer

Lowe. She was a proud and loving grandmother to Bradley, Jolie, Remington, Carson, Graycen, and Easton. She is also survived by her sister Dixie (Billy) Hamby; nephew Zachary; niece Emily; cousin Rechelle and many special friends including Sue, Brenda and Micki.

The family will receive friends Wednesday November 12, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Cyndi's wishes are to be cremated.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Cynthia Ann Wicks.



Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.



— In Loving Memory —

Charles Ray Hall, 93



wife, Lori. He was also blessed with 11 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren, all of whom brought him immense joy and pride.

Charles will be remembered for his gentle spirit, unwavering faith, and the love he shared so freely with all who knew him. His legacy of faith and family will continue to live on in the hearts of those he leaves behind.

A special thank you to all the staff at Renaissance Terrace who took great care of him.

The family will receive friends Friday November 14, 2025 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg. The funeral will follow at 7:00 with Bro. Josh Kidd and Bro. Charles Webb officiating. Graveside service will be Saturday November 15 at 12:00 noon at Annadale Cemetery in Lancing, TN

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Charles Hall.

Charles Ray Hall, age 93, of Harriman, Tennessee, passed away peacefully on November 11, 2025.

A devoted Christian, Charles lived his life in faithful service to the Lord and his family. He was a member and deacon at Valley View Baptist Church, where his kindness and steadfast faith touched many lives.

Charles was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Bonnie Hall, daughter-in-law Susan Hall, and two great-grandchildren. He is survived by his loving children: David Hall; Vicky Barry and husband, Charles; Charlene Armes and husband, Mack; and Kenny Hall and



Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.



Historically Speaking

Pat Postma – Oak Ridge pillar for years – part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Carolyn Krause has written three articles on Pat Postma, a well-known Oak Ridger who has contributed much to the community, and the two important men in her life. She will be moving away after having grown up and lived in four houses since 1943. The articles are based mostly on Carolyn's interview with her in September this year and a 2011 oral history interview with her by Keith McDaniel, a filmmaker and film instructor who lives in Oak Ridge. Carolyn has also referenced her Historically Speaking article on the late Herman Postma, Pat's husband and director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory from 1974 to 1988.

Patricia Dunigan Postma is a pillar of the city of Oak Ridge. Pat Postma, as she is known, has been a prominent, respected and active supporter of and advocate for our community, a leader of initiatives, and a highly successful fundraiser who has provided Oak Ridge with resources that have improved our quality of life.

Except when she attended Duke University for four years to earn a bachelor's degree in mathematics, lived in The Netherlands with her physicist husband for a year and visited 67 countries, many more than once, Pat has lived in Oak Ridge since the age of 4 when her parents moved here in 1943. That will change later this year; at the age of 87, she is preparing to move from Oak Ridge and live near her daughter Pamela on Kiawah Island near Charleston, S.C.

Pat, who has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Tennessee, was an assistant dean and administrator at the UT College of Business. She has flourished from her relationship with two wise and vigorous men in her life, both deceased. One was her father, Thomas Dunigan, a local high school principal, and the other, her locally famous husband, Herman Postma, the director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory for 14 years.

Thomas Dunigan was a town fixture as a popular principal of Oak Ridge High School for 20 years, including the year when ORHS was the first public high school in the city and in the Southeast to be desegregated (by at least 40 of the 85 students from Scarboro High School in 1955).

Her dad was a great role model for her. He taught her to be honest for the rest of her life after she found a chocolate bar in the master bedroom, ate it, and then lied about what she had done when challenged. She admired him because he was "unflappable" even when a burning cross appeared in the yard in 1955 and during his worst year as principal – 1968, when Martin Luther King was assassinated, greatly upsetting the Black students at ORHS. Some Black students recalled as adults that he had a calming effect when he spoke with them.

Dunigan was teaching high school and the Army Signal Corps in Kentucky, where Pat was born, when he was recruited during the war to Oak Ridge. He worked as an electronics foreman at the Y-12 Plant. After the war, because he was one of the 22,000 workers laid off in Oak Ridge, he decided to apply for a teaching job. "They hired him with the proviso that he had to get a master's degree," she told Keith McDaniel. Many of the teachers hired by Alden Blankenship since 1943 were from Columbia University, and all teachers hired had to have master's degrees.

"My dad taught algebra and physics in the old high school on the hill above Blankenship Field, and in the summer, he attended UT

working on his master's degree," Pat said. "I remember my mother typing his thesis. There was a card table set up in the middle of the living room floor in our B house at Fairview and Tennessee avenues, and it was kind of sacred. We sort of tiptoed around it." By "we," Pat, the middle child, meant her sister Mary, the oldest of her siblings, and her brother Thomas.

Pat attended high school while her father was the principal there. At that time, the Dunigan family was living on New York Avenue, right next to the family home of William J. Wilcox, for which a new museum in Oak Ridge is named. She said she is the only one in her family who has no musical or athletic talents. But she turned out to have a love for art and a gift for photography; she became president of the Oak Ridge Community Art Center and a leader in the Camera Club of Oak Ridge, which named her "photographer of the year" in 2019.

She said she wasn't popular in high school and didn't date much. At her 50th high school reunion, she introduced herself as Pat Dunigan, and one man said, "I spent some time in your dad's office," and another said, "I know who you were. You were the principal's daughter. That cost you a lot of boyfriends, girl."

But, as she thought about her childhood in Oak Ridge, she appreciated the freedom from parental control that she and her peers had in walking to school and around the neighborhood, as well as strolling often to the public library and reading books, even ones from the adult section.

She has heard "Camelot" and "A Fairy Tale" as descriptors of the lives of white children in the 1940s and 1950s in Oak Ridge. Later, she learned that while many white people of all occupations felt like they lived in a "classless" society in Oak Ridge, Black workers and their spouses and children here felt oppressed and discriminated against especially from the 1940s through the early 1960s. Decades later, she became aware that the children and youths who desegregated ORHS and Clinton High School had many uncomfortable school and after-school experiences.

The second influential man in her life was her husband, Herman Postma, director of ORNL from 1974 to 1988 and previously director of ORNL's old Thermonuclear Division, later called the Fusion Energy Division. An extraordinarily brilliant man, he had earned a physics degree from Duke University and then a Ph.D. in physics from Harvard University. Neither one of his parents, both farmers of Dutch ancestry who lived in North Carolina, had a high school diploma.

While working at ORNL on plasma physics with the goal of achieving fusion power, Herman met Pat when she had a job at the Y-12 Plant library during the summer between her junior and senior years at Duke. By that time Herman had been hired by ORNL to work as a staff physicist. Many young single people in Oak Ridge were meeting each other at social gatherings at churches, Pat said. "Herman dated everybody in Oak Ridge by the time he got around to me," she added. "But we were pretty serious."

By April of her senior year, she and her roommate, who also had majored in math, were both offered jobs at Bell Labs in New Jersey.



Thomas Dunigan, Pat's father and the principal of the Oak Ridge High School (Courtesy of Pat Postma)

"Herman would call every now and then, and it was getting time when I had to give Bell Labs a yes or no," Pat said. "Nothing had been said about getting married.

"When he called again one night, I said something about having only a week to decide if I'm going to go to New Jersey. And he said, 'If you go to New Jersey, that'll be the end of us.'"

Spontaneously, she responded, "Are we going to get married or not?" After a long silence, he said yes. She and Herman were married in November 1960. As for her roommate, Pat said that "she spent her whole career at Bell Labs, and she did very well."

Herman and Pat had two children, Peter and Pamela, two grandsons and two very successful careers. One bump in the road in their early years as a couple was that their house on Berea Road burned down in 1972. It was rebuilt in less than two years, and Pat is still there until she moves in December.

Herman had an impressive legacy at ORNL. He unknowingly saved the troubled Thermonuclear Division of which he became director by successfully convincing management that the division staff could build a version of the doughnut-shaped tokamak fusion device (called ORMAK) that he had learned about during visits to the Soviet Union, where the "tokamak" was invented.

When he was promoted to ORNL director, he handled the problems he faced when his predecessor, Alvin Weinberg, was fired. "Herman was a real character, very bright, but with a really goofy sense of humor, and sort of uninhibited," Pat told McDaniel. "I remember when his boss Clyde Hopkins, president of Martin Marietta Energy Systems, decided to have staff meetings at 7:30 in the morning. Herman went to the first one in pajamas!"

Herman initiated important, lasting changes. He created two career paths for researchers and managers so that the highly accomplished senior researchers could also earn the highest salaries; Eugene P. Wigner Fellowships, to bring the best and brightest young scientists to the lab, and the Seed Money and Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) programs to fund innovative research that could later attract external funding.

- Continued on next page.

Historically Speaking Pat Postma – Oak Ridge pillar for years – part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

He helped ORNL inventions become known and made useful for society by encouraging innovative researchers to try to win R&D 100 awards (and they have won hundreds) and by establishing a technology transfer program that has resulted in many ORNL inventions becoming licensed to industrial firms.

Working with his friend Jack Reese, UT chancellor, Postma created the UT-ORNL Distinguished Scientist program, which brought brilliant scientists to both institutions for many years. In this way, Postma built a bridge between Oak Ridge and UT in Knoxville, opening new opportunities for both cities.

Postma finished his career as senior vice president of Martin Marietta Energy Systems in 1992, and after 12 years of retirement died in 2004 in Hawaii from a rare form of muscular dystrophy. He was memorialized with the renaming of the Solway bridge over the Clinch River between Anderson and Knox counties. It is appropriately called the Dr. Herman Postma Memorial Bridge.

Pat said that Weinberg wrote to her in a sympathy note after Herman died that he had “chosen Herman to be his successor because of his emotional maturity,” suggesting that he had a high emotional quotient (EQ) such as is described in a 1995 book by Weinberg’s nephew Daniel Goleman titled “Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ.”

Speaking about Postma, Robert Hart, former general manager of DOE’s Oak Ridge Operations, told McDaniel that “it was really rare to find someone who had excellent technical understanding and management skills.” And many others would say, the wisdom to marry Pat.

SIDEBAR: Pat Postma represents the epitome of everything that I grew up believing - and still believe - that Oak Ridge stands for - a sense of pride in our history and what was accomplished here, but also, a sense of adventure, curiosity, and openness to the outside world, and a certain idea that Oak Ridge is connected to that outside world, is a participant in it, and that we would always be this special place full of so many special people from near and far, from all over the country, and from all over the world. Pat epitomizes the broad spirit of Oak Ridge. At the same time, no one has a deeper connection to Oak Ridge than Pat, who recently remembered walking with her mother across the boardwalks built over mud that was everywhere in Oak Ridge during the war. The year was 1943, the year Pat entered Oak Ridge schools. We will miss Pat. – Ram Uppuluri

Thanks, Carolyn. The next column in this series of three will continue to bring out the impact Pat Postma has had on Oak Ridge.



Herman Postma (Courtesy of Pat Postma)



Pat Postma (Courtesy of Pat Postma)



Acts 20



Melvin Howard

(Acts 20:1-6) from Ephesus to Troas: Luke's account of this portion of Paul's third missionary campaign is most abbreviated. These few verses may involve as much as a year. He met with some disciples and exhorted them. The word can carry the ideas of encouragement, warning, and admonition---perhaps all of these were involved. He then set his course for Macedonia, where he wrote Second Corinthians. Then he turned south into Greece (Achaia), where he spent three months in Corinth. During this time,

he wrote his epistle to the Romans (1 Cor. 1:14; Rom. 16:23). Paul's Jewish enemies conceived a plot to take his life as he was about to leave for Syria, so he headed back north into Macedonia.

Seven Christian men, representatives of various congregations of the church, were planning to meet Paul in Troas with their collections for the poor saints in Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8-9). The best-known of these was Timothy. When the apostle reached Philippi, he was joined by Luke, who says that "we" sailed away after the Passover, and in five days came to Troas, where they lingered for a week.

(Acts 20:7-12) with the disciples at Troas: on Sunday, the Lord's day, the disciples "were gathered together" for the purpose of "breaking bread," partaking of the Lord's supper. There is no divine authority for observing the communion except on Sunday, the day of Christ's resurrection. Paul's first Corinthian letter indicates that the regular assembly was upon "the first day of every week" (16:2). It was evening and the apostle spoke at length, even until midnight. With oil lamps burning in an upper room, it was stuffy. Being overcome by sleep, a young man named Eutychus fell from the third story window and was killed. Paul went down and raised him from the dead. Paul then went back up, ate some food (not the Lord's supper), and visited with the saints until daybreak. He then left.

(Acts 20:13-16) from Troas to Miletus: Luke and the others had boarded a ship bound for Assos, while Paul chose to walk the twenty miles by land. At Assos, Paul got on board, and they sailed southward along the west coast of provincial Asia. After several days, they landed at Miletus. Paul was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem by Pentecost (the first day of the week) (v.16), so instead of making a sixty-mile roundtrip over to Ephesus, he sent for the elders to come down to Miletus while the ship weighed anchor for a few days.

(Acts 20:17-35) Paul's address to the Ephesian elders: Paul's presentation to the Ephesian elders has four major points. First, there is a defense of the apostle's earlier work among the Ephesians (v.18-20). Paul had critics (even within the church) in several places, and apparently Ephesus was among them. Probably some had made him their target during the past year; accordingly, he would remind the elders of certain things. (a) His disposition had been wholesome. He had served the Lord with much humility and with tears of compassion. (b) He had endured persecution from the Jews. (c) He had taught vigorously, both publicly and privately. (d) He had admonished Jews and Greeks to change their attitude toward God and to embrace Christ.

Second, the great missionary sets forth his immediate plan as he heads toward Jerusalem (v. 22-27). (a) He does not exactly know what the future holds, except that there will be bonds and afflictions awaiting him. (b) He will not treasure his physical life; he must fulfill the ministry given him by Christ, testifying concerning the gospel which contained the message of grace. Grace was not an "irresistible" gift, but a blessing bestowed through a communicated message. (c) His heart ached, anticipating not seeing these men again as he fulfilled his task of preaching the kingdom. (d) His conscience was clear; he was not accountable for others being lost. He had declared the whole counsel of God.

King Agrippa resisted God's grace. Acts 26:28 "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

The bulk of the Jews resist God's grace. Acts 13:46 "Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should

first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles."

The Jew's, to this day along with the protestant world have become a disobedient and gainsaying people. Romans 10:16-21 "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you. But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people." Multitudes hear the word of God but few do as God commands. Luke 8:21 "And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it."

Third, Paul warns the Ephesian bishops (or elders) of the danger of apostasy (v.28-31). (a) The elders were to take heed to themselves and to the church placed under their oversight by the Holy Spirit. (b) They were to see to it that the flock was nourished as the precious blood-bought, called-out-body. How can anyone possibly disdain the church as nonessential when it was bought with Christ's blood? (The church is not a building.) (c) A time of apostasy would eventually come, originating even from the leadership of the church. Whether the allusion was to them personally or to those occupying the same position is debatable. (d) Apostate bishops (Eldership) eventually would arise to selfishly make disciples for themselves. Historically, the earliest departures from the faith were in the rise of "bishops" who exalted themselves over other elders. (e) They were encouraged to remember his passionate ministry among them over the past three years. His example should be a teaching reminder.

Fourth, the apostle commends these good brothers and exhorts them to continued faithfulness (32-35). (a) With a loving note of encouragement, Paul commends them to God and to his sacred word, through which grace is accessed (Rom. 5:1), that they might continue to grow strong and ultimately receive the promised inheritance as faithful children. (b) He may be responding to some false charges about his alleged unhealthy interest in money when he calls attention to his record of selfless interest in others and his work ethic of giving far more than receiving. (c) He does not hesitate to remind them of his example in attempting to help the weak. He calls attention to a recorded saying of Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)."

(Acts 20:36-38) a tearful farewell: after the apostle concluded this stirring address, they all knelt and prayed together. There was a loud crying and the elders embraced Paul, with affectionate kisses profusely given. Certainly they were going to miss him, but, most of all, his words had touched them deeply. The plaintive feeling of seeing him no more was to be temporary---in an ultimate, eternal sense. They escorted him down to the ship and likely watched him sail out of sight.

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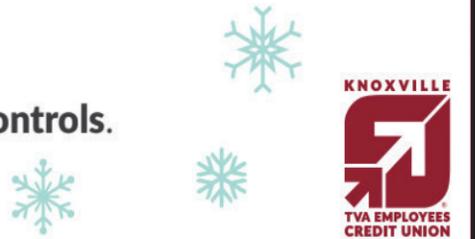


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