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Tuesday, July 21, 2026

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TOMMY LEE FRANCIS
PUBLISHER@MOCOTODAY.COM

EDITOR:
HEATHER FRANCIS
EDITOR@MOCOTODAY.COM

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Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

What’s With All The Rain?

I have made an observation. Usually, this time of the year, Pap is having to water the garden and Mimis flowers. The grass is always brown and crunchy by, July.

Not this year! We had a dry spring but, boy did that change.

We have had so much rain the grass is green and very thick, some of the flow-ers died from root rot. That meant, having to replant more, yuk. The lake level has stayed up. So, that is great, for swimmers and boaters.

We haven’t been seeing anymore of the snakes. That is a good thing. Those things are scary and slithery. Ms Ivory and me, no like snakes.

Any-woof, I hope the kids get to practice ball in order to be in good shape and know the plays, for their football games. At least, the Volunteers have an indoor complex they can use on order to prepare. Maybe, the rain won’t put a damper on their season. Pappy sure hopes they have a good year. I will say, we are grateful that we are not in a drought. So, I guess a little extra rain is better than, not enough.

Also, the rain is rough on a girls fur.

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



WEEKLY WEATHER



**CITIZENS
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MORGAN and Scott and Morgan Counties

TODAY 7/21		88° 71°
WED 7/22		84° 66°
THU 7/23		83° 64°
FRI 7/24		83° 69°
SAT 7/25		79° 65°
SUN 7/26		83° 64°
MON 7/27		88° 66°



Tennessee 811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

— In Loving Memory —

Billy “Bill” Joe Jones, 76
Unites States Army Veteran, Vietnam War Veteran



Billy “Bill” Joe Jones, age 76 of Deer Lodge passed away on June 27, 2026, at his home surrounded by family and close friends.

Bill was born on January 23, 1950, and raised in Deer Lodge to Lois and Leamon Jones. After graduating from Sunbright High School he was drafted by the U.S. Army and served 2 years in Vietnam. He came home to Deer Lodge where he retired from TDOT with 43 years.

He was a loving devoted husband for 53 years. He was the center of his daughter’s world and loved his 3 grandchildren more than anything. He was loved by many will be greatly missed.

Bill is preceded in death by his father Leamon Jones; mother Lois Hawn Jones; brothers Freddie, Ronnie and Doug Jones; sister Sandra Jones Lavender.

He leaves behind wife of 53 years Flonnie Jones; daughter Kimberly (Josh) Brown; grandchildren Eli Sills (fiancé Kaitlynn); his partner Allie Jo (his tiny) and Jake (his happy) and a host of family and close friends.

The family will honor his wishes by having a graveside service Thursday, July 2, 2026 with

military honors by American Legion Post #149 in the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Deer Lodge at 1:00 p.m. with Bro. Charles Webb officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Billy Joe Jones.

Shirley Ann Johnson, 78



Shirley Ann Johnson, age 78 of Oakdale, passed away peacefully at Methodist Medical Center on June 27, 2026 surrounded by her family.

Shirley was preceded in death by her husband of 39 years, Tony Johnson; parents, J.L. and Pauline Ward of Harriman; sister, Janie West of Harriman; and mother-in-law, Imogene Johnson of Oakdale.

Shirley is survived by her sons, Jeffery (Cheryl) Johnson and

Jay (Shelia) Johnson; daughter, Cheryl McKinney; grandchildren: Jeremiah Johnson, Ethan Johnson, Seth Johnson, MaKayla Johnson, and Ashley Moore; special nephew, Michael Wilson; sisters-in-law, Judy (Lloyd) Cook and Tommie (Jim) West; brother-in-law, Eddie West; along with several nieces and nephews.

The family will have a graveside service Wednesday July 1, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Piney Church Cemetery in Oakdale with Bro. Danny Jenkins officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

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

Lovada Honeycutt, 91



Lovada Honeycutt passed away June 29, 2026 at Cumberland Medical Center. She was born March 24, 1935.

She is preceded in death by her parents Henderson and Vic Graves Ford; husband Ralph Honeycutt; children Jorettha, Kathy, David, Ricky, Ronald; brother Floyd Ford; sisters Ar-

lette Duncan, Della Duncan, Dallas Supeck and Leona Gunter.

She is survived by her children Russell Honeycutt, and Sandra Conatser with numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews and family members.

The family will have a graveside service Thursday, July 3, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Union Grove Cemetery in Sunbright with Bro. Steve Gunter officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Lovada Honeycutt.

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.

Lelia E. Bohanon, 90



ents, daughters Marsha Lee and Mary Catherine.

She is survived by her children Daughters: Deborah (Rev. Henry) Miracle, Cynthia (Jon) Hankins, Kimberly (Gary) Crozier, Susan (John) Keathley, Sons: Charles Ricky (Linda) Bohanon, Dwight (Michelle) Bohanon, and 3 sisters. Also surviving a host of other family and friends.

Lelia E. Bohanon, age 90, of Lancing Tennessee went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday June 24, 2026. Her life was defined by her faith and love for Christ, her love for her family, resilience and strength.

She was a devoted, loving wife for 58 years to Charles D. Bohanon, loving mother to 8 children, 19 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, her par-

The family will receive friends on Friday July 3, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg from 9:00-12:00 PM, the funeral to follow at 12:00 PM with Rev. Henry Miracle, Rev. Joshua Crozier and Rev. Rick Taylor officiating. Interment will follow in the Mt. Hope Cemetery Deer Lodge. TN.

— In Loving Memory —

Julian Jack Wayne Thomas, 4 months



Julian Jack Wayne Thomas passed away on June 28, 2026 at the age of 4 months. Born February 9th 2026 to the parents Juliana McKinney and Caleb Thomas, Julian brought boundless love and laughter into our lives and all who knew him. He was a happy little boy whose smile would melt your heart. Though his time with us was tragically short he taught us the true meaning of love, resilience, and happiness.

Julian is preceded in death by: Mollie Moore, Jeremie Lee Songer, Evelyn Anne Creech, and many others who were waiting in heaven to greet him.

Julian will forever be remembered and missed by his parents Juliana and Caleb. Grand parents: Kay McKinney, and Elizabeth (Isaac Breeden) Thomas, Jacob (Cherie) Thomas, Timothy (Karen) Creech, Angela (Jason) Klee, Wayne (Loretta) Creech; and aunts Scarlett and Taylor.

Aunts: Abbigail (Ethan) McKinney, Cailyn Thomas, JoAnne (Michael) osterman.

Uncles: Skylor McKinney, Collin Creech, Matt Ames, Jeff Carroll, Mark Carroll, Scoot Carroll.

And his close cousin Stetson Richardson.

The family will receive friends Friday, July 3, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Graveside services will follow in the Rankins Chapel Cemetery in Oakdale.

Adrian Smith



Adrian Smith passed away at his home on June 27, 2026.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Wanda Smith; and his brothers, Preston and Jonathon.

He is survived by his son, Jay Preston Honeycutt; sisters: Blossom Smith Fowler, Julie Crespo, and Mandy Smith; brothers, George Smith and Louis Thornton; significant other, Kristy Postell Smith and her parents, Debbie and Wayne Postell; nieces, Clayre and Olivia; and nephew, Blake and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins and extended family and friends who he loved dearly.

The family has chosen cremation and no services are scheduled at this time.

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

Psalm 123:1

Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.



Jacquelyn G. Davidson, 45



Jacquelyn G. Davidson, age 45, of Lancing, went to be home with the Lord June 26, 2026. Her life was defined by her love for her family, and her passion for her nursing career. She was a 1998 graduate of Central High School.

She is preceded in death by her father, Neal Taylor.

She is survived by her loving mother, Marcella Beasley, her children Dylan (Macy) Ash-

burn, Katelyn (Cole) Cooper, her three wonderful grand babies, Easton Ashburn, John Luke and Jake Cooper. Her two siblings, Jimmy (Kristy) Taylor, Katherine Beasley and fiancé Justin Spurling. Her nephews Aaron Barnes, Jacob (Katie) Taylor, and Jayden Spurling. Her best friend, Charles Davidson. Also surviving a host of other family and friends.

The family will receive friends Thursday, July 2, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 11:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. with Bro. Ryan Human officiating. Interment will follow in the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Deer Lodge.



— In Loving Memory —

Velma Colleen Melton, 91



Velma Colleen Melton, age 91 of Lancing passed away July 6, 2026 at her home. She was born October 16, 1934 to the late Theodore and Ruby Potter Burge.

Colleen was a lifelong member at Shady Grove Baptist Church where she served as the Sunday school clerk for 50+ years. She enjoyed reading and loved taking care of her grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents; daughter Lois Ann Hall; granddaughter Barbara Ann Jennings; sister Maxine Collines and brother Alvin Byrge.

She leaves behind her husband of 75 years Ola Melton; children Cathy Sue (Larry) Burress, Bruce Timothy (JoAnn) Melton; grandchildren Christina, Cindy, Charles, Allen, Robby, Bobby, Heather, Andy, Chance, and Buck whom she loved dearly. A host of great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, July 10, 2026 at Shady Grove Baptist Church in Lancing from 11:00-12:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 12:00 p.m. with Pastor Bill Durham officiating. Interment will follow in the Shady Grove Church Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Velma Colleen Melton.

Rebecca Lynn Douglas



Rebecca Lynn Douglas, known lovingly as Becky, age 69, of Morgan County, Tennessee, passed away on July 8, 2026, leaving behind cherished memories and a family who loved her deeply.

Becky dedicated herself to teaching and made a lasting difference in the lives of her students. As a teacher, she shared patience, care, and encouragement with the students she taught, leaving an impact that will be remembered by many.

Becky held a special place in the hearts of those who knew her. She cherished her beloved pets and brought joy to others with her spunky personality and wonderful sense of humor. She will be remembered for the love she shared with her family, her kindness, her laughter, and the many lives she touched.

She was preceded in death by her partner in life, Rick Garza; her parents, Wendell Eugene Freytag and Sarah Jane Freytag; and her siblings, Wendell “Buddy” Freytag, Randy Freytag, and Lori Makins.

She is survived by her siblings, April (Alan) Jones, David (Lou) Freytag, Daniel Freytag and friend Tammy, and Timothy (Teresa) Freytag; as well as many nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly.

The family will receive friends Saturday, July 11, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 11:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Sunbright Cemetery in Sunbright.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Rebecca “Becky” Douglas.

Curtis “Wayne” Barnes, 66



Curtis “Wayne” Barnes, age 66 passed away July the 8, 2026 at home surrounded by family, after a long and hard-fought battle with lung disease.

Wayne was born on April 27, 1960. He was a proud graduate of the Sunbright High School Class of 1978.

He is preceded in death by his granddaughter, Joselyn Bowman; his stepfather Frank Craddock; his grandparents Slim and Irene Barnes, and Melvin and Sally Northrup; and his brother, John Terrell Barnes.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Kim; Mother Geraldine Craddock, his children whom he adored; son’s DJ Langley (Amanda), Dustin Barnes (Leanna); and daughter Tasha Langley. He leaves behind his cherished grandchildren: Tyler, Destiny, Joseph, Lilly, and Kinley; and his great-grandchildren Cohen, Piper and River

Also surviving are his brother Rodney Craddock (Bessie), his sisters Dana Loope, Peggy Keller (Joey), and Barbara Rich (Jeff); Sister in laws; Regina, Ronda, Patty, Charlis, Darlla, Candice, Tendre and brother-in-law Ricky. He is also

survived by niece and caregiver Tara Ballard whom he loved dearly, and special nieces Chelsey Smith (Bradley), Samantha Smith (Charles), Madeline Hanks (Asher), Shannon Nitzschke, and his favorite great nephew, Carson Wallace. Also, a host of nieces and nephews.

Wayne was a truck driver for 35 years, a job he truly loved. He enjoyed watching Tennessee Vols football and NASCAR, but nothing brought him more joy than being “Pa” to his grandbabies.

Wayne accepted the Lord as his Savior many years ago. He loved to laugh, joke, and cut up—if he picked on you, you knew he loved you.

Honoring Wayne’s wishes, the family will have a graveside service Friday, July 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sunbright Cemetery in Sunbright with Pastor Lynn Galyon will officiate.

Pallbearers will be Dustin Barnes, D.J. Langley, Tyler Scimia, Joseph Crumley, Trenton James, Chad West Bradley Lowe, and Travis Hamby.

The family would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Zack and the entire hospice team for their care and compassion.

Also, a much deserved thank you to Schubert Funeral Home for the services they provided.



— In Loving Memory —

Brian Christopher Cox, 53



Brian Christopher Cox, age 53 passed away on July 8, 2026. Brian was born in Rockwood, Tn on October 13, 1972. He re-sided in Talbott, TN.

He was preceded in death by his father Raymond C. (Chuck) Cox Jr.

He is survived by his wife Brianna Cox; children Amber Cox, Adam Cox, Avery Cox; mother Deborah (Terry) Smith; aunt Linda (Lawrence) Valdivia; sister Claire Key; brothers Jordan and Kenric Smith; and his dog Rocco.

Brian’s smile was so big and bright it would light up rooms. His heart was even bigger. Let’s remember him for his love for the Lord along with his family. He loved his children more than anything in this life. They were his greatest accomplishments. Brian poured into everyone around him. Always seeing the brighter side of this life. He overcame so many obstacles in life and still proclaimed the goodness of God.

He loved TN college football and riding around in Papaw’s truck and playing video games occasionally. He enjoyed traveling and seeing new places with his wife. He asked us to honor him by celebrating him and his time here with us. He might not be here with us, but he will always be here in every

memory that we carry.

So I ask that everyone who loved him and knew him to come together and help give him his final wish to celebrate his life. In honor of Brian let’s dress in our best orange and white for his U.T. themed celebration of life which will be held Saturday July 18, 2026 at the Jim Henry Event Center in Kingston, TN starting at 1:00 p.m.

“For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don’t know which is better. I’m torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me.” Philippians 1:21-23 NLT

The family will receive friends Sunday July 19, 2026 from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg with the graveside to immediately follow in the Nelson Cemetery on Catoosa.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Brian Christopher Cox.

Brenda Brown, 70



Brenda Brown, age 70, passed away July 11, 2026 in the Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge.

Brenda was a very kind loving lady whose world revolved around her grandchildren. She was a very talented painter and enjoyed art, birds, and flower gardening.

She is preceded in death by her son Robert Brown, Jr.; parents Floyd and Alline Morgan; sister Nola Morgan; cousin Gayle Shoemaker.

She is survived by her children Samantha Shoemaker and Bobbie Joe Osborne; grand-

children Robert Swisher, DJ Swisher, Devan Swisher, Madison Osborne, Jayden Simpson, Russell Simpson, III., Gunnar Simpson, and Delcan Simpson; 2 great granddaughters Charlie and Lyla Jayne; sisters Bonnie Brown, Wilma Workman, Ruby Gilreath; son-in-law Tim Osborne; boyfriend Frankie Shoemaker and a host of nieces, nephews, extended friends and family.

The family will receive friends Thursday, July 16, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-6:00 p.m. with a memorial service to follow at 6:00 p.m. with Bro. Mike Hammonds officiating.

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

Claude Eugene Yarber (Geno), 86



Claude Eugene Yarber (Geno), born March 30, 1940, passed away July 11, 2026 at his home.

He is preceded in death by his mother and father Claude & Lena; mother of his children Patsy Yarber; brothers James & Billy; ssters Dorothy Holt; daughters Debbie Yarber and Angela (Large) Yarber.

He is survived by brother Joe Yarber; sons Tony Yarber, Gregory; wife Michelle Yarber; step-grandchildren Ricky (Chasity) Butler, Destinee (Travis) Robertson; grandchildren Shanena & Logan Yarber, Megan Large Kyle Keisler. The family will be having a memorial service at a later date.

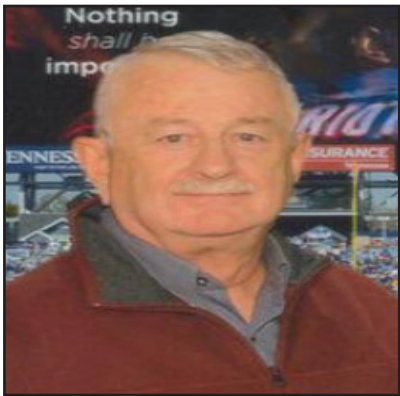
Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Claude Eugene Yarber (Geno).

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



— In Loving Memory —

Jerry Lee Peddicord, 78



Jerry Lee Peddicord, 78, of Petros, TN, passed away suddenly at home on July 16, 2026.

Jerry was born on February 23, 1948 in Harriman, TN, son of Cecil Peddicord and Cora (Denney) Peddicord. He would go on to attend Harriman High School where he was an avid football player. He married the love of his life, Barbara Armes, in 1971 and together they had two sons. He went to work for over 40 years at the Y-12 plant in Oak Ridge where he made many life-long friends. Jerry was an enthusiast of many things, including competitive shooting, motorcycles, and martial arts. He spent as

much of his retirement with his family as he could, especially his grandchildren. He will be missed dearly by all who knew and loved him.

He leaves behind a loving family that includes his wife, Barbara Peddicord; his sons, Brian Peddicord and wife Heather; Kevin Peddicord and wife Sarah; his grandchildren, Sydney Owens, Rhys and Gray Peddicord; and great-grandchild Jalen Aldridge.

He is preceded in death by his father, Cecil Peddicord; his mother, Cora Peddicord; his sister, Beverly Crabtree; and his brother, Steve Peddicord.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 from 4-6 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral service's will follow at 6pm with Bro. David Acres officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jerry Lee Peddicord.

Joyce Briggs Vespie



Joyce Briggs Vespie went home to be with her Lord and Savior, leaving behind a legacy rooted deep in her family and her unwavering faith.

Above all else, Joyce was a proud, born-again believer who loved the Lord with all her heart. Her faith was her absolute anchor, and she loved nothing more than lifting her voice to sing old gospel hymns like "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" and "I'll Meet You in the Morning".

Her family was her greatest earthly treasure. Joyce loved them fiercely and was always happiest when they were all gathered together. Her family takes great comfort in knowing she is resting peacefully in her eternal home where the roses never fade.

Joyce was also a dedicated face in the community, from being a business owner to spending 15 years helping folks find their homes as a Realtor and 20 years handling personal taxes for her neighbors across Morgan County. When

she wasn't working, she found true joy in life's simple blessings. She never missed a chance for good fellowship, looking forward to her weekly bowling league outings with friends at the Oak Ridge Bowling Center.

She also loved tending to her yard, crocheting, or working on a puzzle with Janie and Darlene.

She is preceded in death by her parents Dewey and Thelma Briggs; husband Wendell Vespie; sons Steve (Big O) Vespie and John Vespie; siblings Barney Lee Hall, Jackie Briggs, Jeffery Briggs and Judy Briggs.

She is survived by son Doug (Denise) Owens; sister Janie Briggs Collins; grandchildren Jocelyn (Kegan) Phillips, Lydia (Jeremiah) Sargent, Talesha (Willie) Dutton, and Trey Daugherty; great grandchildren Jolie, Jathan, John, Oakleigh, Harper, Luka, Mason, Chloe, Leah, Abilene, Noah, Abel, Lilly and Sean and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 3:00-5:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 5:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Kubley Cemetery in Lancing.

Branden Anita "Brandy" Nyberg, 50



Branden Anita "Brandy" Nyberg, born January 31, 1976, passed away suddenly on July 15, 2026 at the age of 50. Brandy was a loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother "Mimi", aunt, and friend.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Linda Hamer; father, Ken Schroder; grandson, Sawyer McCoig; brother, Joshua Moody; and in-laws, Barry and Wanda Nyberg.

She is survived by her husband of 24 years, Eddie; sons: Kyle (Emily) McCoig, Travis (Charity) McCoig, D.J. (Maggie) Nyberg, and Cody Nyberg; daughter, Addison Nyberg; brothers, Joey Moody and Ricky Schroder; sister, Kaydee Johnson; sister-in-law, Kelly (Nate) Thomas; and grandchildren: Nova, Kolsen, and Gemma McCoig.

Brandy loved to travel as long as it was warm because she hated being cold; cruises, road trips, or weekend getaways, it didn't matter. She was from St. Augustine, FL and would let you know it, always talking about her inner Pirate.

Brandy was proud of her Minorcan Heritage, which led to a side of her that was more Gypsy like. She always had a side hustle and went by Minorcan Gypsy, making sauces using datil peppers from St. Augustine.

For the first 17 years of her and Eddie's marriage, she babysat hundreds of kids and was known as Mrs. Brandy. Friday's breakfast was ice cream cereal, because "after all, ice cream is just frozen milk" she would say.

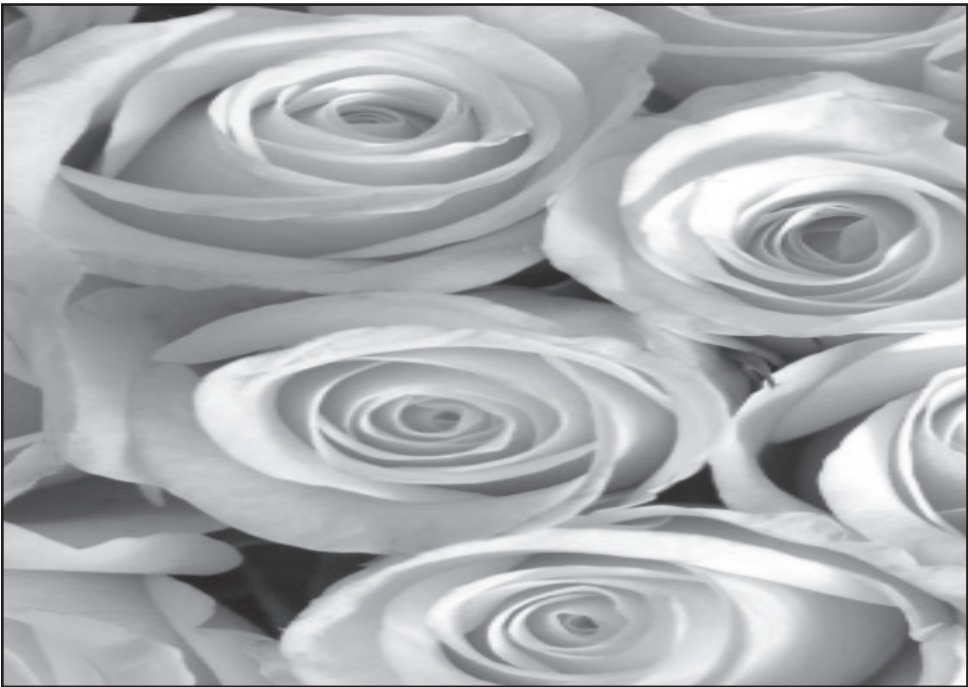
A novel could be written about how great she was and all the good she did or tried to do. She has thousands of friends that she considered family. They are across the states, not just counties, and that is no exaggeration. The closest were Chrissy (Dave) Betsinger, Shelly (Ty) Ehlers, Cindy (James) Chapman, Stephanie (Brad) Redmon, Vanessa Ponce, Trey Ponce, Tiffany (Chad) Christianson, Uncle Jimmy, Uncle David, David Jr., Megan (Justin) Backus, and Deanna (Lance) Ford, her co-workers and customers at Elliot's Boots, the gang at the Lilly Pad (Del and Marte, she loved y'all so much), and many, many more.

She was full of love and her attitude was infectious. Her passing has left an emptiness in all that knew her. The world has lost one of the greatest souls to walk this Earth. Brandy's wishes were to be cremated and her ashes scattered between the Conch House and Lighthouse in St. Augustine, FL.

The family will receive friends Saturday July 25, 2026 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. with a celebration of life to be held at 4:00 with Billy and Gail Jones officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Brandy Nyberg.

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



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Historically Speaking

Allison Albert Guercio Part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Benita Albert brings us a most significant Historically Speaking series. She tells the story of her daughter! I am so proud to bring you this series as Benita has brought us many amazing insights into Oak Ridge school graduates. Now she has included her own daughter in those amazing graduates. Enjoy learning about someone very special to Benita.

Allison (Albert) Guercio, an Oak Ridge High School (ORHS) Class of 2000 graduate, is a passionate environmentalist. From her Oak Ridge childhood to the present, she has loved being outdoors, observing Mother Nature, and advocating for the protection of all of God's creatures. In the spirit of full disclosure, I am very much aware of her passion as her proud mother.

Reviewing the almost fifty stories I have been privileged to write for 'Historically Speaking' about significant careers of ORHS alumni, it recently occurred to me that environmental science has not been featured. Allison's work is but one example of numerous career applications in the field of environmental science. I would love to hear of other ORHS alumni who are 'saving our planet' through their specialized work.

Allison's current work involves leading marketing, communications, and fundraising efforts for the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP) of the Chesapeake Bay, headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland. In this role, she helps build the partnerships, public awareness, and financial support that makes large-scale oyster restoration possible.

ORP was established in 1994 by a group of sailing enthusiasts concerned for the Bay's health, at a time when Maryland recorded its lowest oyster harvest, just 4.7 million oysters. What began as a response to a crisis has evolved into one of the most ambitious and successful environmental restoration efforts in the world.

Today, oyster restoration is recognized as essential not only to the seafood industry, but also to the Bay's overall health. As natural water filters, oysters improve water quality, support marine life, and help mitigate the effects of climate change. ORP's work, made possible through partnerships with scientists, watermen, government agencies, and community supporters, is helping to restore this critical ecosystem. Much more will follow on the successful work of ORP and Allison's involvement in a subsequent, Part Two of this feature.

Little could Allison have guessed that her landlocked, Tennessee upbringing would lead to an appreciation and advocacy for bivalve mollusks, in particular eastern oysters, or *Crassostrea virginica*.

Allison said, "I graduated from ORHS with no idea of what career I wanted to pursue. I knew I liked Environmental Science, and was greatly inspired by my ORHS Advanced Placement teacher, Dr. Nita Ganguly. I now appreciate my roots and my home town even more for the school and community resources that gave me a rich background of experiences and options for the future."

Born at Oak Ridge Methodist Medical Center in late 1981, Allison was welcomed by older sister Amanda. We, Allison's parents, had prepared Amanda for her new baby sister's arrival by sharing early-on what her name would be. We were quite surprised and charmed to later hear Amanda tell a friend about her new



Allison Albert ORHS Class of 2000 yearbook picture

sister "Alice in Wonderland," perhaps a logical conclusion for a two-year old's interpretation of the name Allis-on, and another well-known last name from a favorite storybook. The fanciful name stuck throughout the years as Allison embraced meeting her namesake character in Disneyworld, performing the role of a Playing Card in the Oak Ridge Junior Playhouse production of "Alice in Wonderland," and collecting various Alice-themed memorabilia.

Mark and Benita Albert wanted to raise their daughters in the Oak Ridge community where Benita worked as a math teacher at Oak Ridge High School. Benita knew that the academic programming for Oak Ridge public school students was exceptionally strong and diverse. Benita retired in 2013 after forty-four years in the Oak Ridge Schools. Mark worked as an electrical engineer over thirty-six years at Oak Ridge and Paducah, KY government plants. Older daughter, Amanda, graduated from ORHS in 1997 and now resides with her husband and two boys in Asheville, NC.

Allison's memories from Linden Elementary School include first grade teacher McCord Carter. She said, "He figured out an ingenious way to encourage the class to count high, all the way to 100, while he was standing on his head. It definitely worked!" In physical education class she loved the group games with the parachute and seeing how high a ball, placed in the center of the chute, could be flipped. She praised the strong arts program: from such as clay sculpturing and painting, to special choral performances, to beginning orchestra (violin) in the fourth grade. And she still smiles when recalling the honor of being 'student of the week' and having a large banner in the classroom with her name on it.

At Robertsville Junior High School she loved learning the French language, a subject that ultimately became her undergraduate, collegiate minor. As a member of the Robertsville Dance Team and a morning announcer on the school's station WRAM, Allison learned implicit lessons in public presentations and entertainment.

Allison's ORHS years were filled with challenging coursework. Among her favorite classes were: Combined Studies in her sophomore year, teacher Sylvia Woods' Junior AP English, and French classes with teachers Leah Bailey and Sylvia Countess. Of the latter, Allison recalled, "We read books in French, watched French films, befriended French exchange students at ORHS, and even had summer opportunities to visit France with our teachers as chaperones."

"AP Environmental Science at ORHS changed my life. I loved every lesson, every day." She listed several examples of class studies she still remembers: endangered species, population growth, tipping points, and holes in the ozone and how human ingenuity solved it. She loved hands-on activities, citing one experiment where they used socks, placed on car mufflers, to perform toxicity analyses and identify harmful emissions. Later, in undergraduate studies at the University of South Carolina, Allison's favorite class was Environmental Ethics, and this further piqued her interest and enthusiasm for a future career path. It was a course addressing the moral relationship of human beings to the environment.

In addition to school opportunities, Allison engaged in various community activities. She attended Campfire Girls in her early years. She participated in dance classes at the Oak Ridge Academy of Dance from age three through high school. She performed as an Oak Ridge Showkid from grades 2-9, and she en-



Allison Albert "Sweet 16" photo with her first cat rescue

joyed acting in plays with the Oak Ridge Playhouse. She played in various community sports leagues before finding her passion for rowing as a member of the competitive high school crew team through the Oak Ridge Rowing Association.

All her life, Allison has had a soft heart for animals. She was enamored of a raccoon her babysitter rescued and nursed to health. She pet-sat for neighbors' dogs, and she wanted to rescue every stray cat she encountered. Our family can thank Allison for at least four homeless felines who lived long and happy lives in our abode, well beyond Allison's time in Oak Ridge. Her love of animals ran deep and the drive to achieve her ultimate prize, a dog of her own, motivated her to some very creative problem solving. It was in the news that First Lady Barbara Bush's beloved cocker spaniel, Millie, was expecting puppies. At the same time, Allison learned that her mother would be honored at the White House by President George H. W. Bush as the 1991 Presidential Award Mathematics Teacher from Tennessee. She was most upset that children were not invited to the ceremony. With the help of her co-conspiring grandmother, also a dog-lover and cocker spaniel mom, Allison saw the ultimate two-for-one opportunity, a trip to Washington, D.C. and the chance to come home with a puppy. She took matters into her own hands.

- Continued on Page 11

Historically Speaking

Allison Albert Guercio Part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

She wrote directly to the First Lady, offering to dog sit while George and Barbara were attending to the ceremony for the awardees. Her parents had no idea she had done so... When Mrs. Bush's private secretary called her father at work to follow up, he assumed it was a prank call from coworkers and hung up. It took a second call, and some convincing, to sort things out. While the White House held firm on the no-child policy, Allison received a gracious response: a personally signed photo of Mrs. Bush and Mil-lie, sent in an official White House envelope.

The real goal, of course, was always a puppy. Achieving it took a little longer. Allison finally got her first dog as a young adult; a be-loved rescue she named Sydney Joplin and who lived the best possible dog's life for 18 years. I tell this story, as her mother, to make the point that Allison has never taken 'no' for an answer. She's naturally inclined to build relationships and draw others in to achieve her goals, and she will take action in the interest of a cause she cares about... excellent qualities for a fundrais-er!

Allison chose the University of South Carolina (USC) for undergraduate studies. She said, "My placement in the USC Honors College provided me with the opportunity to create a special academic path where I found increas-ing curiosity for, and interest in, environmental issues. It was my chance to grow an appreciation

for the outside world. Environmental Science gave me perspective on how precious our natural world is and how deserving of our care."

The Honors College required students to complete a research study, a thesis paper, for graduation. "I lived in off-campus student hous-ing near a beautiful new greenway built by the City of Columbia, SC. I learned of further plans to extend the greenway throughout the city. I proposed to my thesis professor that a greenway following a pre-existing stream within the cam-pus and connecting to the larger city greenway would be ideal. Thus, my professor and I did a water quality study of the stream in supporting the feasibility of our proposal."

Allison was hooked, she knew environ-mental science work was her dream, but she was unsure as to job opportunities in the field. Shechose to meet with various environmentalists on campus. She especially valued the input of a professor in the Department of Geography who spoke of the need for advocacy in environmen-tal policy matters. She researched what such an advanced degree would involve, finding the list daunting and yet intellectually stimulating: law studies, statistics, government, scientific method, appropriations, finance, and more...

Allison chose the University of Maryland to pursue a master's degree in Environmental Policy. She was only two Metro stops away from Capitol Hill, close to government action, and yet also accessible for the new-to-her, alluring en-vironments of the Eastern Coast and the Chesapeake Bay.

She left immediately after her USC grad-uation for a University of Maryland summer in-ternship. That summer of 2004, spent on Mary-

land's Eastern Shore, could be described using 'Wonderland' terms as "Curiouser and Curious-er" for Allison. She was introduced to farm life on the Wye Research & Education Center: living with other student interns in an old, creaky farm-house; tending strawberry beds, grape vines, and pumpkin patches; picking peaches and itching from all the fuzz while also warding off stings from jealous bees; and learning to drive a tractor. It was hard work but in a beautiful setting where Allison's passion for conservation grew along-side her increased appreciation for the state of harmony between humans and the land.

Part Two of Allison's story will follow next week.

Thank you, Benita for another great review of an Oak Ridge School graduate. I know we are all looking forward to part two.



1 Corinthians Chapter 15



Melvin Howard

(1 Cor. 15:1-4) The facts of Paul’s gospel: A report had reached Paul (1:11) that some at Corinth were denying that the body would be raised from death at the time of Christ’s return. The Sadducees repudiated the idea of a bodily resurrection, as did the pagan Greeks (Mt. 22:23; Acts 17:18, 32). Even Christians can be influenced by their contemporaries, and these had been. The apostle, therefore, must rehearse the ABCs of the gospel. The verbs of this context are important. (a) Paul had “preached” the message to them (Acts 18:11). (b) They initially “received” it (salvation is not unconditional). (c) Most appeared to be “standing” in it (unmoved from the basics). (d) By the gospel (not some eternal decree) they “were being saved” (an ongoing process). (e) Their salvation was dependent on “holding fast” the apostolic preaching. (f) Otherwise, their initial “belief” (that Christ was raised) would have been for nothing.

The Greek conjunction “for (v. 3) provides an explanation for what follows. The foundation of the gospel involves the facts that the message was divinely “received”, namely that Jesus “died,” he “was buried” (both historical events), and he “has been raised” (the tense indicates an event of permanent status (Rom. 6:9). The resurrection had been prophesied in the Scriptures (Psa. 16:8; 22:22).

(1 Cor. 15:5-11) The evidence of Christ’s resurrection: the bodily resurrection of Jesus was not a mere myth, it was corroborated by a variety of witnesses of utmost credibility. Several of these are mentioned: Peter, the “twelve” (a technical designation; Judas was dead), more than five hundred witnesses (most of whom were still alive), James (probably Christ’s half-brother (Acts 15), again to “all the apostles,” and finally to Paul himself (Acts 9:1-8, 17). Paul felt he was “the least” of the apostles because of his earlier persecution of Christians (v. 9). Thanks to the grace of God, he learned the truth and the Lord’s favor had produced remarkable results in his life. His missionary endeavors had carried him significantly beyond what the other apostles had achieved to this point. It was not that he boasted, but the grace of the Lord had orchestrated it and he gloried in that. The apostolic effort was united and produced results---of which the Corinthians were an example.

(1 Cor. 15:12-19) The consequence of denying Jesus’ resurrection: Attempts to deny this historical foundation of the Christian religion have been many and varied. Some contend: (a) his body is still in an unidentified tomb; (b) someone took the body and disposed of it elsewhere; (c) he was not raised literally, but he lives on in memory so vividly, it is as if he were alive still. Such theories are corrupt, and this philosophy must be addressed.

“If Christ has been raised permanently (the force of the verb) as we contend, why do some of you now deny this fact, alleging there is no such thing as a resurrection of dead people? Do you not realize the consequences of this proposition?” (v. 12). (a) If dead people are not raised, then Jesus was not raised. (B) If Jesus was not raised, Paul’s preaching was worthless and so was the Corinthians’ faith. (c) If Christ has not been raised, that makes the witnesses liars, for they professed to have seen him following his resurrection. (d) If the Lord was not raised, they are yet in their sins. Were they willing to concede this? (e) If Christ has not been raised, all Christians who have died have perished. This at least contains the implication that a Christian could perish. (f) If the resurrection of Jesus did not occur, our only hope is in this life, and that makes us the most-to-be-pitied people of the whole human family. Who can live with these consequences?

(1 Cor. 15:20-28) Christ’s resurrection: The key to God’s plan: In reality, our Lord has been permanently raised from the dead, and as such he is the “firstfruits” (the promise of a future harvest) of those whose bodies (not souls) “sleep” in the grave. The particular emphasis here is on the resurrection of those “in Christ” (v. 18), though the Bible clearly teaches a general resurrection of all the dead (Dan. 12:2; Jn. 5:28-29; Acts 24:15). It was through a man (Adam) that death entered the world, and it is through a man (Christ) that the resurrection of the dead will come (v. 21-22). But there is an appropriate order. Christ was resurrected first; those who belong to him will be resurrected at his Second Coming (v. 23). (Since the resurrection of the righteous has not yet occurred, one may conclude that the Lord’s coming has not transpired, contrary to the claims of radical preterists, those who contend Christ came in A.D. 70 with the fall of Jerusalem.)

Paul now speaks of the “end” (v. 24-26). This embraces the end of: (a) “time” (as eternity begins); (b) the earth and all things pertaining thereto (2 Peter 3:1); (c) all earthly powers; (d) the present phase of the kingdom, which will be delivered back to the Father; and (e) death. There is no place here for a one-thousand-year earthly regime (as asserted by many). Until the end time arrives (unknown to anyone here on earth (Mt. 24:36). Christ must “reign” (the verb suggests “continue to reign”)---thus demonstrating his original reign was not postponed, as dispensationalists contend.

At the time of Christ’s ascension into heaven (Acts 1:9), all things were subjected to him (Eph. 1:20-23)--- except the Father himself (v. 27). When his present reign and conquests are completed (with permanency), the Son himself will “be subjected” to the Father. This subjection in no way diminishes Christ’s divine gory. This passage presents perhaps one of the most profound thoughts in biblical theology. Christ was not subjected to the Father before the incarnation (Phil. 2:5); he will be in some sense after his Second Coming. Why? The answer is not supplied. It could reflect a deeper level of devotion to humanity than anyone can possibly imagine from our present vantage point---forever identified with the redeemed!

(1 Cor. 15:29-34) The resurrection and conduct: Verse 29 is a most controversial text (dozens of different views have been cataloged) which mentions some being “baptized for the dead.” Mormons appeal to this passage for proof of their doctrine of proxy baptism, one on earth may be immersed on behalf of a dead relative or close friend. This view clearly is erroneous. (a) Neither obedience nor disobedience is transferrable to others (Ezek. 18:20; Mt. 25:8-9). (b) One will be judged by his personal acts, not those of others (2 Cor. 5:10). (c) Preparation must be made before the “sleep” of dead (Mt. 25:5-6). (d) There is no pas-

sage from the state of punishment to that of reward (Lk. 16:26).

The point Paul is making must have something to do with the denial of a resurrection of the dead. The meaning may be: “If the dead are not to be raised, why do you continue to baptize (which act reflects a burial and resurrection) people ‘for’ the dead, to fill the gap left by your comrades who have died and passed into eternity)? The preposition “for” can convey the meaning of “to replace.” An ancient Greek text uses the preposition to describe the enlistment of new soldiers who are intended “to replace” those killed in war. The administering of baptism would be inconsistent with the no-resurrection doctrine! Another idea is that some unidentified cultic practice relating to baptism was popular with the anti-resurrection minority in the church (referred to by the third person “they” in contrast to the first person “we” (29-30), and their practice conflicted with their teaching in some respect.

“If there is to be no resurrection, why do we risk our lives every hour? Why do we endure persecution? Why not live recklessly?” Clearly, the doctrine of the bodily resurrection is of tremendous importance and has serious logical and moral consequences. The Corinthians were being influenced by evil associates (v. 33). “Wake up! (The verb carries force.) Be sober and righteous, and stop sinning in your unrestrained faction (indicated by the verbal tense)”. Some apparently argued: “If the body is not to be raised, it doesn’t matter what one does with it.” No knowledgeable Christian would endorse such a position (v.34).

(1 Cor. 15:35-49) The nature of the resurrection: Paul anticipates an objection. How can a dead body be raised? If it is, what would be the nature of this body? The obvious answer to the first question would have to be: “The body will be raised by the power of the God who created it initially” (Matt. 22:29). In the second instance, no satisfactory answer can be supplied to those who only have “earth” experience. Perhaps, however, an analogy might help. A seed sown in the earth cannot come to life again except it first die: we do not understand that process (Mk. 4:27), though we see the cause-and-effect relationship repeatedly. The patriarch Job even pondered this possibility (Job. 14:7, 14).

The seed that is sown and subsequently dies, though significantly different in appearance, nonetheless has a connection with the lush plant that comes forth in the spring. As the sovereign God pleases, he provides it with a changed, new form. “Each seed” is given its own bodily identity (v. 38). This clearly indicates that the resurrected spiritual body will have an identity continuum with its initial form. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will still be the same persons, through not in a material form (Mt. 8:11). The apostle continues his analogical argument. Just as there are varieties of “flesh” in this world (animal flesh differs from human flesh), even so there is a difference between the material body and the spiritual body that eventually will be (v. 39). (Genetics demonstrates that animal and human flesh are different, contrary to what one would expect if the evolutionary dogma were true, namely that all forms of life derive from an initial primitive source.)

Another comparison relates to the different degrees of “glory” that distinguish “celestial” bodies from the “terrestrial” (v.40-41). Such indicates the majestic power and wisdom of the Creator. Just as Heaven’s power is evidenced in such amazing varieties, there should be no problem in recognizing God’s ability to bring forth a new kind of body suited to a spiritual environment (v. 42). (There is absolutely no support here for the Mormon theory of three heavens.)

A historical illustration is provided, Adam, the first man was constituted a living person by the power of God. Even so, the “second Adam” (who became flesh (Jn. 1:14) will be empowered with the ability to impart life to the body on the day of resurrection (v. 45). But there is a logical order---first the natural body, then the spiritual body (v.46). We have a body designed to inhabit an earthly domain; there will be another fitted for the heavenly realm (v. 47; Phil. 3:21). There is a contrast between the “earthly” and the “heavenly.” We now bear the image of the former; at the time of the resurrection we shall bear the image of the latter (v. 47-49). This argues against the popular idea that heaven will be on earth.

(1 Cor. 15:50-58) The resurrection transformation: Paul makes it clear that we cannot enter into the heavenly kingdom of God in this present flesh-and-blood form. Corruption is not adapted to an incorruptible realm. Thus, a change must be effected. The word “change” denotes “to become other than something is,” an alteration in composition. Paul’s use of “we” does not suggest he believed he still would be alive at the Lord’s return; elsewhere he anticipates a resurrection (2 Cor. 4:14; Phil. 3:11). He merely is flexible in his language. The change will occur at the time Christ’s return (v. 23); it will be instantaneous, and will be accompanied by the resurrection of the dead (v. 52). The nature of the new body is briefly previewed elsewhere (2 Cor. 5:1; Phil. 3:21; 1 Jn. 3:2). (There is no basis for the dispensational dogma of the rapture within this context.)

The corruptible (mortal) body will be changed into an incorruptible (immortal) body. At that point, the prophecy will have been fulfilled which declares that death has been swallowed up by victory (Isa. 25:8). Death, man’s “last enemy” (v. 26), is personified and mocked: “O death, where is your victory? Where is your sting?”

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