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Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

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Volume 12 Number 27

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

More Than A Newspaper.

75¢



10TH ANNUAL DYLAN KENNEDY MEMORIAL RACE

AUGUST 1

\$13,037 TO WIN

\$500 TO START

LIMITED LATE MODELS



Warburg SPEEDWAY
WARTBURG, TENNESSEE



7 53807 32032 0

10TH ANNUAL DYLAN KENNEDY MEMORIAL RACE

@ **Wartburg** SPEEDWAY
WARTBURG, TENNESSEE

AUG. 1, 2026
75 LAPS
\$13,037
★ TO WIN ★★
LIMITED LATE MODEL



THIRD - JED EMERT

WINNER - HAYDEN CARDWELL

RUNNER-UP - DREW KENNEDY

 FAST QUALIFIER: **\$137**

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423 CERAKOTE AND GUNS

(10 LAPS)

 HEAT 1: **\$137**

SPONSORED BY
CHRIS SUMMERS

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MBM HEATING AND AIR

(10 LAPS)

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WEEKLY WEATHER



TUE 7/28  93° 70°

WED 7/29  88° 62°

THU 7/30  82° 58°

FRI 7/31  86° 64°

SAT 8/1  85° 63°

SUN 8/2  82° 62°

MON 8/3  83° 62°



Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

In and Out, Lickety-Split

So, Pap was snoozing. Mimi got a call from private number. It was their people, doctor. She said Pap needed to go to the hospital because he had a critical level on some blood work.

So, Mimi woke me and Pappy up (I was sleeping good) Pardon the bed head. Then, off to the hospital they went. The lady at the desk was really sweet. Then, the trigage nurse took Pap back and drew some more blood, took his vitals and listened to what Mimi thought it was. She told him that she thought his blood had sat too long, causing potassium to leak from the cells. Therefore, giving a false critical level.

I'm telling you that nurse named Cody knew exactly what Mimi was talking about.

Any-woof, he came back out and got Pap as soon as the lab sent the results! The doctor came and chatted for a minute and they got to come back home, lickety-split. They were so kind and considerate, getting Pap in and out in such a hurry. Pap said, it could not have had a better experience... For more of my

Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

10TH Annual Dylan Kennedy Memorial Race Info

The 10th annual Dylan Kennedy Memorial at Wartburg this year will consist of two weekends of racing excitement to honor former racing icon Dylan Kennedy. On Saturday, August 1, the Limited Late Model race with a purse of \$13,037 will take off, and the following weekend, Saturday, August 8 will be the 10th Annual Dylan Kennedy Memorial Part 2, celebrated with a Crate Race, having a first prize purse of \$3,700. Billy Glen Kennedy told the Morgan County Today, "We wanted to do something exceptional to honor my late son Dylan with this 10th running of the Memorial race that bears his name. We expect that a lot of attention will be given to these two weekends, with some regional coverage, and some very well known drivers participating. We expect it to be a big event, and look forward to carrying this tradition on for many years to come."



(G&A Racing Photography)

— 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 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.

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.

Adrian Smith



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.

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.

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



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.

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-



— 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.

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).

— In Loving Memory —

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 nev-

er 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 Daugh-

erty; 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.

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 resided 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 Aline 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.

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.

James “Jim” Makins, 82
United States Navy Veteran



A loving father, grandfather, and great grandfather James “Jim” Makins passed away on July 18, 2026, at the age of 82 surrounded by his family. Jim was a well loved member of the town of Sunbright, Tn where he called home for 51 years. He was a deacon of Sunbright First Baptist Church for many years which he enjoyed very much serving his community and the Lord. But there was nothing he was more proud of than being a veteran of the United States Navy where he served the country he loved from 1962 until 1966 on the USS Saratoga.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 57 years, Clarie Louise Makins. His father Donald Henry Makins, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force (M.I.A), mother Virginia Ruth

Shand, and his sister Linda Lee Stillman. His Daughter-in-law Lori Makins. His Grandson Donald Henry Makins and Great Grandson Finnly Ronald Makins.

He survived by his three children Cheryl Makins, Ken Makins, Donald Makins and wife Rhonda Makins. His grandchildren Erika Williams and husband Ronald Williams, Bionica Parsons, Jericho Makins and wife Miranda Makins, Jordan Makins and partner Mollie Weddle, Ashley Johnson and husband Tyler Johnson and Nolan Makins. His great grandchildren Jameson and Oliver Makins and great grandson Warren Johnson. Jim is very loved and will be missed dearly by all.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of James “Jim” Makins.

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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RUSTY WALLACE KIA

Name: _____ Age: _____

Phone Number: _____

Coloring
Contest

Overall
Winner
\$50
Gift Card

Category
Winners
\$25
Gift Card

Entry Due by 9am
August 21st.

Mail entry to
RWK
Coloring Contest
701 Callahan Drive
Knoxville, TN 37912

or
Drop-off at
Boys & Girls Club
17025 Alberta St,
Oneida, TN 37841

There are two age categories:
3 - 7 yrs | 8 - 12 yrs

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Chad Campbell
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Dylan Kennedy.



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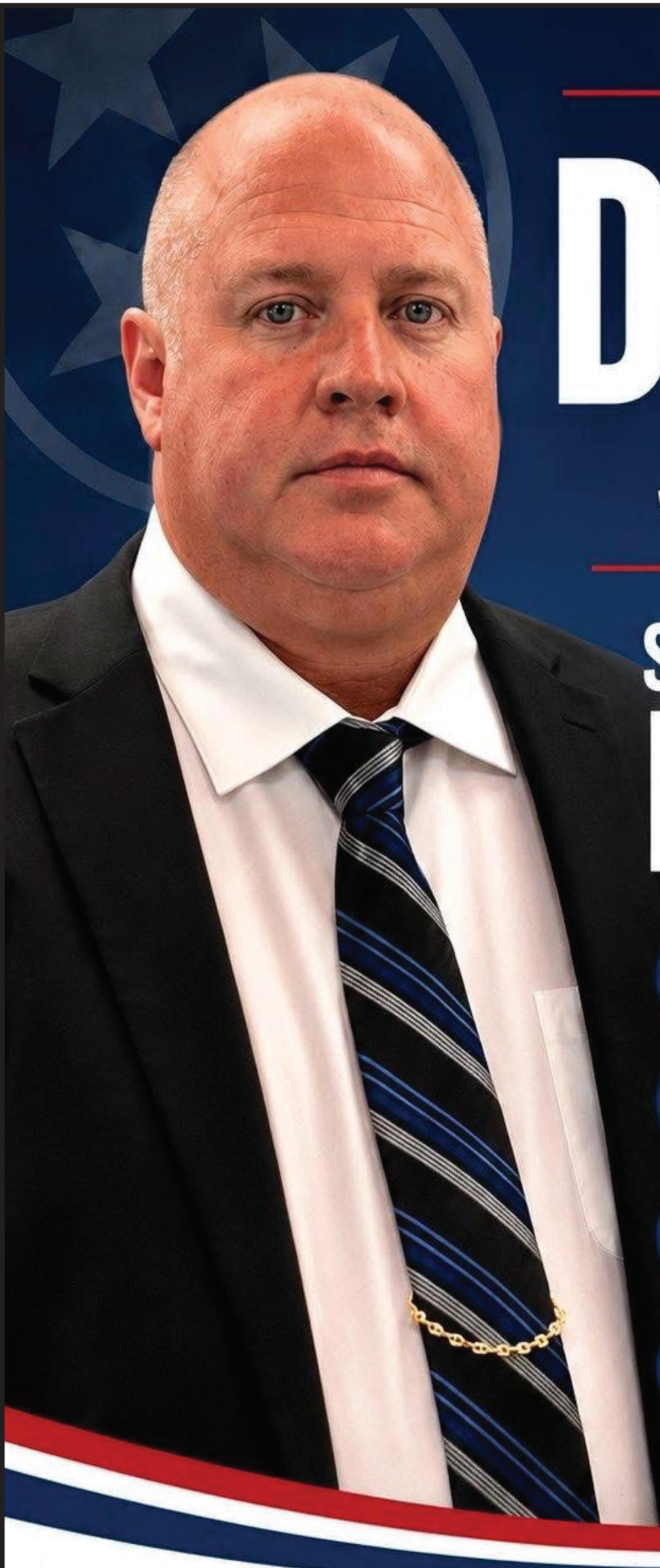


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Scott County Today

More Than A Newspaper



— ★ **VOTE** ★ —

DENNIS JEFFERS

— ★ **FOR** ★ —

SCOTT COUNTY MAYOR



STRONG LEADERSHIP
FOR A STRONGER SCOTT COUNTY



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
YOUR TAX DOLLARS,
YOUR PRIORITIES



PUBLIC SAFETY
SUPPORTING OUR FIRST
RESPONDERS AND COMMUNITIES



INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH
BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE
FOR OUR COUNTY

EXPERIENCED. DEDICATED. COMMITTED TO SCOTT COUNTY.
WORKING FOR YOU. FOCUSED ON OUR FUTURE.

— ★ —

VOTE DENNIS JEFFERS FOR SCOTT COUNTY MAYOR

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT DENNIS JEFFERS

— ★ ★ ★ —

ELECT

B. MATTHEW STILTNER

7TH DISTRICT

SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

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Pride



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

A deep sense of self-respect, personal worth, or pleasure, derived from our own achievements.

The Bible teaches Pride was the root inside Lucifer that led him to believe he could exalt himself above the throne of God. One third of the angels, created to worship God alone, went along with his ruse.

What was Lucifer proud of? Let's start with how the bible describes his appearance. Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28. Let's meet the Nachash,

the shining one who approached Eve and Adam with a question that has reverberated throughout human history. "Did God Say?"

Pride manifest in human's the further we get away from thus says the Lord. The foundation for human pride is also the single reason God is jealous. Creation. He as sole creator is mocked each time we move away from his sovereignty toward randomness. He holds the creation in the palms of his hands.

He calms the wind the weather and the soul. His creation is the setting for our purpose. It was created by a loving God for the purpose of discovering his mind. His mind is his love. His Love is who he is not what he does. His Love is his unending mercy leading to his unwavering grace.

Pride should develop as we understand creation from the creator's perspective. That requires we answer Lucifer's question ourselves. "Did God Say?" This requires a loss of religious or non-religious pre-suppositions. Epistemology must become the blueprint, as discovery begins with humility. Evidence beginning with information. Information requires an informant. We begin with what does man actually know? Science based upon evidence alone.

Proven mathematically until it reaches absurdity as true or false. Leaning on the proven methods of communication used by our ancestors on the microcosm. Language, music, art, philosophy will all be considered.

How we got here will be diagrammed and scrutinized.

Pride has harnessed a people born free, to enslave themselves to a system designed to enrich a class of humans eternally, while indoctrinating all other classes to accept their two ideas about life. All the while reminding us how important we look on the outside is.

Pride is at the root of all labeling done by those who govern us. The foundation is Eugenics learned at university. No one takes each other one at a time, you got to be grouped. Grouping always leads to inherent prejudices found in all humans, to manifest in ugly ways.

Creating a well born stock of demigods has gotten us where?

Elevating men and now women to the position of demigod? As if equality was not established by God in his gift of progenitorship to humanity. The ability to copy the human genome takes a male and female. 87% of the human DNA is from the maternal side of the family. 13% from the paternal.

All descended from a common ancestor pair. All with a design feature known as rationale. The ability to understand right and wrong, learned in failure and correction. For the single purpose of being redeemed. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Pride is synonymous with hubris. Humility is the antonym to hubris. One born in the image of God, can-not possess, hubris and humility. Hubris discounts the position we have in God's economy. An economy driven by the ability for an individual to realize we are lost without a connection to our creator.

What if we understood the pride God felt as Jesus Christ stood before his accusers and said nothing? The pride the father felt, as his son elevated women to their rightful position as the greatest gift God ever bestowed

upon humanity. The gift of the matrix, the womb where mercy begins in all our lives.

The pride the father felt as his son learned singlemindedness of humanity by fulfilling God's will for his life. God's will for Jesus was the redemption of you and me. That required the sacrifice of the willing Son of the living God. He left omnipresence to understand the human condition as a man.

He put off immortality to die as one of us. At the hands of those created to teach humanity the entire redemption plan of a God who loves us so much he gave us his one and only Son as a blood sacrifice. The greatest conspiracy ever concocted in eternity's history.

Pride always comes before a fall. I feel as though the next two years will see the predicted apostacy of the modern Church, as most worship the current demigod in the white house more than God. Biblical illiteracy has led to the compromise by men who profess faith in Jesus Christ.

The pride learned in the most prosperous nation in history, has manifest as corporate hubris. Found in both political parties desperately holding on to the power they crave more than they crave the welfare and wellbeing of their constituents.

The well-born stock of our current crop of leaders is pathetic at best. Yet we continue to elect people at the local level who believe in class subjugation and class eugenics. Where one rich class of politicians controls who prospers, which speech is tolerated and who benefits from tax breaks.

In a nation where human sexuality was once reserved for men and women in private, pride now thrust the bedroom into the mainstream, as homosexuals and Transgender's look to indoctrinate our most vulnerable. The Church sits by idly and accepts our fate as the modern Sodom and Gomorrah.

Pride in sexual deviant behavior celebrated by delusional human's, elevated by perverted scientists, advanced by perverse indoctrinators posing as educators, while being protected by government and laws denying the existence of a moral code God wrote in creation.

Male lions don't lie with other male lion's? Male lion's only mate with one strong female for life. The juvenile male lions are kicked out of the pride, to find his own lifetime mate, who has been kicked out of her pride because she is best suited to continue the bloodline of the original pride. Creation proves God's single moral code found in the foundation of the human genome. Where God instituted a creation where one man and one woman would have Godly offspring and spend their life together raising and teaching their children the single plan of God Revolving around the progenitorship found in human procreation. Instituted by God as a gift inside the marriage covenant. I too have miserably failed God. Thank God his son is my mediator. Thank God Jesus Christ ever lives to make intercession for his saints. Thank God for the blood of Gods' lamb.

He was crucified upon a cross of wood, yet he created the hill upon which it stood.

If anyone should have exhibited hubris, rightfully Jesus Christ would get a pass as the risen Son of the living God. Yet dumb like a lamb he chose to open not his mouth. The rightful heir to the throne of God on earth, took on humanity as his tabernacle, to die for you and I.

His final act of mercy on the cross prior to giving up his ghost, was to offer unending mercy to a repentant sinner and condemned man who in three hours will be in the bosom of Abraham. Awaiting the sound of the trumpet as the bride of Christ is summoned home at the rapture.

Humility begins each day anew for me, as I humbly thank God for waking me to have another day in service to the mission and plan of the trinity of creation. I am proud to have summoned the courage to each day submit to scriptural correction and moral chastening as I learn the mind of God.

His mind is found in his two divine attributes. These are who he is, not what he does. Unending mercy and Unwavering Grace. Exodus 34 and Micah 5 teach us the 13 attributes of the unending mercy of God found as his existence. Mercy is who God is, Grace is who God became on Calvary.

He became our love. His love profound yet simple:

A lonely hill, a wooden cross, a cat of nine tails and 40-1 lashes for the healing of the flesh, a crown of thorns, a roman spear, a willing Son, and my shortcomings anchoring him to his eternal destiny of saving me from the space between my own ears, where all separation from God begins.

My pride is in what Jesus Christ alone has done for me: Is doing for me; and one day will do for me the last time, as my glorification in Christ alone is my hope and my prayer. My pride is being overcome by Jesus Christ unending mercy every day.

My solemn prayer is that mercies keys will unlock the door of Grace in the lives of those I love and they will hear the still soft voice of God the father calling them home to receive Jesus Christ as messiah and coming King.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
Even so come Lord Jesus Christ.





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Historically Speaking

Allison Albert Guercio Part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Benita Albert brings us part two of the Historically Speaking series on Allison Albert Guercio, her daughter. I am sure you are anxious to read this conclusion to the series. You will learn about her introduction to oysters and how she is now personally involved in the restoration of oysters in Chesapeake Bay! Enjoy yet another Oak Ridge School's graduate's amazing career and contribution to our world.

It was her grandmother's famous oyster dressing served at Thanksgiving that was Allison Albert's first taste of the shellfish.

Allison, an Oak Ridge High School Class of 2000 graduate, could not have dreamed that decades after leaving Oak Ridge her career would focus on oyster restoration efforts in the Chesapeake Bay. As Director of Marketing and Fundraising for the Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP), a nonprofit dedicated to revitalizing the Bay through oyster restoration, Allison leads efforts to raise awareness, build partnerships, and secure funding to support oyster recovery throughout Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay, the nation's largest estuary, stretches across a 64,000 square-mile watershed touching six states and Washington, D.C. More than 18 million people live within its watershed; and its rivers, marshes, and tidal waters support one of the country's most significant seafood economies as well as tourism, recreation, and countless species of wildlife.

Early explorer Captain John Smith famously described oyster reefs so abundant that they posed navigation hazards, a stark contrast to the environmental decline the Bay would later experience. Over time, pollution, habitat destruction, overharvesting, and rapid development severely damaged the Bay's ecosystem, contributing to dramatic declines in species such as the native oyster.

In response, state and federal agencies, scientists, nonprofits, and local communities launched one of the largest environmental restoration efforts in the United States through coordinated goals advanced by the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Today, organizations such as ORP play a major role in that long-term effort, combining science, public policy, environmental restoration, and community engagement to restore both the oyster population and the health of the Bay itself.

Allison enrolled in the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy where she specialized in Environmental Policy. During her graduate tenure she completed a teaching assistantship and an intern appointment. Allison graduated in 2006 with a master's degree.

Her internship was with the Crownsville (MD) Conservancy where she helped write grants seeking to preserve and restore waterfront land to its natural state. Such conservation work plays an important role in protecting the Chesapeake Bay, as forests, wetlands, and natural shorelines help filter pollution, reduce erosion, and improve water quality before runoff reaches nearby rivers and streams. This work deepened Allison's understanding of watershed conservation and led to an opportunity with the Severn Riverkeeper Program, where she began connecting environmental science with public outreach and nonprofit advocacy.

Rapid population growth along the

Severn River, Maryland's capital river and home to the U.S. Naval Academy, brought increasing environmental strain, including shoreline erosion, polluted runoff, and declining water quality. The Severn, once an active oyster harvesting and seafood-producing waterway connected to the larger Chesapeake economy, reflected many of the same challenges facing Bay tributaries.

Working with the Severn Riverkeeper Program, Allison stepped into a role that blended communication, fundraising, and environmental advocacy. She managed the organization's website, secured donations and sponsorships, and used emerging social media tools to engage the public and expand awareness of local water quality issues affecting both the Severn and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay itself.

At the same time, she gained hands-on, scientific experience through a water quality monitoring initiative aimed at understanding conditions within the river. Partnering with a retired scientist, she helped collect and analyze data on dissolved oxygen levels, an important indicator of ecosystem health. In particular, they identified seasonal "dead zones," areas where low oxygen can stress or kill aquatic life. Through weekly sampling trips and fieldwork, Allison said, "I developed a deeper understanding of how local waterways function, and how the health of tributaries directly affects the health of the Chesapeake Bay."

She continued, "This experience proved formative, combining science, communication, and public engagement in a way that would come to define my career. It also revealed a critical truth: protecting natural resources requires not only sound science, but also the ability to connect people to the issue and build the support needed to drive meaningful change." Those early experiences along the Severn River helped shape the interdisciplinary approach Allison now brings to oyster restoration work in the Chesapeake Bay.

The Great Recession of 2008 heavily impacted environmental funding, so much so that it became necessary for Allison to launch a job search. She was hired by the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations (MANO), the state's nonprofit trade association, and spent a decade supporting many worthy organizations in multiple membership and marketing roles.

The experience broadened her understanding of nonprofit management, fundraising, and relationship-building, skills that would later prove invaluable in her work with ORP.

The broad network of nonprofit organizations Allison encountered through MANO ultimately led her back to her passion for environmental work. In 2019 she joined ORP, accepting position that combined her experience in nonprofit management, communications, fundraising, and public engagement with her longstanding interest in environmental conservation. Allison said, "This job introduced me, a previously landlocked Tennessean, to the nuanced culture, economy, and ecology of the Chesapeake Bay and to one of its most iconic



Allison & Jesse Guercio

inhabitants, the eastern oyster."

Allison describes her role at ORP as both strategic and hands-on, leading the organization's marketing, communications, public education, and fundraising efforts. She develops and oversees individual and corporate giving strategies; manages a full calendar of more than 60 annual events; directs digital outreach across web, social media platforms, and email; and represents ORP in media appearances and public forums. In each of these roles, she helps translate science into action, connecting communities, restaurants, donors, volunteers, and partners to the restoration effort while building the visibility and financial support necessary to sustain oyster restoration at scale.

I asked Allison to educate her hometown of Oak Ridge readers on the restoration process. She wrote, "ORP's restoration work is a highly coordinated, industrial-scale effort involving scientists, watermen, nonprofit organizations, and state and federal agencies. Shells are collected through a regional recycling network of restaurants and public drop sites, then transported to the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's Horn Point Laboratory where the shells are cleaned and set with hatchery-produced oyster larvae.

Once attached and growing, the 'spat-on-shell' is transported by ORP and planted onto carefully selected reef sites throughout the Chesapeake Bay in coordination with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and NOAA-supported restoration efforts. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also plays a critical role by constructing and restoring reef bases, providing the stable foundation oysters need to survive and grow. The process requires precise timing, technical expertise, and long-term collaboration across many partners."

The results are increasingly evident. Since its inception, ORP and its partners have helped restore more than 3,000 acres of oyster reefs and planted over 14 billion oysters in the Bay. This includes the successful completion of five oyster sanctuaries outlined in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. The decade-long project is one of the most widely celebrated restoration achievements under the Agreement.

- Continued on Page 21

Historically Speaking

Allison Albert Guercio Part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Recent data from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources show oyster reproduction at nearly six times the long-term average, with the 2025 population reaching one of the highest levels recorded in more than four decades. A statewide assessment estimates there are more than 12 billion oysters in Maryland waters, with continued growth, low disease rates, and improving habitat conditions. A key driver for the state’s fishing industry, oysters are second only to crabbing in dockside value. Oyster harvesting has brought in an average of more than \$18 million annually over the past five years.

As reefs are restored, their benefits extend beyond oyster populations alone. They provide habitat for hundreds of species, improve water quality through natural filtration, help protect shorelines from erosion, and support the region’s seafood industry and working waterfront communities. Together, these indicators point to a meaningful and measurable recovery of a species once thought to be in irreversible decline, and to the power of sustained collaboration, public support, and science-based restoration.

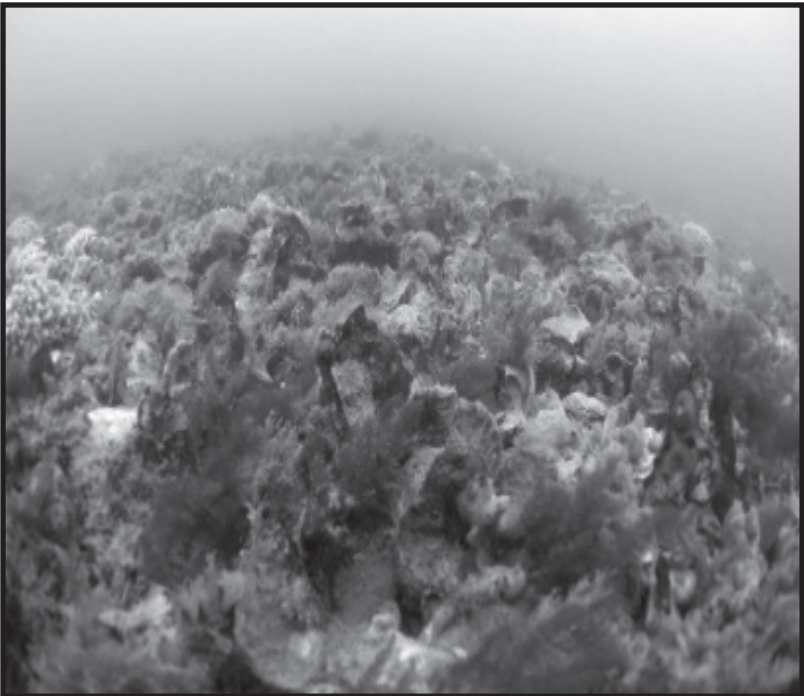
In Allison’s spare time, she loves hiking and camping with her husband, Jesse Guercio, who is a health services administrator. They share a love of the outdoors and have enjoyed numerous national and state park visits across the USA. She aspires to becoming a thru-hiker and tackling many of the country’s most challenging trails. Of course, Allison continues her passion for rescued animals, rearing two cats and a dog of her own, plus fostering and personally placing many other animals in forever homes.

As I always do in my ORHS alumni interviews, I asked Allison what advice she would give to students considering an environmental science career. She answered, “My inspiration is Jane Goodall who said, ‘You have it in your power to make a difference.’ Follow your passion; pursue your natural talents; and most importantly, don’t lose hope, and give it your best. This shaped my path.”

In many ways, that mindset has guided Allison from the beginning, from a determined child willing to write to the White House in pur-



Boat planting oysters. Caption: “ORP has restored more than 3,000 acres of oyster reefs and planted over 14 billion oysters in the Chesapeake Bay.”



Underwater photo of oyster reef. Caption: “Oyster reefs provide habitat for hundreds of species, improve water quality through natural filtration, and support the region’s seafood industry and working waterfront communities.”

suit of a goal, to a professional helping to restore one of the nation’s most important ecosystems. Her work reflects not only a deep care for the natural world, but also a willingness to take initiative, build relationships, and persist in the face of complex challenges, qualities that continue to define her path today.

For more information about ORP’s restoration work, visit www.oysterrecovery.org

Thank you, Benita, for the amazing story of your daughter. I am so proud you chose to include her in the series of significant accomplishments of Oak Ridge Schools’ graduates.



1 Corinthians Chapter 16



Melvin Howard

The following instructions illustrate a specialized situation that conforms to a general pattern for church finances. A contribution was to be made by each income-producing Christian “every” first day of the week (Greek text) when the church assembled for worship (Acts 20:7). The contribution was to be deposited in the “church treasury” (Macknight), not “at home”, as some suggest---which would defeat the apostle’s plan. The gift was to be proportional to one’s prosperity (Acts 11:29). The gift for the Jerusalem Christians was to be ready when Paul arrived so that he would not be required to go from home to home. The church was to select messengers to accompany the gift to Jerusalem, whom Paul would authenticate with letters of endorsement. He hoped he might even be able to accompany them (which eventually he did).

(Cor. 16:5-9) Proposed travel plans: Since Paul had a trip planned that would take him through Macedonia (north of Corinth), he would plan on passing on through that region and come to Corinth in Achaia. He perceived it possible that he might remain with them for a while, perhaps even for the winter. Maybe they would help him go onward to other points worthy of mission work. He did not want to drop in for a mere quick visit. He would rather come when he could stay for a while. All of this, of course, would be subject to the Lord’s will. Paul believed in providence. In the meantime, he would remain in Ephesus (a week’s trip across the Aegean Sea) until Pentecost (late May to early June). He was having great success there; a great “door” of opportunity had been opened, and remained so (verbal tense) (Acts 19:20), even though there were many adversaries as well (Acts 19:23).

(1 Cor. 16:10-12) Concerning Timothy and Apollos: Timothy had been sent into Macedonia earlier (Acts 19:22), and Paul was not sure whether the young evangelist would make it to Corinth or not. If he arrived, however, they were to receive him graciously and not put him under undue critical pressure. If they were rude to Paul (2 Cor. 10:10), they certainly might be to Timothy as well. They were charged not to “despise” him, treat him in a harsh or crude fashion. Instead, they were to assist him on his journey to rejoin Paul, who was waiting for him.

Apollos had been instructed more accurately in the way of the Lord by Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus, before Paul arrived there (Acts 18:24-26), and subsequently he had gone to Corinth. For some reason he left them, and now was back in Ephesus. Apparently the Corinthian brethren wanted him to return, and Paul shared that disposition. Apollos, however, did not wish to return at this time, the reason not being specified, but they were assured he would come when opportunity prevailed.

(1 Cor. 16:13-24) Admonitions and personal data: The Corinthian brethren were thus encouraged to: (a) be on the lookout, like a soldier on guard; (b) stand fast, not intimidated by adversaries; (c) act in the manner of brave men; (d) remain strong.

Each of the verbs implies constant vigilance. These actions, however, were to be implemented with loving concern for others (13:1). Mention is made of the household of Stephanas, some of the earliest converts of Achaia

(whom apparently Paul personally had immersed) (1:16). They had “set themselves” (apparently with personal initiative) to minister to their fellow Christians, and others were to yield to their leadership (v. 15). This strongly negates the common claim that the term “household” included infants and that the earlier reference (1:16) is a proof text for infant baptism. Infants are not believers, have no sins to repent of, and cannot confess Jesus to be the Son of God. When Christians vigorously give themselves to helping one another in the Lord’s work, unity is bound to prevail (v. 16).

Ezekiel 18:4 “Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”

Ezekiel 18:19-20 “Yet say ye, Why? doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, and hath kept all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live. The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

1 John 3:4 “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

Matthew 18:3-4 “And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Little children are safe, are not born in sin. Those who teach that babies are born in sin are the ones who are transgressing the law of God.

Paul had been encouraged by the arrival of three men from Corinth who helped to satisfy the longing he had for the whole church. They probably reported further on the problems there and perhaps conveyed the church’s questions (1:11; 7:1). These brothers had refreshed Paul’s spirit, just as they had those of their home church. They were to be recognized for their encouragement. Paul sends greetings from other congregations in Asia (Rev. 1:11). Aquila and Prisca (Priscilla), along with a group that assembled in their house, also conveyed salutations. The factious Corinthians were encouraged to “salute one another” with a “holy kiss” (Rom. 16:16), or a “kiss of love” (1 Pet. 5:14).

Paul sometimes dictated his letters to a secretary (as in this case (Rom. 16:22), but he would authenticate it at the end with his own signature (v.21). He concludes with a strong warning. If anyone does not love the Lord let him be “anathema,” devoted to divine destruction; be rewarded consistent with sacred justice. He then uses an Aramaic expression, “Maranatha”, which probably signifies, “Lord, come!” This may constitute a request for judgment upon Christ’s adversaries at the appropriate time (v. 22; Lk. 18:7-8). He petitions that Christ’s grace (favor) would abide with them, and he assures them of his love for them in Christ. So be it (v.23-24)!

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