

Deaths And Funerals

Mary Brown
Mary Elizabeth “Lizzie” Curry Brown, 102, of Sturgis died on Monday, September 22 at her residence.

She was born September 15, 1923 to the late Savannah Daxter and Betty Young in Union County.

She was a member of Sturgis First Baptist Church. She enjoyed golfing, playing cards, and bowling.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her first husband, K. W. Curry; her second husband, Billy Joe Brown; a son, John Curry; four sisters; and six brothers.

She is survived by her daughter, Barbara Curry Davis and husband, Mike of Waverly; six grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral service will be held Friday, September 26, 1:00 P.M. at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis with the Rev. Ken Grant officiating.

Visitation will be 10:00 A.M. to service time at the funeral home.

Burial will be in Pythian Ridge Cemetery in Sturgis.

Memorial contributions can be made to Pythian Ridge Cemetery, P.O. Box 305, Sturgis, KY 42459.

Tom Hite
Tom W. Hite, 72, of Morganfield died on Saturday, September 13 at his home.

He was born May 16, 1953 in Morganfield to Bom and Jane Hite.

He was a graduate of Union County High School and attended Murray State University. He had worked at Earle C. Clements Job Corps Academy, Hite’s Imperial Printing, and Wal-Mart.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Jane Riddle Hite.

Survivors include his father, Bom W. Hite of Morganfield; a daughter, Heather Jayne Lewis of Richmond, Kentucky; two grandchildren; and a son-in-law.

Funeral service was held on Friday, September 19 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield.

Burial was in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Morganfield.

Memorial contributions can be made to Odd Fellows Cemetery, P.O. Box 231, Morganfield, KY 42437.

Fred Ricketson
Fred Ricketson, 51, died on Sunday, September 14 at Deaconess Henderson Hospital in Henderson, Kentucky.

He was born August 23, 1974 in Henderson to Thomas and Mina Ricketson.

He graduated from high school in Mt. Carmel, Illinois and worked in construction.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Mina Feldman Ricketson; two grandmothers, Lana Mae Ricketson and Gladys Byrns; and a brother, Ribert Lee Ricketson.

He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Katrina Barnett Ricketson of Sturgis; two sons, Myron Ricketson (Calli) of Henderson and Christian Ricketson (Allysa) of Henderson; two daughters, Tamara Barnett (Allen) of Sturgis and Madison Barnett (Micah) of Sturgis; his father, Thomas Ricketson (Deana) of Sturgis; his siblings, Alicia Halterman (Jason), Nancy Ricketson, Carol Shelton (Brian), David Buchanan (Phyllis), Joey Buchanan (Delisa), and Daniel Corbett; six grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held on Monday, September 22 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis with Bro. Billy McKendree officiating.

Burial was in Sullivan Community Cemetery in Sullivan.

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James Stone
James “Stoney” Stone, 77, of Sturgis died on Monday, September 15 at the Select Specialty Hospital in Evansville, Indiana.

He was born August 17, 1948 to the late Jack and Lillian Foster Stone in Union County.

He was a member of the UMWA and retired after 29 years with Peabody Coal Company. He was a former member of the Sturgis Volunteer Fire Department and worked part-time for the Sturgis Police Department.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a half-brother, Charles L. Stone and a half-sister, Martha Adamson.

He is survived by nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Funeral service was held on Friday, September 19 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Sturgis with Bro. Jeff Paris officiating.

Burial was in Pythian Ridge Cemetery in Sturgis.

Charles Norris
Charles Ray Norris, 49, of Uniontown died on Tuesday, September 16.

He worked for several years in the coal mining industry. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, story telling, and spending time with family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Billy Ray Norris; his step father, Craig Preston; and his mother, Yvonne “Sissy” Preston.

He is survived by a son, William (Savannah Dalton) Norris of Sturgis; a sister, Carisa (Larry) Coker of Uniontown; his significant other, Allison Stevenson of Uniontown; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral service was held on Thursday, September 18 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield with the Rev. Tim Shockley officiating.

Burial was in Uniontown City Cemetery.

Isaac Decker
Isaac Decker, 33, of Sturgis died on Tuesday, September 9 at his home.

He was born July 13, 1993 in Henderson, Kentucky to Calvin Decker, Jr. and Carolyn Decker.

He was a graduate of Union County High School and was employed at Liberty Tire in Sturgis.

James Sales

James “Jim” Manuel Sales, 94 of Union County, Kentucky, passed away peacefully in his home on September 16, 2025. Born on December 14 1930.

A man of bold character, Jim lived a life defined by hard work, determination, and an unwavering commitment to those around him. His unshuffled spirit influenced countless lives, leaving a legacy of resilience and dedication that will endure through four generations of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Born in Union County’s Grangertown on One Eyed Ridge, to his parents Kirby and Erine Newman Sales. Jim spent his boyhood immersed in the rural heart of Kentucky. As a teenager, he moved to Ohio, where he graduated from Brown County High School. In 1949, Jim answered the call to serve his country, enlisting in the U.S. Army and fighting in the Korean War with the 1st Cavalry Division, 7th Cavalry Regiment. Wounded in service, he was honored with a Purple Heart and returned home in 1952 with a deepened sense of duty.

Jim built a career as a machinist, beginning with Aeroproducts division of General Motors, where he honed his skills through their training program. He later dedicated 32 years to Hobart Corporation, as a machinist working night shift. By day, he poured his energy into raising hogs and row crop farming, along side his beloved late wife of 51 years, Patsy.

Upon retiring, Jim and Patsy returned to Kentucky, settling on a small farm in Pride, of Union County. There, he found joy in trail riding and training horses, a passion that defined his later years.

Jim was happiest surrounded by his grandchildren, who brought him endless pride and joy. He will be remembered for his steady presence, his devotion to hard work, and his love for the people and land that shaped his life.

Graveside service was held on Saturday September 20, 2025 at the PrideBordley Cemetery in Pride. Rev Ken Grant officiated.

Burial was in Pride-Bordley Cemetery.

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played at Liberty Tire in Sturgis. He enjoyed music, dancing, and being with his children and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his children, Ava Monique Decker, Ilijah Emmanuel Decker, and Azayla Maxine Decker, all of Sturgis; a sister, LaKeicha K. Decker of Raleigh, North Carolina; two brothers, Calvin E. Decker, II of Jacksonville, North Carolina and Antonio E. Stonebreaker of Lafayette, Indiana; and aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral service was held on Saturday, September 20 at Carr’s Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Morganfield. The Rev. Fonnier Burkins officiated.

Burial was in Odd Fellows Cemetery in Morganfield.

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Between You and Me x 2

By Monty Carter

Hope-Filled
“For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

If you told me that I could only have a Bible with one chapter, it would be the eighth chapter of the book of Romans. In my opinion, it is the seminal message of the Apostle Paul’s mission, ministry, and letters. Verses 35-39 have always been part of my “go-to” promises of Scripture. However, the verses above (24-25) are hitting me between the eyes and in the heart these days.

I believe these days may be the greatest opportunity Christ-followers have ever had to share the Gospel with non-Christians. Everyone needs hope. And I’m not talking about hope in earthly things that will pass. I’m talking about eternal hope. False hope is built on bank accounts, real estate, investments, position, reputation, popularity, and success. It is not stable or permanent. It can disappear with the blink of an eye. False hope is delusional and dangerous. When human hope (even with the best of intentions) is rooted and reliant upon the accomplishments of humanity, it will not last. Why?

Because we are ALL flawed, there are no perfect humans. Paul explains why in Romans 8- “For the mind that is set on the flesh (human things) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” (8:7-8) Then why are we chasing it? Even Christians get caught up in the pursuit. This is why we must weigh every single decision and every opinion we hold against the word of God. The Bible is our litmus test. Think about it. Do my decisions, opinions, and beliefs hold up against these words?

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (Gal. 5:22-23)

Early in Romans 8, Paul contrasts living in the Spirit of God versus living in the flesh. The attributes I just cited in Gal. 5:22-23 are evidence of a life rooted in the things of God. Is it hard, challenging, exhausting at times, and difficult? Absolutely! Human nature runs counter to each

of them. We are incapable of living out these characteristics without the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. And this is the basis of eternal hope.

If I’m being honest, I have to admit that I am not finding much hope in our world these days. People are anxious about the cost of living, personal safety, healthcare, education, infrastructure, weather, their loved ones, and so many other things. One woman/man, a business, a government, or an organization cannot provide eternal hope. Their ideas, solutions, and words fall flat against the eternal reality that Jesus Christ has already solved human hopelessness through His sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection.

Hope in Christ is absolutely counter-culture and revolutionary. It is unseen. Humans don’t like the unknown. We need to be in control. We believe in things we can see, touch, hear, and feel. The unknown is scary, unpredictable, and often unworthy of our trust. And hope is built on trust.

This is why Paul boasts about the hope we have in Christ. He knew it to be true because he personally experienced the life-changing transformation through the Spirit of God. I believe the world has yet to see what would happen if the church (small “c”), and Christ-followers seriously pursued eternal hope to the degree with which the Apostle Paul describes. I know I haven’t. Yes, I’ve made great strides, but I need to improve my effort to rest daily, minute by minute, in this promise. I sense that if we are all being totally transparent, we haven’t either.

Notice the last six words from Paul in 8:25- “We wait for it with patience.” I know I can be impatient at times. I’m much better with patience today than I was in my 20s-40s. Yes, I’ve still got a long way to go and much room for improvement. But now the icing on the cake. IF we cling to this eternal promise, we already have the patience it requires. It’s the fourth gift of the Spirit that all believers have according to Galatians 5:22 above! LOL, we already have the tools necessary for holding on to the eternal hope of Christ!

Patiently Waiting with You,
Monty
“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Union County Fiscal Court is accepting applications for a full-time employee at our Animal Control Facility.

This is a full-time position with benefits, including health insurance, retirement, and vacation.

Applications can be picked up and turned in at the Union County Judge/Executive’s Office, located at 100 W. Main St., Morganfield, KY 42437, or on the County’s website at www.unioncountkyky.org. Applications will be accepted until October 3, 2025.

The Union County Fiscal Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer: All applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

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