Grandmothers Survive Ebbs, Flows Of Smartness

By Becky Greenwell
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I discovered early on that becoming a grandmother has its rewards. My discovery started on day one.

The first moment I met the first child who was going to call me Mackey, my heart grew bigger as he slipped right into my life. With the second, the third and all the way to the 11th one I couldn't believe the amount of love my heart held. Oh, and great-grandchildren... what more can I say. That love is never ending and everlasting.

As they grew up and showed me so much of their personalities, their wonder, and awe with life, it would take my breath away. Each of my four children did the same thing. I knew it then, but with my grandchildren it was a different experience.

One of the greatest pleasures with my grandchildren was that they gave me my wisdom back. They helped me rediscover a forgotten world.

It wasn't any time at all that it came back. My children probably didn't appreciate all my wisdom as I started spewing advice all over the place. I told them how to fix baby bottles, the perfect way to diaper a squirming child, I taught them how to diagnose them when they sniffled, how to keep them warm, and how to tell the difference in their cries.

It gave me confidence knowing I was still the smartest mom in the world. It didn't take me long though to understand that I didn't need to be the smartest mom anymore and hand out advice when it wasn't asked for. I quietly stepped back and let them become the smartest parents.

When my grandchildren became toddlers and learned to walk and talk and became more independent, they gave me my second chance. They absorbed the information I gave them and they loved it.

I went from being the dumbest woman in the world to the smartest. Now that is not to say I have always been dumb. When my four children were young, I was smart.

I could enlighten them on why the sky was blue, how Santa Claus could get through locked doors without a key or a chimney, and how the tooth fairy knew when a special tooth was placed under a pillow. I could also see through closed doors, and I knew who the instigator was in the back seat of the car without ever turning around.

Around the time when I could still detect some of what my children were doing when they weren't home was when all the magic started to fade. It was then I was losing my powers.

I couldn't fathom how my children could be gone for most of the day and night or talk on the phone for hours and do it all with "nobody" and be doing "nothing." That was magic on their parts.

As the teenagers grew out of their teens, I got some of my smarts back. I started to know just a little something again. They would even call and ask me questions.

With my grandchildren though, I had become absolutely amazing.

I could open a package of square-shaped frozen dough cookies, put them on a cookie sheet and turn them into circle cookies. My three-year-old grandson was fascinated with that trick.

I could look at the sky and say it was going to rain, and it would. I could take a plain piece of newspaper and with a few folds turn it into a sailboat or a three-cornered hat. I could answer tough questions and find stuff to turn little boys into superheroes. I was the smartest grandmother; they told me so.

Times spent with "Mackey" was special; especially when everyone else is away or asleep. My seven-year-old grandson wanted to know if I remembered how to color. But we had to do it the way his mom taught him. You must pick up everything off the living room floor, dump the colors in the middle, lie on our stomachs, and each take a side of the book and color really slow to stay in the lines.

I did and thought I was still smart. I made straight color lines within the borders. Then after close examination I was told I wasn't coloring just right. His mother had told him that to stay in the lines you have to color in circles.

"See, like this. That is why I'm inside the lines and you went outside the lines on that part."

Well, darn. Just when I thought I was getting into my "older and wiser" years I discovered I was sliding back into my not so smart years again.

I believe it was just a small setback because I did find out my finished picture was nice and it was a fun night. He still thought his mom was the smartest because she taught him how to color inside the lines.

I was thinking to myself, give her a few more years and she won't know what colors and coloring books are. She won't even be able to figure out how boys are out doing nothing with nobody.

As for this grandmother, I think I still have a few smarts for my grown grandchildren but wait till those three little great grands come around. I will be right back on the top rung of the smartness ladder.

Deaths And Funerals

Christopher Thomas

Christopher Lee "Chris" Thomas, 62, of Morganfield died on Saturday, November 14 at his home.

Chris enjoyed RC



cars, spending time in his workshop, and maintaining his priced Can-Am side-by-side.

He was a devoted family man who enjoyed being with his family.

Chris was a longtime employee of Huff Technologies.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bernard Thomas, Jr. and Coletta and H. T. Shouse; a brother, Mark Thomas, and his grandparents.

Chris is survived by his wife of 42 years, Melinda Thomas; his sons, Johnathan Bugler and Brayden Thomas-Haynes; his siblings, Terilyn Thomas Sellers and husband, Tony, Joanna Thomas Bingham and husband, Tommy, Bill Shouse, Todd Thomas ans wife, Hien, Jeff Thomas (Deane Scott), and Brian Thomas; a bonus mother, and nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends.

Funeral services will be held today (Wednesday, November 18), 6:00 P.M. at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield with the Rev. David L. Clifford and Darrell Huff officiating.

Friends and family may visit from 3:00 P.M. until service time on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions can be made to Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, 4424 Vogel Road, Suite 205, Evansville, IN 47715; New Home Animal Rescue Center, 526 Atkinson Street, Henderson, KY 42420; or Union County Cause for Paws, 908 Sandy Lane, P.O. Box 60, Morganfield, KY 42437.

Dorothy Cruse

Dorothy Maer Cruse, 86, of Morganfield died on Tuesday, November 10 at her daughter's home in Morganfield.

She was born October 19, 1940 to the late



Ethel Haynes and Early Nichols, Sr. in Quitman County, Mississippi.

Dorothy was a member of St. Agnes Church in Uniontown. She retired from Morganfield Nursing Home as a laundry attendance, and she and her husband were the owners of Sam and Dorothy's BBQ in Union town.

She was an avid bingo player and looked forward to spending time with her friends.

In addition to her parents, Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband, Samuel E. Cruise; daughters, Gwendolyn D. Cruise and Henrietta Edwards; step-daughters, Mary Cruse Bishop, Nina K. Black, and Peggy Hughes; a sister, Sallie T. Shaw; brothers, Geroge Nichols and Homer Lee Nichols; five sisters-in-law; a brother-in-law; and a special friend.

She is survived by five brothers, Early (Laverne) Nichols, Jr., Rufus Nichols, James Nichols, Esker Lee Nichols, and Nathaniel Nichols; two sons, Michael (Helena) Nichols of Merrillville, Indiana and Frederick Nichols of Morganfield; three daughters, Deborah (Leroy) Batson of Henderson, Kentucky Naomi (Richard Jr.) Allen of Morganfield, and Sammie Cruse Anderson of Louisville, Kentucky; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and great-great-great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

Funeral was Tuesday, November 17 at St. Agnes Catholic Church with Fr. Dave Johnson officiating.

Burial was in St. Agnes Cemetery in Union-

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PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY
UNION COUNTY EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 324, Title III of the 1986 Federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, 42 U.S.C. 11001 et seq., the following information is provided in compliance with the Community Right-to-Know requirements of the SARA Law, and the open meetings and open records provisions of KRS 61.800, 61.805, 61.810, 61.823, 61.826, and 61.835. Members of the public may contact the Union County Emergency Planning Committee by writing Sean Sheffer, Chairman of the Union County Emergency Planning Committee, 510 South Mart Street, PO Box 1, Morganfield, Kentucky 42437, or contacted by telephone at (270) 389-2093. The Union County Emergency Planning Committee conducts meetings in accordance with the Kentucky Open Meetings Law. Members of the public may request to be notified of regular or special meetings as provided in KRS 61.820. Records of the Planning Committee, including the county emergency response plan, material safety data sheets, and inventory forms, or any follow-up emergency notices as may subsequently be issued, are open for inspection, and members of the public who wish to review these records may do so between 8 am and 4 pm CST, Monday – Friday at 510 South Mart Street, Morganfield, as required by the Kentucky Open Records Law. The local 24-hour telephone number for purposes of emergency notification, as required by the SARA Law, is (270) 389-4357.

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

Union County Water District is accepting sealed bids for the following items through Tuesday, November 24, 2026, at 4:00 pm, for the following:

TRACTOR
- 45-60 HP Compact Tractor
- Front Loader
- Rear Blade
- Pallet Forks
- Backhoe
- Hydraulic Thumb
- Quick Attach Bucket

DUMP TRUCK
- 2026/2027 Heavy Duty Work Truck
- Regular Cab
- 1 Ton
- Automatic Transmission
- 4 Wheel Drive
- Gas
- 9' Dump Bed

For questions regarding specifications please contact Gary Sheffer at 270-389-3868 or by email at: ucwdgarysheffer@yahoo.com.

Sealed bids may be submitted as follows:
- In Person
  409 North Court St.
  Morganfield, KY 42437
- By Mail:
  Union County Water District
  c/o SEALED BID
  P.O. Box 146
  Morganfield, KY 42437

Support The Businesses Of Union County By Shopping Locally

UNION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING AND PUBLIC FORUM

The Union County Schools' Local Planning Committee (LPC) will conduct a PUBLIC MEETING on December 7, 2026, at 5:30 PM CST at the Union County Board of Education Central Office located at 4500 US Highway 60W, Morganfield, Kentucky 42437. A Public Forum for public comment will follow this meeting at approximately 6:00 pm. This is the second of a series of meetings and public forums to develop a District Facilities Plan for Union County Schools. The district's fiscal agent will discuss the financial status of the Union County Schools. The district's architect will present a draft District Facility Plan and the committee will be given the opportunity to discuss and make any desired changes. It will then be presented to the group for their approval. This meeting and future meetings will be informal gatherings to encourage local participation through community suggestions relative to future utilization of existing school facilities and construction of new school facilities. These community suggestions or recommendations will be closely monitored by the Local Planning Committee in the development of a proposed District Facility Plan for the Union County School District.

For additional information contact Dr. Terra Hancock, Superintendent of the Union County Schools, 4500 US Highway 60W, Morganfield, Ky, 42437 at 270-389-1694.

The public is welcome and invited to this series of meetings and public forums.