

OBITUARIES

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Monday, July 27, 2020

Freeda Marie Lucas, 91

Freeda Marie Lucas, age 91, passed away Monday, July 27, 2020 at the Parkview Nursing and Rehab Center in Pikeville, Kentucky.

She was born on January 28, 1929 to her parents the late John Sergent and Norma Mullins Sergent. She was the wife of the late John L. Lucas, a retired school teacher for Letcher County Schools, and a member of White Shrine Neon Chapter. Freeda was a member of Pikeville First Baptist Church and was prior a member of Haymond Free-will Baptist for 47 years.

Along with her husband and parents, Freeda was preceded in death by one son, Timothy Alan Lucas; two brothers, Claude and Danny Sergent; and two sisters, Jeanie Coots and Shirley Fellure.

Freeda is survived by one daughter, Sharon Brewer (Steve) of Irvine; one son, Phillip Lucas (Susan); two brothers, John Ed Sergent and William Sergent; two



Freeda Marie Lucas

sisters, Mary Francis Fairchild and Laura Jane Vanderheyden; four grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and a host of loving family and friends.

Visitation was held on Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at the Lucas & Son Funeral Home in Pikeville. The funeral was held following at 12:00 Noon at the funeral home with John Lucas officiating. Burial followed in the Lucas Cemetery at Shelby Gap.

<LucasandSonfh.com>

Saturday, July 25, 2020

Donald Norton Sr., 52

Donald Norton Sr., age 52, of Red Lick Road in Irvine, Kentucky, passed away Saturday, July 25, 2020, at the Baptist Health Hospital in Lexington, following a short illness.

He was born February 10, 1968 in Estill County and was the son of Christine Kirby and the late Bill Norton. He was an employee of Bluegrass Plating and had lived in Estill County all his life.

Survivors, in addition to his mother include his wife, Melissa Pearl Hines Norton; three daughters: Amanda Wireman (Brad), Madison County; Kaylee Powell-Norton, and Kayla Hines (Holden), both of Estill County; two sons: Donald Norton Jr.

(Jennifer), Madison County; and Chris Norton (Ashley), Estill County; five grandchildren, and a special nephew, Elijah Murphy, Estill County.

Friends called between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Thursday, July 30, 2020 at the Warren F. Toler Funeral Home. Private graveside services were conducted afterwards at the Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Pallbearers were Bradley Wireman, Holden Hardy, Terry Melton, Marvin Hunt, Wade Barger, and Phillip Kirby.

Honorary pallbearers were Elijah Murphy, Keighley Wireman and Lian Norton.

<TolerFuneralHome.com>

Library Happenings

Estill Public Library

by Shannon Horn

Well, it is official. Summer Reading has come to an end. It is so strange to be saying that because I feel like we just started. I was so concerned at the beginning of this summer. I just knew it was going to be awful. There would be no in-person programs, so how could we possibly have a good turn out? I was proven wrong though. We have had an amazing summer and I'm so thankful for all of the people that have been a part of making this summer great.

In the past, the library has asked local businesses to make donations for the summer reading programs. Without these donations it would be difficult to provide a lot of the prizes and extras for the kids. This year however, we decided that our local businesses would be given a break. COVID-19 has put a strain on us all, but the small businesses across the country have taken a hit and we didn't want to put anything else on our local business friends. We would like to say a big thank you to all of you who have been there to help us in the past, and we hope that we can work together again in the future.

While Summer Reading was not "normal" this summer, we were still able to pull off a pretty fun summer. I was lucky to find a group called Page Turner Adventures. This company provided 10 weeks' worth of programming. That was a big help to us since we wouldn't be able to bring in some of the programs that everyone is so used to seeing. I think my favorite programs are the ones that we were able to provide with some of our local friends.

I was so lucky to have several people come in and do a Guest Storytime for me once a week. These were some of my most watched videos that I put out. So I would like to thank Joe Crawford, Chris Shouse, Tony Horn, Shonna Ballard and Jessica Mullins for doing that.

One of my favorite things that I got to do this summer, was sitting down and talking to Geno Seale about one of his songs. This was right at the beginning of summer, and I honestly felt like I hadn't spoken to people outside of my family in months. That whole quarantine time was rough on me, because I like to talk. Geno's interview was honestly one of the most fun things I've gotten to do. So thank you to Geno for sitting down with me and allowing me to get some words out. They'd been bottled up after all that time away from folks. That interview has also inspired me to do some more, so keep an eye out for some more of those.

Last summer I was only able to attend one Pick-in' in the Park concert. This year I started helping out with them a bit more and it is a lot of fun. Virtual concerts are a bit weird, but they were so good and the turnout was amazing! So I want to give a shout out to our awesome performers! Thanks to Eddies Hughes, Kevin Shearer, Josh Richardson, Aaron Boyd, James Reed, Michael Stallings, Troy Estes, Robert Overbee, Hancock & Shouse, Senora May, Clay Case, and The Jenkins Twins. We are so blessed to have such amazing local talent. Thank you to you all.

We have also had some fun programs throughout the summer that we would have had during a normal summer program, but we had to change them up to fit our virtual programs. So I would like to give a thank you to Sandy Savage, Nelle Williams, the Historical Society, Christina Kaye, Beth Williams and Smokey the Bear! I would also like to give a shout out to the Hippy Hutt for providing us with free shaved ice tokens to give away as prizes! The kids have loved that.

We have had an amazing summer, but we aren't going to stop. We plan on providing programs for you and our other services as well. Everyone at the library understands that life right now is tough and we are going to do our best to make life easy. So keep an eye out. We will be putting out information on our Facebook page and our other social media outlets. We'll make it through this.



America's Heartland Roger Alford

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Wanting to build the self-esteem of her students, a teacher told her class: "Anyone who thinks he's stupid, stand up."

Nobody stood up. "I'm sure there are some stupid ones over on this side of the class. If you think you're stupid stand up."

Bubba Junior stood up. "Oh, Bubba Junior, you think you're stupid?" the teacher asked with compassion in her

You've got to stand for something or you'll fall for anything

voice. "No," Bubba Junior said. "I just felt bad that you're the only one standing."

Did you know the Bible instructs us to stand?

We're to stand for the faith, according to 1 Corinthians 16:13. We're to stand against the schemes of the devil, according to Ephesians 6:11.

We're to stand firm on our Christian teachings, according to 2 Thessalonians 2:15

We're to stand up side by side with other believers for the Gospel, according to Philippians 1:27

We're to stand firm for the freedom we have in Christ, according to Galatians 5:1.

I always appreciated the song lyric that says you've got to stand for something or you'll fall for anything.

Through the centuries, Christians have been standing up

for God. Many have paid the ultimate price as a result. They have been beheaded. They have been burned at the stake. They have been boiled in oil. They have been crucified. They have been stoned. They have been sawed in half. They have been run through with swords. Why? Because they took a stand for God and refused to back down.

Some people might argue those martyrs were stupid for standing, that if they'd simply kept their seat and kept silent, they wouldn't have been killed. But to them, the Gospel was far too important to sit idly by while lost people without Christ.

But those martyrs weren't stupid. The stupid ones would be those who refuse to stand up for the Lord.

Roger Alford is pastor of South Fork Baptist Church. Reach him at 502-514-6857 or rogeralford1@gmail.com.

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

ROMANS 14:9



Detail of "Christ Recumbent Below the Cross" by Hans Holbein the Younger (ca. 1520)

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Is He Our Oldest Living Graduate?

(Reprinted from the Irvine High School Alumni "Commentator" in 2011 - Courtesy of Tom Bonny)

"Mom, can't you take me to school this morning? That old bus is crowded, and slow. None of the cool kids ride the bus."

Maybe you have heard such whining, and next time, you might point out that the "old, slow" and decidedly uncool bus would have looked pretty good to Buford Alcorn, the oldest living alumnus of Irvine High School. (We're going to take Buford's word on that—he's 101, he graduated in 1933 and he isn't aware of any living classmate or anyone still living who graduated from IHS before '33.)

Buford, who grew up on Dry Ridge, which connects (on both ends) to Winchester Road in northwestern Estill County, explained, "I walked the railroad, as that was the best way in the wintertime when the roads were so muddy. It was exactly five miles."

Buford, while sitting in his living room in Wisemantown on a fine spring day earlier this year, explained why someone who lived out in the county would attend the city school. Only one high school existed in the county, he pointed out, and the county and city took four-year turns running that school.

Buford began his education in 1920, going the first seven years to Witt School, once sited directly across from the present-day middle school. When Buford began the eighth grade, the teacher told he and Tom Puckett, the only other 8th-grader, that she didn't want them there. Buford, however, wanted to

continue, so he walked on to the one-room schoolhouse located at Stump for his eighth-grade year. Buford went back to Witt School the next year, took a test, which he passed, and no more elementary schooling was required (as I said, a simpler time).

"I never regretted it," says Buford, "The teacher at the Stump School was a good teacher, and I learned a lot."

"Our elementary school years, mainly due to poor roads, were abbreviated back then, and we didn't start until after blackberry season," Buford recalled, "and some years we would end it at Christmas."

Irvine High School was then located on Main Street, where the "old" Estill County High School (the present-day administration building) sits, but a new Irvine High School was under construction. Buford and his class, while never attending school there, did undergo commencement exercises in the gymnasium at the new school.

"They split in 1933," Buford said, referring to the joint operation of the schools, "and I remember at the time that everyone commented that the county kids would be going to school in the city and the city kids would be going to school in the county," as the Irvine city limits did not then extend to the new high school.

On September 8th, 1911, Buford celebrated his 101st birthday. He lived with his wife, Vicie in Wisemantown and with the exception of poor eyesight and hearing, Buford was in relatively good health and loved to talk with anyone who dropped in.

Note: Buford died in December of 1914 at the age of 104.