

**OBITUARIES**

**Heather Marie Wayne Young, 53**

CRESTWOOD — Heather Marie Wayne Young lived a life defined by authenticity, generosity, humor and deep compassion for others. She believed strongly in seeing others' perspectives and lived by the idea that being your authentic self gives others permission to do the same. Because she wasn't able to physically do many things to help her family in the last part of her life, being a part of writing her own obituary before she passed was a gift she hoped would take that burden off her family at the time of her passing. ALS may have taken away Heather's ability to walk, talk, eat, and do other small miracles that we often take for granted, but it could not diminish her kindness and humor, which remained fully intact, nor her characteristics of bravery and wisdom, which only grew after her diagnosis.



Heather, nicknamed "Pooh" by her parents, was born on August 2, 1972, in Louisville, Ky. She graduated from Moore High School in 1990 and obtained a business degree from Sullivan University. Heather enjoyed a vibrant career in various roles in her twenties, but her most cherished roles in life were yet to come. Heather married Matt in 2003, and despite being told she may never be able to have children, she became the proud and devoted mother of two daughters, Ada Rhian, born in 2007 and Drew Elise, whom Heather welcomed at age 40. Nothing in Heather's life made her prouder than her girls. She said Ada's birth made her realize that she wanted a career where she could spend more time with her, so when Ada was just six months old, Heather started nursing school, which led her to her most treasured vocation. From 2017 until May of 2024, Heather served as "Nurse Young" at South Oldham High School. To students and staff alike, her office was far more than a nurse's station — it was a warm, safe and welcoming space. She kept extra clothes, hygiene items, snacks and most importantly, compassion on hand for anyone who walked through her door. Heather wanted to be there for her girls when they came through those halls and she made a lasting impact on countless lives — young and old — along the way.

One former student described walking into Nurse Young's office for a Band-Aid and walking out feeling healed, loved, counseled and ready to tackle life as it came. A colleague described Heather as "a partner to me in dealing with so many students with anxiety — loving but always believing the kids could overcome whatever they were up against. I truly learned so much as a counselor from working with her."

Another colleague described the unique bond she developed with one particular student with autism. This student did not speak much but managed to always ask to see Nurse Young. Heather would take time out of her day to take this student's blood pressure and temperature, pronounce her "healthy," and spend time making her feel "seen." That was one of the things Heather did best: making others feel seen. Months after retiring, Heather came back to visit various staff and students, and she showed some of the students with disabilities who spoke through devices that she now spoke through a device, too. That one student who loved her so much was confused by Heather's wheelchair and sat on the floor near her beloved Nurse Young but would not go to her. Heather recognized this, so she got out of her wheelchair — with help — and got on the floor with that student. The student immediately embraced her Nurse Young. Neither spoke. They didn't need to. Heather's kindness, sensitivity, and sense of humor have always had a way of disarming others, even in life's hardest moments. It was this, among so many other qualities, that drew people to Heather. Heather said she was blessed to have friends who spanned all eras of her life—high school, her twenties, work friends, dance moms, and neighbors who became more like family were among this lucky group. Various friends, when asked to describe Heather, remarked that she was brave, beautiful, magnetic—an example of how to live well and an example of how to die that same way. One friend said Heather was truly "one of the greats."

Heather found joy in reading, shopping and crafting and joked that she felt guilty leaving behind so many unused craft supplies for her family to deal with. Heather cherished her large extended Wayne, Newton, and Young families and treasured the moments they spent together. She shared a special bond with her big brother, Robert Allen Wayne, Jr. (Roby), the smartest person she knew, who always looked out for her, even when she "didn't deserve it." She also shared a tight bond with her dad, who passed away when Heather was just 24 years

old. Heather proclaimed herself a "Daddy's girl" and described him as laid-back, extremely hard-working, endlessly generous and completely non-judgmental qualities her mother often said Heather shared with him. Faith became an increasingly important part of Heather's life. Baptized as a baby, Heather had grown closer to God in recent years and was baptized, alongside her friend Kristi, in the ocean at Indian Rocks Beach, Fla., on Aug. 30, 2025, during a girls' trip with some of her cherished friends. That experience brought her peace and deepened her faith.

When asked about her ALS diagnosis, Heather said, "I think my diagnosis and impending death have reminded me and other people to appreciate the time we have on earth together and, I hope, to love one another more." When asked if she was afraid to die, she said she wasn't, especially since growing closer to God. She said she stayed on Earth as long as she did for her daughters. Her greatest fear was not death itself but leaving her girls behind to navigate all the seasons yet to come. One life lesson Heather hoped to impart to her daughters was this: You don't have to be perfect. You don't have to do everything right. Failing is part of life. It's how you respond to failure that shapes who you are becoming, and do not be afraid to ask for help.

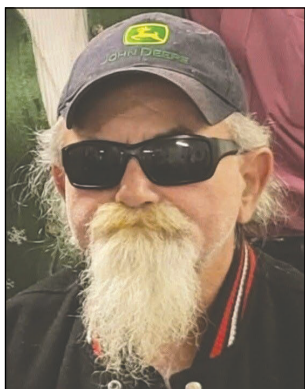
Heather had many people waiting for her in heaven, but she was most excited to be reunited with her dad, Robert Allen Wayne, whom she hadn't seen for 29 years. Heather's favorite quote was from Winnie the Pooh: "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." Those left behind—who made saying goodbye so hard—include her two beautiful daughters, Ada Rhian and Drew Elise Young; her husband, Matt; her mother, Donna Newton Wayne; her brother, Robert Allen Wayne, Jr. (Shane); her nephews, Dylan Hamlin, Brandon, Bricent, and Kian Wayne; her parents-in-law, Ralph and Marsha Young; her sister-in-law, Jenny Young; her nephews, Luke and George Digenis; along with a wide circle of friends, neighbors, former coworkers, students, dance moms and lifelong friends from every era of her life.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at Stoess Funeral Home, 6534 West Highway 22 in Crestwood. Memorial donations may be made to Farmers Bank of Milton, 2207 South Highway 53/P.O. Box 47, La Grange, KY 40031, in the name of Heather M. Young (in care of Robert Wayne), for the sole benefit of Ada Rhian and Drew Elise Young.

Heather found joy in reading, shopping and crafting and joked that she felt guilty leaving behind so many unused craft supplies for her family to deal with. Heather cherished her large extended Wayne, Newton, and Young families and treasured the moments they spent together. She shared a special bond with her big brother, Robert Allen Wayne, Jr. (Roby), the smartest person she knew, who always looked out for her, even when she "didn't deserve it." She also shared a tight bond with her dad, who passed away when Heather was just 24 years

**Brian Keith Woosley, 61**

LOUISVILLE — Brian Keith Woosley, age 61, of Louisville, Ky. passed away on Friday, April 3, 2026.



He was born on Febr. 25, 1965, in La Grange, Ky. to William "Bill" Boyd and Evelyn Stone Woosley.

Brian worked as a carpenter and loved living life!

He was preceded in death by his father, William "Bill" Woosley and sister, Mary Ann Woosley.

Left to cherish the memory of Brian are his

mother, Evelyn Woosley; siblings, Laura Lyvers (Scott), Billy Woosley (Victoria), Wendell Woosley (Barbara) and

Bob Woosley (Sheila); sons, Brian Woosley Jr. and Joseph Woosley; grandchildren, Braxton and Brylyn; many nieces and nephews, extended family and friends.

A private service was held for Brian's family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Heady-Radcliffe to assist with services or to the St. John's Organization.

**Heady-Radcliffe**  
Funeral Home & Cremation Services

**P&Z defers data center regulations to committee**

BY GRANT GERSTNER  
EDITOR

After having been voted down by the Oldham County Fiscal Court and sent back for further review, the Planning and Zoning Commission deferred further review of the proposed regulations on data centers to the Study Review Committee (SRC) on March 24.

Planning Director Ryan Fischer explained to the commission that when the court denied the proposed regulations they also sent several documents from different members of the court, each with their own requests for changes:

"Some of these, as I went through and made changes, were very easy ... As it got towards the end, there was a lot of things that were mentioned by one magistrate that were then contradicted by the recommendations of another magistrate ...

"At this point, I think we just need to have a discussion on what this body thinks



Photo by Grant Gerstner

**The Oldham County Planning and Zoning Commission met on March 24.**

needs to happen to the regulations," Fischer said, adding that sending the regulations to the SRC was an option.

County Attorney D. Berry Baxter then clarified that whatever the Study Review Committee recommends would still have to be considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission, and that a public hearing would be necessary per state statute.

"It makes sense to me to go back to SRC given that it's not just easy ..." Commissioner Sue Ann Thompson said. "We have to discuss when there's conflicting recommendations which one makes the most sense and then bring that for the public hearing."

Commissioner Allen Hayes then asked if the commissioners could send any of their notes to the SRC, and Baxter replied that they could, or could simply attend the SRC meeting.

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**HEROES**

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**FINDING HER POWER**

During chemo, Stocker blew off steam by painting. She brought her finished pieces into the pediatric unit and they were auctioned off to staff, with the proceeds buying gifts for kids in the unit.

"Every time I went in for chemo, I'd bring in baskets ..." Stocker says. It was important to her to take something negative — "that makes you feel like crap for multiple days, and turn it into something that I could make other kids happy with."

But she still wanted to do more. She began a YouTube channel, "Candid with Cassidy," sharing her journey through chemo so kids wouldn't feel alone, especially during the pandemic.

"I also wanted to be able to help parents know how to talk to their children who may be going through this. Adults began sending my mom questions, and that's how I started trying to help the community vocally."

After joining speech and debate her sophomore year, Stocker says it helped her realize what her voice can do. Her original oratory, which won at nationals, was on pediatric cancer not being rare "and how we can't look away."

Now, she's spoken on behalf of Gifts for Gold at local community clubs and other events about her journey, and how funding cuts are affecting research. She's learned her words have power and meaning, she says.

"And it showed me that people would look into it, and donate, after hearing me. So, I wanted to share it with a wider group of people ..."

Stocker wrote an email to Gov. Andy Beshear. She wanted to know if she could speak to him about pediatric cancer funding, and was eventually invited to do so on Feb. 18 — Pediatric Cancer Advocacy Day.

"I spoke in front of like more than 50 in the audience — it aired on the news. I feel like it was received well ... one headline said something like 'Girl with pediatric cancer makes first lady cry' or something like that ..." She appeared on behalf of the Pediatric Cancer Research Fund, which is requesting \$15 million in funding.

**'THEY STILL CHOOSE NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT'**

Federal funding for pediatric cancer research has been severely disrupted since 2025, with experts concerned about the future of clinical trial access and treatment development. In March, the National Cancer Institute had to end funding for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium, a 26-



Photo courtesy of Stocker family

**Cassidy Stocker, at lectern, speaks to Gov. Andy Beshear when she testified in February on behalf of the Pediatric Cancer Research Fund on Pediatric Cancer Awareness Day. She was with her grandmother, Patricia Stocker, from left, brother Tye and mom Shannon Stocker. Cassidy said it's time for lawmakers to stop looking away and realize the funding cuts to cancer research are hurting kids.**

year-old network that pioneered early-phase trials for children with high-risk brain tumors. According to the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, this forces the halt of active clinical trials, "causing significant disruption to patient care and research."

Stocker also told the group in Frankfort about the chemo drugs — some up to 60 years old that they're currently using on children. "That's extraordinarily old... having drugs created before my parents were born because we don't have enough funding and we're not working on new treatments. And these old treatments have a plethora of side effects and aren't as effective ..."

She told the group about others' plights. She met a senior from Oldham County High who was being treated for the same brain tumor.

"She's still here, goes to college and is doing well ..." But Stocker got to know another patient and her family, a pre-teen girl who had been in for treatment multiple times.

"She passed away about three days before Christmas in '24, after relapsing. She had been cancer-free for multiple years, and she had an aggressive-type cancer come back in June. She was gone by December." This child's story is important to share, she says, because it shows "how quickly someone can deteriorate and how quickly life can disappear in the blink of an eye."

She says people don't want to talk about it because it's a hard topic — children dying.

"But there's not as much research for kids as there is for adults, not as much funding. It's mind-boggling — one in 283 will be diagnosed before they reach 18... I understand it's hard to talk about, but people have heard from kids and advocates about how important it is, and still choose not to think about it. And the \$200 million our current administration cut from pediatric cancer funding recently. Being allocated to things like wars abroad. It's not right."

Now, Stocker is not only traveling for speech and debate tournaments, she runs cross-country and tutors on the side to make money for college. "With all the chemo bills, my parents can't afford college."

She always planned to go into the medical field, but now she's set on pediatric oncology. "Because of what I've witnessed and how hard it is. There's a lack of people who want to go into the field because it is so hard — you lose a lot of kids because there's not good treatment. That's what pushed me towards the field — having a doctor that understands what you're going through. It creates a connection that can help kids make it through."

When asked if she'd ever pursue an elected position in the future, Stocker says, "I want to be a doctor. Going into politics would be a last resort."

To donate or for more about Gifts for Gold, visit [giftsforgold.org](http://giftsforgold.org).

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