

COOKEVILLE MAN DIES FROM YELLOW JACKET STINGS

[Mary Jo Denton](#)

Herald-Citizen Staff

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COOKEVILLE -- A young Cookeville man who fell into a coma after being stung by yellow jackets last week has died.

Brandon Charles Thomas, 25, of Holladay Road, apparently died from a severe allergic reaction to stings by yellow jackets, a family member said.

Thomas had just put his grandfather's tractor into a barn at his own home when it happened last Wednesday, according to Reggie Shanks, the young man's maternal grandfather.

"He was always helping me around the farm; he loved the farm," Shanks said. "And he put the tractor up and got stung by some yellow jackets out there."

Almost immediately, Thomas began to feel ill, his throat swelling, the grief-stricken grandfather said. Family members and neighbors rushed to help him, and someone worked to keep his air passages open until Putnam Ambulance medics arrived, Shanks said.

"They rushed him to the hospital and he was in a coma. A yellow jacket had stung him on the nose and another on his shoulder and they said they found a dead yellow jacket inside his clothes when they got him to the hospital."

And though he received immediate and continuing medical treatment, he remained in a coma and died Friday, Shanks said.

"It's just so hard to believe this happened," he said. "They told us it might have been the fact that he had been stung a few days ago by some hornets, which didn't seem to bother him, and then got these other stings. He was a big healthy boy, tall and strong."

His grandson worked for the Tennessee Department of Transportation and had many friends and a large, loving family, Shanks said.

"He was such a good person."

A family friend said Thomas died surrounded by a room full of family members and friends.

"He was a sweet person, a strong young man with no history of bad health and no history of allergies to bees, and yet he was brought down by three or four stings," said Walter Cliff.

Brandon and his wife, Kristie Thomas, have two sons and a daughter. He is the son of Tim and Pam Shanks Thomas of Cookeville.

An obituary for him is being published elsewhere in today's Herald-Citizen.

(*See next page)

BRANDON CHARLES (BT) THOMAS OBT.

LIVINGSTON -- Funeral services for Brandon Charles (BT) Thomas, 25, of Cookeville, will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 21, from the chapel of Hall Funeral Home in Livingston. Burial will be in Netherland Cemetery in Overton County.



The family will receive friends from 2-9 p.m. today, Monday, Oct. 20, at the funeral home.

Mr. Thomas died Friday, Oct. 17, 2008, in Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

He was born June 29, 1983, in Putnam County to Tim and Pam Thomas of Cookeville.

Mr. Thomas worked for TDOT in Cookeville for about five years. His greatest joy in life was being a help and a friend to others. He will be missed and loved forever.

In addition to his parents, his family includes his soul mate and wife, Kristie Thomas of Cookeville; two sons, Josh Holloway of Crawford and Seth Beaty of Cookeville; a daughter, Brittany Beaty of Cookeville; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Mark and Debbie Thomas and Casey Thomas, all of Cookeville; a sister and brother-in-law, Brandy and Woody Minnear and their unborn child of Cookeville; grandparents Reggie and Andelene Shanks and David Thomas, all of Cookeville; three nieces, LeAnna Thomas, Laura Durham and Sara Crawford, all of Cookeville; a great-nephew, Kayden Lee Durham of Cookeville; a very special friend, Brian Beechboard; and a tremendous host of family and friends.

Pallbearers will be Brian Beechboard, Woody Minnear, Daniel Ray, Chester Upchurch, Andy Paul, Ryan Hunn, Ed Hammock and Anson Burnell.

Honorary pallbearers will be cousins and friends.

Bro. Johnny Fox will officiate at the services.

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*See Shanks files at:

<http://www.ajlambert.com>