



Amanda Criswell

March 18, 1981 - January 21, 2015

Amanda Criswell died peacefully in her sleep at her home in Carolina Forest, S.C., on Wednesday morning. She was 33 years old.

Amanda was a 1999 graduate of Apollo Ridge High School in Spring Church, Penn., and a 2003 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with a B.A. in Journalism. While at Penn State, Amanda was a staff member of the Daily Collegian, the Penn State student-run newspaper. She also completed internships with the Pennsylvania Center for the Book, the Centre Daily Times, and the Valley News Dispatch.

After the completion of her degree, Amanda began her career at the Index-Journal in Greenwood, S.C., as a Copy Desk Editor. In 2006, Amanda moved to Myrtle Beach, S.C., after accepting a job at The Sun News as a Page Designer. During her time at The Sun News, Mandy won several S.C. Press Awards for her design talents and designed hundreds of pages read by many throughout the Grand Strand. Joining The Sun News made her happy to be able to live so close to her family at the beach.

Throughout her life, Mandy, as she was known to her friends and family, always easily made friends and was well-respected by her colleagues for her strong work ability and immense talent. She enjoyed traveling and had the opportunity to visit Ireland this past summer with one of her best friends. She also enjoyed baking cupcakes for co-workers, friends and family, and organizing parties and events. Amanda loved shopping and finding a good

bargain and spending time at the beach, recently remarking to friends that "nothing beats falling asleep to the sound of waves crashing along the shore."

Amanda is survived by her parents, Judy and Paul Criswell of Surfside; her brother, Matt Criswell and sister-in-law Missy Criswell of Lyman; and several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends scattered across the country.

Two visitations will be held Saturday - from 2-4 p.m. and from 6-8 p.m. - at Goldfinch Funeral Home Beach Chapel, 11528 Highway 17 Bypass, Murrells Inlet, S.C. A memorial service will be held 2 p.m. Sunday, also at Goldfinch Beach Chapel.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made in Amanda's name to a charity of your choice.

An online guestbook is available at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com/obituaries

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **24**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Celebration Center
11528 Hwy 17 Bypass
Murrells Inlet, SC 29588
(843) 651-3295
info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com
<https://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>

Visitation

JAN **24**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Celebration Center
11528 Hwy 17 Bypass
Murrells Inlet, SC 29588
(843) 651-3295
info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com
<https://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com>

Service

JAN **25**. 2:00 AM (ET)

Celebration Center
11528 Hwy 17 Bypass
Murrells Inlet, SC 29588
(843) 651-3295
info@goldfinchfuneralhome.com
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Tribute Wall



“ Goldfinch Funeral Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Amanda Criswell



Goldfinch Funeral Home - January 23, 2015 at 04:11 PM

RS

This is truly a beautiful tribute. Richard and Barbara Sypolt

Richard and Barbara Sypolt - January 23, 2015 at 07:44 PM

RS

Our deepest sympathy to you all; truly heart breaking news of unbelievable scale. God be with you.

Richard and Barbara Sypolt - January 23, 2015 at 07:48 PM

MU

Such a beautiful tribute. My deepest sympathy to the family. Mandy touched many lives in so many ways. She will be missed by a lot of people.

Molly Galie Uskuraitis - January 23, 2015 at 08:55 PM

CK

I miss you already, my friend.

Caroline Klapper - January 23, 2015 at 09:40 PM

JH

Words can not express our deepest sympathy to the family, our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. "She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her". Judy and Gary Hathaway

Judy Hathaway - January 23, 2015 at 10:05 PM

AG

Beautiful woman inside and out, always a pleasure to be around. Strength for her family, friends and loved ones....Mandy you will be greatly missed <3

alyssa godman - January 24, 2015 at 04:32 AM

BB

Our deepest sympathy . David and Beverly [Dodson'] Bertieri

B and D Bertieri - January 24, 2015 at 10:40 AM

SJ

So very,very sorry for your loss .

susan johnson - January 24, 2015 at 03:50 PM

LK

Paul, Judy, and Matt.... We were so saddened to hear about Mandy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. God bless all of you. Our deepest sympathy, Eddie and Lori Kolakowski

Lori Kolakowski - January 24, 2015 at 05:15 PM

CC

Such a beautiful tribute. I had the honor of meeting Mandy twice when she came to visit her mom at work. She was young and just arranged things to be here at the beach. I was floored as I felt like I was meeting your twin, Judy. Watching this tribute to Mandy is like watching my dear friend and wow that is Mandy. She was a beautiful person to so many as you are! Love to you and your family with a heavy heart.

Christie Castello - January 24, 2015 at 08:25 PM

BB

I did not know Amanda except as a long-time subscriber to the Sun News, but I have a daughter about the same age, so I can relate on some level. My heart is also broken for her family and friends. I hope that the cause of her death will be discovered--, just for some little bit of closure. I am so very, very sorry for your loss.

Bernadine Bader - January 25, 2015 at 02:26 PM

RW

“*Mandy was the bright light in many rooms. She certainly was here at the Index-Journal, where she got her start fresh out of school. It was here she received the moniker "Cupcake Queen," which followed her to the Sun News. And it was here she developed the skills that eventually took her away from us and to the coast. We at the Index were fortunate to have had her here as long as we did and we are proud of all the accomplishments she made in her career. She had a passion for whatever she did. And a smile while doing it. Mandy's service this past Sunday was a beautiful and fitting tribute to someone who touched many lives in so many ways in too few years she was given on this earth.*

Richard Whiting - January 27, 2015 at 04:51 PM

MJ

“*Paul,
I cannot imagine your grief at the loss of Amanda. From the tributes I read she was a loving and caring woman. I know you are so proud. My deepest condolences, old friend.
Morris "Mo" Johnson*

Morris "Mo" Johnson - January 27, 2015 at 09:59 AM

KE

“ *My thoughts are with you. I met Mandy at Index-Journal, Greenwood, and know the sorrow of losing a child. In memory of Mandy and the Sister Circle, the young ladies so gracious to include an "older person" in some of their adventures --*
From Kathryn Elrod

This Precious Young Lady Touched us All

Searching to design the ultimate page (life)

Picturing: a little black dress to celebrate birthdays with friends at Pascal's and young friends dancing on a bar. Centerpiece: dozing on the beach listening to ocean waves.

*Now, she is a dream of memory,
An honor to have walked with her, worked with her, watch her soak in life like sun, sand and salt.
Praised as ever so focused, so organized, doing her job, she was ready --
With a smile and For Some FUN!*

*Giggle --
My eyes sting as I smile.*

Sweet dreams, beautiful dreamer.

Kathryn Elrod - January 26, 2015 at 12:22 PM

PW

“ Paul, Judy and Matt you have my sympathy. Parents are not suppose to bury their children But you must beleive God has special things for her God Bless

Pete Williamson

Pete Williamson - January 25, 2015 at 06:51 PM

DW

“ My favorite memory of Mandy is a cheerleading one, even though I have plenty from family events. One day before a basketball game we were practicing mounts in the hallway by the auditorium and Mandy was my backspot. I was in a "high" which means my feet were above their heads. For whatever reason, I fell out of the mount and the only thing that kept me off the cement floor was Mandy's hold on my spanx (underwear covers). It was simultaneously the best and worst wedgie I've ever experienced. I'll never forget it. Thank you, Mandy. 😊

Danielle White - January 25, 2015 at 06:40 PM



“ Mandy was my favorite coworker ever. We worked together at The Index-Journal in Greenwood. She was the most caring person. She filled our lives with joy -- and our stomachs with cupcakes. My prayers are with her family during this time. She had more impact on people's lives in her 33 years than most have in a lifetime.

Gregory Deal - January 25, 2015 at 06:03 PM

TC

“ Rest with God, cousin Amanda. Your time with us was too short, but your memory will be in our hearts forever. Terry and Barbara Durben

Terry Durben,1st cousin Judy Criswell - January 24, 2015 at 05:34 PM

MS

“ Judy, Paul and Matt, our deepest sympathy for your loss. Mandy grew up with our kids here in North Apollo and was always such a cutie. We are thinking of you with heavy hearts today.
Bruce and Mary Sample

Mary Sample - January 24, 2015 at 12:21 PM

R(

“ To Pete and your family my thoughts and prayers are with you guys. So sorry to hear about Amanda. It was a total shock to all of us here in North Apollo. She will be missed. A very pretty young lady and got taken away too soon. Gone but not forgotten. Love and miss you guys. NAVFD Rebecca Hill (Sowers)

Rebecca Hill (Sowers) - January 24, 2015 at 09:47 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Amanda Criswell.



January 24, 2015 at 09:22 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Amanda Criswell.



January 24, 2015 at 08:49 AM

MF

“ M/M Chris Kerr & Family purchased the Basket of Joy for the family of Amanda Criswell.



M/M Chris Kerr & Family - January 24, 2015 at 08:15 AM

SB

“ We were voted best couple in high school and we cracked up about that for a long time... you will be deeply missed. My thoughts and prayers for the family. Stephen Broda

Steve Broda - January 24, 2015 at 07:41 AM

GR

“ To our friends at The Sun News and to the family of Mandy (Amanda) Criswell we would like to send our love, prayers and heart felt condolences to you all. May God bless and comfort each and every one of you now and in the days to come. Love Gina & Roy

Gina & Roy - January 24, 2015 at 07:16 AM

LF

“ I worked with Mandy on the design desk for a year at the Sun News. We used to laugh about everything. She made work so enjoyable. She was so bright and witty and just a wonderful human being. Although i moved west, i still followed her on social media. Her posts over the years made me laugh out loud everyday at my desk at work. Her humor was one-of-a-kind. My deepest condolences to her family and friends. She will be missed by so many.

Lauren Fagan - January 24, 2015 at 01:10 AM



“ I will never forget the time I was in 3rd grade and Mandy called me to come up to her house and play. I told my mom and she drove me to Amanda Kirkman (Blystone) s house because I didn't realize that it was Amanda Criswell. Needless to say Amanda C. didn't know why I never showed up that day to play. I am saddened by her loss, my prayers go out to her family. RIP- Val Yockey💕💕

Valerie Yockey - January 23, 2015 at 11:32 PM

MB

Prayers for Mandy's family...great person. I forgot all about this Val :) fun times growing up in north Apollo...

Mandy Blystone - January 24, 2015 at 07:08 AM

Bob
Simmons

I'll always treasure our time together working at the I-J. I'll see you again someday. Award-show red carpet photos will never be the same. To her family: Thank you for sharing her with us!

Bob Simmonds - January 25, 2015 at 12:53 AM

BT

“ I remember playing house with Mandy and Lisa, walking to the bus stop with her and cheering together. I am saddened and shocked by this tragic loss. What a sweet, kind soul Mandy is. Matt, Judy, Paul, you are in our prayers and thoughts. Sending love from PA

bethany richards toland - January 23, 2015 at 10:58 PM

DF

“ I met Mandy about 5 years ago when I lived in Myrtle Beach, SC. She was a kind caring person and I'm so sad to hear this news. Her witty sense of humor was the one thing I remember about her. Mandy also had the ability to connect with people on a deep level. She will be missed. I pray for peace and strength to comfort Mandy's family and friends through this difficult time.

Dru Forster - January 23, 2015 at 09:37 PM

MB

“ Every memory I have of Mandy makes me smile, she was such a fun loving person with a great sense of humor. My thoughts are with her family in this difficult time. RIP Mandy, you'll be missed!

Misty Baer - January 23, 2015 at 09:17 PM

KS

“ I am so deeply sorry for your loss. Mandy was a beautiful person inside and out. I had the pleasure of knowing her all through school, and although we lost touch after graduation, I got to reconnect with her through Facebook. Her status updates would always bring a smile to my face, sometimes even a giggle, no matter how bad a day I was having. RIP Mandy, thank you for all the laughs.

Kelly Steele - January 23, 2015 at 09:01 PM

MU

“ Mandy was such a wonderful person. From elementary school until high school she brightened anyone's day. I was fortunate to know her and even go to prom with her and another girl friend of ours. My deepest sympathies to the family. Xoxo

Molly Galie Uskuraitis - January 23, 2015 at 09:00 PM

ND

“ During this sad time it brings back so many memories, yet at the same time it reminds me of how lucky I was to have been able to have Mandy as a friend. Mandy's smile was contagious, her personality shined, and her positive outlook helped light up an otherwise darkened room. She's one that is and will always be missed by so many. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Criswell family through this sad time. RIP Mandy.

Nathan Duchene - January 23, 2015 at 08:51 PM

KB

“ Mandy always had a smile on her face and knew how to make you laugh when having a bad day. She was a great friend and will truly be missed. My deepest sympathy to the criswell famiy.

Katie bottali brayshaw - January 23, 2015 at 08:35 PM

AH

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I pray God helps you heal and find peace. Mandy was such a fun loving, sweet person who will never be forgotten.
Alison Louden - Hawkins

Alison Hawkins - January 23, 2015 at 08:29 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Amanda Criswell.



January 23, 2015 at 07:51 PM

AL

“ My sincerest thoughts and prayers are with your family during this devastating time. Mandy was a wonderful friend and college roommate. The list of fond memories goes on and on. I will always cherish my trips to Myrtle Beach to visit her and loved staying in touch with her throughout the years.
With heart felt sympathy and love,
Alissa Landi

Alissa Landi - January 23, 2015 at 07:16 PM

DM

“ To the Criswell families:
Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time in your life.
Sounds like a daughter that would make her parents proud...
Thinking of you with heart fely sympathy.....

Denny and Carol McCain - January 23, 2015 at 04:52 PM

DS

“ Somehow you made passing papers back the aisle during AP English enjoyable. Thoughts with your family. RIP. - Doug S.

Doug S. - January 23, 2015 at 02:57 PM