

Remembering Sam

By Angela Snider

Our community still mourns the loss of Sam Bomar, the much loved son of Hugh and Rayna Bomar, who died on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. Sam was a senior at Madison Academic High School where he would have graduated with honors. He had been accepted at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, which was his dream.

"He loved everyone. He would never judge you because of anything. He was just an amazing person," said his girlfriend, Emily Kathryn Springer. His friends said they could tell stories all day about Sam, saying he was fun to be around and could make anyone laugh. Sam was an Eagle Scout, a baseball player, and was involved in theater and debate at Madison Academic High School. Cullen Sanderson, one of Sam's closest friends, said "He always liked to have fun and be in the middle of a conversation and his smile would brighten anybody's day and his humor would just throw you out of proportion."

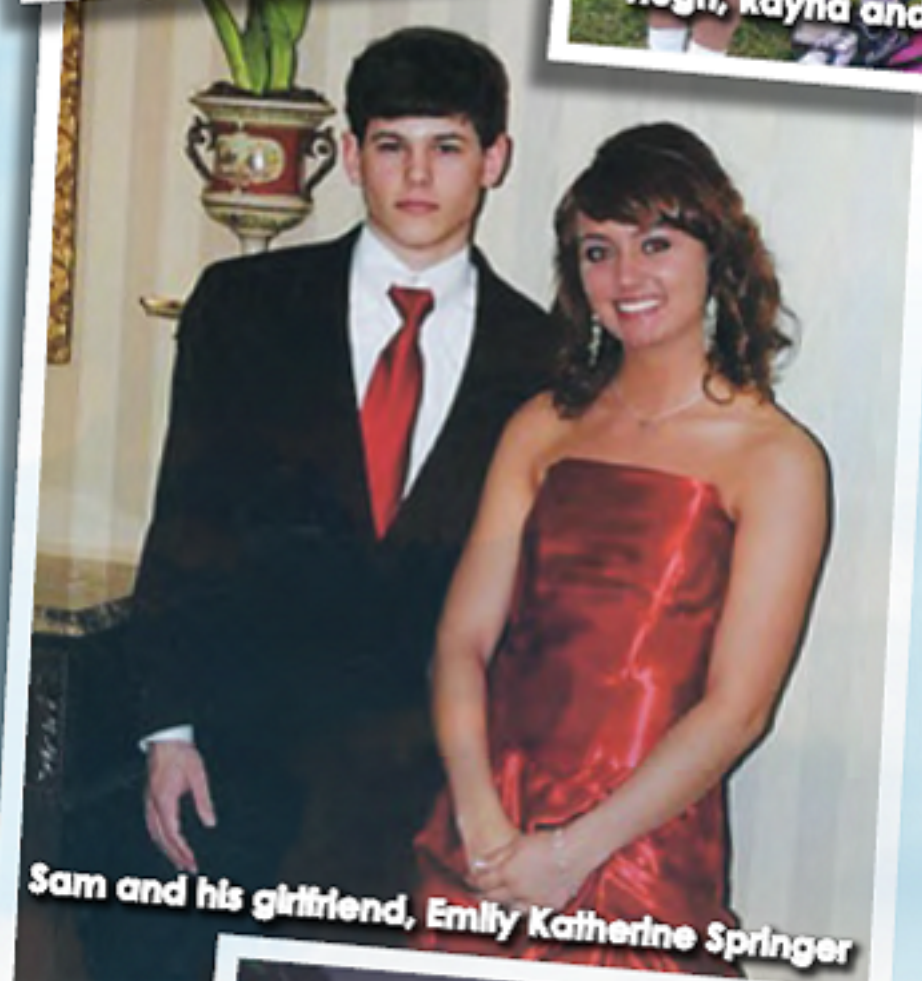
Sam's youth leaders at Fellowship Bible Church said he always challenged them and was very secure in his beliefs and his relationship with Jesus Christ. Sam was a student leader with Fellowship Student Ministries and a volunteer counselor at Lakeshore United Methodist Camp.

Sam's legacy is being remembered locally in many special ways. Madison Academic High School created "Sam's Dugout," a place for collecting uniforms that are in good used condition and distributing them to students who cannot afford new uniforms. Seniors have already donated 260 uniform items including shirts, pants, skirts, shorts, belts, jackets and shoes. Madison students also set up a memorial in Sam's parking spot at school. The Sam Bomar Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established at First Bank through the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation and will assist local students with furthering their education.

Sam's death was so tragic and beyond our comprehension. But God is alive and at work despite this storm. Since Sam's death, a mother reconciled with her teenage son; another teenager decided to give up her beach vacation for a foreign mission trip, and many teenagers have packed local churches searching for hope and comfort. At the Last Supper, Jesus was with his friends, the people He loved most, preparing them for His departure. Peter wanted to go with Him, but Jesus said, "Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you." When Thomas asked how they could know the way to be with Him, Jesus responded, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Sam chose that very verse for his high school yearbook senior page. He believed this, as do his parents. Sam Bomar lived more in eighteen years than many people live in eighty years. This world is a much better place because of the beautiful way he lived his life. And because of his life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ, we can take comfort knowing we will see Sam again.



Hugh, Rayna and Sam



Sam and his girlfriend, Emily Katherine Springer



Tyler Fry, Logan McCoy, Sam



Jacob Roberson and Sam



Sam with County Mayor Jimmy Harris
Sam was Mayor for the Day.