

TODAY'S OBITUARIES

Sharon Kay Bunch, 63  
 Gloria M. Delzer, 82  
 Clayton D. Graham, 57  
 Erna L. Hansen, 81  
 Jeffrey Herrera, 39  
 Bradley Jay Hopper, 50  
 Thomas Owen Peterson, 49  
 Keith Orville Pruitt, 55  
 Fern Elizabeth Ryther, 85  
 Donald Gene Updike, 71  
 Jacobus 'Jack' P.C. van der Geest, 85  
 Louanne M. Vidal, 76

Black Hawk  
 Spearfish  
 Wounded Knee  
 Pierre  
 Rapid City  
 Belle Fourche  
 Orlando, Fla.  
 Rapid City  
 St. Onge  
 Casper, Wyo.  
 Rapid City  
 Spearfish

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Louanne M. Vidal

SPEARFISH — Louanne Vidal, 76, Spearfish, died Feb. 24, 2009, in Phoenix, AZ.

Louanne was born in Colorado to Louis B. Vidal Sr. and Lucille Vidal on Dec. 12, 1932. She attended grade school there until the family moved to Rapid City in 1945, where Lou Vidal operated the Black Hills Oldsmobile and Cadillac dealership for many years.

Louanne attended Rapid City High School where she was a journalist for the Cobbler Newspaper and an active fan and cheerleader for the Rapid City Cobbler sports program. She graduated in the spring of 1950. She then attended South Dakota State University in Brookings.

Louanne married Tom Costello in June of 1952. They lived and ranched at Scenic and Piedmont for many years. They had three children, Mark (1953), Thomas III (1954) and Penny (1958). The marriage ended in 1974.

Louanne married Frank Soelzer of Piedmont in 1975 and was widowed that same year.

Louanne went on to have several different jobs, Hostess and Bookkeeper, until she went to work in the gaming industry. Louanne started in Deadwood and then moved to Golden, CO to work in Black Hawk, CO for several years. She then moved back to Spearfish to work in Deadwood again until her health forced her to retire. She really enjoyed meeting new people and seeing old friends at her job.

Louanne is survived by her two sisters, Betts Corrington of San Diego and Barb Lien and her husband, Chuck, of Rapid City; one brother, Louis Vidal Jr. and his wife Connie, of Sarasota, FL, and many nieces and nephews. She is also survived by three children, Mark Costello and his wife Susie, their children Sara Mahoney and her husband, Jason, and their children, Ryan and Shawn; Tom Costello and his wife Madonna, their children, Jake and his wife Holly, Tommy and his wife, Jennifer and Matthew; and Penny Costello and her life partner Kate Allen, and Kates' children, Shawn Allen and his wife, Loura, and Chad Allen and his wife, Marnie; and great-grandchildren, Cade and Kelsi Costello, Brittany, Mitch and Brooke Weigel and Max, Brody, Carson and Cassidy Allen.

Louanne was preceded in death by her father, Lou Vidal and mother Lucille; her second husband, Frank Soelzer; her oldest brother, Henry (Hank) Vidal and his wife Judy; and brother-in-law, Vern (Corey) Corrington.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, March 9, at the Osheim & Schmidt Funeral Home in Rapid City, with the Rev. Mark McCormick officiating.

Friends may sign her online guest register and offer condolences at [www.osheim-schmidt.com](http://www.osheim-schmidt.com).

Today's services

**Coletta "Cody" Carns** — 1:30 p.m. at Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis  
**Rodney L. Pease** — 10 a.m. CST at Faith Lutheran Church in Pierre  
**John "Jack" Peters** — 10 a.m. CST at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Winner  
**Patricia "Pat" Pool** — 10 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Spearfish  
**Dayton M. Shannon** — 10 a.m. at Kirk Funeral Home in Rapid City  
**William Joseph Srstka Sr.** — 10 a.m. CST at Christ the King Catholic Church in Sioux Falls  
**Orville Taylor** — 2 p.m. CST at First Christian Church in Winner  
**Robert M. "Bob" Traynor** — 1 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church in Piedmont  
**Beverly "Little Bev" Ward** — 10 a.m. at Old American Legion in Martin

Jeffrey Scott Herrera

RAPID CITY — Jesus came to take Jeffrey Scott Herrera, 39, Rapid City, by the hand and lead him from this world into the loving arms of our heavenly father on Monday, March 2, 2009.

Jeffrey was born on Dec. 5, 1969 in Rapid City. He attended Rapid City

grade schools and played Little League baseball for the Blockers. He was later chosen for their All-Star team. He graduated from Central High School.

Jeffrey moved to Florida and attended Culinary School. He liked to play pool, go camping and was a Jacksonville Jaguars fan. He was a generous giving person with a big heart and would do anything for anybody. He was thankful for everything he had and extended his thanks by helping those less fortunate than he.

He is survived by his parents, Barb and Digger Nelson, and Al and Ceal Herrera, all of Rapid City; two sons, Niko Herrera, Rapid City, and Mica Herrera, Sundance, WY; two brothers, David (Paula) Herrera, and John (Jan) Herrera, all of Rapid City; paternal grandmother, Juanita Perez, Robstown, TX; grandfather, Bud Nelson, Roundup, MT; and numerous close aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Gertrude and Theodore Hawkins, paternal grandfather, Bernardo Herrera and grandmother, Millie Nelson.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday, March 9, at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church, with Father David Matzko, S.J. celebrating. Wake services will be at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 8, at the church.

Jeffrey's family would like to thank everyone for being a part of his journey. He will be missed dearly by all.

Behrens-Wilson Funeral Home is in care of the arrangements and condolences may be conveyed to the family at [www.behrenswilson.com](http://www.behrenswilson.com).

Keith Orville Pruitt

RAPID CITY — Keith Orville Pruitt, 55, Rapid City, died Thursday, March 5, 2009, at home.

Survivors include his fiancée, Marilee Hawkins, Rapid City; two stepchildren, Michael Hawkins, Riverton, Wyo., and Dena Burgert, Bloomfield, N.M.; and five grandchildren.

Arrangements are pending with Behrens-Wilson Funeral Home.

Jacobus 'Jack' P. C. van der Geest

RAPID CITY — Jacobus "Jack" P. C. van der Geest, 85, was born Sept. 17, 1923, in The Hague, Netherlands. He is the son of Jacobus and Anne (de Groot) van der Geest. He passed away Thursday, March 5, 2009, in Rapid City.

He was trained as an aeronautical engineer and was fluent in seven languages. Jack's family owned a successful bread factory in The Hague, employing more than 1,000 people. He and his father were active members of the Dutch Resistance during the Nazi occupation of Holland. In September 1942, Jack and his parents were deported to Nazi death camps. His father was murdered in Dachau, his mother was sent to Ravensbruck, and Jack was sent to Buchenwald. Jack's mother survived the war and died in

1961. After 183 days in Buchenwald, Jack (prisoner # 512601) weighed 79 pounds. On March 3, 1943, he faked death prior to the 5 a.m. morning roll call. He was declared dead by the Nazis and thrown into a pile of bodies. After being motionless for 11 hours, he overpowered an SS guard, put on his uniform and was able to escape. He then joined the French Underground, and later became an interpreter attached to the 101st Airborne Division. He was part of the Battle of the Bulge and the Normandy invasion. After other duties in the South Pacific, he joined the U.S. Air Force and was stationed at Ellsworth AFB. He obtained U.S. citizenship in 1953.

Jack married Elaine Kollars on Jan. 7, 1952 in Rapid City. She died in 1996. He married Ann Urup on Dec. 14, 2002, in Rapid City.

Sharon Kay Bunch

BLACK HAWK — Sharon Kay (Ferderer) Bunch was born August 2, 1945, at Elgin, ND, to Carl and Louise (Messer) Ferderer. She passed away at her home in Black Hawk on March 4, 2009.

She was educated for seven years at a one-room country school, two years at Carson, ND, and graduated from Elgin High School in 1963. After graduation, she worked at Twin City Testing & Engineering in Bismarck, ND, until her marriage in 1966.

Sharon was united in marriage to Norman Bunch on Sept. 23, 1966, at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Carson, ND. To this union was born a son, Jason Michael, of Colorado Springs, CO, and a daughter, Shonna-Leigh C. Heard, married to Jared, of Rapid City.

After Sharon and Norm's marriage, she became an Air

Force wife and they lived in Mountain Home, ID. She returned to Twin City Testing for most of 1967, just ahead of Norm's completion of his military service when they settled on a ranch near Elgin, ND. They moved to Bismarck in 1970, where they stayed until their transfer to Bowman, ND, in 1975, and then to Hettinger, ND, in 1977, where they remained until 1996 when they were transferred to Black Hawk.

While in Hettinger, she continued a lifetime of touching countless lives with running a private kindergarten for four years while dedicating 15 years as a noontime playground supervisor and working with children with learning disabilities and motor skill needs.

She was a Girl Scout leader for 15 years in ND and a Boy Scout leader for over 25 years in North and South Dakota. She was honored to become the first woman Lodge Advisor in the Order of the Arrow, the BSA Honor Camping Society, and was a Vigil Honor Member with the Indian name Ska Tatonka Ween-Yon (White

alongside his father at an early age and continued working on drilling rigs and as a gauger for Plains Pipeline.

After a seven year courtship, Donald married Sandra Cone on Sept. 1, 1961, at St. Steven's Episcopal Church in Grand Island, NE. The couple lived in Colorado Springs before relocating to Casper in 1965 to manage the Trailways Bus Station.

Don worked for Trailways Inc. until they ceased service in Wyoming and was instrumental in the expansion of Powder River Transportation. He operated the Casper bus depot until he retired. Don and Sandy raised two children and cultivated lifelong friendships in Casper.

Don was an avid outdoorsman and was a member of the Murie Audubon Society and enjoyed bird watching. He loved hunting, fishing and exploring the mountains, as well as spending time at the

family cabin on Union Pass near Dubois. He also had an extensive gun collection and was a wealth of information on Wyoming history. He loved talking and telling everyone stories from the past and teaching his grandchildren about the state he loved.

Don's greatest passion in life was being a grandfather. Don's four grandchildren, Camden, Evan, Baylie, and Jade, were his pride and joy. Don was happiest while spending time with them fishing, four-wheeling, going to NASCAR races, or just hanging out.

He was a loving and generous man and a loyal friend to many. Don will be very missed by all who loved him.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra Updike of Casper; his daughter, Julie Fresquez of Las Vegas, Nevada; his son, Russell Updike and his wife Tami of Salt Lake City, Utah; and his four beloved grandchildren,

Camden, Evan, and Baylie Fresquez of Las Vegas, and Jade Updike of Salt Lake City. He is also survived by his brother, Larry Updike of Newcastle, the "Strube Clan," and numerous nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Nellie Updike and his sister, Fern Adkins.

A celebration of Don's life will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, March 9, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Casper. A second service will be held in Dubois this summer when Don will be returned to the mountains he loved.

In lieu of flowers, the family appreciates any memorials made to the Murie Audubon Society, PO Box 2122, Casper, WY 82602, or the Dubois Search and Rescue, PO Box 181, Dubois, WY 82513.

Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Newcomer Funeral Home.

Erna L. Hansen

went through her checkout lane will remember her friendly smile and courteous manner. She was very proud that together with her family, they built their home themselves from the ground up. She was proud of her garden and yard work and kept an immaculate home for her family all while working outside the home. After retiring, she and Walt enjoyed traveling until his health no longer allowed that. After his passing, she slowly got back to traveling often taking her famous solo drives to California to visit her granddaughter and family as well as other long trips.

Erna was born on March 22, 1927 in Pierre to Emmanuel and Minnie Schlenker. She was raised in Sully County near Agar then moved with her family to Onida, after her father passed away in 1939. In 1946 she moved to Pierre and worked at the St. Charles Cafe. It was while working there that she met her future husband and the forever love of her life, Walter L. Hansen. They married and had two sons, "JW" (Jim) Hansen and Gary Hansen. Erna worked at Neiber's Laundromat for a short time then worked at the Red Owl store for over 25 years — first in the meat department then as a cashier. Many who

He loved Rapid City. After several years of work at Rapid Chevrolet, he spent the remainder of his career as an insurance agent. Jack was an active member of Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapid City. He did not speak of his Holocaust experience until the 1990's, when he heard about a Holocaust denier and realized the need to share his experiences with the world. In 1995, he authored "Was God on Vacation." The third edition (2002) includes a copy of his Buchenwald death certificate. He credited his escape to divine intervention and later committed his life to Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior.

Survivors include his wife, Ann, Rapid City; his son, Van van der Geest, wife, Nancy, and two grandsons, Kenneth, wife Delilah, and David, all of Warrensburg, MO; Ann's daughter, Ellie Tomlinson, husband Dale and grandchildren, Michelle Ladenburger, husband Chris, Lisa Porch and husband Joel, all of Rapid City, and Clint Tomlinson and wife Kristen of

Buffalo Woman). She was very affectionately known as "Mom" by scouts and scouters alike throughout the world. She also had an office in her home for 20 years serving as the national Secretary-Treasurer for the Association of National Grasslands.

Sharon enjoyed camping, fishing, scrapbooking, reading, trading Scout patches and flaps, art, cooking, travel, making friends worldwide, yearly visits to the HOG reception at the Civic Center in her wheelchair for her birthday, sunrises and sunsets.

Sharon's pallbearers will be Michael Rambur (Bismarck), Perry Rambur (Bismarck), John Graham (Piedmont), John Muth (Hettinger), Andrew Hetland (Hettinger), and Tom Striegel (Rapid City).

Honorary pallbearers will be her God-son Wade Rambur (Monticello, MN), Cami Graham and children, all friends and relatives, agents and staff of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations 8th Field Investigations Squadron (Peterson AFB, CO), and members of the Joint Terrorism

Task Force — Colorado Springs. She is preceded in death by her parents, parents-in-law, Cecil W. Bunch and Dolores (McCormick) Bunch, and many close friends, uncles, aunts, and cousins.

She will missed by her sister, Dorene and husband, Mike Rambur (Bismarck), many in-laws, nieces, nephews, friends, neighbors, and especially by Jason, Shonna, Jared, Shanon, and Norm.

A rosary and wake service will be at 6 p.m. Monday, March 9, at Our Lady of the Black Hills Catholic Church in Piedmont.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 10, at the Church in Piedmont with Father Mark McCormick as celebrant. Burial will follow at Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established to the SunCatcher Therapeutic Riding Academy in Rapid City.

Family and friends may sign Sharon's online guest book at [www.kirkfuneralhome.com](http://www.kirkfuneralhome.com).

Donald Gene Updike

1937-2009 CASPER, Wyo. — Donald Updike passed away peacefully in his home on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at the age of 71.

Don was born to Henry Newton and Nellie Marie (Pavey) Updike in Newcastle on Nov. 5, 1937. Don was raised and attended school in Osage and Newcastle.

His love of nature and his fascination with western history was developed by many family vacations in the Wyoming mountains while growing up.

Don graduated from Newcastle High School in 1955 and attended two years of college at the University of Wyoming. He began working in the oilfield

Michael, of Ridgecrest, Calif., grandson Colby G. Hansen, of Windsor, Colo., a great-granddaughter, Emily Hunsacker, a brother Raymond Schlenker of Sturgis, and a sister, Lee Fleming of Oral. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews as well as two sisters-in-law, Shirley Shinn of Tucson, Ariz. and Marilyn Hagerty of Grand Forks, ND.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter L. Hansen; her son, Gary Hansen; her parents; and a brother, Elmer E. Schlenker.

Visitation will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. CDT Sunday, March 8, at the Feigum Funeral Home in Pierre.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. CDT Monday, March 9, at Lutheran Memorial Church, 320 Prospect Ave. in Pierre, with the Rev. Diane Jackson officiating. Interment will follow at 2:30 p.m. at Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis.

Arrangements have been placed in the care of Feigum Funeral Home, Pierre. Condolences may be conveyed to the family at [www.feigumvanlith.com](http://www.feigumvanlith.com).

Erna is survived by her son "JW" (Jim) Hansen and his wife Liz, her grandson Dr. Eric Hansen, of Bettendorf, Iowa, granddaughter Selisia Hunsacker and her husband,

Erna was preceded in death by her husband, Walter L. Hansen; her son, Gary Hansen; her parents; and a brother, Elmer E. Schlenker.

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Van der Geest



Bunch



Herrera



Updike



Hansen

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 Saturday, March 7, 2009  
 Number 42070

New York City.

Jack is preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Willie (Wilhelmina); his wife, Elaine; and his grandson, John van der Geest (age 13 months).

Visitation will be from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 8, with the family present from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Osheim & Schmidt Funeral Home.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, March 9, at Calvary Lutheran Church, with the Rev. Dwight Stensgaard, the Rev. Barbara Gammeter and the Rev. Daniel Gammeter officiating. Burial, with military honors provided by Ellsworth VFW Post 1273 and Rushmore Air Force Base Honor Guard, will follow in Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

A memorial has been established to Calvary Lutheran Church, 5311 Sheridan Lake Road, Rapid City, 57702 and Greatest Commandments Wesleyan Church, PO Box 9052, Rapid City, 57709.

Friends may sign Jack's online guest register and offer condolences at [www.osheim-schmidt.com](http://www.osheim-schmidt.com).

Task Force — Colorado Springs.

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Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Newcomer Funeral Home.

Bradley Jay Hopper

BELLE FOURCHE — Bradley Jay Hopper, 50, Belle Fourche, died Friday, March 6, 2009, at home.

Survivors include his wife, Kimberly Hopper, a daughter, Laura Hopper, and a stepdaughter, Rheona Mahan, all of Belle Fourche; two stepsons, Ryan O'Neal and Don O'Neal, both of Phoenix; three brothers, Jerry Hopper and Brian Hopper, both of Redding Calif., and Randy Hopper, Martinez Calif.; and his mother and father-in-law, Will and Gladys Heinrich, Belle Fourche.

Arrangements are pending with Funeral Home of the Northern Hills in Belle Fourche.

In Our Care:

**Jeffrey Scott Herrera:** Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00 a.m., Mon. Mar. 9th at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church. Wake service will be 7 p.m., Sun. Mar. 8th at the church.

**Keith Orville Pruitt:** Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Tuesday March 10, 2009 at Behrens-Wilson Funeral Home. Visitation will be 4 to 7 p.m., Monday March 9th at the funeral home.

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