

OBITUARIES

**Jack Gunderson**

Jack Gunderson, 85, Yankton, died Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton. Memorial services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 16 at Vangen Lutheran Church, Mission Hill, SD with Rev. Velma Larson officiating. Private burial of his cremated remains will be in the Vangen Lutheran Cemetery with Military graveside rites by the Rudolph Christensen American Legion Post #237 of Gayville, SD and the Air Force Honor Guard. Visitations will begin at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 15 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7:00 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.



Gunderson

Online condolences may be sent at www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com. Jack was born to Loyal and Martha Gunderson on the family farm near Meckling on Aug. 18, 1930. When he was 10 years old, his family moved to a farm in the Mission Hill area. He joined the Air Force in September of 1950. Jack married Diane Bruget on May 27, 1951 in Volin. While he was in the Air Force, Jack and Diane spent two years in Anchorage, AK, later rotating to Spokane, WA, before coming home to South Dakota in October of 1953.

Jack farmed in the Mission Hill area and was active in community service, which included serving on the board of the Mission Hill Farmers Elevator, and as president of the Mission Hill School Board. He was a member of Vangen Lutheran Church, Mission Hill, and the American Legion. He was also a Civil Air Patrol commander and a 62-year member of the Elks. One of Jack's greatest passions was flying and he earned his private pilot's license in 1954. He continued flying for many years. When he became unable to farm due to health reasons, Jack and Diane decided to become vagabonds, selling Black Hills Gold jewelry at fairs, festivals and open air markets all over the country. Finding a good market in Yuma, AZ, they spent six

months of the year there selling to winter visitors. They then would travel to northern California where they worked for four weekends before coming home by Memorial Day. In July they would work in Minnesota, followed by August in Nebraska, ending their seasons for many years in Lincoln at the Nebraska State Fair. Having been an over-the-road truck driver for a few years before selling Black Hills Gold, Jack really enjoyed traveling, which carried on after he and Diane hit the road in their motor home, with Diane as his faithful navigator and co-pilot. In 2002, Jack and Diane started spending their summers in Yankton, and in 2011 they moved there permanently. Jack was diagnosed with

esophageal cancer in 2009 and fought it until God was ready for him to come home. Jack was a loving, gentle man, and although flying was one of his greatest loves, his family was first and foremost in his heart. He is survived by Diane, his wife of 64-1/2 years; son, Chris and special friend, Susan Stahlecker, daughters, Lynn (Tom) Balfany and Beth (John) Hoebelheirich, all of Yankton; grandchildren: Brandy (Brian) Salts of Yankton, SD, Corey Gunderson and special friend, Jen Gratzfeld of Sioux Falls, SD, Brooke (Michael) Brown of St. Paul, MN, Maggie (Rob) Fogle of Sioux Falls, SD and Tait Balfany and Megan Balfany, both of Yankton; great-grandchildren: Alexandra, Oliver, Davian, Tori, Morgan, Avery and Pria; his sister, Phyllis Karolevitz

of Yankton; brother, George (Jean) Gunderson of Mesa, AZ; several nieces and nephews and a host of special friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister and brother-in-law, Marie and Emmet Billings; his brother-in-law, Bob Karolevitz and daughter-in-law, Nori Gunderson. Memorials are directed to the Lutheran Outdoors of South Dakota; 2001 South Summit Ave.; Sioux Falls, SD 57197.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
 December 15, 2015



**Christy Elkins**

Christy Lynn Elkins, age 33, of Yankton and formerly of Rapid City, South Dakota, died Thursday, December 10, 2015 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton. Visitation is from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 17 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton. Burial will be 11:00 a.m.

(Mountain Time), on Friday, December 18, 2015 at the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Rapid City, South Dakota. Christy was born November 22, 1982 in Rapid City, South Dakota to R'Dean Elkins and Diane (Highpine) Rasmussen. She was born with Cerebral Palsy and lived with her parents in Rapid City. They loved and cared for Christy all their lives. After Diane passed

away in 2012, Christy moved to Yankton where she was a part of Ability Building Service and continued to be well taken care of. Christy had a smile for everyone she

met and always loved giving hugs. She enjoyed balloons and watching cartoons. She had a very adventurous spirit and enjoyed being outside playing with the leaves. Christy had many challenges in her life but she was a fighter and always kept a positive attitude. Christy is survived by seven brothers and sisters: Mary Bowen Reavis of Lancaster, PA, Adrian Reavis

of Rapid City, Lisa Reavis of Sioux Falls, Daneen Reavis of Sioux Falls, Carol Beal of Mapleton, IA, Roland Elkins of Custer, SD and Chad Elkins of Sioux Falls; and many nieces and nephews. Christy was preceded in death by her parents. To send an online message to the family, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
 December 15, 2015



**Alice Biesma**

The funeral service for Alice M. Biesma, 92 of Avon will be 1:30 p.m. Thursday, December 17, 2015 at the Emmanuel Reformed Church in Springfield, with burial in the Emmanuel Cemetery, rural Springfield. Visitation will be at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Avon 2 to 5 p.m. Wednesday.



Biesma

Alice Mable Biesma, daughter of Charles and Ida (Voigt) Bochman, was born December 30, 1922 on a farm near Tyndall. She died peacefully Monday, December 14, 2015 at the Good Samaritan Society in Tyndall. Alice attained the age of 92 years, 11 months and 15 days. Alice attended Fairview #32 Country School and graduated from Avon High School in 1940. She attended Southern State Teachers College in Springfield where she earned her teaching certificate. Alice taught in country schools in Bon Homme County. Alice married John Biesma on December 14, 1944 at Springfield. They farmed near Avon until November of 1978 and then moved into Avon. John died May 22, 1993. Due to sudden failing health, Alice became a resident of the Good Samaritan Society in Tyndall on December 1, 2015. Alice worked at Avon Enterprises until 1996 and she also worked at Mensch's Wholesale Greenhouse in Avon. Alice will be remembered for her love of gardening and the bountiful gardens she produced and all the craft projects that she made. Alice was a very independent person who did all of her home and yard work even this summer. She also was a very peace-filled person who loved to visit with people and listen to what was happening in their lives. Thankful for having shared her life are her nieces and nephews and many friends of all ages. Alice was preceded in death by her husband; parents; a brother Paul in infancy; and four sisters: Golda Sell, Edith Jensen, Sylvia Mudder and Pearl Hepler.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
 December 15, 2015

**Robert 'Gene' Bunnell**

Gene Bunnell was born on December 14, 1937 at Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, the second child of Hubert Charles and Blanche (Pierce) Bunnell. Eventually, the little family home on Picotte Street was home to four Bunnell children - Donald Gary, Barbara Joyce, Robert Gene and Betty Joan. The family located to a larger home and, always full of energy, Gene enjoyed the wide open spaces which surrounded that home, just two blocks north of Crane-Youngworth Field (at that time, the end of the settled Yankton community). There were successions of dogs that entered and left the family; there was a pen which housed hens for laying, there were wheeled vehicles that came and went but there was no horse. Alas, Gene always

wanted a horse! After completing his elementary years at Beadle School, Garfield School and Central School, Gene went to Washington State to live with his father, completing his high school years but coming home during the summers to work and be a part of the local family. During that time in Washington, he met Marianne Blewett, forming a loving relationship that lasted until they were separated by his death. Marianne and Gene celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on November 8, 2015. The Bunnell family left Yankton in the late 1950's, moving to Montana for one year and then to southern California. Gene retained his fascination with cars and other things with wheels and became interested in working with young people in a school setting. Both he and Marianne attained advanced degrees and entered the teaching field where they found satisfaction and success. They took their young family, Bob and Kathie, to the state of Oregon where once again they found open spaces large enough to field a horse! As a matter of fact, there was space enough for many horses so in addition to teaching, Gene became a breeder of horses and developed a strain of cutting horses which eventually produced a World Champion. That horse, named Doc Bunnell, led Gene and his family on many adventures over many miles all through the United States. It was not unusual for their huge motor home to pull up to a family member's front door unexpectedly while en route to a horse show and surprise everyone with an impromptu reunion. Yes, Gene finally did get his horse! Gene was a true entrepreneur. He could see possibilities and potential successes in situations where others could not. Among his many enterprises (including teaching) were dealing in antiques, owning and operating a tractor store, collecting and refurbishing period radios and during his "leisure" he enjoyed playing basketball and being with his son, Bob, and daughter, Kathie and (eventually) their children. The "men of the fam-

ily" shared an excitement with speed and often three generations of Bunnell men would head to the speedways and enjoy a weekend of racing. Sadly, Gene and Marianne's youngest grandson, Dylan, lost his life in a motocross accident in 2015 during one of those weekends. There were often crowds of people in the house or on the grounds of the Bunnell home, but Gene also enjoyed his solitude; he would often pull himself away from a noisy gathering and find a quiet spot for contemplation, planning and dreaming. Very often the result of one of those "think times" would be another new venture. Two years ago, on his 76th birthday, Gene suffered a stroke which required a great deal of therapy and hard work on his part augmented by encouragement and wonderful care from Marianne. He improved daily and suffered very little observable long-term damage. However, within this last month it became apparent that other conditions were threatening his life; when hospital care was no longer seen as the answer to his more and more debilitating condition, he was placed in hospice care at the family home in Oregon City, Oregon. Soon family members began to gather and on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, Gene passed away in the home which he shared with Marianne. He was surrounded by Marianne and her siblings, his own siblings (Joan Bunnell Neubauer, Barbara Bunnell Haney, Gary and his wife, Marie Bunnell) as well as his children and grandchildren, one great-grandchild and more than a dozen close family friends. It was a peaceful passing as all present raised his soul to Heaven with prayer and wished him eternal rest. Condolences can be sent to the family at 1022 Netzel, Oregon City, OR 97045. Yankton Press & Dakotan December 15, 2015

**Roger Carlow**

Funeral services for Roger Carlow, age 64, of Bloomfield, Nebraska will be 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 16, 2015, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bloomfield. Reverend Tim Koester will officiate, with burial in Bloomfield City Cemetery. Visitation will be Tuesday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the church. Brockhaus Funeral Home in Bloomfield is in charge of arrangements. Roger died Friday, December 11, 2015, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, South Dakota, after battling lung cancer. Roger Lee Carlow was born on June 25, 1951 in Osmond, Nebraska to George and Leona (Leuenhagen) Carlow. He resided in Bloomfield, Nebraska and attended Bloomfield High School. Roger worked in construction for 23 years and then worked at Waldbaum for 24 years until he retired in May of this year. Roger was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bloomfield. His favorite thing to do was to get on his Harley and ride to wherever he wanted to go. Roger also enjoyed fishing, hunting with his dogs, boating, and spending time with his girls. His friends could always count on him to be up at 3:00 a.m. driving around or watching the Weather Channel. Roger was very well known around town for a unique personality, helping hand, and open door. Roger is survived by his two daughters, Ashley Beeken and husband Josh of Norfolk and Miranda Plumbtree and husband Tyler of Norfolk; three grandchildren, Kylie Beeken (7), Brantley Plumbtree (3), and Ryker Plumbtree (to be born on December 28th); sister, Robin Brown of Yankton, South Dakota; two brothers, Leland Carlow of Yankton and Milton Carlow of Dakota City; two nephews;



Carlow

and many cousins and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, George and Leona Carlow; and two siblings. Yankton Press & Dakotan December 15, 2015

**Lorraine Auch**

Lorraine Auch, age 85, of Aurora, passed away Friday, December 11, 2015, at the Hearstone in York, Nebraska. Funeral Services will be held 10:30 a.m. Friday, December 18 at the Evangelical Covenant Church. Rev. Karl Larson will officiate. Interment will be in the Aurora Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Higby-McQuiston Mortuary. Condolences may be e-mailed to the family through the mortuary website at www.higbymortuary.com. Lorraine Mae Auch, the daughter of Emil and Mae (Hladky) Rada, was born in Utica, South Dakota on March 19, 1930 and passed away in York, Nebraska on December 11, 2015, at the age of 85. She grew up on a farm near Scotland, South Dakota, where she attended country school. On June 5, 1949, she was united in marriage to Elmer



Auch

Auch at Petersburg Church in Lesterville, South Dakota. They moved to Rapid City, South Dakota in 1951. Lorraine raised their three children: Gary, Dianne and Janet. In 1970, they moved to Aurora. Lorraine was a long-time employee of Ben Franklin. In 2008, they moved to East Park Villa, where they really enjoyed living. Elmer passed away on September 30, 2010. Lorraine was a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church. She enjoyed doing crafts, crocheting and playing cards. Elmer and Lorraine loved to travel, winters were spent in Texas. Lorraine loved family get togethers. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, and sister, Delores. Those left to cherish her memory are her three children, Gary (Deb) Auch of Aurora, Dianne (Paul) Buller of Aurora and Janet (Gary) Sanger of Ankeny, Iowa; five grandchildren; two step-grandsons; seven great-grandchildren and a great-great granddaughter. She is also survived by a brother, Gene (Linda) Rada of Rapid City, South Dakota; brother-in-law, Bill Auch of Kansas City, Missouri and two sisters-in-law, Emma Auch of Aurora and Nadean Auch of Yankton. Yankton Press & Dakotan December 15, 2015

For More Obituaries And Region News, See Page 11

IN REMEMBRANCE

<p><b>Norbert E. Kirchmeier</b>                  10:30 AM, Thursday                  Holy Family (Sacred Heart)                  Catholic Church                  Wymot</p>	<p><b>Christy Lynn Elkins</b>                  1:00 - 4:00 PM, Thursday                  Wintz &amp; Ray Funeral Home                  Yankton</p>
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**WINTZ & RAY** FUNERAL HOME and CREMATION SERVICE  
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 605-665-3644 www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

**WINTZ** FUNERAL HOME INC.  
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YANKTON DAILY  
**PRESS & DAKOTAN**

**Come See The... Live Nativity**  
 Saturday, December 19th • 5:30 & 6:30 (20 minute performances)  
 Interact with the animals and performers and enjoy refreshments following each performance!

**First United Methodist Church**  
 207 W. 11th St., 605-665-2991

**I refuse to... Miss my Mayan vacation trek**

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