

OBITUARIES

**Clara T. Christensen**



Christensen

Clara T. Christensen, 104, of Vermillion, South Dakota, passed away peacefully in the early morning on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2015, at Sanford Vermillion Care Center in Vermillion.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion with Rev. James Fowler and Rev. Judith Johnson officiating. Visitation was held be one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will be in Spring Creek Cemetery in Clarkfield, MN.

Clara Theoline (Stokke) Christensen was born in Normania Township, Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota on August 25, 1911, the daughter of Olai and Helena (Christopherson) Stokke. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Lucas

Lutheran Church. On December 23, 1933, she was united in marriage to Clifford A. Christensen by Rev. Madland of Cottonwood, MN. To this union, two children were born, Orla who lives in Vermillion, SD, and Erling who lives in Hubertus, WI with his wife, Carol. Also, mourning her passing is Joan England, of Vermillion, who has been a big part of the family for almost 50 years.

After being a farm wife for many years, she assisted Clifford in their insurance business until retirement. She was also an excellent seamstress and engaged in many other crafts as well. She was an active quilter with the other women in her church. She was a good citizen who believed voting

was a very important privilege and she exercised that right proudly.

She is further survived by her grandchildren, Jeffrey (Jennifer) Christensen of Wauwatosa, WI, Karen (Bob) Kavooras of New Lenox, IL, and Scott (Tiffany) Christensen of Milwaukee, WI; five great-grandchildren; a sister, Helen Albeck of Alexandria, MN, and a sister-in-law, Luella Stokke of Plymouth, MN.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clifford; her parents, her four brothers, Bernard, Harry, Selmer, and Carl; her sisters, Eleanora Nicolai and Hannah who died in infancy.

Clara was a kind, gentle, loving person and will be sadly missed by all of us. Blessed be her memory.

Kober Funeral Home, of Vermillion, has been entrusted with the services.

Condolences may be posted online to [www.koberfuneralhome.com](http://www.koberfuneralhome.com)

**William Hensley**

William James Hensley, 63, of Harrisburg, SD passed away November 30 at the Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD with his loving wife Gloria by his side.

Bill was born March 25, 1952 to James and Lois (Stangel) Hensley in Vermillion, SD. Bill graduated from Vermillion High School and served in the US Army from 1972-1978. He served 6 tours of duty in Korea where he contracted Agent Orange. He returned to South Dakota and worked for Wilson Trailer in Yankton, SD, retiring for health reasons after 34 years. He married his longtime friend Gloria (Baldwin) Barnes in February 21, 2012 in Vermillion. He always said the best years of his life and happiest were with Gloria, and said she was the best thing

that ever happened to him. They did everything together and especially enjoyed riding their Harley and going to out of the way places to eat. They enjoyed Poker Runs for charity and helping sick children.

The couple moved to Harrisburg in 2013 to be closer to larger medical facilities.

Bill was a great cook and loved grilling and trying new dishes. Friday afternoon was always their date and they would seek out interesting places to eat. Bill said they should be food critics and be paid for this. Bill was very proud of his family and thought the "grands" were outstanding and bragged about them all the time.

Bill is survived by his wife Gloria of Harrisburg, children: James (Kristen) Hensley, Coon Rapids, MN, Susan (Larry) Hudson, Vermillion, Sheri (Eric) Speckan, Farmington, MN, Michael (Maria) Stach,

US Army, Fairbanks, AK. Grandchildren: Meghan and Chase Hensley, Coon Rapids, Bobbi Greenfield, Sioux Falls, SD, Mollie Greenfield, Vermillion, Luci Hudson, Vermillion, Zachary and Annabelle Speckan, Farmington, Ryder Stach, Yankton, and Ashton Bush, Savannah, GA. He is also survived by a sister Mary (Gary Bottolfson) Chicone, Vermillion and a niece Melissa (John) Baatz, Charleston, SC.

The family suggests memorials be directed to the Vermillion Backpack program.

Funeral services will be 10:30 AM Saturday, December 5 at the First United Methodist Church in Vermillion with a visitation from 5-7 PM on Friday, December 4 at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion.

Bill requested that his ashes be spread at Spearfish Canyon at a later date. HansenFuneralHome.com.

**LaVonne Vik**



Vik

LaVonne "Vonnie" Gayle Vik, 82, of Sioux Falls, died peacefully under Hospice care in her home on Sunday, November 29, 2015. She was surrounded by her family who loved her so dearly.

Funeral services will begin at 12:00 PM on Friday, December 4, 2015 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. Visitation will begin at 1:00 PM on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at George Boom Funeral Home in Sioux Falls with the family present to greet friends from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Please direct memorials to Project Warm-Up via the Sioux Falls School District and/or the Arthritis Foundation.

LaVonne Gayle Bitzer was born on September, 29, 1933 to Harold and Elma (Glanzman) Bitzer in Faulkton, SD. She grew up in Tolstoy, SD and graduated from Hoven High School. She graduated from Northern State Teachers College and taught kindergarten thru 8th grade in a one-room rural school

house north of Tolstoy. Later she taught 3rd grade in the Aberdeen School District, where she met her future husband, Philip Vik. They were united in marriage on August 19, 1961 in Tolstoy. The couple moved to Sisseton where she taught 2nd grade before beginning their family. They were blessed with four children: Mike, Todd, Tammy, and Lisa.

The family spent time in Sioux Falls, Watertown, Aberdeen, and Roseville, MN, before settling in Vermillion, SD for 31 years. After retiring, LaVonne and Philip returned to Sioux Falls in 2006 to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

When she was younger, Vonnie enjoyed ice skating and league bowling. She spent many hours of fun playing card games, Chinese Checkers, Scrabble and doing her daily word

Jumble. She was a lover of all music, especially Christmas carols. She was a huge fan of the Minnesota Vikings and the Twins and loved watching them play on TV and especially in person. She delighted in reading stories to her grandchildren.

Vonnie is survived by her husband of 54 years, Philip Vik, Sioux Falls; son Mike Vik, Sioux Falls; son Todd (Tracy) Vik, Canton; daughter Tammy Vik, Sioux Falls; daughter Lisa Vik (Troy Garrett), Sioux Falls; granddaughter, Kaitlin Vik, Honolulu, HI; grandson Spencer Young, Philip, SD; granddaughter Haley Vik, Sioux Falls; granddaughter Ali Young, Sioux Falls; sister-in-law Phyllis Swanson, Northfield, MN; brother-in-law, Derrall LaGrange, Ramsey, MN; and several nieces and nephews. They are all so grateful for having shared in her love, humor, and life.

She is preceded in death by her parents, brother Vincent and his wife Mary, as well as many in-laws.

[www.georgeboom.com](http://www.georgeboom.com)

**Roana Jo Ostrom**



Ostrom

Roana Jo (Merritt) Ostrom, 74, died, with family by her side, on Friday, November 20, 2015 in Las Cruces, NM. At her request, a private family event, celebrating her life, will be held at a later date in the Black Hills of SD.

Born on May 15, 1941 in Deadwood, SD to Joseph Edward and Linnie Mae (Alexander) Merritt. Upon graduating from high school, she married Donald H. Ostrom on May 31, 1959. Together they raised five beautiful and talented daughters in Parker, SD.

Roana enjoyed several professions, most importantly the one of homemaker and mother to her daughters, later loving the grandbabies as they arrived. She wrote a column for the Parker New Era,

a weekly paper for which she later served as editor, where she shared family recipes and stories. She self-published the collection, "Mother Cooking". She also fondly remembered her time traveling and driving as an over-the-road truck driver and as a departmental secretary at The University of South Dakota, where she retired in December 2006.

While living and working in Vermillion, SD, she met her dear friend, Eugene Welch, and upon retirement, they set out on their cross-country RV adventures. Settling in Deming, NM, they enjoyed desert gardening, feeding the quail and deer, and rock hunting on four-

wheelers. She recently built a "she shed", where she enjoyed stamping, fiber arts and beading. Her friends and loved ones will forever cherish the many hand-made holiday and birthday cards sent over the years. Always original, stylish and creative, her quick wit endured throughout her lifetime.

Thankful for sharing her life are her five daughters Kathy (Terry) Nelson, Vermillion, SD; Kelly (Larry) Alexander, Ft. Myers, FL; Kristy (Jim) Butcher, Kanoehe, HI; Kerry Ostrom, Spearfish, SD; Kammy (Carter) Krumbach, Sleepy Eye, MN; 15 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren, with two more on the way; partner Eugene Welch; sister Linda Matzen; and cousin Glenda Bowns. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother James, and a great-granddaughter.

**John Weber**



Weber

John Weber, age 72, of Sioux Falls, passed away Tuesday, November 24, 2015 in Parker, CO. Family will greet friends from 5:00-7:00 pm with a scripture service at 7:00 pm Friday, December 4, at Miller Funeral Home, 507 S. Main Ave. Mass of Christian burial will be said at 9:00 am Saturday at the Cathedral of St. Joseph with burial at St. Michael Cemetery.

John Henry Weber, son of Clarence and Mathilda (Jellesma) Weber, was born July 14, 1943 in Sioux Falls, SD. He grew up in the north end of Sioux Falls, graduating from Cathedral High in 1961. John then served in the United States Marine Corps until 1964. After returning to Sioux Falls, he began his career with the United

States Postal Service. On December 27, 1966 he was united in marriage to Sharon Jerehtowski of Sioux Falls. The couple made their home in Dell Rapids, SD, later returning to Sioux Falls; the family moved to Vermillion, SD in 1982 when John became Postmaster, a position he held until his retirement in 1999.

From the time he began his career, John was an active member of the AFL-CIO Postal Union, then the National League of Postmasters where he served in leadership roles. He was always active in the communities and parishes in which he lived, and was proud to join the ranks of

the Fourth Degree with the Knights of Columbus. John enjoyed spending his time with his grandsons, traveling with Sharon, making music compilations, woodworking, collecting rocks, and being outdoors with his flowers.

Grateful for having shared his life are his wife Sharon; his children, John (Phyllis) Weber, Price, UT, Laurie Weber, Sioux Falls, Jennifer (Lawrence) Chavers, Centennial, CO; 6 grandchildren; his siblings, Phyllis Miller, Sioux Falls, Mary Ann (Jerry) Meert, Overland Park, KS, Tom (Joan) Weber, Highlands Ranch, CO, and Suzi (Jim) Sieverding, Spencer, SD.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Richard.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association.

**Curtis Nelsen**



Nelsen

Curtis John "Curt" Nelsen, 31, of Yankton, SD formerly of Vermillion, SD passed away on Monday morning, November 30, 2015, as the result of an automobile accident in Yankton County.

The Celebration of Curt's Life will be on Monday, December 7, 2015 at Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion with Pastor James Fowler officiating from Trinity Lutheran Church. Visitation will be one hour prior to the services at the funeral home. Burial will be in Meckling Cemetery, rural Meckling after the luncheon at Howler's in Vermillion.

Curtis John "Curt" Nelsen was born on July 9, 1984, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, South Dakota, to Angie (Gray) and Rodney Nelsen. He grew up in Rapid City and attended school while living with his mom before he moved to Vermillion to

live with his dad. He received his GED in Custer, SD. He went to welding school for 2 years to become a welder. He was working beside his dad in his construction and tree businesses for a number of years. He was currently employed at L & M Radiator in Yankton, SD.

Curt had a big heart and loved everyone. He always had plenty of hugs and love to share with everyone. He was a big teddy bear. He didn't have a mean bone in his body and would never hurt anyone intentionally. He liked music, singing karaoke, tattoos, GNC, and welding. Material things weren't important to Curt. He didn't demand anything new. He was happy with hand-me-downs. He was a wonderful young man and will be missed by many who knew

and loved him.

Curtis is survived by his two children, Jady and Maverick Nelsen, both of Sioux City, IA, his mother, Angie (Clark) Ladner of Yankton, SD, his father, Rodney Nelsen of Vermillion, SD; his sister, April (Jason) Wagner of Gilbert, Arizona; his step-sisters, Melissa (Justin) Briggs of Carlsbad, CA, Jennifer (Ryan) Ramos of Oceanside, CA, and Michelle Ladner of Aberdeen, SD; his paternal grandma, Betty Nelsen of Vermillion, SD; and his maternal grandma, Ella Gray Clark of Vermillion, SD; many aunts, uncles, cousins, two nieces and a nephew.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Leland Nelsen; and his maternal grandfather, Melvin "Ole" Gray.

Kober Funeral Home has been entrusted with the services.

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**CLAY COUNTY COURTS**

**Cases Disposed Nov. 20 - 26**

Bohr, Matthew, Burbank; Open Alcoholic Beverage Container Accessible In Vehicle; Dismissed-Motion By Prosecutor.  
Brown, Joshua, Burbank; Violation Of Protection Order; Dismissed-Motion By Prosecutor.  
Chavez Benitez, Yudit, Vermillion; No Drivers License; Fine: \$54.  
Condon, Kamron, Vermillion; Possession Of Alcohol By Minor; Dismissed-Motion By Prosecutor.  
Cuka, Brady, Lake Andes; Driving With Suspended (Not Revoked) License; Fine: \$204.  
Dominguez, Jose, Lincoln, Nebraska; Open Container; Fine: \$54.  
Fierro, George, Sioux Falls; Speeding On Other Roadways; Fine: \$39.  
Foley, Donald, Yankton; Seat Belt Violation; Fine: \$25.  
Freeman, Linda, Vermillion; Speeding On Other Roadways; Fine: \$19.  
Hartley, Kristina, Pierre; Speed On Four-Lane In Rural Areas; Fine: \$19.  
Hoffman, Treg, McCook Lake; Driving With Suspended (Not Revoked) License; Fine: \$204.  
Hunt, Abby, Sergeant Bluff,

Iowa; Speed On Four-Lane In Rural Areas; Fine: \$59.  
Kirk, Cante, Watertown; Speed On Four-Lane In Rural Areas; Fine: \$19.  
Kontz, Danielle, Vermillion; Improper Highway Entry; Fine: \$54.  
Lecates, Bernie, Vermillion; Careless Driving; Fine: \$54.  
Leyden, James, Yankton; Speed On Four-Lane In Rural Areas; Fine: \$39.  
Orr, Justin, Volin; Speed On Four-Lane In Rural Areas; Fine: \$19.  
Palermo, Taylor, University Park, Iowa; Speed On Four-Lane In Rural Areas; Fine: \$39.  
Perez, Gilberto, Lincoln, Nebraska; Open Container; Fine: \$54.  
Peters, Kyle, Brookings; Open Container; Fine: \$54.  
Pinkelman, Emily, Yankton; Speeding On Other Roadways; Fine: \$19. Seat Belt Violation; Fine: \$25.  
Ramirez, Jairo, Lincoln, Nebraska; Open Container; Fine: \$54.  
Reddest, Mario, Vermillion; Driving Under Influence-1st Offense; Fine: \$617; License: Revoked For 30 Day(s); Incarceration: Begins: 11/20/2015 Sent. To: Jail 5 Day(s) Susp.: 5 Day(s); Based On Conditions Of The Court.

PLAIN TALK CLASSIFIEDS WORK FOR YOU! CALL (605) 624-4429

*Holiday Open House*

There is no time more fitting to say thank you and to wish you a happy holiday season.

Friday, December 11  
2:00PM - 4:00PM

Please join us for pie, coffee, cider and door prizes

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