

*In Loving Memory of
Samantha Jenine Vaira*

**Born to Della (Heide)
and Buck Van Horn**
February 14, 1991
Glendive, Montana

**Welcomed Home
to Heaven**
April 6, 2025
Sidney, Montana

Funeral Services

Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 2:00 pm
Richland County Event Center ~ Sidney, Montana
Luncheon to Follow

Officiating

Pastor David Meehan

Casketbearers

Selisse Marty Mandy Smith
Kate Bennett Lexi Udelhoven
Greg Loder Nate Paine
Will Townsend Gregory Rauschendorfer

Ushers

Cheryl Van Every Becky Townsend Wade Van Every

Special Musical Selection

"I Will Rise" ~ Shoni Townsend

Final Resting Place

Sidney Cemetery ~ Sidney, Montana

Arrangements By Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home ~ Sidney, Montana



*In Loving Memory of
Samantha Jenine Vaira*
February 14, 1991
- April 6, 2025



Samantha Jenine (Van Horn) Vaira was born on February 14, 1991, to Buck and Della (Heide) Van Horn in Glendive, MT. Much to her dismay, she was joined by her sister Tina in October of 1993. The sisters quickly became best friends and were raised together on the family ranch outside of Circle, MT.

Samantha's love of teaching began at a young age when she would hold "class" for Tina and their stuffed animals. Samantha and Tina had creative imaginations playing in the trees, playing with dolls, and dressing up their pet cats to take them for stroller walks. They played many hours of volleyball, which later paid off when they won the 2007 Montana Class C State Volleyball Championship. Samantha and Tina owned a small herd of sheep where they raised their 4-H lambs; she loved the lambs and spent many hours taking care of them. Samantha was very close with her family and had a special place in her heart for her Grandpa and Grandma Heide. Samantha graduated from Circle High School in 2009.

Samantha had various jobs beginning in high school, including the Circle Theater, lifeguarding, waitressing at K's Family Dining, helping on the ranch with the cattle and haying, and at the Farm Service Agency. Working at the Circle after-school program and later, at the ASMSU daycare in college, really solidified that her true calling was in education.

Sam was naturally a very gifted, talented, and patient teacher, but her skills were refined when she graduated with honors from Montana State University in 2013 with a B.S. in Elementary Education and a minor in Reading.

and Margaret Van Horn, and sister-in-law Angela Rose Vaira.

Samantha will be forever remembered by her husband Michael and their daughter Etta of Sidney, MT; parents Buck and Della Van Horn of Circle, MT; sister Tina (Nate) Paine of Circle; in-laws Kelly and Jenifer Vaira of Sidney; sister-in-law Amy (Greg) Loder of Sidney; nephews and niece Barrett, Hayes, Pierce, Margot, Rhodes Loder and Lawson and Baby Paine; Aunts Lynda (Dennis) Dinardi of Billings, MT, Cheryl (Wade) VanEvery of Sidney, Janet (Robin) Smyth of Gladstone, OR and Uncle John (Caroline) Van Horn of Gilmer, TX; along with numerous cousins, many cherished friends, and ten years' worth of students whose lives she touched.

Samantha and Michael would like to start a scholarship for budding teachers; in lieu of flowers, please donate to the Samantha Vaira Memorial Fund at Stockman Bank. Please also consider sending Sam's family a note with specific memories of Samantha and how she touched your life so we can continue to share with Etta how special her mommy was.

Samantha's family would like to take one more opportunity to thank our communities for their generosity and prayers, and the staff at Mayo Clinic and MD Anderson for their exceptional care. While God may not have answered our prayers in the way we were hoping, He showed us His love and grace through all of you. Samantha's faith never once faltered, and we know she has been reunited with her Lord and Savior and is now fully healed.

