

Harlan Tribune. Tuesday, January 30, 2007. 1

Lyle "Critter" Christensen, 42

Feb. 20, 1964 - Jan. 6, 2007

AUDUBON — Lyle Kevin "Critter", son of Everette and Marjorie (Tibben) Christensen, was born Feb. 20, 1964, in Audubon. He lived with his family south of Botna and attended Manning schools, graduating with the class of 1982. Critter was baptized at St. John's Lutheran Church in Audubon and was confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in rural Audubon. He attended Des Moines Area Community College where he studied welding and then worked for Mark Elmquist Welding for a number of years. In 1987, he started farming on the home place south of Botna. While farming he also worked for Puck Enterprises for 15 years and Pegler Sysco for three years. Aug. 1, 1997, he moved to a farm west of Manilla.

Aug. 30, 1997, Critter married Denise Justice Ridgley. He embraced her children as his own and was anxiously awaiting the birth of his first grandchild. In June of 2005, Critter was diagnosed with colon cancer. He looked towards the future and was not willing to give in to his cancer, always working on the farm as much as he was able. He remained at home with the loving care of his wife, Denise, and died there Jan. 6, 2007, at age 42 years, 10 months and 17 days.

Preceding Critter in death are his parents. He is survived by his wife, Denise Christensen of Manilla; son, Doug Ridgley (Sarah) of Grand Island, NE; daughter, Stephanie Ridgley and special friend Justin Ahrenholtz of Manilla; sister, Jan (Wayne) Brown of Boise, ID; two brothers, Lynn Christensen (Kristine) of Adel and Lee Christensen (Tammy) of Carlisle; mother and father-in-law, Larry and Lillian Justice of Manilla; sister-in-law, Christy (Kevin) Lingle; two brothers-in-law, Kenny Justice and James Justice; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 9, 2007, at Zion Lutheran Church in Manning, with Rev. Patrick Sparling officiating. Burial was in the Nishnabotna Cemetery, Manilla with Dean Genzen, Ben Puck, Jeremy Puck, James Justice, Kenny Justice, Tony Lile, Brad Christensen, Josh Brown, Chris Brown, Ken Willenborg, Clark Tibben, Denny Erb and Roy Schilling honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Jay Karsten, Dan Head, Tom Wegner, Mike Eisheid, Bob Saunders and Jeff Joens. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.