

Tabitha Christine Saunders

1983 ~ 2005

Services for Tabitha Christine Saunders, 21, Bonners Ferry, were held in conjunction with her daughter and fiancé August 5 at the First Christian Church in Sandpoint. She, her daughter Kjestine Saunders, two years old, and her fiancé Bart Bartron, 24, were killed in an early morning vehicle collision on U.S. 95 just south of Bonners Ferry July 29, 2005. Her daughter, Lyssa Saunders, two months old, was critically injured in the collision.

Tabitha was a devoted mother and a devoted friend to many. She was also a proud Native American, a direct descendant of Chief Narcisse Isadore of the Kootenai Tribe, who died in 1935, and who was a very intelligent man strictly educated only in the Native American way, and a fighter for his people and their land. Tabitha inherited many of her grandfather's traits, and never stopped fighting for those whom she held dear.

She loved children of all ages, and was quick to give to those she felt were less fortunate than she. She always tried to make every child she met feel special, especially during the holidays. She said her grandmother Saunders always went all out on those occasions when she was a child, and she wanted to give that back to the children around her.

She loved time spent with her children, reading, bowling, amusement parks, board games and car shows. She also had happy memories of fishing with her grandfather Shofner.

Tabitha is survived by her daughter, Lyssa Renee Saunders; her father, Duane Edward Saunders, and his girlfriend, Shirley Fitzpatrick, her mother Margret Katherine (Saunders) Young and step-father Paul Young; brother Scotty Duane Saunders, maternal grandparents Marion and Marlene Shotner; step-brothers and sisters Jessica Carillo, Stephanie Hudson, Dillon Fitzpatrick and Lacey Fitzpatrick; and her biological native family; uncles Richard Isadore and Blair Smith and aunt Delaphine Isadore.