LAME DEER - Heather Renae Lefthand was born on Jan. 5, 1973, in Crow Agency, to Sara L. Young and Frederick V. Lefthand. In her early childhood, Heather resided at Spear Siding, also spending a great deal of time with her grandparents Carl and Louise Young. Heather was the third child and the baby of the family.

Later, as a young woman, Heather had three children. Her third child (her baby) was Jordan Conrad or as he became known, "Hajesk." On Sept. 7, 2005, the Lord called them Home together. Heather and Jordan were very special, they were magic because they made us all happy. Heather was born with her Grandma Louise's dimples and a heart of gold. Jordan was born and was everything his mom and grandparents wanted him to be as a son, grandson and brother. Heather loved music and fast cars, Jordan loved horses, cats, Spiderman and Indian drumming.

Everything about Heather was fun. She married Paul Ryan on March 15, 1996, at the Excalibur in Las Vegas, with many family and friends present.

Heather completed her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at Montana State University-Bozeman in 1997. Heather taught at St. Charles School in Pryor and Pretty Eagle School in St. Xavier. Although she was baptized at the Morning Star Baptist Church in Lame Deer, she also appreciated the Catholic religion at St. Charles and Pretty Eagle schools.

Heather believed in prayer and was active in both churches. She loved all of her students and they loved her caring personality.

Heather was also blessed with two other children, Karico Ali and Hayley Rain, but in addition, she was a mother figure to her nieces, nephews and others.

As a young girl, Heather took Conrad Fisher as her father. She lived the majority of her life in Lame Deer where she touched the lives of many people, young and old.

Heather was a member of the Crow Tribe and a member of the "Ties the Bundle Clan" and a Child of the "Big Lodge Clan."

Jordan was a full of life. He left his footprints in all our hearts in every manner of the word. He was mentored to learn the Cheyenne language from the day he was born by his grandfather Conrad since there were very few children that were knowledgeable in the Cheyenne language. According to his grandfather, "he was a lifelong language project and that he was chosen to be a model of the Cheyenne language."

During his life, people would ask the family, "is this the boy that is a Cheyenne speaker?" They would be in awe of his language abilities. Heather had four things that she wanted for Jordan. They were, to learn the Cheyenne language, learn how to ride and rope from his grandfather, become a traditional Cheyenne singer...
and learn the art of basketball from his uncle Wendell. Jordan was named after the great Michael Jordan by his father, Paul.

Survivors include: husband/father, Paul Ryan; daughters/sisters, Karico Lefthand and Hayley Ryan; mother/grandmother and stepfather/grandpa, Sara Young and Conrad Fisher; father/grandfather and stepmother/grandmother Frederick and Colleen Lefthand; special mother, Janice Good Luck; great-grandfather David (Kim) Yarlott, Sr.; paternal grandparents Anna and Van Ryan; sisters/aunts, Frederica (Dewey) Foote, Julie (Emanuel) Pine, brothers/uncles, Wendell and Michael Lefthand, Roman and Cazzie Fisher; stepbrother/uncle Clinton and Curtis Iron; stepsister/aunt Tamara Good Luck; and step-grandparents, Burton and Alberta Fisher; special nieces/nephews/cousins Alayna, Ryle, Ryan, Chauncey, Sayra, Saraya, Kasey, Kori, Kaden, Melissa Lonebear, Brian (Marshae) and Amanda "Weez" Old Crow, Misty (Tyler) Lefthand and Ceslie Eaglefeathers, Myra Lefthand, Rena (Joe) Pickett, Les (Lesly) Lefthand, Melanie Lefthand, Chesco (Sara) Little Nest, Pete (Cedar) Lefthand, Kendall (Royann), Rodney, Antoinette (Dennis) Gonzales, Gwen (Terrance) Covers Up, Eric, Frederick II (Vanessa), Marshalena (Bryce) Rogers, Shannon (Karl) Little Owl, Ira Jr. (Maria) Lefthand, Jennifer and Nicole Lefthand, Susan, Lenora and Marie Lefthand, Myron, Franklin and Richelle Eastman, LaTasha (Dwayne) Blacksmith; aunts, Jolene Webb, Carlita Wilson, Alice Lionshows, Juanita (Lee) Lonebear, Thelma (Eugene) Hart, Leslie Fisher, Donna (Oscar) Rodriguez, Shelley Fisher, Ruth Alden, Frances Bends, Louise Doyle, Lillian Badbear, Deanna Dreamer, Mickey Whiteman, Mary Kate (Vincent) Crooked Arm; uncles Collin Young, Ira (Ramona), Marshall (Barbara), and Anthony (Agnes) Lefthand, Mervin (Arlene) Haven, John and Tim (Rose) Doyle.

In addition, Jordan is survived by his aunts: Julia, Gaylene Ryan, Vanessa James, Claudine Littlebird, Christi and Nakita Bearchum; uncles: Van Ryan, Jr., Brent Ryan, Robert Bearchum, Jr.

We apologize if we forgot anyone, as we have a large family. Extended families: Alden, Backbone, Bear Below, Falls Down, Blaine, Bull Tail, Pretty on Top, Stewart, Walk, Yarlott, Bravo, Plenty Hawk, Ryan, Bear Chum and Whiteman families.

A few special friends of Heather's were Mary Whitewolf, Rachel Strange Owl, Danielle Arnoux, Jackie Myers, Eva Flying, Lauren and Lora Pickett, Jose Sarzano and Lari Beartusk.

Wake services will be held 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9, at the Fisher residence in Lame Deer. Funeral services will be held 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, in the Lodge Grass First Crow Indian Baptist Mission. Interment will follow in the Lodge Grass Cemetery. Bullis Mortuary of Hardin has been entrusted with the arrangements.