

## **Kula, Emily**

Emily S. Kula, 36, of Port Austin, died Friday afternoon, May 16, 2003, at her home several months after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She was born Feb. 28, 1967 in Pigeon to Emil Heck and the late Fern Heck. Emily grew up on a farm south of Elkton and graduated from EPBP High School in 1985. On May 7, 1987, she was united in marriage to Richard A. Kula at her parents home south of Elkton. Emily provided in-home care for the elderly for a number of years while raising her own family. In November 1997, they moved from Elkton to the Port Austin area. She was a wonderful and talented painter, putting her brush to the canvas, ceramics, and crafts. She also enjoyed being on the airwaves: her handle on the CB was Cougar. Surviving are her husband, Rick; three children at home, Jennifer, 13, Richard, 8, and Megan, 4; her father, Emil Heck and his wife, Catherine, of Ubly; two brothers, Michael Heck, of Kinde, and William Heck, of Elkton; her sister, Anna King and her husband, Dave, of Elkton; five nieces and nephews, Ann, Justin, Annettamarie, Allisa, and Brinn. Also surviving are six stepbrothers, Charles Melnik, of Long Lake, James Melnik, of Unionville, Don Melnik and his wife, Michelle, of Bad Axe, Ron Melnik and his wife, Cindy, of Ubly, Gary Melnik and his wife, Brenda, of Jacksonville, Fla., and Kenneth Melnik and his wife, Leslie, of Birch Run; two stepsisters, Patricia Cole and her husband, Ray, of Lakeville, Ind., and Maureen Gentner and her husband, David, of Mayville; and 20 step-nieces and step-nephews. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Monday, May 19, 2003, at the Champagne Funeral Chapel in Elkton. The Rev. Robert Garrett will officiate with burial in Grant Township Cemetery. Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. today, and after 9:30 Monday morning. Memorials may be given to the American Cancer Society, Heartland Hospice, or the family. Friends may sign the guest book at [www.CFCelkton.com](http://www.CFCelkton.com).