

## Rennie Guy Bacon, 48

Rennie Guy Bacon, 48, of Berrien Springs, Mich., formerly of Kalispell, died Friday, May 26, 2006, at home after a five year battle with cancer.

A funeral service celebrating his life will be held at 4:30 p.m. Friday, June 2, at Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, with the Rev. John Rutowicz of St. Boniface Evangelical Lutheran Church officiating.

Legacy Family Funeral Services of Berrien Springs is handling funeral arrangements for the family. See a complete obituary and sign the guest book at [www.legacyfuneral.com](http://www.legacyfuneral.com).

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Boniface Evangelical Lutheran Church; Hospice at Home Inc. of Berrien County; or for the Bacon children's higher-education expenses.

Rennie was born Aug. 3, 1957, in Traverse City, Mich., to Robert and Marilyn (Vivier) Bacon. He was a 1976 graduate of Oscoda High School.

On June 27, 1981, he married Karen Lynn Krahnke. They had two children, Jessica Anne Bacon and Matthew Ryan Bacon.

Rennie worked as an educator and coach for many years, including 12 years at Berrien Springs High School in Berrien Springs. Before his teaching career, Rennie was self-employed for eight years as a drywall contractor and a reforestation contractor for the U.S. Forestry Department in Montana.



Rennie was a former member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

Survivors include his wife of 25 years, Karen Lynn (Krahnke) Bacon, and two children, Jessica Anne and Matthew Ryan Bacon, of Berrien Springs; his parents, Robert Reynolds and Marilyn Kay (Vivier) Bacon of Oscoda; three brothers, Robert "Scott" and Donna Bacon of Brighton, Mich., Jim and Marilyn Bacon of Kalispell, and Richard "Tony" Bacon of Chicago; a sister, Wendy, and Gary Merkey of Muskegon, Mich.; his father and mother-in-law, Charles and Doris Krahnke of Drummond Island, Mich.; two brothers-in-law, Keith and Kathy Krahnke of Pickford, Mich., and Ken and Becky Krahnke of Sandusky, Mich.; a number of nieces and nephews, including Krien and Kevin Wade of Flagstaff, Ariz., and Zach and Jessica Bacon, Ty Bacon, and Brett Bacon, all of Kalispell; and a number of great-nieces and nephews, and cousins.

Rennie was preceded in death by a sister-in-law, Kristen Lee Krahnke, who died in 1988.

## Bradley Paul Babbitt, 18

Bradley Paul Babbitt was born Dec. 11, 1987, in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Bradley "went home to be with the Lord" on May 3, 2006, at his residence in Lakewood, Ohio.

Bradley was a student at Columbia Falls High School in 2004 before he moved back to Ohio. Bradley had traveled around the world as his father is retired from the U.S. Army, he lived in Germany, Egypt, Texas, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Bradley loved to snowboard and enjoyed giving his brothers and sisters a hard time. Bradley was the youngest and all his older siblings adored him and will truly miss him.

Bradley is survived by his parents, Robert and Chris Babbitt of Columbia Falls, and Steve and Denise Matthews, of Avon Lake, Ohio; his brothers, Robert



Babbitt II of Bloomington, Ind., Brian Babbitt of Avon Lake, and Richard Gould of Columbia Falls; sisters, Jamie Tatum of Odessa, Texas, and Jennifer Gould of Columbia Falls; grandparents, Bonnie Gregory of Anderson, Ind., and Dennis and Sue Schilling of Tucson, Ariz.; numerous aunts and uncles, Mike Morgan of Chicago, Nugget and Randy Trent of Middletown, Ind., Scott Schilling of Lorain, Ohio, Todd Schilling of Florida, and Brooke Schilling of Arizona. Bradley was loved by numerous friends and family.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Eastern time on Monday, May 8, at Busch Funeral Home, 163 Avon-Belden Road, Avon Lake, Ohio. Father James H. Beatty, pastor of Holy Spirit Church, Avon Lake, will officiate. Burial will follow at Resthaven Memory Gardens, Avon Lake.

For more information, to view an on-line memorial or to send a condolence, go to [www.buschfuneral.com](http://www.buschfuneral.com).

## Raymond A. Bache, 88

Raymond A. Bache, 88, a longtime Libby resident, died from natural causes Monday, March 20, 2006, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital.

Survivors include his wife, Faith, of Libby; daughters, Vonnie Emmett of Libby, Dottie Sheffield Kennewick, Wash.,

and Charlotte Mercurio of California; and son, Gary Hicks, of Grants Pass, Ore.

Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 23. Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday, March 24, at the Assembly of God Church in Libby.

Local arrangements are by

## Lori Jean Bain, 52

Lori Jean Bain passed away at the Immanuel Lutheran Home on Aug. 5, 2006, surrounded by her close family and friends, after a courageous battle with cancer.



Lori was born Jan. 8, 1954, in Great Falls, to Emmet and Bonnie Eller. Lori spent her entire childhood in Centerville. She attended public school and graduated with honors from Centerville High in 1972. During her school years, Lori was actively involved in several organizations including band, cheerleading and the drill team.

After graduation, Lori moved to Missoula to attend the University of Montana, studying psychology while owning and operating a pizza business on Front Street.

In 1980, Lori gave birth to her only child, Rani.

In 1983, Lori and Rani moved back to Great Falls, where Lori became a certified optician while working with a private optometrist. Later, Lori went to work as an optician at Malmstrom Air Force Base. Lori and her daughter moved to Kalispell in August 1994 after Lori accepted the optical manager position opening at the then-new Shopko Store in Kalispell. She continued her optical career there until April 2000.

In February 1995, while working at Shopko Optical, Lori waited on a customer — her future husband, and love of her life, Jeff, and they were joined in holy matrimony Sept. 2, 2000, aboard the Far West cruise ship on Flathead Lake.

Lori's passion in life was her ability and willingness to care for and take care of all her family and friends in time of need. Lori had such a big heart and was never selfish in giving of herself or her time to those who were less fortunate.

Lori enjoyed traveling along with her daughter Rani to various figure-skating competitions. She was always there to sew Rani's special outfits as well as cheering her on.

Along with Rani, Lori was also very proud of her two stepsons, Nathan and Jared. Lori and Jeff would always attend and support their kids' sporting activities, and Lori's cheering would always be heard amongst the crowd! Even though Lori was only a stepmother to Nathan and Jared, she helped raise and care for them exactly as if they were her own.

Lori was also a proud "Nana" to her granddaughter, Faith. She spent countless days and hours helping care for her special one while Rani was at work. Unfortunately, Lori will miss the birth of Rani's son, Ostyn, due this coming September; "but we know that she will be enjoying the moment from heaven!"

Lori's other passion in life was traveling with family and special

vacations with her husband, Jeff. Some of her travels included Hawaii on numerous occasions, Mexico, Florida, Las Vegas, New Orleans, New York City and Canada. She loved to travel with her husband on his business trips as well.

Going camping in the trailer was also on top of Lori's list of fun things to do. She enjoyed hanging out at the cabin at Bitterroot Lake. Whether she was relaxing on the porch swing, going for a boat ride or sampling some of Annette's fine home baked pies, Lori always enjoyed spending quality time with family and friends at the lake.

Lori was a master decorator and party planner. She always dreamed of going into her own business in this particular field. Her favorite time of year was the Christmas holiday season. She would spend days, even weeks, planning, decorating the house and preparing the family guest list for Christmas dinner. Lori insisted on putting on the party each year, and she did a marvelous job!

Lori's caring and devoted mother, Bonnie, quit her job in March 2006 to help care for Lori during her illness, making several trips to the Mayo Clinic, and being by her side every step of the way. Husband Jeff, sister Lynn, brother Lance, Rani, and the rest of the family also played an important part of Lori's patient care.

Lori is survived by her husband, Jeff Bain, of Kalispell; daughter, Rani Brennan, and husband, Mike, of Oak Harbor, Wash.; two stepsons, Nathan Bain and Jared Bain, both of Kalispell; her mother, Bonnie Eller, of Cascade; one sister, Lynn Gasser, and husband, Mark, of Kalispell; one brother, Lance Eller, and wife, Sheri, of Lewistown; granddaughter, Faith Brennan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lori was a godly woman and devoted Christian. Collecting and displaying angels of all types was her special joy. "She will definitely be our angel and will await our family with open arms for the joyous reunion in heaven." Until then she will be dearly missed by her close family and all others who were fortunate enough to be part of her life.

The family suggest memorials be sent to Angel Flight, 3161 Donald Douglas Loop South, Santa Monica, CA 90405; or the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

Visitation for Lori will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 11, at the Christian Center Assembly of God Church, 255 Summit Ridge Drive, in Kalispell, with burial afterward at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

### K. Ruth Baenen, 86

K. Ruth Baenen, 86, of Libby, died in her home Dec. 8, 2006.

She was first a deputy and then the elected Lincoln County assessor for many years.

Ruth is survived by her daughter, Loretta Cook, of

Sandy, Utah; and her son, Raymond, of Libby.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Christ Lutheran Church, 200 West Larch.

Arrangements are by Nelson and Vial Funeral Home.

### Lois Ruth Bailey, 79

Lois Ruth Bailey, 79, or known to everyone that knew her as "Gram," passed away Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, at the Life Care Center in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. She was born Sept. 19, 1927, in Kalispell to Clyde and Grace Yenne.

Lois lived in the Montana area for her childhood life and met her future husband, Wesley Bailey, while living in Kalispell. They were married in Kalispell in the late 1940s, and later would move to the Wallace, Idaho, area when Wesley took a job with the Asarco Group of Wallace.

She was homemaker and spent most of her later years watching over her grandchildren's dogs and cats before falling ill in October.

Lois would spend her evenings watching either the Gonzaga Bulldogs, Seattle Mariners or Seattle Seahawks, depending on the season and if there wasn't a game on that night, you could always find her busy at her kitchen table with a crossword puzzle or playing the occasional game of cards with family members.

Lois is survived by three sons, Bill Bailey and his wife, Pam, of Post Falls, Idaho; Denny Bailey and his wife, Kathy, of

Wenatchee, Wash., and Gary Bailey and his wife, Annie, of Silverton, Idaho; two daughters, Nancy Elliott of Wallace, and JoAnn Bailey and Marvin Walker of Wallace; seven grandchildren, DeAnne Berry and her husband, Tom, of Castle Rock, Wash., Tom Bailey of Cut Bank, Angela Terzulli and her husband, Jeramie, of Lewiston, Idaho, Joey Elliott and his wife, Joan, of Sandpoint, Idaho, Jason Elliott of Wallace, Gretchen Bailey of Moscow, Idaho, and Eric Bailey of Silverton; four great-grandchildren, Erin and Connor Berry of Castle Rock, Kylee Bailey of Cut Bank, and Ella Terzulli of Lewiston; as well as two newborns due this spring; one brother, Bernard Yenne of Salem, Ore., and one cousin, Mildred Brenner of Kalispell.

Upon her request, no funeral services will be held locally. A small family gathering is planned for later this spring at the C.E. Conrad Cemetery in Kalispell.

Memorials may be made to Shoshone Pet Rescue or the American Lung Association on behalf of Lois.

English Funeral Services of Coeur d'Alene is in charge of arrangements

### Lee D. Baisch, 75

Lee D. Baisch, born Sept. 5, 1931, in Hazen, N.D., passed away Oct. 28, 2006, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ferd and Eloise Baisch; and his sister, Rosalyn Heick.

He was united in marriage to Beverly Miller on March 20, 1955, in Glendive.

Survivors include his wife, Beverly; daughter, Kelly Baisch, and husband, Alex Saylor, of Kalispell; son Stuart Baisch and wife, Jan, of Keenesburg, Colo.; son, Todd Baisch and wife, Roni, of Ranger, Ga.; and twin granddaughters, Lindsey and Lacey Baisch, of Keenesburg.

Also surviving are his brothers, Maynard of Sidney, Jim of Glendive, David of Billings, and Richard of Wibaux; sister, Leona Mittlestadt, of Missoula; and nieces, nephews and cousins.

Lee graduated from Dawson County High School in Glendive — Class of 1951. From January 1953 to January 1955, near the end of the Korean War, he served two years on active duty with

the U.S. Army.

Lee enjoyed a full and busy life working in the petroleum industry throughout the Rocky Mountain states and by his example demonstrated the peace and comfort of a strong belief in the Lord.

During his early retirement years, Lee served with Laborers for Christ, assisting congregations in building churches and classrooms. He was a member of the crew constructing First Lutheran Church in Missoula.

Lee was a loving, kind and gentle man, and the disease that deprived him and his family of his "golden years" meant a very long goodbye for him, his loved ones and his many friends.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, at First Lutheran Church in Missoula. A family committal service is planned during the coming summer in Glendive.

The family requests memorial contributions be sent to the Montana Veterans Home, Memorial Board, P.O. Box 250, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

## James Sylvan 'Jim' Baker, 62

James Sylvan "Jim" Baker, 62, died of natural causes at his residence in the evening of Thursday, Feb. 9, 2006, in Kalispell.



He was the second-born son of Vernon "Smokey" and Eunice Olive (Holcomb) Baker on Aug. 14, 1943, in Kalispell. Jim attended Batavia, Demarsville, Evergreen, and Central School while growing up in the Flathead. His family moved quite a bit because his dad, Vern, traveled around to different logging areas for work.

In 1959, Jim enlisted in the National Guard at the age of 16. He served a year and then was out on a medical discharge. He returned home and started working for Kalispell Laundry where he worked for several years. Jim also worked for Stolze Land & Lumber and sawmill for many years as an edger.

After leaving Stolze, Jim, for many years during Christmas tree season, sold trees around the valley. Later, after his health failed him, you could find Jim attending many flea markets, usually over in Sagle, Idaho. He seemed to really enjoy this for he had a talent for shooting the bull. This allowed him to travel a bit and also gave him some source of income. Eventually Jim's health slowly deteriorated and he got to a point where traveling was too much to do anymore, so he quit doing the flea markets.

In October of 1963, Jim married Ellen Olive Caudill in Kalispell. Together they had three children, Sherman, Tammy and Carrie.

They have lived in Kalispell for all of their lives.

Jim loved to hunt and fish and also enjoyed playing cards and cribbage. Jim enjoyed going to Sawbuck's for his daily breakfast, for this was his time to socialize and see good old friends. It was like his second home. He enjoyed good food and wonderful conversations, and he was spoiled by the waitress there. He was a member of the Eagles Club.

Most of all in life, Jim enjoyed his grandchildren. They were the apple of his eye. They kept him going through the years of bad health. They will miss him very much. "We will all miss him dearly."

Jim was preceded in death by his wife, Ellen Baker, in 1991; his dad in 1961; his mother in 1993; and his younger brother, Rick, in 1998.

He is survived by a son, Sherman Baker and his wife, Rae, and their two children, Arrielle and Colby of Kalispell; two daughters, Tammy Koski and her husband, Jeff, and their two children, Katie and Chelsea, and Carrie Baker and her two children, Jordon and Jake, all of Kalispell; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

Graveside services and urn burial for Jim Baker will be held 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. There will be no visitation held. There will be a reception announced at the graveside service.

The family suggests if any donations are made that they be made to the charity of the donor's choice. Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Jim's family.

## Curtis Eugene Baker, 72

Curtis Eugene Baker, 72, of Kalispell, passed away Nov. 25, 2006, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

He is survived by his daughter, Shela Eaves; grandchildren,

Mike, Justin, Whitney and Kaylee; three sons, Mike, Mark and Flint; three brothers, Wayne, Ronald and Vernon; and a sister, Velma.

Curtis enjoyed hunting, fish-

ing and the outdoors.

He will be missed by all.

No services are planned.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Justin Baker, 24

Our loving and bubbly Justin Baker, 24, went peacefully in his sleep, Dec. 7, 2006, after fighting a brain tumor (astrocytoma grade 3) since March of 2006.

Justin was born Jan. 27, 1982, in Glasgow. He graduated from Nashua High School in 2001. Justin played football and was involved with the basketball games. After graduation he spent a lot of times helping coaching the basketball team.

As a child, his favorite sport was football. Justin's favorite team was the Dallas Cowboys. He would get the NFL statistics guide book and analyze all the teams. After that, he would go outside and play football by himself for hours.

Justin loved helping people out with whatever they needed done, for nothing in return.



Justin lived between his grandparents' house in Nashua and his parents' house in Kalispell. He always said he had to stay with his grandparents so he could take care of them. Justin was always the peacemaker in the family.

Everybody who knew Justin knew him as the outgoing, funny kid — always making people laugh and keeping high spirits about everything.

"He has now joined his brother, JJ, and grandfather, Fred, in heaven."

Justin is survived by his mother, Heather Johnson, and stepdad, Jim Willmore, brother, Josh Amestoy, niece, Lexus Amestoy, and stepbrother, Austin Willmore, all of Kalispell; grandparents, Helen and Robert Robbins, of Nashua; and all of his uncles, aunts and cousins.

There will be a small service at 3 p.m. Dec. 17 at the home of Heather and Jim, 1142 Lost Creek Dr., with Pastor John Bent officiating. All are welcome.

## Irving R. Ball 'K7MEA,' 90

Irving R. Ball, "K7MEA," 90, a resident of the Kootenai Valley for the past 44 years, died Tuesday, July 11, 2006, at the Libby Care Center.



A longtime employee of the J. Neils Lumber Co. and the St. Regis Paper Co., Mr. Ball had served as a millwright/electrician for many years until his retirement in 1977.

He was born on the Beck ranch near Garrison on June 18, 1916, to Sterling and Marie Ball and spent his early childhood on the family homestead at Avon. He later resided with his family in Washington, Oregon and California before returning to Montana. They settled in the Mission Valley at St. Ignatius in 1929 where he attended school, graduating from St. Ignatius High School in 1935.

He attended Intermountain Union College in Helena and Great Falls and later, Intermountain Union Polytechnic in Billings (now Rocky Mountain College), where he received training in machinery and welding. While attending school in Billings, he met Myrna Lewis; they were married Sept. 25, 1938, at her home in Ft. Benton.

He returned to the Mission Valley, where he and his father operated the family ranch; Irving also operated an electric shop in St. Ignatius as well as an excavation service. Irving had been a pilot in the early days of civilian aviation, making one of the first air strips in the valley in a field on the family ranch. He also had served as a fireman on the community volunteer fire department as well as being involved in numerous other community affairs.

After moving to Libby in 1962, he remained active in commu-

nity affairs; he and his late wife Myrna were instrumental in establishing the Libby Dam Good Sam Club and assisting in all the club's activities. As a longtime amateur "ham" radio operator, he helped organize the ham radio operators of the area in the development of an organization to assist in emergency and disaster relief.

Following his retirement, he and his wife Myrna enjoyed traveling throughout the United States in their motor home and time spent on their sailboat as well as spending time with their grandchildren and numerous adopted grandchildren at their home on Flathead Lake.

He had been a member of the United Methodist Church; the Lumber & Sawmill Workers local 2581 and also a 50-year member and past-master of Mission Valley Masonic Lodge No. 78.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Myrna, in 1995, and his sister, Beryl Seljak, in 2005.

Surviving him are his children, Lewis Ball and wife, Fran, of Missoula, Rayna Larsen and husband, Otto, of Columbia Falls, Daryl Ball and fiancé, Susie Fowler, of Helendale, Calif., and Keith Ball and wife, Laurie, of Hauser, Idaho. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild as well as a host of "adopted" children and grandchildren.

Services will be 10 a.m. Saturday, July 22, at the United Methodist Church in Libby; interment services with Masonic rites will follow at the City of Libby Cemetery. Friends may call at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 21.

Memorial may be made to Libby Volunteer Ambulance, P.O. Box 777, Libby, MT 59923 or to the charity of the giver's choice.

## Ambrose 'Ammy' Dean Ballard, 45

Ambrose "Ammy" Dean Ballard, 45, passed away Wednesday, May 17, 2006, at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center as the result of a motor-vehicle accident.



He was born June 14, 1960, in Spokane to Boyce and Edith (Goudy) Ballard. Ammy grew up and attended school in Plains. After graduating from high school he worked at his father's trucking company and later started Ammy's Home Repair, and more recently Broz Trucking and Asphalt business.

He married Vickie Black; they later divorced. He adopted her two children, Christie and Marsha. They had three children together, Desiree, Amy and Ambrose. Later in his life, he was reunited with his son, Cory Vincent. Ammy recently married Cathy Fleck in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. They made their home in Kalispell.

Ammy loved being with his family and was a very devoted father and grandfather. He also loved motorcycles and boating. Ammy will be remembered by his family and friends as someone who was always the first to lend a helping hand.

Ammy was preceded in death by his father; an infant granddaughter, Mercedes; and his stepfather, Dan Burgess.

He is survived by his wife,

Cathy Ballard, and her six children, Jacob, Rosie, Josie, Tyler, Lucas and Leanne, all of Kalispell; his four daughters, Christy Smith and husband, Ron, and Marsha Anderson and husband, Landon, all of Kalispell, Desiree Lapierre and husband, Wesley, of Plains, and Amy Larsen and husband, Ivan, of Lonepine, Calif.; his two sons, Ammy Ballard of Lonepine, Calif., and Cory Vincent of Seattle; his mother, Edith Burgess of Kalispell; three brothers, Boyce Ballard and Ray Ballard of Kalispell, and Bill Ballard of Rawlins, Wyo.; two sisters, Joy Short of White Sulphur Springs, and Gail Theeler of Plains; five grandchildren; Aryan, Maycie, Kaline, Erica and Tanner; and five step-grandchildren; Tucker, Madison, Isiah, Malachi and Kaleb; with numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Ambrose "Ammy" Dean Ballard will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at the Christian Center/Assembly of God church, with the Rev. Paula Forest officiating. Burial will be afterward at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery with a reception after the burial at the Christian Center, 277 Summit Ridge Drive, in Kalispell.

Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today, May 19, and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 20, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel; also one hour prior to the service at the Christian Center/Assembly of God church.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Ammy's family.

## Charles L. Ballard, 65

Charles L. Ballard, 65, died Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2006, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

He is survived by his wife,

Janice, of Kalispell.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home

is caring for the family.

## Marie Lorraine Barge, 83

Marie Lorraine Barge passed away Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

She was born July 5, 1922, at Plentywood, to Andrea and Niels Pedersen, the youngest of four children. The family lived in the Dagmar community and Marie graduated from Plentywood High School in 1941.

Marie was united in marriage to Dan D. Barge on Jan. 1, 1942, and they were married for 38 years until his death in 1980. To their union five children were born.

Marie liked to keep busy and enjoyed helping others. She was a 4-H leader for many years, and was an active member of Calvary Lutheran Church, holding many positions in women's groups, teaching Vacation Bible school and lending a helping hand wherever needed. Marie also worked at the Immanuel Lutheran Home for five years.

After her retirement, she became a Literacy Volunteer, an aide with the Evergreen School

fluoride program and managed the Flathead Senior Citizen Center for three years. She loved to sew quilts and donated most of them to the Lutheran World Relief or the Miami Project.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers and sister; and by her husband, Dan.

She is survived by her children, son, Larry D. Barge of Kalispell, and her daughters and sons-in-law, Carolyn "Carrie" and Richard Taylor of Somers/Phoenix, Ann and Dennis Martinson, and Shirley Anderson, of Kalispell, and Lori and Craig Goble of Whitefish; her nine grandchildren, Katie and Kristi Goble, Tami Holcomb, Darin and Mark Anderson, and Scott, Kameron, Tara and Wendy Barge; and by six great-grandchildren, Bree and Dyllan Anderson, Kyle and Skyler Bowerman, and Michael and Daylin Glass.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

The family suggests that memorials be sent to Calvary Lutheran Church, 2200 U.S. 2 E., Kalispell, Montana 59901; or to Hospice in Kalispell.

## Joan C. Barber, 70

Joan C. Barber, 70, passed away of lung cancer Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at Brendan House in Kalispell.



She was born Feb. 15, 1936, in Detroit to

Charles and Margaret (Finke) VanDekerck. Joan received her early education in Detroit before moving with her family to Birmingham, Mich., where she graduated from high school. She went right on to attend McCauley School for Nursing in Pontiac, Mich., graduating in 1956.

On Jan. 2, 1957, Joan married William "Bill" Barber in Birmingham.

Joan worked for a short time at the Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, Mich., while Bill was attending college at Michigan State. The couple then moved back to Birmingham, where they began their family. To this union three children were born, Kathleen, William and Daniel. Until 1975, Joan was a stay-at-home mom, raising her children. In 1975 she began working at the Birmingham Allergy Clinic, where she remained until 1983. She was well-known for her painless shots.

In 1983 the family moved to Lakeside, and in 1985 Bill and Joan built and operated the Dairy

Queen in Columbia Falls. During the next 15 years, Joan helped operate the Dairy Queen and also volunteered at Kalispell Regional Medical Center and the Lamplighter House. She co-founded and ran Caring Hands, with the proceeds going to projects for Lamplighter House. Joan was also very artistic and especially liked working with watercolors.

She was a very devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

She is survived by her husband, William "Bill" Barber, of Kalispell; one daughter, Kathleen Hardy-Gelinas, and husband, Matthew, of Kalispell; and two sons, William C. Barber and wife, Barbara, of Rochester, Mich., and Daniel Barber of Whitefish; one sister, Jean Hampson, and husband, Robert, of Douglas, Mich.; a brother-in-law, Thomas Barber, of Marina Del Ray, Calif.; and four grandchildren, Breanna Hardy of Kalispell, and Shelby, Darby, and Ben Barber of Michigan.

Memorial services for Joan will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 25, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel, with Pastor Glenn Burfeind of the Kalispell First Presbyterian Church officiating.

The family suggests memorials be given toward the Art Fund at Lamplighter House, c/o Joan Barber Memorial Fund, 410 Windward Way, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Joan's family.

## James E. 'Jim' Balum, 55

Cottrell and husband, George, and their daughters, Ashley and Jennifer; his mother, Dale, and stepfather, Pete Schmoock, of Spokane; father, Ed, and stepmother, Noni Balum, of Kalispell; sisters, Chris Balum and family of Miles City, Kathy Jochem and family of Conrad, and Carrie Cadenas and family of Spokane; mother-in-law, Dorothy Peterson, of Kalispell; best friends, Connie and Dean Leckrone and family of Libby; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

There will be a gathering of family and friends from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, July 23, at the family home. For directions, call 257-8902.

Condolences may be sent to the family home at 179 Pioneer Road, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Memorial donations in Jim's name can be sent to Guardian Angels, 2835 Fort Missoula Road, Suite 301, Missoula, MT 59804.



James E. "Jim" Balum, 55, passed away at home Tuesday, July 18, 2006, with his loving family by his side, from kidney failure.

Jim was born in Moscow,

Idaho, on May 8, 1951, to Ed and Dale Balum. When he was 8, he and his family moved to Libby. It was in Libby that Jim fell in love with the Cabinet Mountains, and at a young age learned a lasting appreciation of all outdoor activities from his dad. He passed on his love of the outdoors and love of horses to his wife, daughter, and granddaughters.

Jim went to work at Columbia Falls Aluminum Co., from 1977 to 2003, as a brick mason.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Dee Dee; daughter, Erica

## Jensen Clark Barker, 90

Jensen Clark Barker, 90, formerly of Kalispell, passed away in Stockton, Calif., on June 14, 2006, after a three and a half month hospitalization due to complications after a hip replacement.



He had lived in Stockton with his daughter, Joan, for the last year and a half since the passing of his wife, Ruth Barker.

Clark was born in Brigham City, Utah, on June 28, 1915. He grew up in the Flathead Valley. On Aug. 26, 1944, he married the love of his life, Ruth, at King's Chapel, in Boston. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary just prior to Ruth's death in January 2005.

Clark was a veteran of two wars, serving in the Navy for World War II and the Korean

War.

He worked as a manager for Asgrow Seed company for 45 years. His job moved him and his family seven times throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Clark and Ruth retired to Montana in July 1978. They loved to fish and camp. When Clark could no longer fish, he took up gardening, growing beautiful roses and lush vegetable gardens.

Clark is survived by his daughter, Joan Barker, of Stockton; two sisters and brothers, Marie Cozzetto of Marysville, Wash., and Rosa Krim of Reno, Nev., and George Barker of Canmore, Alberta, and Fred Barker of Bigfork. He also has many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service for family and friends will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, at the Community United Methodist Church, 750 Electric Ave., (corner of Electric Avenue and Commerce Street) in Bigfork.

## Joseph Barich, 78

Joseph Barich 78, formerly of Butte, died Saturday, Jan. 21, 2006, at Colonial Manor in Whitefish due to natural causes.

No public services are planned. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Austin Funeral Home.

## Lance Jensen Barker, 47

Lance Jensen Barker, 47, died Sunday, May 28, 2006, at his residence in Kalispell. Memorial services are pending.

He is survived by his brothers, John, Brent, Daryl and Theron Barker; and his chil-

## Marilyn Jo Barnes, 73

Marilyn Jo Barnes, 73, of Dixon, "went home to be with her Lord and Savior," Thursday, Jan. 19, 2006, at St Patrick Hospital following an extended illness.

Marilyn was born Aug. 27, 1932, in Wichita, Kan., to Leonard and Ada Mustoe. She attended school in Wichita, enjoying swimming, canoeing and her singing. Marilyn attended Manhattan Christian College, Manhattan, Kan., Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, Kan., Carroll College in Helena, and received her degree at the University of Montana in 1969.

Marilyn worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a land law examiner in the regional office in Missoula before transferring to the Libby Ranger District, where she worked until her retirement.

Marilyn was a member of the Ronan Christian Church. As a minister's wife, she used her musical ability as a vocalist, pianist and organist, in Adrian, Mo., Abilene, Kan., and Helena, Missoula, Libby, Troy and Ronan. While living in Missoula, she enjoyed singing in the Missoula Symphony Chorale.

Marilyn met her husband Stan-

ley "Jim" Barnes at Manhattan Christian College and they were married June 5, 1953, in Wichita. They celebrated their 52nd anniversary in June of 2005.

Marilyn is survived by her husband of Dixon; four children, Karen McCullough and husband, Robert, of Aberdeen, Wash., Audrey Bullock and husband, Richard, of Missoula, Kevin Barnes and wife, Sheila, of Huntsville, Ala., and Keith Barnes and wife, Cheryl, of Minneapolis; 15 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Marilyn is also survived by her four siblings, David Mustoe and wife, Libby, of Lakewood, Colo.; Janice Kaiser and husband, Roland, of Longmont, Colo.; Neil Mustoe and wife, Margret, of Arcadia, Fla.; and Sharon Ybarra of Wichita, Kan.

Marilyn will be greatly missed.

Memorial service will be 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Kings Christian Church in Lolo, with Charlie Couch officiating.

Memorials in lieu of flowers may be sent to Manhattan Christian College, 1415 Anderson, Manhattan, KS 66502.

## George Austin Barnett, 80

Graveside services will be held 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell. Visitation will take place from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Johnson Mortuary on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

Johnson Mortuary & Crematory is caring for the family.

George Austin Barnett, 80, died Friday, Aug. 11, 2006, at Health Center Northwest in Kalispell.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Barnett, of Kalispell; and four children, Ronald Barnett of Kalispell, Wanda Freese of Columbia Falls, Lester Barnett and Lonnie Barnett, also of Kalispell.

## Susan Lynn Barsness, 51



On Nov. 23, 2006, our beloved Susan Lynn Barsness, 51, "went to be with the Lord" following an automobile accident.

Susan was born Jan. 29, 1955, in Norton, Kan., to Nan and Jerry Hicks. She graduated from high school in White Bear Lake, Minn., and married Steven Barsness on March 21, 1975. Susan was a dental assistant in Whitefish for 10 years before getting her nursing degree from MSU in 1995. She has been a home health nurse since that time for Kallispell Regional Medical Center.

She was the heart of her family, with a zest for life that everyone who knew her will always recall. She had a great sense of humor, but was always thoughtful and tender, invariably sensitive to everyone and everything around her. She enjoyed traveling and exploring many areas of the country, to include biking across New Zealand and sea kayaking in Glacier Bay with Steve, her beloved husband of 31 years. Everyone loved her not only

for her ever-present grace and sunny attitude, but also for her standards of loyalty. No one who knew her can remember her having a bad word to say about anyone.

She wrote beautiful and expressive letters, making you laugh out loud with her joy for life. She was also an artist, her eye unerringly capturing the beauty and detail of life around her in music, theater and photography.

"We are all richer for having known her and are grateful for having her for as long as God was able to lend her to us."

Susan is survived by her husband, Steven, parents, Jerry and Nan Hicks; sister, Deb, and her husband, Joe Bowers, of Columbia Falls; brother, Doug Hicks, of Stillwater, Minn.; nephews, Ryan and Dustin Hicks, of Stillwater; sister-in-law, Cindy Barsness, of White Bear Lake; mother and father-in-law, Ray and Ardell Barsness, of White Bear Lake; and nephews-in-law, Curtis and Scott Barsness, of White Bear Lake.

Memorial services for Susan will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bigfork with Rev. Jack Shannon officiating. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Gordon Bartels, 82



Gordon Bartels, 82, of Billings, formerly of Bigfork, passed away on Nov.

15, 2006, at his home, following a lengthy illness. Gordon was born in Wichita Falls, Texas, on Oct. 27, 1924, to Earl J. and Gladys Bartels. Gordon graduated from high school in Artesia, N.M.

Following high school, he went on to the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colo. His education was interrupted by World War II, at which time he enlisted in the Navy. Gordon was a gunner and was stationed in the South Pacific until war's end and was honorably discharged in 1946.

Gordon went on to study drafting and later became an architect. For three years of his education he had the privilege to study photography at the California School of Fine Arts, under the photographer and teacher Ansel Adams.

He obtained his architecture license in California. His scope of design was on a grand scale. His work ranged from high rises in major cities to a ranch home for quarterback, Joe Mon-

tana. Although architecture was his profession, photography was something he equally enjoyed, having some of his photos published in Montana Magazine.

Upon "retirement" he and his wife, Josephine, moved to Western Montana where he designed several homes in the Bigfork area. They resided there for 18 years until moving to Billings in May 2006 to be closer to family.

Gordon is survived by his wife of 27 years, Josephine Bartels, of Billings; sons, Douglas McShane and Catherine Phillips of Billings, and Darren Bartels and Mary of Buckley, Wash.; grandchildren, Marina and Marissa of Washington and Rhianna, Chris, Sean, Dylan, Loreena and Kelsey of Montana; as well as five great-grandchildren in Montana.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation has taken place and memorial services are being held at 10:30 a.m. today, Nov. 18, at Michelotti-Sawyers Mortuary in Billings.

Memorials may be given in Gordon's name to the charity of one's choice or All Nations Church, c/o Eunice Terry, 413 Everett, Billings, MT 59102.

Arrangements are under the direction of Michelotti-Sawyers Mortuary.

## Jean Ann Bartell, 76

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Robert Lilienthal, of Somers.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Peppier Funeral Home in Bordentown, N.J.

Jean Ann Bartell, 76, of Chesterfield, N.J., died Thursday, Sept. 21, 2006, at Samaritan Hospice in Mount Holly, N.J.

She was born in Trenton, N.J., and moved to Chesterfield 59 years ago.

## Byron Bartlett, 73

Lakeside.

No viewing or services are scheduled at Byron's request.

Johnson Mortuary and

Crematory is caring for the family.

Byron Bartlett, 73, died

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2006, at the Lake View Care Center in Bigfork.

Survivors include his companion, Marjorie Crow, of



## Marshall W. Beatty, 81

Marshall W. Beatty, 81, passed on "to be with the love of his life, his wife Carol," on Nov. 15, 2006, at Brendan House.

He was born in Great Falls on Sept. 3, 1925. He attended school in Great Falls until enlisting in the U.S. Navy in January 1944.

In 1946 after discharge from the Navy, he started working for the State Highway Department in the Olney area. He retired from there in 1983.

Pop, as he was affectionately referred to, loved to stay busy. He was always tinkering around the house, remodeling, building and farming. If there was a friend or family member who needed help he was there to assist.

In September 1948 he married the love of his life, Carol Appleberry, in Portland. Their first home was at Nyack where Pop was employed with the highway department.

In the early '60s they moved

to the Kalispell, where they lived until 1990, when they moved to Florence, Ore. There they lived for several years, enjoying the lack of snow and beautiful beaches.

On Aug. 23, 1998, Carol passed away. Marshall returned to Kalispell, in 2003, to be near family.

Marshall is survived by two sons, Lee and Elaine of Seeley Lake, and Wayne and Teri of Kalispell; and one daughter, Lisa and Anwar Shamoon, of Eugene, Ore. He also is survived by six grandchildren, Jason and Trista Beatty of Kalispell, Angela and Joe Beatty of Missoula, Robert Beatty of Seattle, and William Shamoon of Eugene. He is also survived by nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Carol; and his son, Ray.

Pop will be greatly missed.

A memorial will be arranged in the spring.

## Stephen Eugene Becker, 29



Stephen Eugene Becker, "went home to God" on June 24, 2006.

Stephen was born Jan. 12, 1977, in Kalispell.

He is survived by his mother, Patricia Scholz, stepfather, Joseph Probert; and his siblings, Mike Becker, Tony Probert, Cathleen Becker, Matt and Angela Becker, and Margo and Bruce Lella; his grandparents, Marie Lyski and Barbara Scholz; as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Stephen was a humble man

with a huge heart. He was never hesitant to lend a helping hand to someone in need. He was always kind to those he encountered.

Stephen was a passionate poet, songwriter, musician and artist.

"Some people are born to be like planets. Stephen was born to be like a comet. His time was swift. His light was brilliant. And his presence an everlasting inspiration. Stephen, we will miss you. Let the heavens be your stage. And the angels be your audience."

Services will be held at 3 p.m. today, July 1, at the Scholz family home.

## Richard S. Barton, 65

Richard Silas Barton, 65, passed away Sunday, May 28, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Richard was born Feb. 13, 1941, in Lawrence, Kan., to O.A. Barton Sr. and Mildred I. Mitchell.

Richard grew up in the Oskaloosa and Winchester communities in Kansas, graduating from high school there. He then got his Bachelor of Science degree in accounting in 1967 from California State Polytechnic University.

He spent three years in the U.S. Army with the 7th Army in Germany and was a member of the D.A.V.

Richard enjoyed sailing and sports.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother, Robert Barton.

Richard is survived by his brothers, O.A. Barton Jr., of Plain City, Ohio, and Ross W. Barton of Topeka, Kan.; and sisters, Mary E. Schuman of Calgary, Alberta, and Bette Watson of Kalispell.

The family suggests memorial contributions to the charity of your choice.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Rosella K. Beckwith, 90



Rosella K.

Beckwith, 90, passed away Saturday, Dec. 23, 2006, at

Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls after a long and courageous battle

with Parkinson's. She was born April 18, 1916, in Washington to parents Rosa and Lee King, who came West in a covered wagon from Missouri. Rosella lived a long life full of love and service to others.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, John, in May 2003.

Rosella served in the Women's Army Corps during World War II and shortly after married John Beckwith in Longview, Wash. She moved with her young family to Columbia Falls in 1954 and lived there until 1978, when she and John moved back to Longview to be closer to their own siblings.

Rosella was committed to service of others her whole life. She was very involved in the volunteer work through the Methodist Church in Columbia Falls. She was a prominent member of the local chapter of Eastern Star and a sponsor of Rainbow Girls. She was a den mother for Cub Scouts, a volunteer for the Klothes Klose, and the local Welcome Wagon hostess for years.

Rosella was a kind, strong spirit and will be greatly missed by all who learned from her and loved her dearly.

She is survived by her son, Lee Beckwith, and his wife, Jeri, in Inverness Fla.; daughter, Linda Kopitzke, and her husband, Gene, of Columbia Falls; son, Mark Beckwith, and his wife, Salena, of Columbia Falls; and her grandsons, Matt and Nick Beckwith, also of Columbia Falls; and brothers, Jack and George King of Kelso Wash., and their families.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

## Margaret Anna Bedford, 88

Margaret Anna Bedford, 88, died on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at home in Bigfork.

She is survived by one daughter, Pam Whitaker; and a

son, Michael Bedford.

No services are scheduled at this time.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Alex John-Joseph Belcher, 22

Alex John-Joseph Belcher, 22, died Sunday, Oct. 29, 2006, in Bigfork.

At the family's request,

there will be no services.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Marie Elizabeth Belcher, 88

Marie Elizabeth Belcher, 88, of Bozeman passed away at Mercy Manor in Bozeman on Dec. 2, 2006.

She was born in Edgemont, S.D., on July 31, 1918, to

Grant and Cora (Hand) Hacker.

Marie married Carroll W. Erickson in 1935 and they farmed near Staples, Minn. Carroll passed away in 1947, and Marie moved to Three Forks.

The fall of 1950, she married Elwin Belcher, and they moved to Bozeman.

She enjoyed her flower beds and grew a very large garden. She loved canning her fruits and vegetables.

She will be remembered by her family and friends for her backyard picnics. She also enjoyed fishing in rivers and lakes, and especially enjoyed catching paddle fish.



She was a member of the United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; both husbands; three brothers; one sister, one daughter; three sons-in-law; one granddaughter; and two great-grandsons.

Marie is survived by three daughters, Donna Edgerley of Bozeman, E. Lorri and Bill Miller of Yuma, Ariz., and Bigfork, and Deloris and Donald Barney of Belgrade; 15 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren. She also is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, at Bozeman United Methodist Church. Interment will be afterward in Sunset Hills Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Bozeman United Methodist Church, 121 S. Willson, Bozeman, MT 59715; the American Cancer Society, 550 N. 31st St., Ste. 103, Billings, MT 59101; or to a charity of choice.

## Cornelia Lee Bell, 81

Cornelia Lee Bell, 81 died Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at Buffalo Hill Terrace in Kalispell.

She is survived by eight children, Gina Schmidt of Sebastopol, Calif., Lori Bell Safford of Kalispell, Justin Bell of Salida, Calif., Teresa Bell Walovich of Pleasanton, Calif., CeCe Bell of Castro Valley,

Calif., Mark Bell of Newark, Calif., Damien Bell of Sacramento, Calif., and Ronnie Bell of Castro Valley, Calif.

Plans are being made for private services to be held later in the summer in California.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Wayne Robert Beller, 51

He had been a conductor on the railroad for a many years.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Beller, in 2004.

He is survived by his mother, Rayma Beller in Whitefish; a daughter, Briana Beller in Mesa, Ariz.; a son, Kyle Beller in Whitefish; and a sister, Terri Gimello in Whitefish.

Memorial services will be 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish with Rev. David V. Kauffman officiating.

The family has suggested that memorials can be made to the Whitefish Christian Church.

Wayne Robert Beller, 51, a lifelong resident of Whitefish, passed away Monday, Feb. 13, 2006, at his home in Whitefish of natural causes.

He was born May 21, 1954, in Whitefish, the son of Jack and Rayma Beller. Wayne attended school in Whitefish, where he distinguished himself as an athlete.

He married Becky Normile in 1980, and they later divorced in 1998.

Wayne enjoyed hunting, fishing and any activity in the outdoors. He enjoyed coaching sports and coached his own son through baseball, basketball and football.

## Elizabeth J. 'Betty' Bell, 79

Elizabeth J. "Betty" Bell, 79, Stonehocker of Spokane.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at St. John Lutheran Church, with the Rev. Eric Christiansen officiating. Interment will be afterward at the city of Libby Cemetery.

Arrangements are by the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home.

She had been a longtime employee of Lincoln County until her retirement.

She is survived by her children, Shirley Lockard of Bigfork, Bonnie Stonehocker-Pink of Libby, and Robert

## Leonard M. Benjamin, M.D., 93

Dr. Leonard M. Benjamin died April 4, 2006, in Kalispell.

Dr. Benjamin was born Nov. 12, 1912, on a homestead in Toole County near Shelby, with his father delivering him.

Leonard was preceded in death by his parents, Harry E. and Martha Frogge Benjamin; his brothers, Ralph, Harry Jr. and Earl, and his son, Darrell. Leonard's first wife, Anthony Striedenger, also preceded him in death.

He is survived by Norma Witt Benjamin, his wife for 35 years; his sons, Leonard A. Benjamin and Harry D. Benjamin; his daughter, Victoria Burnett; stepchildren, William C. Witt, Roger Witt and Susan Anderson; 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Leonard was encouraged to become a physician by his uncle in Illinois who was a physician. He pursued his dream, working intermittently through the years to attain his goal. He graduated from Shelby High School in 1931. He attended Intermountain College in Helena from 1934 through 1935, graduating from the University of Montana in 1939. He attended the University of Minnesota Graduate School in 1939 to 1940 and again to U of M 1940-1941 for advanced study.

At last he entered the Colorado School of Medicine in Denver, attending from 1941 through 1944. Leonard had a one-year residency at Murray Hospital in Butte. He set up practice in Deer Lodge, from 1946 through 1979. He especially enjoyed surgery and obstetrics. He also worked two mornings a week

at the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge. Aside from practicing medicine, fishing, hunting, trap shooting and being outdoors with his family and friends rounded out his life.

In 1970 he married Norma Witt, who brought along her three children. They enjoyed a happy life, supported by family.

Upon retirement the community of Deer Lodge set aside a day to honor him for a "job well done." They collected two books of "Love Letters" from patients and friends.

Saying goodbye to Deer Lodge, he and Norma moved to Bigfork along the Flathead River where he planted a bountiful garden, many fruit trees and a greenhouse for his tomatoes; sharing with family and friends.

As his health deteriorated, he moved to the Lakeview Care Center in Bigfork. Norma resided in Bigfork also.

Leonard was a member of the American Medical Association, the Montana Medical Association, Elks, Kiwanis, Masonic Lodge, Shriners and the Community United Methodist Church in Bigfork. He served 12 years on the Deer Lodge school board and meetings at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Visitation will be from noon to 8 p.m. Sunday, April 9, at the Jewell Funeral Home in Deer Lodge. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at St. James Episcopal Church. Burial will be afterward at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Deer Lodge.

Memorials are requested to donor's choice.

Jewell Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Edward Louis Beltrami, 84

Edward Louis Beltrami, 84, formerly of Somers, died Dec. 8, 2006, after a struggle with cancer.

He was a retired teacher. Survivors include his wife, Mary Ann, of Santa Rosa, Calif.; one son, Joseph

E., of Petaluma, Calif.; and one daughter, Mary Kay Dunning, of Santa Rosa.

At his request, a private memorial service was held with inurnment at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Santa Rosa.

## Jewell Bernice Bellmore, 88

Jewell Bellmore, 88, passed away Saturday, March 18, 2006, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.



She was born April 2, 1917, in Oakland, Minn., to Martin and Ida Midge Olson. Jewell received her education in Minnesota, where she had fond memories of fishing and horseback riding.

She met Morrie Bellmore at a community dance, and they were married in Bigfork on Jan. 20, 1934. He was a cowboy in those days, and they soon moved to the Rocky Bar Dude Ranch at Woods Bay on Flathead Lake. They remained there until 1941, when it became necessary to move to Seattle for employment.

Jewell worked as a home health nurse in the early '40s and then ran a boarding house.

Morrie and Jewell returned to Creston, where they farmed, while Morrie also worked in Broeder's Lumber Mill and Jewell worked in the Creston Mercantile. They farmed for the next 15 years. In the 1960s, Morrie and Jewell became the owners of the same store, which is familiar to many who traveled through Creston.

At that time, they limited their travels to relatives in Minnesota, Colorado and North Dakota, but

after Morrie retired, they began snowbirding to Nevada, and spent one year in Mexico.

Jewell was an avid country-and-western music fan and she loved to dance in early years. She was also an accomplished seamstress and quilter, and enjoyed knitting, crocheting and fishing. She was a member of the Creston Grange, the Creston Homemakers Club and belonged to a pinochle club.

Jewell was Lutheran through most of her years, though her most recent attendance prior to the Lutheran Home was Glacier Mountain Fellowship near her home in Creston.

Jewell entered the Immanuel Lutheran Home on May 8, 1996.

Morrie precedes Jewell in death, as well as her two brothers and four sisters; with the last one being her granddaughter, Leah-Ann, who passed away in January last year.

Her three children survive Jewel, Delores "Pat" and Ken Odegard, James Bellmore, and Larry and Ginny Odegard, all of whom live in the Flathead Valley; nine grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Jewell will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with graveside rights at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Donations can be made to the Immanuel Lutheran Home in lieu of flowers, if you prefer.

## Terra Maureen Bell-Smith, 31

was active in the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. After graduating with a degree in business administration in 1998, Terra returned to Las Vegas to pursue a career in accounting.

Terra leaves behind her husband, Wayne; her parents, Terry and Linda Bell of Whitefish, formerly of Las Vegas; half sisters, Tracy, Brenda and Theresa; and a very large contingent of relatives who loved her in Reno, Las Vegas, California and Montana. She also leaves behind the motley group of dogs she loved so much.

Terra's friends and family gathered for a memorial service March 29 at St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, Roman Catholic Church, located at 7260 W. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89117.



On Friday, March 24, 2006, Terra Maureen Bell-Smith, 31, passed away unexpectedly at her home in Las Vegas.

Terra's generous and kind spirit will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Terra was born in Reno, Nov. 18, 1974, and moved with her family to Las Vegas when she was 4 years old. She had an active and athletic childhood. Terra graduated from Bishop Gorman High School in 1993.

She then attended the University of Nevada, Reno, where she

## Floyd Oliver Benson, 88

Floyd Oliver Benson, 88, died on Wednesday, March 22, 2006 at his residence in Kalispell.

He was born Dec. 27, 1917, in Mandan, N.D., the son of Emil and Olga (Olson) Benson. He moved with his family to Great Falls, at the age of 6 and attended Great Falls schools and graduated from Great Falls High School. After high school he worked at Ayrshire Dairy during the Depression for \$25 a month and also worked at a flour mill in Great Falls.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942, shipping out of Camp Cook in California, and was stationed in New Caledonia. He was a member of the 155th Armored Division. It was at this time that America created the Americal Division. He fought at Guadalcanal and Bogan Ville in the South Pacific.

After the war, he returned to Great Falls and worked at ACM Smelter for nine years. Most of Floyd's working career was spent in aircraft production at Rockwell International (now Boeing Aircraft); building F-86 fighter planes, F-100, X-15 and the B-1 bomber, many of which are still used today. He retired to the Flathead Valley after a few years as co-owner with his brother and sister-in-law of Frenchie's Motel-Bar & Restaurant in Wolf Creek.

He enjoyed motorcycle racing, especially Harley Davidsons. He

enjoyed dirt track racing even before helmets were invented. Some of the members of the club were Clayton Bain, Great Falls police chief, Homer Bain and Robert Slack who started calling Evel Knievel by the name of Evel Knievel.

Upon his relocation to the Flathead Valley, Floyd was treated like a king by his nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Emil and Olga Benson, and three sisters, Pearl Wilcox, Fern Story and June Kersey.

He is survived by several nieces and nephews, including Shirley Hilbig of Great Falls, Patti Whitten of Kansas, Donna Pettit of Columbus, Miss., Glenn Wilcox of Kalispell; and great-nieces and nephews, Deanna Hilbig, Ed "Skip" Carter, Emil and Dean Kersey; he is also survived by numerous great-nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and -nephews.

Funeral services for Floyd will be held 11 a.m. Monday, March 27, at Johnson Mortuary Chapel. There will be no visitation. Burial will follow services at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

The family suggests that any memorial contributions be sent to Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Way Suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Floyd's family.

## Katherine Alice Bercier Azure, 93

Katherine Alice Bercier Azure, 93, passed away Sunday, Nov. 12, 2006, at Brendan House in Kalispell. She was born Sept. 5, 1913, in Belcourt, N.D., to Joachim and Mary Swain Bercier.

She married Louis E. Azure in 1927 in Killarney, Manitoba. In 1940, they moved to Wolf Point. Katherine worked as a cook at the Triangle Cafe for many years.

They moved to Columbia Falls to closer to her daughter, Rose Moran.

She was a member of the St. Richard's Parish in Columbia Falls.

Katherine kept her Chipewewa and French traditions and culture alive by baking her own La gallet (bread) making grends (finely ground choke cherries) and cooking la bouillon (bullets) during la shut d' lawn (New Year Holiday).

She was one of the last fluent speakers of the Michif language.

She will always be remembered as grand-mamma to all her great-grandchildren. She was a very gentle woman who offered so much love to everyone.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Louis, in 1996; and her son, John, in 1981.

She is survived by her daughter, Rose, and Alfred Moran Sr., of Columbia Falls, 18 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren, and many great-great-grandchildren; and a great-great-great grandson, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Her memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Columbia Falls, with the Deacon Bob Pearce officiating. Her ashes will be buried with her husband in Wolf Point.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Lena Evangeline (Spooner) Berg, 92

Lena Evangeline (Spooner) Berg passed away Monday, April 3, 2006, at the Brendan House in Kalispell after her last battle with cancer.



her family. She loved gardening, sewing, traveling and all of the wonders of nature. She was a role model for all of us, with her truth and good old Norwegian honesty sprinkled with generosity and kindness.

Lena was preceded in death by her husband, parents and seven brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her son, Robert Berg, and wife, Delores, of Cheyenne, Wyo.; a daughter, Carol Nelson, and husband, Maurice, of Kalispell; five grandchildren, Jerome Berg and wife, Maria, of Ogden, Utah, Dr. Michele Larsen of Whitefish, Craig Berg and wife, Courtney, of Littleton, Colo., Dr. David Berg of Reno, Nev., and Timothy Lenz of Minneapolis; four great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, Brendan House and Home Options Hospice for the kind and loving care they showed her on her last journey.

She loved her home at Buffalo Terrace and all the wonderful friends and staff. Lena had so many happy times with her dear card-playing friends.

Funeral services for Lena will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 6, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, with Pastor Larry Stappler officiating. Urn burial will be in Stacy, Minn., alongside her husband, Oscar, at a later date.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the Seminary Scholarship Fund, c/o Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 603 S. Main, Kalispell, MT 59901, or to the charity of the donor's choice.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Lena's family.

Lena was born Aug. 15, 1913, in Noonan, N.D., the last of eight children of Joseph and Lena (Larsen) Spooner. She was raised on the family farm, south of Noonan, in Divide County, N.D.

She graduated as valedictorian from Noonan High School in 1931. That fall she moved to Minneapolis and attended a three-year course at St. Barnabas Hospital, again graduating as valedictorian. After graduation she worked as a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minn.

Lena was united in marriage to Oscar Clifford Berg on June 23, 1935, in Minneapolis. They had a son, Robert, and a daughter, Carol.

They moved back to Noonan in 1945 where Oscar partnered in a lumber yard and Lena administered the hospital in Noonan. In 1949, they moved back to Minneapolis where Lena worked for the Public Health Department.

After their retirement they moved to Stacy, Minn., where they enjoyed many years of togetherness running a Christmas-tree farm. Oscar died in 1994, and Lena moved to Kalispell in 2001 with her daughter, Carol, and son-in-law, Maurice Nelson.

Lena was a very outgoing person who loved people. She made a difference with her life affecting all of us remaining behind. She was devoted to her church and

## Robert Wayne 'Bob' Berglund, 76

Robert Wayne "Bob" Berglund, 76, passed away on Thursday, March 9, 2006, at his residence in Kalispell.



He was born on April 25, 1929, at Dooley, the son of Walter and Thelma (Lester) Berglund.

He attended schools at Plentywood, completing the 11th grade.

He worked on oil rigs, worked at a gas station and as an auto mechanic, did ranch work, worked as a seismographer and was a lumber grader for F.H. Stolze Lumber Company.

On June 25, 1950, he was united in marriage to Donna Beaver at Plentywood.

He enjoyed stock-car racing with his son, collecting NASCAR die-cast cars, and was a professional tinkerer especially on motors. He enjoyed camping with his family, especially with the grandkids and great-grandkids.

He had a love for Studebaker cars and was a bowling enthusiast.

He was a member of the men's bowling organization, the Eagles Club and the National Guard.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Donald Berglund; and a sister, Elaine Olsen.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Berglund, of Kalispell; a daughter, Natalie Berglund of Kalispell; sons, Bruce Berglund and wife, Carol, and Brian Berglund and wife, Shelly, all of Kalispell; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews along with a very extended adopted family; a sister Elsie Olson of Plentywood; and a brother, Richard Berglund of Billings.

Graveside services for Robert will be held 10:30 a.m. Monday, March 13, at Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be from noon until 3 p.m. today, March 12, at Johnson Mortuary.

The family suggests that any memorial contributions be sent to

Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop Suite #100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Robert's family.

## David Joseph Berger, 90

David Joseph Berger, 90, passed away on Wednesday, April 5, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and two brothers, Charles and Lawrence Berger.

He is survived by a sister,

Grace Aahl of Seattle; an aunt,

Thelma Kleppen of Kalispell;

cousin, Freddie Kirkpatrick and

wife, Bonnie, of Kalispell; and

nieces and nephews, Steve Aahl

and his wife, Susan, Nancy Mor-

rison and husband, Dan, all of

Seattle, Delores Wickenhagen of

Bremerton, Wash., and Charles

Berger Jr. of Missoula. He is also

survived by his longtime personal

friend, Ellen Brinkenhoff, of

Kalispell.

Graveside services for David

will be private by the family.

There will be no visitation.

Johnson Mortuary and Crema-

tory is caring for David's family.

He was born on Nov. 22, 1915, at Browning, the oldest of four children of Benjamin S. and Lena (Norman) Berger. He attended schools and graduated from Browning High School.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the European Theatre. Following his discharge, he returned to Kalispell where he worked at numerous jobs including carpenter, welder and was also bookkeeper for Kirkpatrick Brothers for many years. He then began a career as a postal carrier for the U.S. Post Office for which he worked for the next 21 years until his retirement.

David loved the great outdoors that the area provided. He

## Kenneth David Birnel, 66

At the age of 66, our beloved father, grandfather, brother and friend died at home, peacefully in his sleep, Sunday, March 19, 2006.



Ken was born in Hamilton on July 4, 1939, the son of Malcolm W. and Ellen C. (Rogers) Birnel.

Ken served in the Naval Seabees and the U.S. Army, receiving his discharge in 1962.

After his military enlistment, he moved to Martin City with his wife, Barbara (Ellison), and raised their five children.

Ken was a member of the Union of Operations Engineers Local 400 for 33 years; he served as chief of the Martin City Volunteer Fire Department; was a member of the school board in the Columbia Falls School District; and served as deputy sheriff in Ravalli County.

He was an outdoorsman who acted as a professional hunting guide, and he loved the family fishing and camping trips. Gardening, carpentry, logging, mechanics, cooking and can-

ning were his other passions.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Malcolm and Ellen; and brothers, Bruce M. and Forrest D. Birnel.

Ken leaves behind his siblings, Mary Jane Mansfield of Montana, Anna N. Brown of Arizona, Robert E. Birnel of Alaska, and Shirley E. Ferguson of Minnesota; his children, Kathy C. and Leonard Jr., Dailey, Rebecca J. West, Wendy L. and Scott Cyrus, and Kenneth D. and Kathy Birnel, Jr., all of Montana, and JoAnn E. and Leonard Seurer of Alaska; grandchildren, Jennifer and Erin Dailey, Thomas and Michael West, Jessica, Joshua and Kevin Cyrus, and Jill Birnel, Christina and Linda Seurer; several stepchildren; stepgrandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Family meant everything to Dad — he will be missed by all who knew and loved him. "Keep your eagle's eye on us, you 'littie firecracker.'"

A memorial service for Ken will be at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at Dahl Funeral Chapel in Billings.

Memorials may be made in loving memory of Ken Birnel, Western Security Bank, P.O. Box 20637, Billings, MT 59104-0637.

## Louis R. 'Louie' Bertino, 96

Louis R. "Louie" Bertino, 96, passed away at the Evergreen Long Term Care Facility at Polson, on Aug. 20, 2006.



Louie Bertino was born at St. David, Ill., on Oct. 24, 1909, to Giovanna Ruffatto Bertino and Frank Bertino. The family moved to Brockton, in 1911, where they homesteaded south of the Missouri River.

Then in 1918, they purchased and farmed on land north of the river.

Prior to his passing, Louie was the last survivor of the Bertino homesteaders. He married Clarice R. Workman in October 1935, at Kenmare, N.D. Louie, Clarice and the family moved to Columbia Falls, in 1949. Clarice passed away in May, 1969.

Louie had a long career as a welder and ironworker and worked on projects such as Shasta Dam, Fort Peck Dam, Mare Island Navy Yard, Hungry Horse Dam, Noxon Dam and Libby Dam. During World War II, he spent a year with the Corps of Engineers at Adak, Alaska, and was awarded the Overseas service ribbon on March 26, 1945.

He was a lifetime member of the NRA and he had a special

fondness for Winchester and Weatherby rifles and Colt handguns. He enjoyed telling stories of his early life on the farm in eastern Montana and his experiences as a construction worker.

Louie Bertino married Mary Schoenberg of Columbia Falls, in November 1972. Louie and Mary then moved to Sumner, Wash., where he continued his work as a welder and ironworker until his retirement in 1982, then he and Mary moved back to Columbia Falls and made their home there.

He was a member of St. Richard's Catholic Church in Columbia Falls.

Mary passed away in December 2004.

Louie was preceded in death by one son, Clarence, of Salt Lake City; four brothers and six sisters.

Survivors include one daughter, Louise Allen of Spokane; three sons, William Bertino and wife, Marilyn of Colorado Springs, Colo., Tom Bertino and wife, Ellen, of Springfield, Va., and Philip Bertino of Kalispell; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Louie Bertino will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 1, at St. Richard's Catholic Church, Columbia Falls.

Columbia Mortuary will be coordinating the service.

## James H. Bernard, 55

James H. Bernard, 55, of Libby, died Monday, Jan. 30, 2006, at his home in Libby from natural causes.

He worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 28 years at the Canoe Gulch Ranger Station.

Survivors include his wife,

Pat Bernard, of Libby; and mother, Eleanor Bernard, of Sioux Falls, S.D.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Libby. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday.

## Louis T. Berry, 64

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Libby Assembly of God Church in Libby; interment services with military honors will be afterward at the city of Libby Cemetery. Friends may call at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home from 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday.

Louis T. Berry, 64, died Dec. 1, 2006, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital from natural causes.

Survivors include his wife, Susan, of Libby; a daughter, Christine Sutterfield, of Fresno, Calif.; and stepchildren, Adam Noble of Bozeman, and Devyn Hill of Whitehall.

## James H. Bingham, 29



James H. Bingham, of Kalispell; sisters, Angie and husband, Jesse Baier, and Crystal Bingham; brother-in-law, Jeremy Maynard; aunts and uncles, Gordon Reynolds, Fred and Kim Marx, Delbert Bingham, Ricky Bingham, Debbie Shepard and Linda Kessler; grandparents, Ruth Merrill and Peggy Reynolds; nieces and nephews, Kallie, Levi, Devin, Hunter, Kellani and Tristan; and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Adelbert "Harvey" Bingham, Susan Marx and Jay Nelson.

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, June 16, at New Covenant Fellowship in the Fire-side Room.

James H. Bingham, 29, passed away Monday, June 12, 2006, in Kalispell.

He was born April 2, 1977, in Kalispell, and raised in Montana.

In 1999, he married Angela in Kalispell. He loved fishing, movies and computers.

He is survived by his wife, Angela, in Kalispell; his parents, Diana Bingham of Kalispell, and James D. Bingham of Deer Lodge; son, Taylor Bingham-Alford, of Columbia Falls; daughters, Vanessa and Jas-

## Bella Marie Gardner Betson, 90

Bella Marie Gardner Betson, 90, "went to be with her Lord and Savior" on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center after a short period of illness.



Bella was born Aug. 17, 1916, in a small township called Blooming Prairie, N.D., to George and Anna Fleck. She went to school at Crosby Elementary and went as far as the eighth grade. She had 15 siblings and grew up on the farm her parents owned near Crosby, N.D.

She married Albert Gardner in 1935 in Crosby. Albert and Bella moved to Shelby in 1938 and owned an older two-story home, later moving to Columbia Falls in the fall of 1948. She married Jerry Betson in 1976 in Columbia Falls. She lived in Columbia Falls until the time of her passing.

Over the years she attended St. Richard's Parish, and her life touched many people, and had a great influence on her four sons. One of her greatest interests was growing flowers (many varieties) for her church and placing them around the parish; she also loved to dance. She very seldom missed going to Sunday Mass, as well as saying her rosary; she was a firm believer in the Catholic faith and its teachings!

When asked to volunteer on any situation that might occur in

the church, she was always there to lend a helping hand, as well as elsewhere. She seemed to never "run out of steam" so to speak!

She had 10 grandchildren as well as 10 great-grandchildren, and deeply loved them all. They in turn loved being around her because she made the best cookies.

Bella was preceded in death by her parents, and husbands Albert T. Gardner and Jerry Betson; and daughter-in-law, Darlene Gardner.

She is survived by her sons, Alfred Gardner of Columbia Falls, Ted and Veronica Gardner of Libby, Emil and Bobbi Gardner of Cloverdale, Calif., and Duywayne and Janine Gardner of Columbia Falls; 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, brother, Clarence and Marlene Fleck of Edmonds, Okla.; brother, Billy Fleck and wife of Douglas, Wyo., sister Beatrice Chapman, of Mitchell, Neb., and sister Agnes Rayda, of Laramie, Wyo.; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews too many to mention.

A visitation will be held from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29, and a rosary at 7 p.m. at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

A Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 30, at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Columbia Falls, with the Rev. John Miller officiating. Burial will follow at St. Richard's Catholic Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

"Bella will be remembered for her selfless service to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, his mother the Blessed Virgin Mary, family and friends."

## Barbara "Allie" Bishop, 60

Barbara "Allie" Bishop, 60, passed away Sept. 18, 2006, at her home in Columbia Falls.



Barbara was born on April 18, 1946, in Milwaukee, to Marion and Carlyn Hettinger Volgmann. She was raised in Milwaukee, then moved to Walla Walla, Wash., where she graduated from Walla Walla High School.

Barbara worked as a medical transcriptionist at the University of Oregon Medical Center, and was also self-employed.

She married John Bishop in 1989, in Portland. Barbara spent 20 wonderful years with her loving husband John. She was loved by her family and friends. Her sense of humor and love of family made their lives complete. She was "Auntie-Grandma" to her beloved great-nieces and nephews.

She was a wonderful wife, sister and aunt. She was loved and will be missed by many.

She loved the Oregon coast, watching movies with her husband, and attending her church. She was an avid reader and truly enjoyed getting together for family gatherings.

She was preceded in death by her mother; father; sister, Pat; and brother-in-law, Jim Duncan.

She is survived by her husband, John Bishop of Columbia Falls; brother, Gene Volgmann; sister, Kathy Duncan; sisters-in-law Glenda, Brenda, Vickie, Sandy and Dot; brothers-in-law, Shelby and Randy; aunt Eugenia Rawson; numerous beloved nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at noon on Friday, Sept. 29, at the North Valley Baptist Church in Columbia Falls.

Buffalo Hills Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Lucille Bissner, 80

Lucille Bissner, 80, passed away on Wednesday, June 28, 2006, in Kalispell.

She was born on Sept. 4, 1925 in Los Angeles, to Earl and Olive (Teehan) Kaufman. She was the second born of five sisters and one brother, and helped her mother care for the younger children. Lucille graduated from high school from Ramona Convent in Alhambra, Calif.

In 1947, Lucille married Harold James Bissner Jr. They divorced in 1976. Lucille attended UCLA for a year. She came to Montana from Pasadena, Calif., five years ago to be with her daughter in Kalispell.

Lucille was a member of the

Risen Christ Catholic Church.

She enjoyed collecting antiques, volunteering in school libraries, and loved foreign films and art.

Lucille was preceded in death by her parents, and one sister, Betty Ann Kitchew.

She is survived by three daughters, Carol McNamara of Malibu, Calif., Sue Bissner of Kalispell, and Teresa Garcin of Santa Monica, Calif.; one son, Jamie Bissner of Altadena, Calif.; five grandchildren, Sarah McNamara, Kati McNamara, Kali McNamara, Tracy Dano and Theresa Bissner.

Memorial services will be held in California. Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Lucille's family.