

## Ellen Claudine Smith, 76

Ellen Claudine Smith, 76, was born in Chester on Aug. 8, 1929. She passed away Wednesday, April 12, 2006, at Health-center Northwest in Kalispell.



Ellen was a nurse's aide for many years in Havre and Great Falls at the Deaconess Hospital.

She moved to Kalispell in 2001 after an illness. She was an active volunteer in Great Falls and Kalispell. She enjoyed "keeping busy" and helping others.

Ellen was a member of the Easter Star and the Eagles.

She often said the thing that she missed most was dancing.

She often had a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye, and had a

wonderful sense of humor.

Ellen was preceded in death by her daughter, Darlene Fay Harriman; granddaughter, Dean Divish Kayser; sister, VerDel Pourroy; brother, Bert Alley; and her parents, Ellen and Howard Alley. She was also preceded in death by her husbands.

Survivors include her three children, Carol Harriman and husband, Gene, Patricia Sylvia, and Earl "Babe" Harriman and Tammie; sister, Una Moog; and brother, Howard Keith Alley; 13 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. She was "Mom" to many; her door was always open.

Memorials may be sent to either Grace Hospice or Home Options Hospice.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Monday at Johnson's Mortuary.

## Judith 'Judy' Smith, 88

Judith "Judy" Smith, 88, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 30, at her daughter's home in Lolo. She had been living at the Clark Fork Riverside senior residence up until two days before her death.



Judy was born in Moccasin to Earl and Bertha Williamson on Jan. 28, 1918, and graduated from Moccasin High School. She attended business college in Helena for a short time.

In 1939, she married Walter Smith, her husband of 62 years. During most of their marriage they lived in Libby, where they raised their three children.

Judy was a devoted wife, mother and homemaker who often expressed her satisfaction with these roles. She was a talented pianist and Hammond organist, and taught many piano pupils over the years. She was a longtime pianist for the Assembly of God church in Libby and also belonged to an organ club composed of Libby organists.

Her husband, Walter, also was a talented musician, and together they taught their children to sing and play instruments. Making music was a daily part of family life. For 25 years Judy and Walter, known as the Walt and Judy Swing Band, played for dances at various events and venues throughout western Montana. Walt played guitar, steel guitar, banjo and mandolin, while Judy played piano and Hammond organ. They played often in Libby, Polson, Kalispell and for the

Missoula Senior Citizen's Center Friday night dances, giving countless hours of joy to all who had the privilege to hear and dance to their music.

Judy and Walt loved to fish together, especially on Lake Koocanusa and the Kootenai River. They also bowled together for many years in a doubles league. Judy loved to read and garden.

Three years after Walter's death, Judy moved to the Clark Fork Riverside senior residence in Missoula to be closer to her two daughters. She made many wonderful friends and was put to work immediately entertaining at the piano.

Judy was preceded in death by her husband, Walter; a brother, Kenneth Williamson; and a sister, Donna Byrer.

Judy is survived by daughter, Sharon Scott and her husband, Jim, of Lolo; daughter Nita Hamilton Smith of Missoula; son Tony Smith and wife, Peggy, of Troy; grandson Jim Scott, and wife, Jenny, of Missoula; grandson Scott Botchek and wife, Samantha, of Eugene, Ore.; great-grandsons Jim Scott of Arizona and year-old Jacob Scott of Missoula; Walter's brother and wife, Everett and Ardie Smith of Hemet, Calif.; and several nieces and nephews.

At her request, cremation has taken place and no services are planned.

Local arrangements are by the Garden City Funeral Home and Crematory.

The family deeply appreciates the kind and compassionate services of Hospice of Missoula, and suggests memorials be made to them.

## Leo Franklin Smith, 69

Leo Franklin Smith, 69, of Columbia Falls, died Nov. 9, 2006, at the Colonial Manor in Whitefish from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).



Leo was born April 22, 1937, to Frank and Helen Smith in Halfmoon where he was raised and educated. In 1958 he married Betty Lou Chapman of Columbia Falls, where the couple lived and raised their family until illness made it necessary for them to be cared for at the Colonial Manor.

In his early years, Leo worked for the Great Northern Railroad and F.H. Stoltz Lumber Company as head sawyer. In 1962 he was hired by Anaconda Aluminum Company as a laborer where he worked until retiring in 1997 as superintendent of casting. Leo enjoyed camping, fishing, hiking, picking huckleberries, playing cards, sitting on the deck watching humming birds, tinkering in his garage, watching sports and doing yard work.

Leo is survived by his wife, Betty Smith, of Whitefish; daughter, Sherry Burchett, and husband, Gary, of Kalispell; daughter, Tami Smith, of Whitefish; son, Terry Smith, and wife, Taryn, of Columbia Falls; son, Tony Smith, and wife, Dorothy, of Rapid City, S.D.; brother, William, and wife, Linda, of McGregor Lake; sister-in-law,

Laverne Lindsley, of Whitefish; and cousin, Doris Hanson, of Whitefish.

Leo is also survived by five granddaughters, Laci Smith, Brianna Bukoskey, and Betsy Bukoskey, all of Kalispell, and Jordan Smith, and Sydney Smith, of Rapid City; five grandsons, Levi Smith, and wife, Karen, of Helena, Jayme Bukoskey, of Kalispell, and Trevor Smith, Matthew Plooster, and Jason Plooster, of Rapid City; one great-grandson, Braden Winterburn-Smith, of Helena; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Leo was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Helen; his mother and father-in-law, Lyle and Goldie Chapman; brother, Robert Smith, and wife, Barbara; brother-in-law, Richard Lindsley; and a nephew, Michael Smith.

Visitation will be held from 1 to 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls, with Rev. David Merkel officiating. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls. A reception will follow the burial at the Columbia Falls United Methodist Church.

The family has requested that memorial contributions be made in Leo's name to Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, Montana 59901.

## Roger Edward Smith, 65

Roger Edward Smith, 65, died Sunday, Aug. 13, 2006, at his home in Libby.

He had worked as a millwright in Everett, Wash., until his retirement.

Survivors include his wife,

Merry, and her son, Dave Megard.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Hidden Chapel, 1107 Utah Ave., in Libby.

## Richard A. Smith, 63

Richard A. Smith, 63, passed away at his home in Marion, on Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2006.

He was born March 1, 1943, in Kalispell, to Reginald and Amy (Kinniburgh) Smith.

Richard started work as a timber faller at the age of 17 and continued work as a faller and equipment operator in the logging industry throughout his life.

In 1964, Richard married Gerry Williams and together they raised six children.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and one brother, Don.

He is survived by his wife, Gerry Smith of Marion; five sons,

Rick Smith of Kalispell, John Smith and wife, Brigitte, of Las Vegas, Will Smith and wife, Carrie, of Kalispell, Dan Smith and Anthony Smith and wife, Lacey, all of Marion; one daughter, Wendy Anderson and husband, Larry, of Kalispell; 11 grandchildren; three brothers, Dean Smith and wife, Linda, of Kalispell, Jim Smith and Ron Smith, both of Marion; and several nephews.

The family is holding a private memorial for Richard.

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

## Ryan Marshal Smith, 30

Ryan Marshal Smith, 30, a Whitefish resident, passed away at his home Feb. 9, 2006, after a long fight with sarcoma cancer.

Ryan was born Jan. 31, 1976, in Houston, the son of Charles W. Smith and Helen Faye Ward. Ryan was raised and attended schools in the Houston area. He graduated from high school in 1994, and then attended Sam Houston University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business.

Ryan belonged to the Flathead County Search and Rescue.

He enjoyed playing guitar, hiking and the outdoors, fishing and hunting. He enjoyed soccer and his faithful dog, Jed.

Ryan will be remembered as a

man of God and full of faith and a believer in the Lord, Jesus Christ. He will be remembered as a loving son, brother, husband and friend.

Survivors include his wife, Melissa, at the family home in Whitefish; parents, Helen Smith in Whitefish, and father, Wayne Smith, in Temple, Texas; a brother, Jason, and wife, Stacey Smith, in Whitefish; and three nieces and nephews Kyley, Greg and Michael Ryan.

A memorial service will be at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Whitefish Assembly of God, with the Rev. Curtis McDuffee officiating. A graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Kalispell.

## Thelma Smith, 93

Thelma Smith, 93, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2006, at North Valley Hospital.

She was the first of six children born to Ephraim and Sadie Street.

She was born at the family farm northwest of Kalispell. The family moved to Whitefish where she attended grade and high school, graduating in 1931.

She was united in marriage to Elmer Smith on Dec. 25, 1931. They had one son, Gary.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents and three brothers.

Surviving her is her son Gary and his wife, Ann; three granddaughters, Tracy and husband, Bruce Freeman and two great-granddaughters, Lindsay and Dani of Coralville, Iowa; Tami



and husband, John Barrett, and great-grandchildren, Kacie and Jackson; and Toni and husband, Craig Fischer, and great-grandchildren, Bryce and Lacie, all of Kalispell; and two sisters, Marvel Logan of Columbia Falls, and Allyce Street of Whitefish.

She was very active in Presbyterian church, North Valley Hospital Auxiliary, Vista Chapter No. 44 Order of Eastern Star, and Mountains Trails Saddle when it existed, and she served as treasurer of all above named for many years. She was also honored as First Lady of Whitefish.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials to the Presbyterian church or the charity of your choice.

A memorial service is scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 13, at the First Presbyterian Church of Whitefish.

Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish is in charge of the arrangements.

## Todd Allan Smith, 45

Todd Allan Smith, 45, died Sunday, Feb. 19, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

He was born Oct. 1, 1960, in Williston, N.D., the son of James and Jean (Ator) Smith. Todd lived in Plentywood before moving to Choteau in 1961, where he was raised and received his education. He graduated from Choteau High School.

After graduating, Todd started learning his electrical trade from his father, as well as attending several seminars for his trade. Todd worked throughout the United States during his life and desired a better place for his son to be raised, so they moved back to the Montana area in about 1998, making their home in the Flat-head Valley.

Todd worked for Kalispell Electric and Nelson Electric, retiring from Nelson Electric upon his diagnosis of ALS in July 2005. Todd had a knack of seeking and seeing quality in all he did, and was very proud of his work. In August, Todd and his son, Lance, got to enjoy a lifetime dream of a trip together fishing in Alaska. This trip was afforded them by all of his co-workers and employer. Todd was thrilled when he caught the largest halibut at 40 pounds.

Some of his interests included hunting and fishing with his sons, and he had spent several summers guiding in the backcountry of Montana. Todd was a member of



the IBEW electricians union and the Whitefish Rifle Club.

Todd married Kathy Emmert Hedeem on May 23, 2003, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. She was the love and soulmate that he had always been looking for and was able to make the last years of his life the happiest with her. Todd tried to protect his family by masking his ALS symptoms, and fought a valiant fight until his passing.

Todd was preceded in death by his grandparents, Frank and Bertha Ator, and Buster and Rena Smith; also his father and mother-in-law, Mike and Katie Emmert.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy Smith, of Kalispell; four children, Tonya, of Missoula, Allison, of Jordan, Mike Smith, Lance Smith, and stepdaughter, Danielle Hedeem, all of Kalispell; his parents, Jim and Jean Smith, of Choteau; four sisters, Ruth Smith of Browning, Kaye Esther and husband, Jim, and Carol Strandbakke, all of Great Falls, also a special sister, Celia Emmert, of Kalispell; a very special lifetime friend Sharla Hinman, of Kalispell; his friend Bullet, and all his buddies at "Two Bear"; with aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and a great-niece he adored.

At his request, a memorial service and celebration of Todd's life will be held at a later date.

The family suggests that memorials be sent to: American Heart Association, Montana Division, 600 Central Plaza No. 304, Great Falls, MT 59401; or Hospice Home Health Options, 175 Commons Loop, Ste. 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Todd's Family.

## Carol Ann Smithlin, 78

Carol Ann Smithlin, 78, "passed away peacefully" Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell, with her family by her side. She was born Oct. 5, 1928, in Maiden Rock, Wis., to Carl and Frances Prichard.



The family moved when she was a young girl and settled in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where she grew up with her three sisters until she met and married John L. Smithlin on Jan. 31, 1948. Together they made their home in Kalispell and raised five children.

Over the years, Carol and John worked side-by-side running Smitty's HiBoy and Smitty's Triple XXX restaurants, as well as Smitty's Beef Palace. Along with their business partners, Carol and John developed land in the Evergreen area into what is now Shopko, Perkins, Alltel, Staples, and Super 1 Foods.

She was the hardest-working woman her family ever knew. She grew up in a different time

and was generous beyond belief.

"Waiting in heaven with open arms" will be her husband, John; her parents; her sister, Betty McKimney; and her grandson, Christopher Michael Cox.

She is survived by her two sisters, Ruth Nelson of Coeur d'Alene, and Lila Ferger and her husband, Bill, of Liberty Lake, Wash.; her five children, Caren Smithlin of Tacoma, Wash., Betty Cox and her husband, Phil, of Vancouver, Wash., Joanne Dickinson of Kalispell, Tom Smithlin and his wife, Debbie, of Kalispell, and Carl Smithlin and his wife, Susan, of Puyallup, Wash.; her 13 grandchildren, Shannon, Christie, Caren, Geoffrey, Natalie, Thomas, Jennifer, Robert, Josie, Stephanie, Alicia, Julia and Emily, and her five great-grandchildren, Christopher, Zachary, Angelo, Aidan and Abbie.

A Mass of Christian burial for Carol Ann Smithlin will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 22, at Risen Christ Catholic Church, with Father Rudolph Bullman celebrant.

Memorials may be sent to a charity of donor's choice.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Darlene Smithson, 67

Darlene Smithson, 67, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2006, at her residence in Coos Bay, Ore. She was born June 2, 1938, in Spokane, the daughter of Bert Ira and Flora Evelyn (Turk) Amick.

She attended schools in Whitefish after moving from Elk, Wash. On Sept. 3, 1955, she was united in marriage to Jerome Patrick Smithson in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. They had two children and one adopted child. She returned to Whitefish High School to finish senior year after her children were in school and graduated in 1966.

She worked for a while as a bookkeeper for Ibsen's Plumbing and helped her husband in the Christmas-tree business. She enjoyed the outdoors, bowling and traveling. After moving to the Oregon coast in 1987, she also enjoyed cooking, gardening and

fishing.

She was very proud of her children and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Darlene is survived by her husband, Jerome, of Coos Bay; her daughter, Debra Lee Hoekema, and husband, Dale, of Jackson, Miss; son, Robert John Smithson, and wife, Paula, of Spokane; and adopted son, William Albert Smithson, of Mendon, Mich.; and six grandchildren, Laura Adams, David and John Hoekema, Cherina, Meranda and Darlene Smithson.

Private family graveside services for Darlene were held. There was no visitation. The family suggests that any memorial contributions be sent to South Coast Hospice of North Bend, Ore.

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



## Kenneth James Snyder, 55

Kenneth James Snyder, 55, passed away at Colonial Manor in Whitefish on March 16, 2006.

He was born May 29, 1950, in Richmond, Calif.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Betty Snyder.

He is survived by his father,



Dick Snyder, of Whitefish; sister and husband, Nancy and Scott Bredell, of Whitefish; sister, Barbara Volkman, of Whitefish; and brother and wife, Phil and Joy Snyder, of Kalispell; and many aunts and uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 28, at Mission Alliance Church on Seventh Street in Whitefish. A luncheon will follow.

## Revo Somersille, 64

Revo Somersille, 64, "entered into the hands of his Lord and Savior" on April 26, 2006.

He was born on Dec. 30, 1941, in New York, N.Y., the son of William and

Delicia (Holmes) Somersille. Revo was born and raised in New York where he graduated from the City College of New York and began his professional career as a certified public accountant. In May of 2000, Revo received his master's in business from the University of Montana. After receiving his master's degree, Revo found his true passion to be teaching college students.

Revo always gave generously of his time. He served as a board member for the Lighthouse in Kalispell and served as a deacon at the Whitefish Assembly of God. Revo also sang in church choirs and participated in many Bible studies, where he established eternal friendships. In 1998, the Montana Trial Lawyers Association awarded Revo with the 1998 Citizen Award for his "Honesty, Integrity, and Courage in the Pursuit of Justice" for his role in the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company litigation, which resulted in a \$97 million dollar award to the



employees of CFAC.

Revo befriended and touched many lives wherever he went. He will be missed dearly by his family, his friends, students and anyone else who had the good fortune to see his smile or hear his laugh.

Revo was the beloved husband of Brenda Somersille, of Stockton, Calif.; loving father of Revo Somersille and his wife, Alicia, of Stockton and Ross Somersille, of Las Vegas; and devoted "Papa" to Olivia and Austin Somersille, of Stockton. Revo is also survived by his mother, Delicia, and his sister, Aloma, both of New Jersey.

Revo was preceded in death by his first wife, Carmen, and his father, William.

Internment in Kalispell is at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 3, at Glacier Memorial Gardens, with services following at 11 a.m. at the Christian Center in Kalispell. A service will also be held in Stockton at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 8, at Twin Oaks Community Church.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be sent to either the Humphreys College Scholarship Fund, where Revo was teaching at the time of his passing, 6650 Inglewood Ave., Stockton, CA 95207, or the Joyce Meyer Ministries, P.O. Box 655 Fenton, MO 63026.

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

## Verna R. Somerville, 96

Verna R. Somerville, 96, died Oct. 4, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, after a short illness. She was born in Kalispell on May 18, 1910, to Joseph A. Roe and Gratia Proud Roe.



She attended West Side School and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1927. Later she attended Washington State University, where she was affiliated with Kappa Delta national sorority.

She was employed from 1928 to 1945 under civil service in Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, as well as at Flathead National Forest. During her two years in Glacier, she was administrative support in the superintendent's office and traveled along the Going to the Sun Road as it was under construction. During the 1929 Glacier fire season, she helped evacuate the headquarters at Belton via rail to Nyack Flats. During her 14 years at Yellowstone she was employed as personnel officer handling payroll, auditing and cost accounting.

During her employment in Yellowstone she traveled extensively, and eventually met and married James P. Somerville of Gardiner, on Nov. 12, 1938. They made their home at Mammoth Hot Springs until November 1945 at which time they moved to Kalispell, to be with her ailing mother.

She lived very exciting times in our two major national parks and was always ready to share

her stories of these adventurous times.

Their two children, Roger J. and Susan M., were born in Kalispell and attended Kalispell schools. Verna was very involved in Boy and Girl Scouts and the Peterson School PTA.

In 1966 Jim was employed as manager of the J.C. Penney Auto Center in the Spokane Valley, where they resided until 1993, at which time they returned to Kalispell. She and Jim became very active in the Hospital Volunteers. In 1996 she and Jim moved to Buffalo Hill Terrace, where Jim died in 2001 and she continued to live.

Verna was preceded in death by her parents; husband, James; her sisters, Romona Jellison and Lucile Vick; her brother, Archie Roe; and many friends.

She is survived by son, Roger J. Somerville and wife Melissa, of Bozeman; daughter, Susan Young and husband Geoffrey of Canberra ACT, Australia; granddaughter, Gratia L. Somerville; three step-granddaughters, Teagan, Trenna and Caitlin Keith; two sisters-in-law, Marge Somerville of Livingston, and Fran Rose of Kalispell; cousins, Chuck and Pat L'Allier of Whitefish; and numerous other Jellison, Roe, Proud, and Cannaday nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Celebration of life for Verna Somerville is planned at Buffalo Hill Terrace from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 21. Memorials may be made in her honor to Kalispell Regional Hospital Volunteers or a charity of your choice.

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

## Tony W. Spall, 92

Tony W. Spall, 92, a retired sales representative, died Monday, Nov. 27, 2006, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell of natural causes.

A funeral liturgy will be at 11 a.m. Dec. 23 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Great Falls. Rite of Committal will be in Mount Olivet Cemetery. Cremation has taken place. O'Connor Funeral Home in Great Falls is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include his daughter, Terry R. and Art Richburg of Whitefish; sister, Rosalie Healy, of Reno, Nev.; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marion Spall, in 1990.

Tony was born May 2, 1914, in Belt. He grew up and attended schools in Belt and graduated from Great Falls High School in 1932. He married Marion Kernan in 1936.

Tony worked in wholesale and retail merchandising for Great Falls Drug and Montana Wholesale Drug, retiring in 1978.

He was a member of the Lewis & Clark Gun Club, Sons of the Pioneers, life member of the Elks Lodge, member of the Eagles Lodge and Holy Family Parish.

Tony enjoyed bowling; fishing and hunting.

Memorials are suggested to Gift of Life.

## Eddie Solis, 59

Eddie Solis, 59, was born in San Antonio on Aug. 9, 1946.

He passed away March 28, 2006, in Kalispell because of a work-related accident.



He was raised in Santa Clarita, Calif., and moved to Kalispell in 2000.

Eddie worked at Streich Farms for five years and will be missed by his colleagues,

family and friends.

He is survived by Loretta; his sisters, Rachel and Margo; two brothers, John and Monty; two daughters, Christy and Tammy; and numerous grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. today, March 30, at Glacier Mountain Fellowship, 4043 U.S. 93 S. A luncheon will be afterward at the Kalispell Moose Lodge.

## Wilma A. Speer, 84

Wilma A. Speer, 84, passed away Wednesday, March 1, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

Wilma was born Sept. 19, 1921, in Kalispell, to John and Harriet (Wagner) Jensen. Wilma was a graduate of Columbia Falls High School and was raised in the Flathead Valley.

Primarily a homemaker, Wilma enjoyed games and cards, sewing, reading, huckleberry picking, cutting wood, fishing, and especially her children.

Wilma was preceded in death by her husband, Alvin, and her parents.

Wilma is survived by her son, Ronald and wife, Darlene, of Columbia Falls; sisters, Veda

Anders and Lola Jensen; a brother, Paul Jensen; grandchildren, Clint A. and Cory T. Speer; great-grandchildren, Morgan, Josie and Andrew; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation for Wilma will be from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday, March 6, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Graveside services will be held 2 p.m. Monday, March 6, at Fairview Cemetery with Pastor Ron Pierce officiating.

The family requests memorial contributions be made in Wilma's name to Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children or to the St. Jude's Foundation.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home caring for the family.

## Judith A. Jaynes Spencer, 62

Judith A. Jaynes Spencer, 62, of Libby died Friday, April 14, 2006, at her home in Libby from natural causes.

She worked for many years for St. Regis Paper Company and Champion International.

Survivors include a son,

Kenneth Jaynes, and a daughter, Tracy Jaynes, both of Libby.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 19, at Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Libby. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. today.

## Ralph E. Spencer, 86

Ralph E. Spencer, 86, died Friday, Aug. 11, 2006, at the Libby Care Center from natural causes. Survivors include his wife, Carol, of Libby, and eight children, Mark Spencer of Wendell, Idaho, Scott Spencer of Missoula, Gary Spencer of Libby, Randy Spencer of Medford, Ore., Shane Spencer

of Spokane, Craig Spencer of Frankfort, Ill., Cynthia Han-son and Lynn Spencer of West Jordan, Utah.

Services will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15, at the Latter-day Saints church in Libby. Local arrangements are by the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.



## Michael J. Sperry, 46

Michael J. Sperry, 46, of Columbia Falls, died peacefully in his home Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2006.

A memorial service will be held at noon Friday, Nov. 17, at the Crossroads Church in Columbia Falls. A reception will follow the service.

Mike Sperry was born in Plainview, Texas, April 21, 1960, the son of Jeff and Renee Sperry. Mike's childhood was spent in Anniston, Ala., where he attended and graduated high school.

After graduation, Mike moved to Texas where he lived for a few years until he met his first wife, Marilyn. He then moved to Fortine where he resided for 15 years with his three kids, Kayleen, Kris, Jason and wife, and started working for Plum Creek. After his divorce he moved to Whitefish where he met his second wife, Ellen.

For the next few years he was employed at many establishments in the local area and helped raise his son, Micah. After his second divorce he

moved to Columbia Falls where he worked and became active in the church.

Mike was a hard worker with a heart of gold who always had a smile and a supportive hand for all those who were in need of it. He found nothing more relaxing than spending time with his family and friends.

Mike died unexpectedly. His loss is felt greatly by all those who knew him.

He is survived by his daughter, Kayleen, and granddaughter, Riley of Kalispell; son, Kris of Fort Lewis, Wash.; son, Jason, spouse, Amanda, and grandchildren, Domanic, Paige and Anthony, of Beale Air Force Base, Calif.; son, Micah, of Columbia Falls; mother and father, Jeff and Renee, of Anniston; and sister, Vanessa, spouse, Tim, and niece and nephew, Josh and Jesse, of Birmingham, Ala.; and numerous cousins, aunts and uncles.

His family thanks you for all your thoughts, prayers and support through this trying time.

## Laverne Embrose Srur, 88

Laverne Embrose Srur, 88, died at her daughter's home in Whitefish on Saturday morning, July 22, 2006, of natural causes.

She was born June 13, 1918, in Hibbing, Minn., the only child of Emery and Alvina Broten. She was raised in Rugby, N.D., and attended the Devils Lake School for the Deaf and graduated in about 1936.

She then met and married James Srur in Rugby, and they were married for more than 50 years.

She enjoyed sewing, arts and crafts, traveling, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was a member of the Deaf Club in Grand Forks, N.D., and had belonged to a Lutheran church for most of her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and her husband, James, in 1989.

Survivors include her daughter, Linda Gregoire, in Whitefish; a son, Jerry Srur, in Nucla, Colo.; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and by many other family members and friends.

Visitation will be from 2 to 8 p.m. today, July 27, at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish, with the Rev. John Bent officiating. Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 31, at the Grand Forks Memorial Cemetery in Grand Forks, under the direction of the Amundson Funeral Home.

## Barry 'Bear' Spooner, 73

Barry Spooner, 73, went peacefully in his sleep "to his heavenly reward" on Sept. 16, 2006.

He was born the fourth child of Alphonse and Agnes Spooner in Shelby, on Nov.

22, 1932. He grew up in Shelby across from the city swimming pool and consequently was an outstanding swimmer as well as a great athlete. When he was young his parents divorced, and his mom remarried and moved to the Ferndale/Bigfork area in 1947 where his family homesteaded a beautiful farm. There he developed skills in hunting and fishing, and learned to love the outdoors. He also attended Bigfork schools through high school.

Barry worked for Royal Logging right out of high school. He joined the Navy CBs and spent time in the Philippines and Guam.

He married Patsy Cork on July 5, 1955. They were married for 38 years, and then Patsy "went to be with the Lord." They moved around a little, Swan Lake, Anacanda, and in the late '50s made a home out of five acres on the Flathead River near Kalispell. There they raised four children (and a couple of horses, several dogs, various cats, rabbits, cattle, chickens and gardens ... and gardens ... and gardens).

Barry worked for Royal Logging and several other logging companies for about 40 years. He spent his last working years before retirement in the mill yards at Plum Creek and Ksanka.

In 1970, the Spooners came to Christ in the Kalispell Church of the Nazarene on Second Avenue and Fourth Street. Barry and Patsy Spooner found a "spiritual family" in that fellowship



and they became strong, active leaders. Eventually Barry was a longtime board member. He really loved the Lord and his church. Often his children could find him with his Bible open, on his knees, praying for his family. His family will testify that Barry was a tenderhearted, loyal, soft-spoken man. He had a strong work ethic, loved his family and his God.

On March 4, 1994, he married Gayle Ward, the new love of his life. They spent 12 1/2 years together working, loving and caring for each other. "Bear" also considered Gayle's two daughters as his own. He already is missed immensely.

Barry is survived by his wife, Gayle; her two daughters, Joyce Sagmiller, Omi and Dayna Proud; his brothers, Bob and Maureen Spooner, Charlie Knapp, John Spooner, Raymond Spooner; sisters, Nita Haskett, Vivian Peters and Bud, Anna Hamann; children, Lennie and Betty Spooner, Kerry and Kathy Spooner, Kim and Dale Jung, Mike and Bonnie Spooner; grandchildren, Sally Darnell, Barry Spooner Jr., Blair Smith, Ross, Cole, and Cory Spooner, Adrienne, Kendra, Caleb, Haley, and Shayna Jung, Dylan Bovee, Stetson Spooner; Sonia Couch, Gerald Johnson; great-grandchildren, Danaeh Darnell and Hannah Couch.

Visitation will be held from 1 to 8 p.m. today, Sept. 19, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls, with the Rev. Lennie Spooner officiating. Burial will be afterward at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Memorials are suggested to The Parkinson Support Center of Kentuchiana, 4912 U.S. 42, Suite 105, Frazier Rehab Institute, Louisville, KY 40222.

## Dean Everett Stacy, 80

Dean Everett Stacy, 80, "went to be with Jesus" on Wednesday, June 28, 2006, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

He was born May 20, 1926, in Onalaska, Wash., to Emma O. (Roberts) and Sylvester P. Stacy.

He served in the military during World War II and the Korean Conflict.

Dean worked at various jobs including for Champion International, Hoerner-Waldorff and for the Missoula Manor Retirement Home.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Michael D. Stacy; four sisters; and five brothers.

Dean is survived by his loving wife, Inez Stacy, of Columbia Falls; two daughters, Marilyn and Pete Mearns; and Carrie and Rich Flankey; seven grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and a sister, Cle Ella Young, in Oregon.

A memorial service will be held

2 p.m. Thursday, July 6, at the Clark Fork City Church, 2811 Latimer Street, Missoula, MT. Pastor Bruce Donley will officiate. Inurnment will be Friday at Fort Harrison.

Arrangements are with the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

## Marlene Ruth Keniston-Standley, 71

Marlene Ruth Keniston-Standley, 71, of Kalispell, "took Jesus by the hand and went to Heaven" on Oct. 3, 2006.

She leaves family and friends who loved and adored her. She was our "rock" and will be dearly missed. She was a loving wife to Bryan "Roy" for 52 years; mother to Debora and Crystal, both of Kalispell, and son Scott and his wife Theresa of Redmond, Ore. She is also survived by her brother, Richard Keniston, and his wife, Joyce, of Missoula; her mother-in-law, Anne Standley, of Hamilton; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; many special nieces and nephews; cousins; brother- and sister-in-laws; aunts and uncles; and many friends.

She was preceded in death



by her parents, Regina and Ted Keniston; her sister, LaRae; and her father-in-law, Francis Bryan Standley.

She was born July 21, 1935, in Dickinson, N.D., and attended schools in Columbia Falls and Missoula. She was a past member of the Adah Chapter of Eastern Star.

She enjoyed music, dancing, sewing and reading, and spent her last 32 years at the home in West Valley where she was always busy with family, her garden and her flowers. She loved being out of doors. She always had a song in her heart and a smile on her face.

A celebration of life service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Elks Lodge on Highway 93 South in Kalispell. Please come help us remember her life.

She asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Cancer Hospital.

## John Anthony 'Jack' Stark, 89

John Anthony "Jack" Stark, 89, a Lakeside resident, died of natural causes Thursday, Dec. 21, 2006, at Brendan House in Kalispell. He was born Sept. 16, 1917, in Wheaton, Ill., to Eugene and Rose Stark.

At age 14, after his father's death, he moved to California with his mother and sister. Two years later, he left high school and worked two jobs to help support the family. During these early years of his life, Jack developed a real love for the Pacific Ocean and especially the Santa Monica beach where he was lifeguard. Jack and his sister were both outstanding swimmers, and his powerful swimming netted him the 200 meter Breast Stroke Championship in the South Pacific AAU. Jack also won several other swimming awards, including the Far Western AAU Open Breast Stroke Championship and second-place finish in the breast stroke at the nation AAU meet in 1937. During a period when Jack worked as a private swimming instructor, one of his pupils was a young Jane Fonda.

After he left the Southwest Military Academy, Jack began duty as a patrolman in Avalon on Catalina Island. There he gained a lot of valuable experience and developed a strong desire to perhaps someday pursue a career as a criminologist. It was at this time that he met and became close friends with singer Perry Como. After the job at Catalina Island, he moved to MGM Studios as a claims inspector, and this position gave him many valuable contacts, which

eventually helped land a job with the U.S. Border Patrol.

During World War II, Jack served four years with the U.S. Army. When the war ended, Jack received an honorable discharge and re-enlisted, was commissioned, and served as an intelligence officer transporting secret documents between Washington, D.C., and occupied Germany.

After the war, he returned to California where he enjoyed a long and successful career in sales with the original Coldwell Banker Company, primarily in residential income with the Mid-Wilshire and San Fernando Valley offices.

During what Jack would frequently call the "autumn" of his life, he developed a love for Flathead Lake in Western Montana, where he happily spent the summers of his retirement years. Because of health problems in fall 2004, Jack no longer was able to journey south for the winter and thus became a full-time Montanan.

Jack is survived by his sister, Mary Ellen Dugan, of Port Orchard, Wash.; one nephew, George Heath; and a great-nephew, Rahim Wilson. He also leaves behind his extended family of friends, from many walks of life.

Memorial services for Jack Stark will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel. A memorial has been established at Brendan House in Kalispell in Jack's name.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Jack's family

## Matthias 'Matt' Strack, 90

Matthias "Matt" Strack, 90, formerly of Kalispell, died Friday, Oct. 20, 2006, at his home at 501 S. Caravan, Missoula, MT 59808.

Cremation has taken place.

Services will be held at a later date.

## Alvin Arthur Stearns Jr., 86

Alvin Arthur Stearns, Jr., 86, died Friday, Jan. 13, 2006, at Brendan House in Kalispell of natural causes.

Before his retirement, he owned Al Stearns and Sons Construction Company.

He is survived by three daughters, Linda Bulpitt of Arlington, Texas, Laura Smith of Bishop, Calif., and Diane Klink of Whitefish; and

two sons, Michael Stearns and Al Stearns III, both of Whitefish.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. The Rev. Eddie Nye will officiate. Memorial services also will be held at the Brune and Buck Funeral Home in Bishop at a later date.

## George F. Stebbins, 99

George F. Stebbins, 99, formerly of Kalispell, passed away Feb. 4, 2006, in Vancouver, Wash., just short of his 100th birthday.

George was born in Fairmont, N.D., Feb. 22, 1906, to Walter King and Augusta Stebbins, one of six children. The Stebbins family ranched at Rock Springs, north of Miles City.

George was an electrician; first working for Billings Neon and then for the Northern Pacific Railroad in Laurel. He retired from the railroad at age 65.

He married Janet Young in May 1938 in Billings. They had three children, Elaine Schlenker of Bozeman, Paul Stebbins of Vancouver, Wash., and Alexandra "Sandy" Herzog of Kalispell.

George enjoyed gardening, yard work, reading and tinkering on various small engines. His last few years were spent in an assisted living facility in Vancouver, near his son, Paul. While there he enjoyed watching TV, reading, visiting, lunches at Willie's Cafe and mocha Starbucks coffee.

George is survived by his three children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Cremation has taken place. A combined funeral service for George and his deceased wife, Janet, will be held sometime in the summer of 2006 in Bozeman. George and Janet who passed away June 2003, will be interred together in a family plot in Bozeman.

## Olga Steblina, 81

Olga Steblina, 81, passed away Wednesday, May 31, 2006, in Kalispell.

She was born June 17, 1924, in Belarus, Russia, to Makar and Ana Philipchenko.

Olga lived a life that exemplified working through adversity much as did her husband, Yvan Steblina. She was born in a very small village in Belarus during Stalin's regime and was ripped away from her family at the age of 17 to be taken as slave labor into Germany. During the war she experienced much hardship and pain — but with her strong spirit she kept going. She never made it home and always talked about missing her family and wondered what became of them.

She married in 1945 to a man she barely knew but lived a cooperative partnership for 60 years. Together they finally made their way to the United States and were so grateful to be in this country. She knew seven different languages fluently and quickly learned English, though she never lost her accent. Olga worked at any job to ensure the family was taken care of and a good home was provided for her children. She never felt that any job was demeaning if it helped provide.

One thing Olga never lost even in the worst of times was her sense of humor and dry wit. There was always a saying that fit any situation at any given moment. Her comments would even bring a smile to the most stoic person.

Her love of family was always forefront, and strove to keep the small Steblina clan together no matter where the children migrated to.

She was always gardening, growing flowers and vegetables. She believed that live plants always reminded us of life and to live it in

beauty and joy. Although her body was riddled with arthritis for more than 40 years, she was never idle. When not gardening, cooking or doing other activities, she would sit down and loved to knit and embroider. The family will always be grateful for the beautiful shawls she made for them with her own hands and her love. It is a memory they will always carry. For anyone who wanted to learn, she was always a willing teacher. There are people in all parts of the U.S. that now know how to cook certain German and Slavic dishes.

She loved deeply and cared genuinely, with an honesty that one recognized immediately. She loved children and cherished her grandchildren. The day she became a grandmother she said she was not to be called Mom but Grandmother because that was a true extension of joy and family.

Olga will be sorely missed. She has become known as a person, a friend and a mother. Her family will miss their times together and the laughter and the talks that they had. She is in a place that is pain free and filled with joy.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Yvan Steblina, in February 2006 and is now survived by her two sons, Nicholas Steblina of Kalispell, and Vladimir Steblina and wife, Susan, of Wenatchee, Wash.; and her daughter, Anna Viera, of Bigfork; also two grandchildren, James Gilbert and Alexandra Steblina.

Funeral services for Olga Steblina will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 3, at the Johnson Mortuary Chapel with burial afterward at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. There will be no public visitation.

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



## Yvan Steblina, 88

Yvan Steblina, 88, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2006, in Kalispell.

He was born June 1, 1917, in the Ukraine, the son of Feodor and Maura Steblina. Our husband and father lived a life that exemplified working through adversity. He was born in a small poor Ukrainian village during Stalin's regime and was taken as slave labor during World War II.

At the end of the war he was in Austria, where he met his wife, Olga, who was also a survivor of slave labor; they married in 1945. They knew each other eight hours when they married and lived in a cooperative partnership for 60 years. They were not able to go back home. They were alone together in a strange land.

They finally made their way to the United States in 1956 as grateful immigrants and worked hard to be good citizens. My father believed that it was a blessing to be in the United States. He was always grateful that his hard work and skill as a carpenter were recognized regardless of his background and inability to speak English well.

After retiring, he loved to work with his hands — repairing anything mechanical, gardening — he specialized in grafting trees — sometimes with surprising results. He could build a house from

scratch and was always a willing teacher. He was an awesome handyman. He enthusiastically told stories about life experiences. My father enjoyed playing cards and bingo — somehow always winning! His stories, knowledge and love will be missed.

Through the years they worked hand in hand, be it in the house or in the yard — a truly deep relationship built on partnership and cooperation.

He was a skilled carpenter, shoemaker, fisherman and plumber. He did whatever it took to make it.

He made sure his children went to college so they could better themselves. He never knew what happened to his family. He missed them and his homeland terribly.

He is survived by his wife, Olga Steblina, of Kalispell; sons, Nicholas Steblina of Kalispell, and Vladimir Steblina and wife, Susan, of Wenatchee, Wash.; his daughter, Anna Viera, of Bigfork; and two grandchildren, James Gilbert and Alexandria Steblina.

Funeral services for Yvan will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, at Johnson Mortuary Chapel, with Father Bratislev Bratso Krsic officiating. There will be no visitation. Burial will be at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

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

## Sara Stedman, 95

Sara Stedman, 95, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2006, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

She was born Sept. 4, 1911, in Billings.

She taught school in

Columbia Falls for 17 years.

Sara is survived by her daughters, Sue James and Anna Lee Stedman.

A memorial service will be held later in the spring.

Arrangements are with Columbia Mortuary.

## Ella Anna Stephens, 73

Ella Anna Stephens, 73, passed away Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

Ella was born Oct. 3, 1932, in Sidney.

Private family services will be held.

Ella was preceded in death by her first husband, Kenneth C. Morley, and a daughter, Kim.

She is survived by two daughters, Karen Phipps and Kristine Morley; Gene Stephens, father of their two sons, Zane and Shawn Stephens; eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild; three sisters, Solveg Beier, Carolyn Dryer and Evelyn Ullman; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

## Michael William Steckler, 60

Michael William Steckler, 60, passed away on Wednesday, July 26, 2006, at Health Center Northwest in Kalispell, after a courageous battle with mesothelioma (asbestos-caused) lung cancer for almost two years.

Mike was born in Bismarck, N.D., on Nov. 2, 1945, to Gregory and Marjorie (Morgenstern) Steckler. As a young child Mike moved with his family to Seattle, where he grew up and attended schools.

He graduated from Franklin High School in 1963 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He received an honorable discharge from the Navy in 1966 after serving aboard the aircraft carrier Oriskany during the Vietnam War.

Mike worked as a pipe fitter for Todd Shipyards in Seattle for 12 years, before moving to Whitefish, in 1979, to pursue his favorite pastime of hunting. It was there he met and married his wife, Dee, and his son, Greg, was born. He and his wife recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

Mike worked for several summers at Glacier National Park as a plumber and painter before acquiring the position of maintenance engineer at Kalispell School District 5. He was employed there over 20 years until he retired due to illness.

Mike spent many hours hunting with his son Greg, and with brother-in-law and good friend,



Kent Johnson.

He never missed a hunting season and taught himself the art of taxidermy to preserve his trophies along with those of friends and family. Mike also enjoyed collecting sports cards with his son Greg.

Mike was a wonderful husband, father and friend — always someone you could count on. He dearly loved his family and considered them to be most important in his life. He will be loved and deeply missed by his family and will always be held dearly in their hearts and memories.

Mike was preceded in death by his mother; a brother, Jon; and stepbrother, Bill Munday.

He is survived by his wife, Dee, of Whitefish; son, Greg, of Bozeman; his father, Gregory Steckler, and stepmother, Virginia, of Tenino, Wash.; his sister, Jane Bergsma, and husband, Frank, of Seattle; brother, Dennis Steckler, and wife, Janette, of Friday Harbor, Wash.; stepsister, Janna Johnson, and husband, Kent, of Big Sandy; stepsister, Loretta LaRue, of Kent, Wash.; his beloved godmother and aunt, Bertha Nuetz, of Bismarck; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place and a private memorial service will be held by the family at a later date.

Memorials can be made to Home Options (Hospice), 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901; Wings, P.O. Box 7822, Kalispell, MT 59904; or a charity of your choice.

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

## Kelli Kay (Bowden) Stephenson, 37

Kelli Kay (Bowden) Stephenson, 37, passed away Sept. 8, 2006, as the result of a motorcycle accident.

Kelli leaves behind her beloved sons, Kyler Michnal of Kalispell, and T.J. and Andrew Stephenson of Spokane; her beloved father and stepmother, Art and Kelli Bowden; her mother and stepfather, Carole and Brian Clarke of Elk Grove, Calif.; and beloved brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Emily Bowden, and two nephews, Torin and Colin, all of Evergreen.

Kelli was born on Jan. 17, 1969, in Sacramento, Calif., and moved to Kalispell at 3 years old. She graduated from Flathead High

School in 1987.

Kelli was a wonderful daughter, mother, sister and friend. She was a dedicated and hard worker, and yet she was very much a free spirit, full of laughter and quick to offer a smile. For all of us who knew and loved Kelli, she left an everlasting impression.

In spite of the short time Kelli had with us, her life was full and she loved to live life to the fullest.

A small memorial will be held for the immediate family at a later date.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, an account has been established for Kelli's three sons at the Whitefish Credit Union in Whitefish.

## F. Grant Stephens, 79

F. Grant Stephens was born March 10, 1926, to Elvis and Theodosia Stephens in Twin Bridges, where he spent his growing-up years. He passed away Feb. 14, 2006, at the Heritage Place Care Center in Kalispell.



He was preceded in death by an infant brother, Warren; his parents; and son-in-law, Ben Coles.

Grant married Virginia Pierce on June 10, 1948.

He is survived by his wife; one sister, Myrna Winslow, of Sheridan; one brother, Clarence, and Marian of Missoula; nine children, Anne Coles of Melstone, Larry of Finland, Dale and Marie of Helena, Linda and Roger Benjamin of Fort Benton, Bonnie and Dale Braaten of Kalispell, David and Karla of Cody, Wyo., Lloyd and Nancy of Plano, Texas, Betty and Dennis Figarelle of Great Falls, and Dicie and Fred Jangula of Missoula; 20 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and many, many friends and relatives.

Grant wore several hats in providing for his family. He drove a

truck, farmed, ranched, worked in a several sawmills, and even did some auctioneering in Twin Bridges, Plains and Ronan. While he had the help of a growing family, he maintained a dairy farm at Ronan.

In 1976, the family moved to Kalispell, where he has resided since. Here, after working in a sawmill, he attended Flathead Valley Community College, and then established and worked an income-tax business. Later he worked at Wal-Mart before retiring at age 74.

He suffered poor health in later years after having heart surgery and being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Grant and Virginia always had an enduring faith and trust in God that sustained them through their years together, leaving a great heritage for their children and grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. today, Feb. 17, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Expo Building at the fairgrounds. Burial will be afterward at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Doris L. 'Dorrie' Sterhan, 47

Dorrie Sterhan, 47, passed away peacefully Tuesday, March 28, 2006, at the Horizon Hospice Home in Billings after an extended illness.

Dorrie was born Dec. 15, 1958, in Glendive to Susan and John Sterhan. She graduated from Columbia Falls High School in 1977 and attended college at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo.

Dorrie is survived by her children, Jessica, Devon and Brandon Krivec; her mother, Susan Judge; her sister, Sandy and Reese

Dickey; brothers, Don and Marge Sterhan, and Fred and Denise Sterhan; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family extends special thanks to Saleena Abel, Shirley Johnson and Rita and Lynn Schrader. Also, special thanks to the caring and wonderful staff at the Horizon Home. Cremation has taken place, and no services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Dorrie's name may be made to Horizon Hospice Home, 1019 Neptune, Billings, MT 59105.

## Calvin B. Stevens, 83

Calvin B. Stevens, 83, a long-time resident of the Columbia Falls area, died Feb. 21, 2006, in Anacortes, Wash.

He had operated Stevens Auto Glass on Montana 40 for 18 years.

Survivors include his five children, Sherrill Tyler of Anacortes, Ann Keenan of Kila, Kel-

ly Stevens of Mukilteo, Wash., Nancy Phillips of Eugene, Ore., and Julie Perry of Hardin.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at Evans Funeral Chapel in Anacortes.

Inurnment will be at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, Wash.

## Philip 'Phil' Stevens, 71

Philip "Phil" Stevens passed away Thursday, July 27, 2006, at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center of natural causes.

He was born in Whitefish, on June 13, 1935, the son of Glenn and Florence Stevens. He attended schools in Whitefish, Columbia Falls and Eureka.

At the age of 14, he hauled his first load of ties out of the South Fork and hauled logs for FK&L Mill in Martin City. Later Phil bought his own logging truck.

In 1957 he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served most of his time in Germany. He was awarded the Good Conduct medal and was a pistol and rifle sharpshooter.

After returning from the service he purchased another new logging truck and hauled logs for Jim Hurst to the mill in Fortine. He later hauled to the Superior Mill in Columbia Falls when working for his dad and brother Jerry. Soon after, he started his own logging and road building company. He worked for Louisiana Pacific Mill in Columbia Falls. In the late '80s he started his own log home brokerage.

He spent his lifetime working

in the woods and building roads. And these were the things he enjoyed the most. When not working he made several trips hunting and fishing in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

He spent the last several winters at the other family home in Apache Junction, Ariz., at the foot of the Superstition Mountains.

Philip married Karen Wood of Whitefish, Sept. 2, 1961. They had two children, Cheri and Teri. Karen and Cheri survive him in Whitefish, and daughter, Teri Stevens and her companion, Tim Byers, in Butte, and in Mesquite, Nev.; one grandson, Tyler Ferguson, one granddaughter, Taylor Ferguson, and a nephew, Doug Stevens, all three of Whitefish.

He was preceded in death by his parents and younger brother, Jerry.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Monday at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish, officiated by Rev. David V. Kauffman. Burial will follow with military honors provided by the United Veterans of the Flathead Valley. Austin Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Ruth M. Stewart, 91

Ruth M. Stewart (nee Donovan), 91, a long-term resident of St. Paul, Minn., and formerly of Owatonna and Alexandria, Minn., and Bigfork, beloved mother, grandmother, and sister, died peacefully Dec. 11, 2006, in St. Paul.

Ruth was a graduate of Derham Hall and an avid golfer, traveler, bridge player and community volunteer.

Ruth was a strong, engaged and independent woman with great Irish wit, wisdom, and grace.

She is survived by children, George Stewart and Kaky, Peggy Chisholm, and Dick Stewart and Patti, all of Alexandria; Kate Stewart, Pat Winkel and Denny, all of Kalispell; Bill Stewart and Debbie of Owatonna; and Ruth "Candy" Tripp and David of Brooklyn, N.Y.; grandchildren, George Stewart and Katie, Will Stewart and Katie, Anne Stedman and Jon, Susan Linnihan and Brian, Katie Nadeau and Dennis, Joe Chisholm, Stewart Chisholm, Tim Stewart, Patrick



Stewart, Maggie Weinkauff and Mike, Todd Winkel, Kevin Winkel, Rob Stewart, Brian Stewart, Austin Tripp and Ellie Tripp; and 15 great-grandchildren; brothers, John Donovan and Eleanor, and Jerry Donovan and Maurina; and sisters, Helen Haun and Ray, Dorothy McGuire and Mary Quigley.

Ruth was preceded in death by Kenneth Stewart; parents, George and Margaret Donovan; brother, Dick Donovan; sisters, Jean Hoskinson and Virginia Donovan; and great-grandson, Rockwell Nadeau.

The family offers their special thanks to caregivers, Ann Riebe and Sylvia Bemlott.

Mass of Christian burial will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 15, at St. Mark's Catholic Church (2001 Dayton at Moore Street, St. Paul). Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at O'Halloran and Murphy Funeral Home (575 S. Snelling Ave., 651-698-0796). Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Our Lady of Good Counsel Home-St. Paul, or the Ruth Stewart Foundation, c/o Bremer Bank, P.O. Box 937, Alexandria, MN 56308; or to the donor's choice.

## Robert G. 'Bob' Stewart Sr., 77

Robert G. "Bob" Stewart Sr. was "received into the arms of Christ" on May 4, 2006. He had a long battle with lung cancer, and his spirit found victory over it.



Bob was born in Morrill, Neb., on June 5, 1928, to Eldora (Hunnell) and Gordon Stewart. When Eldora died at a young age, Bob moved to Proctor, where his grandparents helped to raise him. He attended grade school in Polson and high school in Kalispell.

He joined the U.S. Navy at 17 years of age, serving as a Seabee electrician in the Korean War and Cuba. He was stationed around the world and across much of the U.S.A.

In 1952, Bob married Eleanor Paul from Hopewell, N.J. They had three children, the two sons being born outside the United States. Bob retired to Kalispell in 1967 after serving his country for almost 22 years.

He was employed as an electrician at the aluminum plant in Columbia Falls, retiring in 1994.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing all his life, especially with his sons and grandsons. He played softball wherever he was stationed. After retirement, he coached Little League baseball and was a Cub Scout pack master. He was a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve, Scottish Rites Freemasons, the International

Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the National Rifle Association and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

He was known over the community for his large garden, which he shared with friends and family. His tomatoes were famous and coveted by many folks.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Eleanor; and a sister, Theodora "Susie" Schliecher.

He is survived by daughter, Pam Stewart; sons, Ted and his wife, Joan, and Bob and his wife, Patti, and grandsons, Chris and Sean, all of Kalispell. He has a sister, Dorothy Oberg, who lives in Henry, Neb., with her husband, George. Bob has an aunt Margaret Hunnell in San Jose, Calif. He has nieces, nephews and extended family across the United States.

Graveside services for Bob will be held at noon on Tuesday, May 9, at the Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Memorial services will follow directly at the Whitefish Community Church of God. Visitation for Bob will be in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel on Monday from noon until 4 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, "because you can't eat flowers," memorials can be sent to the Whitefish Community Church of God's Men's Ministry at 5685 Hwy. 93 South, Whitefish, MT 59937 and to Home Options/Hospice at 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

## Albert Lewis Stinger, 88

Albert Lewis Stinger, 88, longtime Flathead Valley resident, died March 14, 2006, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He is survived by his wife, Pearlys (Gilbert) Stinger;

sons, Dennis Stinger, Kelvin Stinger and Lonnie Stinger; and daughter, Delrae (Stinger) Billmeyer.

Austin Funeral Home of Whitefish is handling the arrangements.

## Robert Wayne Stockton, 83

Robert Wayne Stockton, 83, died May 6, 2006, at his home at the Waterford in Helena.

He had a postition with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, later becoming a transportation administrator. While living in Kalispell, he

worked at the Anaconda Aluminum Company.

He is survived by his children, Lois Gilge of Havre, Susan Nelson of St. George, Utah, Cliff Stockton of Hagerman, Idaho, and Tom Stockton of Helena.



## Roycie M. Stok, 91

Roycie M. Stok, died Monday, Oct. 2, 2006, at Healthcenter Northwest.

She was born on Jan. 2, 1915, at Inman, Neb., to Edward and Irene (Cain) Hoxsie.

Roycie married Otto Stok on May 6, 1935, in Rapid City, S.D. They lived in Dayton, Wyo., and Sheridan, Wyo., before moving to Whitefish in August of 1947.

She worked with Simons Hospital in Whitefish.

Her hobby was making quilts and clever scrap-books. She loved going to garage sales and buying stuffed animals which she cleaned and gave to the



Salvation Army just before Christmas for the children's gifts.

She was a loving, sweet lady and will be greatly missed.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Otto; parents, Edward "Roy" and Irene Hoxsie; daughter, Shirley Clay; and sisters, Thelma Weaver and Ethel Clark.

She is survived by a daughter, Phyllis Otto, and husband, of Ohio; brother, Lester Hoxsie, of Kalispell; sister, Mary Fomner, of Whitefish; seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is in charge of cremation and placing her ashes in Whitefish Cemetery. Roycie requested that there be no funeral service held.

## James S. Stokes, 90

James S. Stokes, 90, of Trego, died Tuesday Feb. 21, 2006, in Kalispell from natural causes.

He had owned his own contracting business in California before moving to Eureka and Trego.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret, of Trego; sons, Dick Stokes of Oregon, and Larry Stokes of Fortine; and daugh-

ter, Mary Acord, of Sioux City, Iowa.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 1, at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Eureka. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, with Rosary starting at 7 p.m.

Arrangements are by the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Eureka.

## Matthias 'Matt' Strack, 90

Matthias "Matt" Strack, 90, passed away Oct. 20, 2006, at his home in Missoula of natural causes. He was born Feb. 8, 1916, in Wibaux to Anton and Rosalie Strack.



On Sept. 1, 1938, he married Marcella (Duffy) at St. Matthew's Church in Kalispell. The couple recently marked their 68th anniversary.

Matt worked for Consolidated Freightways for 39 years before he retired.

He enjoyed fishing, bowling and camping.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters; two brothers; a son, Gregory; and a

daughter, Rita Steinke.

Matt is survived by his loving wife, Marcella; his son, Richard of Tucson; daughters, Sharon and Bob Burgad of Missoula, Kay Petroff of Sidney, Australia, and Betty Anderson and Mark of Missoula; one brother, John, of Boise, Idaho; and one sister, Katie McKinley, of Kalispell. He has 17 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Cremation has taken place. Funeral services will be held at 12:10 p.m. Nov. 2, at St. Matthew's Church in Kalispell, followed by a luncheon. Burial will be held at a later date.

Donations may be given to St. Matthew's School.

The family wishes to especially thank the wonderful hospice staff for comforting Matthias during his last week of his life.

## Irma Venise Singleton Strong, 94

Irma Venise (Singleton) Strong was born July 1, 1912, in Adams County, Ind., to parents John V. and Edith (Cook) Singleton. She had a beautiful life and died Aug. 20, 2006.



The second-oldest of 10 musically gifted children, she attended 12 years of school in Albion, Ind., and graduated top of her class in 1930. Irma married E. Allen Strong Dec. 24, 1932. He preceded her in death in 1992, sharing nearly 60 years together.

Irma was very talented. She was a civic-minded woman and a dedicated mother, as well as a strong matriarch to a very large family. She was a vocalist, pianist, Sunday school teacher, piano teacher, 4-H leader, PTA president, actress, gardener, seamstress, exceptional cook, avid reader, beautiful writer and a skilled Scrabble player. She loved to travel and could tell every route she'd ever taken and points of interest.

She grew up during the Great Depression but had lots of determination to succeed. Her father was sheriff of Noble County and she lived at the jail in Albion during her teen years. After marriage she lived in Elkhart, Ind., and Goshen, and then moved to Noble County, where all the children graduated from Albion High School.

It was 1977 when they moved to McCaffery Road near Bigfork. After Allen's death, she resided in Columbia Falls until she moved to Kalispell with daughter Joy. Irma recently lived at Wel-Life in Kalispell, then the Lakeview Care Center in Bigfork.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Hubert, Arthur and John Singleton; sisters, Lelah Walters, Helen Harris and Gloria Portmess; and her son-

in-law, Ronald Rosenberry.

She is survived by sisters Phylis Braa of Powell, Wyo., Edith Welling of Lynchburg, Va., and Mary Rose Stouffer of Fort Wayne, Ind. She was blessed with all six children surviving her, Janet Venise and Roy Rosenberry-Wodarz, formally of Coram, now residing in Havre; John A. and Irene Strong of Mainville, Ohio; Arthur and Retia Strong of Kenosha, Wis.; Paul and Betty Strong of Bigfork; Joy Grate, formerly of Kalispell, presently of Clackamas, Ore.; and Bill and Dee Strong of Roundup. Irma enjoyed 21 grandchildren, Tad and Rose Rosenberry, Judy and Joe Lunceford, Wendy and Robin Blevins, of Columbia Falls, Jeanne and Maurice Turner of Martin City, Janet and Rick Maricle of Bellingham, Wash., Bruce Strong of Florida, Kevin and Susan Strong of Ohio, Karen V. and Greg Ball of Austin, Texas, Scott and Randy and Eileen Strong of Evergreen, Colo., David Strong, Katie Woodruff of Bigfork, Joanna and Patrick Hill of Bozeman, Sarah Richards of Utah, Patricia Strong of New York, Rachel and Steve Gabel of Bozeman, Dustin and Jack Shultz of Roundup, Lane Grate of Las Vegas, Kelly Edwards and John P. Grate of Clackamas, Ore. She is also survived by 34 great-grandchildren, nine great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. today, Aug. 27, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Services will be held 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 28, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls, Rev. Ray Davis officiating.

Irma's two favorite charities were the Presbyterian Church in Albion and the Heritage Living Center, an assisted living center in Ashland, Mont., committed to Northern Cheyenne elders at: Soaring Eagle, P.O. Drawer 879, Billings, MT 59103 or <http://www.soaringeagle.org/>.

## Sidney C. Stryker, 63

Sidney C. Stryker, 63, died Friday, Feb. 3, 2006, at his Kalispell residence.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Molly Strong, 62

Molly Strong, beloved mother, grandmother, daughter, friend and unforgettable Flathead Valley character, "left this dimension" on May 30, 2006, after suffering respiratory failure. Her daughters, Elise and AnnEve, partner, Leland Hall, and several friends were at her side May 30, when her soul rose with the smoke of burning sweetgrass.



Molly was born in Fort Pierce, Fla., in 1943 to Ann and Rufus Lott. After earning two master's degrees in English and Latin, and working to register African American voters in the South, Molly moved to Montana in the '60s, where she discovered her true home.

Molly was inimitable; brilliant, independent, outspoken, and generous to a fault. She raised two daughters alone and started several businesses in the valley. She taught school, farmed trees, and worked as a carpenter, landscaper and inventor. She once walked from Bigfork to Denver, in winter, to highlight her newest invention, the Yeti boot.

Because she was constantly outdoors trimming trees, sandblasting buildings or ice fishing, Molly, in the 1980s, resolved to build a better snow boot. She came up with the design for her Yeti Boot, after observing the agility of animals in the Montana snow. Molly would later sue a California sporting goods giant for stealing her idea. Refusing the company's settlement offers and her lawyer's

pleas (though by then she was living in a tepee with no electricity), after nearly 10 years, the court ruled in her favor.

Molly was most proud of her daughters and grandsons, though she also enjoyed spending time with her many friends, attending Native American gatherings, political debate and activism, and fishing with friend Lee Hall.

With her outrageous hats, feathered earrings, knee-high Yeti Boots and Montana tales, Molly was a memorable and loving grandma to grandsons, Josiah, Jordan and Lucas.

In her last months, Molly spent time with her grandsons on the Maine coast, danced at a full-moon naturist beach party on Maui, protested the Iraq war in front of the White House and attended an organic farming conference in Idaho.

Molly recently moved from Ferndale to Mission, where she planned to make reality her long-standing dream of establishing an organic community farm using permaculture principles.

Molly will be missed by her loving daughters, grandsons, life partner, Lee, and the world at large. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A potluck-celebration of Molly's life will be held at the Swan River Community Hall on Sunday, June 4, beginning at 1 p.m. The family encourages utmost creativity for her remembrance and welcomes music, poetry, stories, etc.

In lieu of "store-bought" flowers, they asks that any donations be sent to the charity devoted to preserving the civil liberties Molly so cherished.

## Paul Eugene Sturz, 87

Paul Eugene Sturz, 87, "went home to be with his Lord and Savior" on April 27, 2006.

Paul was born March 19, 1919, in San Diego.

He is survived by his wife, Gwendolyn Sturz, of Kalispell; a daughter, Paula Saldamondo, of Kalispell; and a son, Joe Sturz, of

North Carolina.

Memorial services will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at the Greenwood Assisted Living in Kalispell, with the Rev. Lloyd Pierson of the Faith Covenant Presbyterian Church officiating.

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

## Carmen C. Stuff, 88

Carmen C. Stuff passed away Monday, Nov. 6, 2006, in Kalispell. She had just celebrated her 88th birthday in August. Carmen was born to Alfred Burl and Mary L. (Guffey) Cobb in Fullerton, Calif., on Aug. 22, 1918.



Shortly thereafter the Cobb family moved to Rawlins, Wyo. When she was in high school, they relocated to Cut Bank, where her father was involved in the oil and gas industry. Carmen was not at all enamored with Cut Bank and consequently during her sophomore year she made arrangements to return to Rawlins to live with friends and finish high school. Fortunately, her parents convinced her to stay in Cut Bank where, yes, she did indeed graduate from high school. An interesting note is that Carmen was the only one of her family to continue to reside in Cut Bank until 2003, when she moved to Kalispell to be close to her daughter, Carol.

Carmen attended the University of Colorado and continued her education at Stanford University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. After Stanford, she attended Katherine Gibbs School of Business in Boston and then pursued a business career as a legal secretary in San Francisco. However, due to the events of World War II and the attack on Pearl Harbor, her father insisted she return home to assist him in his offices in Great Falls and Cut Bank.

She married her high-school sweetheart, William F. Stuff, of Cut Bank on June 2, 1944, at the Church of Incarnation in Great Falls. Immediately after the ceremony, Bill had to report for duty in the U.S. Army, cutting their honeymoon very short. After the war, Carmen and Bill lived in Cut Bank where they raised three children, Carol, Dorene and David, and Bill managed the family wheat farm.

Carmen called herself a "gypsy" because of her wanderlust. As soon as the harvest was over and

the grain was in the bin, the suitcases were packed and she and Bill were off exploring far-away places.

Carmen was very active in her community, where she served on the Glacier County Library Board, the County Planning Board and the Community Concert Board. She was president of the Cobb Foundation. She celebrated 68 years as an active member of P.E.O. including organizing and serving as president of her Chapter.

She attended First Presbyterian Church in Cut Bank and Christ Church Episcopal in Kalispell.

After Bill passed away, Carmen, with her sister-in-law, Esther Stuff, continued to oversee operations of Stuff Farms. Carmen always maintained that her career as a wife, mother, grandmother and homemaker was far more gratifying than any other vocation she could ever assume.

Carmen was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bill; and her brother, "Buddy" Cobb.

She is survived by her children, Carol Larson and husband, Kurt, of Kalispell, Dorene Baggett and husband, Stan, of Carbondale, Colo., and David F. Stuff, also of Kalispell; daughter-in-law, Mayla Stuff, of Fresno, Calif.; sister, Jean Brammon, of Morristown, Tenn.; she also was blessed with nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and Doug and Marla Embody of Cut Bank, whom Carmen regarded as part of her extended family.

A memorial service for Carmen C. Stuff will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 20, at Christ Church Episcopal, 215 Third Ave. E., in Kalispell, with the Rev. William Baumgarten, celebrant.

The family suggests any memorials be sent to Cottey College, in c/o Virginia Ray, 406 Seventh Ave. S.E. Cut Bank, MT 59427; or Glacier County Historical Society, in c/o Dennis Seglem, 107 Old Kevin Hwy., Cut Bank, MT 59427; or The Great Falls Symphony Association, P.O. Box 1078, Great Falls, MT 59404; or Christ Church Episcopal, 215 Third Ave. E. and Second Street, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

## Leota 'Mae' Sudan, 78

Leota "Mae" Sudan, 78, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2006, at her home in Kalispell. She was born Oct. 14, 1928, in Frowning, to Warren and Delma Croskrey.

She spent her early years in the Swan Valley until 1938 when her parents bought a farm in the LaSalle area. Mae went to Birch Grove School and graduated from Flathead County High School.

On August 1, 1946, she married John Sudan. Together they worked their farm in Bigfork and raised five children.

She was preceded in death by her husband in November 1998.

Mae is survived by her five

children, Wanda Smith of Broadus, Mont., Wilma Siemens of Bigfork, Marvin Sudan of Kila, Stanley Sudan of Lafayette, Colo., and Norman Sudan of Kalispell; 15 grandchildren; and 7 great-grandchildren.

Graveside services for Mae will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, at Glacier Memorial Gardens, 2659 Hwy. 93 North in Kalispell, with Pastor Ron Pierce officiating. The family suggests donations be made in her name to the Bigfork Quick Response Unit, 810 Grand Ave., Bigfork, MT 59911.

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

## Mark Eric Swanson, 52

Mark Eric Swanson, 52, passed away suddenly at Powell County Medical Center in Deer Lodge on Oct. 23, 2006, from a massive heart attack while hunting with his buddies. Mark was born Oct. 20, 1954, in Kalispell, the son of Harry and Virginia (Pound) Swanson. He grew up in Kalispell and graduated from Flathead High School.

Mark spent all his time in the woods and worked as a clipper operator. He was very active in the logger sports and various other logging activities.

He loved hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, taking long drives and coaching his son, Tanner, in team sports.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Mark is survived by his soul



mate, Doreen MacLoud; son, Tanner; ex-wife, Julene Swanson; very special mom, Agnes Gustafson; special other parents, Bob and Marilyn Cartwright; Doreen's children, Alex AKA Stubbs, Eric and Scott; brother, Michael Swanson; sisters, Susanne Taft and husband, Bill, Shelley Hildebrandt and husband, Terry; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was a very special uncle to Betty Drake, Trina Jelvick, Donny Hogue, Heather Olson, Chris Hogue, LeAnne, Libby and Weston Cartwright, Nicole and Dustin Bucher, and David and Lynn Swanson.

As Mark turned to his hunting buddies with a big smile on his face, his last words were, "It doesn't get any better than this." Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Flathead County Fairgrounds, under the grandstands. A reception will be after the services at 4 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## James F. Sweepe, 69

James F. Sweepe, 69, of Libby, died Friday, March 31, 2006, in a Kalispell hospital.

He was a building contractor for many years in northern California and Washington state before retiring and moving to Libby 10 years ago.

He is survived by his wife, Rickie Fine-Sweepe, of Libby, and his children, Virginia

Irby of Paradise, Calif., Keith Sweepe of Exeter, Calif., Nadine Hankins of Lincoln City, Ore., and Kevin Sweepe of Bend, Wash.

A public visitation will take place from 3:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 3, at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby. Private interment will be in the City of Libby Cemetery.



## Jean L. Swope, 81

Jean L. Swope, 81, died Saturday, June 10, 2006.

Jean is survived by her husband, Jim Swope; sons, Sonny Evans, Toby Evans, Ricky Evans, and Jimmy Swope; and daughters, Tiny Beck and Carol Jones — all of the Flathead

Valley.

A memorial service will be held at a later date and will be announced.

Arrangements are with the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

## Bert Taylor Suckow, 74

Bert Taylor Suckow, 74, of Missoula, passed away Saturday, March 4, 2006, at his home surrounded by his loved ones.

Bert was born Feb. 15, 1932, in Havre to Ezra and Emma Suckow. He spent his first eight years on the family homestead north of Rudyard.

In 1940, he moved with his parents and brother, Ted Suckow, to Ronan. He attended Ronan public schools and worked on the family farm until 1949, at which time the Suckow family moved to Kalispell. Bert graduated from Flathead County High School in 1950.

While visiting his parents in Mesa, Ariz., during the winter of 1952, he met his future bride-to-be, Maryann Elizabeth Sires. The couple were married June 7, 1952, in the bride's hometown of Union Gap, Wash.

In 1955, Bert bought a new Mack logging truck and embarked on a career lasting 39 years. Along the way, he and Maryann raised four children, took them camping, fishing and boating, and generally nurtured and loved them. Their home was a gathering place for a great many children and they gave freely of their time and resources.

Bert retired in 1994 and spent his remaining years enjoying his family and friends, the beauty of western Montana and the warm sunshine of Arizona in the win-



ter. His family, especially his grandchildren, was a source of great pride and satisfaction.

Bert's friendly grin and easy-going nature made him easy to know and like. He retained his sense of humor to the end of his life, and his teasing and hearty laughter will be sorely missed.

Bert is survived by his wife of 53 years, Maryann; four children, Rick Suckow and Ellen of Bozeman, Reed Suckow and Linda of Las Vegas, Leann Gooley and Dennis of Missoula, and Susan Suter and Curtis of Helena. There are six grandchildren, Matthew and Michael Gooley of Missoula, Marcy Sternhagen and Taylor Suckow of Bozeman, and Jill Eisnor and Tara Potter of Las Vegas. There are five great-grandchildren residing in Las Vegas as well.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. today, March 7, at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home, with Chaplain Dan Dixson officiating. Pallbearers will be Matthew Gooley, Michael Gooley, Curtis Suter, Dennis Gooley, Reed Suckow and Rick Suckow.

The family would invite you to send any memorials to the Montana Special Olympics in care of SOMT, P.O. Box 3507, Great Falls, MT 59403; or <http://www.somt.org/> or to any organization for cancer research and cures.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Speckart and staff at the Montana Cancer Center and St. Patrick Hospital, and to the staff of Partners Hospice, and to the staff of Home Instead Agency.

## George Owen Sullivan, 73

George Owen Sullivan, 73, died Friday, May 19, 2006, at his home in Bigfork.

He is survived by his family in Bigfork.

There will be no visitation. Memorial services are pending at this time.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Johanna Ashley Gutzman Sundvahl, 20

Johanna Ashley Gutzman Sundvahl, 20, "has found her angel wings and has left this Earth to be with our Lord" on May 30, 2006. Her time on Earth was short, but the profound impact on the lives of those she touched will be forever cherished. "She is now with the Lord, basking in heaven's glorious light and eternal beauty."



Johanna is a 2005 graduate of Flathead High School, was a member of the Kalispell High school choir, and a proud gold medalist from the Special Olympics. Upon graduation she worked at Flathead Industries.

Of all she accomplished in her

life, she was most proud of being a daughter and sister.

Johanna is survived by parents, Jill and Hal Sundvahl; sisters, Jessica Gutzman and Jocelyn Gutzman; grandfather, Hub Zyvoloski, stepsiblings, Stefnie Grieser (Sundvahl), Jason Sundvahl, Quintin Sundvahl, Amanda Sundvahl and extended family in Minnesota.

She was preceded in death by her grandmother, Ella Zyvoloski and great-grandmothers, Ella Rebeschke Johnson and Martha Zyvoloski.

A memorial service will be held for Johanna at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 3, at Lakeside Baptist Church. A celebration lunch will be afterward. "Please come and join us in the celebration of our angel on Earth finding her wings."

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## Robert D. Summers, 54

Robert D. Summers, 54, passed away suddenly of natural causes while on vacation in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, on Nov. 28, 2006.



Robert is survived by his wife of 19 years, Janet Summers, of Kalispell; son and daughter-in-law, Marcus and Christel Okeefe; and grandchildren, Kaitlynn and Keenan, all of Columbia Falls. Other survivors include mother and father-in-law, Lois and Wil-

liam Schuler; two sisters and brother-in-laws; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bob was born Aug. 24, 1952, in Bay Shore, N.Y., where he also attended school. He later moved to San Diego, where he met the love of his life. Janet and Bob were married in San Diego on Dec. 5, 1987. They moved to Montana in 1990 where they enjoyed camping, stock car races, fantasy football, and most of all, their yearly vacations.

A memorial service will be held at noon Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Whitefish Four Square Church, located at 345 Spokane Ave., with refreshments to follow.

## Albert 'Al' Ellsworth Suter Jr., 73

Albert "Al" Ellsworth Suter Jr., 73, of Polson, died Thursday, June 1, 2006, in Polson. He was the center of his family and adored for his wit, wisdom and love.



Al was born on June 18, 1932, in Portsmouth, Va., to Kathleen Walters and Albert Ellsworth Suter.

He graduated from Fork Union Military Academy in Fork Union, Va., in 1950, and then went on to attend the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Shortly after, he joined the Air Force and served his country for four years.

Al received his undergraduate degree from Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va., where he continued to pursue his graduate studies. Al had a successful 35-year career with the Federal Aviation Administration in air traffic control. He began as an air traffic controller in Norfolk, Va., and then advanced to ATC management positions in airports across the country. His career took him to Washington, D.C., Honolulu, Miami, and finally to Dayton Beach, Fla., where he retired.

Al was a loving and compassionate man to all who knew him, a devoted husband to his wife Martha, and a tender grandfather

who loved spending time with his grandchildren. He loved the great outdoors and spent his time in Northwest Montana camping, fly fishing, and pursuing a lifelong passion of playing golf.

He and Martha spent many years traveling throughout the United States.

Their favorite travels were exploring Montana, especially during their backcountry trip into the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

His family and friends will remember his wonderful stories, sharp wit, laughter, sense of adventure and love for his beloved Martha.

His parents, Kathleen and Albert, preceded Al in death.

He is survived by his wife, Martha; sons, Michael and Kenneth; daughters and their spouses, Shannon Suter and Kimo Brown of Honolulu, Robin and Jeff Popp of Jacksonville, Fla., Allison and Tim Gaffney of Virginia Beach, Va., and Tracy Suter of Deep Creek Lake, Md.; and his grandchildren, Timothy and Meghan Gaffney, and Connor Kai Popp.

A memorial service will be held in Al's honor at Deep Creek Lake on July 8.

The family suggests memorial gifts be sent to the Polson Junior Golf Fund, 111 Bayview Dr., Polson, MT 59860.

Arrangements are by Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory of Polson.