

Charles Chuck Bailey, 67

Charles Chuck Bailey, 67, died Thursday, April 3, 2008, at his home in Hungry Horse after a long courageous battle with lung cancer.

Survivors include his companion, Anita Martin; stepmother, Erma Bailey; son, Irish Bailey; and stepsons, Jackson and Jason Garrymore.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at the Hungry Horse Chapel in Hungry Horse. Military honors will take place at 3 p.m. at the Hungry Horse Fire Department. A potluck reception will be afterward at the Dam Town Tavern in Hungry Horse.

Leroy E. Baker, 78

Leroy E. Baker, 78, of Libby, formerly of Kalispell, died Friday, Sept. 26, 2008.

Survivors include his daughters, Nancy of Phoenix, Linda of Sutherlin, Ore., and Diane of Buckeye, Ariz.

Services will be at 3 p.m. today, Sept. 30 at the Libby Christian Church, 100 Kootenai River Road. Arrangements are by the Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Homes of Eureka and Libby.

Mildred M. Baker, 80

Mildred M. Baker, 80, of Libby died Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital, after several years of poor health.

She served as superintendent and teacher of St. John's Lutheran Sunday school. She also was employed for eight years as secretary of St. John Lutheran School.

Mildred is survived by her husband of 51 years, Ben Baker, of Libby; and daughters, Lynn Osterhues and Melissa Rider, both of Libby.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 15, at St. John's Lutheran Church. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Monday, July 14, at the Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Donald L. Balding, 86

Donald L. "Don" Balding, 86, passed away Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

He was born May 29, 1921, in Highmor, S.D., to Ward T. and Emma (Bultman) Balding.

Don received his early education in and around Rapid City, S.D., before joining the U.S. Army and serving during World War II. He served from July 1942 to November 1945, during which time he attained the rank of staff sergeant T-4 Rank. He served in the European Theater with the 3440th Ordnance Medium Automotive Maintenance Company from Thames to Rhine Rivers in England, France, Belgium and Germany.

Don married Betty Jane Jensen on Nov. 3, 1946, in Blair, Neb., and they settled in Kalispell, where they built several homes and worked in the automobile business, eventually owning and operating Balding's Cars and Trucks.

Betty preceded him in death Sept. 2, 1996. He married Thale I. Chubb Wenger on Feb. 14, 2001.



He also was preceded in death by his parents; and two sisters, Esther Berdella Balding on May 4, 1971, and Opal Mae Tuscher on Sept. 27, 1986; and a brother, George Richard Balding, on June 20, 1996.

He is survived by his wife, Thale Balding, of Lakeside; two sons, Robert Balding and his wife, Diane, and James Balding, of Kalispell; four grandchildren, Michelle Grisby and husband, Adams, of Billings, Kristoffer Balding of Bozeman, and Nicholas Balding and Nathan Balding, both of Kalispell; three stepsons, Michael, Daniel and Timothy Deardurff, and their families; one sister, Doris Gilbertson, of Kalispell; with many nieces and nephews, and other relatives.

Memorial services for Don will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 29, in the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral chapel, with Pastor Larry Stappler officiating. There will be no visitation. Urn burial will be after services at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Don's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and sign Don's guest book.

Dorothy 'Dot' Mavis Bell Baldwin, 88

Dorothy Baldwin passed away Dec. 16, 2008, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home.

She was born Aug. 7, 1920, in Geraldine to Harvey and Dorothy Bell. Dorothy graduated high school in Geraldine, prior to moving to the Flathead Valley. This is where she met her eternal soulmate, Jerry Baldwin.

They were married in 1940 in Polson, and lived in Mullen, Idaho, later returning to Martin City.

While in Martin City, Dorothy was involved with establishing the Martin City Community Church, and was a member of the PTA, the local square-dance club as an instructor as well as a dancer, and the P & F Club in the Cayuse Prairie School District.

In 1958, Dorothy and the family moved to the Lake Blaine area, to what is called the family home. She resided there after Jerry's death in 2000, until January 2008, at which time she moved to the Lutheran Home.

During their retirement years, Dorothy loved traveling extensively, enjoying the Southwest, particularly Arizona, where they finally settled in the Yuma area for the winters.

She loved to dance, play card games, and enjoyed the outdoors for any activity, be it tending her begonias, camping, family reunions, or antelope and deer hunting. She also loved to reminisce about her "hard-scrabble" childhood in the Geraldine and Missotri breaks area. One of her greatest passions was developed early in her childhood, enjoying the companionship of any book available.



She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; four brothers; two sisters; two half brothers; and one half sister.

She is survived by her daughters, Faith Howard and Bob of Martin City, and Dianne Murer and Ted of Kalispell; son, Gary Baldwin, and Florence, of Mead, Wash.; seven grandchildren, Travis Murer, Janeille Stephens, Darcy Fleming and Patrick, Brett Howard and Mandy, Roger Baldwin, Jeremie Baldwin and Katie, and Christopher Baldwin; 10 great-grandchildren, Brandon and Tyler Murer, Bryan and Kalyb Sparks, Hunter Fleming, Malysa, Bethany and Marcus Howard, and Madison and Isabelle Baldwin. She also is survived by her sister, Elnora Dye; brother, Richard Bell; sisters-in-law, Virginia Bell, Thelma Bell, Gladys Danielson and Edna Johnson; brothers-in-law and their wives, Merle and Jeannie Baldwin, and Bert and Inez Baldwin; and many nieces and nephews.

Dorothy was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt, and will be deeply missed and remembered forever.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with Chaplain Bob Thornton officiating. Visitation will be from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday. Interment will be afterward at Fairview Cemetery.

The family wishes to extend special thanks to the nurses and staff of the Immanuel Lutheran Home and Hospice for the tender care, love and kindness they gave to Dorothy.

It is suggested that in lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to the donor's choice of charities.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is taking care of the family's needs and service arrangements.

Darrel W. Baker, 57

Darrel W. Baker, 57, passed away Friday, May 30, 2008, on his way to work. He was born Dec. 30, 1950, in Wolf Point, the first-born child of Earl and Doretta Baker.

Darrel was raised and educated in Poplar.

He attended Montana State University in Bozeman. He returned to Poplar and worked with his father on the family farm and the family electrical business. He enlisted in the National Guard and served from 1972 to 1979.

On April 23, 1973, he married the love of his life, Barbara. They had just recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary. Together, they owned and operated the Gamble Store in Poplar from 1974 until the parent company closed its doors. At that time, he picked up a True Value franchise and continued to operate the hardware store and work for his dad until 1988, when he and Barbara sold the business and relocated to Kalispell.

On Sept. 8, 1987, the joy and second love of his life was born — a daughter, Ashley Ann Baker, who from that day forward was the twinkle in her daddy's eyes.

Upon relocating to Kalispell, Darrel continued his education and received a bachelor's degree through Flathead Community College in accounting. At the time of his death, he had worked at LHC Construction for over 15 years. He took great pleasure in his work and his many friends at LHC.

In addition, Darrel loved to travel and he and his family had the opportunity to experience many wonderful times together. He also enjoyed spending time at their cabin on the



lake that was built from the ground up by him and his brother-in-law. He always looked forward to whatever else life would bring.

Darrel was preceded in death by his mother, Doretta.

He is survived by his wife Barbara; daughter, Ashley; father, Earl and stepmom Delores Baker; sister Karen, and Chuck Dixon of Missoula; niece Krisha, and Larry Ross, and grandnieces, Jordan, Raymi and Kelsey of Anchorage, Alaska; nephew David, and Kristin Dixon, and grandnephews, Brody and Cody of Missoula, on the Baker side; sisters-in-law, Jennifer and Gary Kelly of California and their families, and Phyllis and Jerry Goldsmith of Georgia; and brothers-in-law, Larry Morgen of Wibaux, Joe and Sara Morgen of Kansas and family, and Elizabeth Brungard, mother-in-law, of Wibaux.

Darrel always said, "God decides on the day you are born, and he also decides on the day he will take you away."

"Although the Angels have called him home," he will be greatly missed by his family, coworkers and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 4, at Risen Christ Parish at 65 West Evergreen in Kalispell. Viewing and visitation will be held at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home & Crematory at 1890 U.S. 93 North in Kalispell today. Doors will open at 1 p.m., with a rosary service to follow at 7 p.m. Burial will be Friday, June 6, in Wibaux.

Ethel J. Baldani, 97

Ethel J. Baldani, 97, died Jan. 19, 2008, at Libby Care Center in Libby.

She is survived by her children, Ralph Baldani Jr., of New Stanton Pa., (formerly of Shelby and Missoula), Marilyn Tooley of Helena, and Carol Sanderson of Libby.

Cremation has taken place and graveside services will be held in Shelby at a later date. Burial will be under the direction of Whitted Funeral Chapel in Shelby.

Local arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

Cloe' Lyn Baldwin, 1 week

Cloe' Lyn Baldwin, 1-week-old daughter of Randy and Michele Baldwin, died Tuesday, July 29, 2008, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

The family will hold private funeral services. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Catherine Ann Baney, 73

Catherine Ann Baney, 73, of Eureka, died Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center from natural causes.

Survivors include her children, Matt Baney of Seattle, Russ Baney of Midland, Mich., and Scott Baney,

Gregg Baney and Paula Baney, all of Eureka. Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday, March 24, at the First Baptist Church in Eureka.

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

Jerry E. Barber, 90

We are mourning the loss of Jerry E. Barber, who passed on Feb. 8, 2008, at 90 years of age.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dilbert and Lola Barber; and his siblings, Margaret, Marybelle, Wilbert, Gladden, and Francis of Meigs County, Ohio.

Jerry is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Margorie Barber; his daughter, Gloria Styer; son-in-law, Gerald Styer of Kalispell; and granddaughter, Tara Styer residing in San Diego; also Jerry's siblings



Kathleen, Thelma, Ronald, and Kenneth, who reside in Meigs County.

Jerry was a World War II veteran among the few who were stationed in Bastogne, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge, returning home in 1946 to wed Margorie M. Bibbee.

Jerry was a loving father and hard-working man who farmed for many years and ultimately retired from the Athens County Water Department in 1980. Jerry and Marjorie moved to Lakeside in 1983 to be closer to their daughter, granddaughter, and son-in-law demonstrating his exceptional love for his family.

In honor of his request, there will be private services held at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Oren 'OJB' Joseph Barnhart, 89

Oren "OJB" Joseph Barnhart, 89, of Kalispell "passed into the arms of his Savior Jesus Christ" with his wife and family at his side Tuesday,



June 24, 2008, after a brief stay at Brendan House in Kalispell. He was born the fifth of 10 children to Roy and Ellen Barnhart on Jan. 14, 1919, in Fairview. Oren moved to this area in 1945 to assist in the construction of the Hungry Horse Dam and later moved to Columbia Falls to work at the Anaconda Aluminum plant.

Along with four of his brothers, Oren joined the Army in 1941 and served as a medic and truck driver during World War II. After his discharge, he married Ella Hanson of Fairview in 1945, and later married Roberta Mitchell Zeier of Anaconda in 1981.

Oren is survived by his wife of 27 years, Roberta "Bobbie" Mitchell Zeier; and five children, Verlaine Van Atta and husband, Clint, of Billings, Gayle Reeves and husband, Chuck, of Columbia Falls, Vicki Eggen and husband, Roger, of Jacksonville, Fla., Kris Zeier of Kalispell, and Scott Zeier and wife, Vickie, of Missoula; brother, Glenn Barnhart and wife, Mary, of Portland; sister, Bessie Faries of Mena, Ariz.; sister-in-law, Irene Barnhart, wife of Raymond Barnhart, of Columbia Falls; brother, Leland Barnhart and wife, Beta, of Portland; brother, Neil Barnhart and wife, Jennie, of Griffin, Ga.; plus grandchildren, Greg, Jeff,

and Jamie Van Atta, Angela Hopkins, Matt and Chet Hoerner, Chuck Reeves, Jason and Kristen Eggen, and Hollie and Lindsey Zeier; 11 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Oren was preceded in death by his first wife, Ella, in 1977; his sister, Esther; and brothers, Curtis, Irvin, Floyd and Raymond.

Oren and Bobbie lived in Columbia Falls until Oren's retirement in 1982, then spent several years RVing across the United States, and settled in Kalispell in 1992.

They have been active members of Faith Free Lutheran Church and the VFW Post 5650, helping with many projects for the community.

Even though Oren's patriarchal duties have ended, his family holds him in the highest regard for his gentleness, honesty, dependability, inner strength and commitment to family. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend, and a Christian model to the many people who knew and loved him.

A memorial service for Oren will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, June 27, at Faith Free Lutheran Church, 405 Liberty St., in Kalispell, followed by a luncheon and a military inurnment at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls at 3:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials for Oren be sent to Faith Free Lutheran Church for the building fund; or to the charity of choice.

Please visit the Web site at www.buffalohillfh.com to leave condolences.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Fred A. Barnowsky, 85

Fred A. Barnowsky, 85, passed away in Kalispell on July 15, 2008. Fred was born in Scobey on Feb. 18, 1923. His mother died when he was 2 years old. Along with his older brother, William, his father relocated the family for a time in Wisconsin and then eventually ended up in the Swan Valley.

Fred completed school in the Swan, served in the Navy during World War II and then found his home with the Forest Service. He served as one of the early smokejumpers based out of Missoula and the Northwest.

In the early 1960s, Fred was assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency, where he participated in covert air drops of supplies in Laos and Tibet — a secret Fred kept, as promised,

to his death.

Fred loved his independence and lived as one with the great outdoors.

He was preceded in death by his father, Emil; mother, Flora; and his brother, William.

Fred valued his friends, loved children, and greatly appreciated the personal care he received at Greenwood Village. His friendly smile and firm handshake will be missed.

At Fred's request there will be no services; however, his ashes will be spread in his beloved Flathead National Forest, at his favorite spot near Goat Creek in the Swan Valley.

Arrangements and cremation are under the care of Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory.

Virginia B. Barranger, 87

Virginia B. Barranger, 87, died July 6, 2008, of natural causes at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.



Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 11, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 2048 Conn Road in Columbia Falls. Cremation has taken place.

"Ginny" was born Sept. 8, 1920, in Chicago, the daughter of Arthur and Francis Biser.

She graduated from Wilmette High School, in Wilmette, Ill., and then attended college in Wakesha, Wis.

She married Thomas L. Barranger in 1941 and worked as a homemaker.

Ginny loved her family and was very dedicated to her children and grandchildren.

She was truly devoted to the Episcopal Church of Whitefish and was a loving servant and member of the church since

June 1959. She started the church choir at Holy Nativity Episcopal Church and spent years as the organist.

She was a Sunday school teacher, was active in the altar guild and was involved in many other aspects of the church. Her love of the Lord was apparent to all.

Ginny was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

She is survived by her son, Tom Barranger, and wife, Gail, of Bigfork; daughter, Lois Andersen, and husband, Richard, of Loveland, Colo.; son, Mark Barranger and fiancée, Haley, of Spokane; and son, Jay Barranger, and wife, Heather, of Whitefish; nine grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sister, Marian Fiske, of Mystic, Conn., and sister, Lois Williamson and husband, Bob, of Glenview, Ill.; and numerous nephews and nieces.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to All Saints Episcopal Church in Ginny's name.

Wilma 'Willi' Rosemary Shepherd Bassett, 88

Wilma "Willi" Rosemary Shepherd Bassett, 88, of Libby died Feb. 6, 2008.

She was a professional musician and wrote a column for the Libby newspaper.

She is survived by a daughter, G. Rene' Maloon, of Spo-

kane, and a son, Sean Dullea, of Sandpoint, Idaho.

Services will be held 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 11, at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home, with the OES and the Episcopal church presiding. Burial will be in Libby.

Doris J. Battin, 64

Doris J. Battin, 64, died on Dec. 31, 2008 at St. John Lutheran Hospital in Libby.

Survivors include her son, Monty Otwell, of Alexandria, Va., and her father,

Melvin Syth of Libby.

Services will be held in the summer. Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Donald James Baughman, 52

Donald James Baughman, 52, died Monday, Dec. 22, 2008, at his home in Somers.

He is survived by two sons, Trask and Jesse Baughman.

A memorial gathering and celebration of life will be held

from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Hockaday Museum of Art, 302 Second Ave. E., in Kalispell.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Susan (Stark) Baumeister

Susan (Stark) Baumeister, 59, of Billings, passed away on Thursday, April 17, 2008, following an extended battle with cancer. Born May 2, 1948, to Floyd and Julie Stark, Susan attended school in Frankfurt, Germany, and Kalispell, graduating from Flathead High School in 1966.

After graduating from the University of Idaho, she traveled, married and divorced twice, and eventually settled in Billings, where she worked for local beverage distributors. Sue retired last year from Briggs Distributing.

Susan is survived by her two

sons, Matt Jaeger and wife, Christy, of Billings, and Derek Baumeister of Las Vegas; as well as grandchildren Alden, Paisley and Celia Jaeger. She is also survived by her brother, Bruce Stark, of Missoula; and sister, Joan Gates, and husband, Bob, of Kalispell; as well as niece, Alice Gates, of Missoula; and nephew, Sam Gates, of Bozeman.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Help for Homeless Pets. A belated memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 24, at the Cremation and Funeral Gallery in Billings.

Helen 'Ella' Agnes Bear, 92

Helen "Ella" Agnes Bear, 92, passed away on Aug. 4, 2008, at the Colonial Manor Nursing Home in Whitefish. Ella was born on Jan. 22, 1916, in Oberon, Colo. She was the fourth of eight children born to Joseph and Bertha (Bohlin) Bartosch.

Ella attended school and worked in Denver until she married Frank Bear on Feb. 1, 1937. Frank and Ella lived in California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho before moving to Montana in 1958. After Frank retired in 1973, they moved to the Flathead Valley.

Ella was preceded in death by her parents, siblings, her husband of 62 years, Frank Bear, and her son, Frank M. Bear.

She is survived by her daughters, Janet Wolverton of Klamath Falls, Ore., and Colette Kirsch of Missoula; her sons, John Bear of Kalispell and Michael Bear of Tempe, Ariz.; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ella was a devout Catholic



who spent many hours volunteering for church activities. She was also the historian for the Samaritan House in Kalispell. Her hobbies included knitting and crocheting — skills she shared with anyone who asked for her help.

Ella possessed an inquisitive mind and had a wide range of interests. Her life revolved around her family and friends. Ella was a selfless and caring person. She had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed nothing more than a good laugh. Her passing is truly a loss for all of us.

Visitation begins at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 8, followed by a rosary at 7:30 p.m. at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home in Kalispell. The funeral Mass will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Kalispell. Her interment at Glacier Memorial Gardens will be followed by a reception at St. Matthew's.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Samaritan House, 124 Ninth Ave. W., Kalispell, MT 59901.

Friends are encouraged to go to www.buffalohillfh.com to leave condolences and sign the guest register.

Larry Eldridge 'Ty' Beardsley, 70

Larry Eldridge "Ty" Beardsley, 70, passed away in Polson on Aug. 15, 2008. Ty was born Sept. 17, 1937, in Walla Walla, Wash., to Eldridge and Amy Lou (Holman) Beardsley.



He grew up in eastern Oregon and married Viola Mae Vanderpool in Lewiston, Idaho, in 1958.

Ty was a farmer and rancher, then went to Alaska to work as a heavy-equipment-operating supervisor in the North Slope oil fields.

He enjoyed fishing, motorcycling, traveling, raising and working with horses, and spending time in the backcountry

with his mules and horses and close friends.

Ty is survived by his daughters, Debbie Seifert, Karrie Beardsley and Lori Nelson; a son, Scott Beardsley; brother, Skip Beardsley; a sister, Jeri Lee Beggs; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank the Lake County Sheriff's Office for all their help, and extend our personal thanks to Ralston and Associates underwater search and recovery. Gene and Sandy Ralston.

Memorial services for Ty will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Friends may go to www.buffalohillfh.com to post condolences to the family.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

George Francis Beasley, 90

George Francis Beasley, 90, of Libby died from natural causes Thursday, July 10, 2008, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital.

George worked for 45 years in the planer mill and retired as the planer superintendent.

He is survived by his

three children, Birdie Williams of Bull Lake, Maureen Rovig of Reno, Nev., and Kelly Beasley of Libby.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Monday, July 14, at the City of Libby Cemetery.

Local arrangements are by the Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Warden Douglas Beck, 40

Warden Douglas Beck, 40, passed away July 6, 2008, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center from injuries he received from an accident. Warden was born Feb. 10, 1968, in Silverton, Ore., to Bradley and Margaret (Spurgeon) Beck.

At the age of 4, Warden moved with his family to Olney, where he attended Olney grade school and Whitefish High School.

Warden worked at various jobs within the timber industry, mainly as a sawyer.

Warden was always ready to lend a helping hand and considered everyone a friend.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting, horseback riding, or just hiking in the woods with his dogs. He loved to curl up with a good book.

Warden was preceded in death

by his grandparents, Everett and Emily Spurgeon, and Lester and Olga Beck.

He is survived by his parents, Bradley and Margaret Beck, of Olney; sister, Dana, and husband, Walter Howe, of Mulino, Ore.; brothers, Bradley, and wife, Kellie Beck, of Kalispell, and DeWayne Beck of Olney; nieces, Marianna Weatherston and Jane, and Willie Beck, all of Kalispell; and nephews, Bradley, Jacob, Gabriel Beck and baby, Bradley Beck.

A celebration of Warden's life will be held at noon Saturday, July 19, at the Olney Community Fire Hall.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family. Please visit www.buffalohillfh.com, where you may post condolences for Warden's family.

Hubert Preston 'Herb' Beckers, 88

Hubert Preston "Herb" Beckers, 88, died at his home in Kalispell on Thursday, July 24, 2008. He was born on his family's farm north of Big-



fork on Sept. 7, 1919, to Herbert and Gena (Cook) Beckers.

From the time he was a child, Herb worked on the family farm. When he was young, he worked in the fields, pulling weeds and harvesting crops. As soon as he was able to drive, he sold berries and vegetables door-to-door in Kalispell and to grocery stores as far away as Havre and Great Falls.

He graduated from Bigfork High School in 1937 and won a scholarship to Carroll College in Helena. While there, he worked for and lived with Pete and Esther Tongren, who became a second family to him. He transferred to Montana State University and worked as a caretaker at the Catholic Church in exchange for a place to live, returning to Helena to work for the Tongren's during summer breaks. He played trumpet for the MSU Bobcat marching band. He attended ground school and learned to fly airplanes when he was not working or attending class. In 1942 he graduated from Montana State University with a major in agriculture and a minor in economics.

After Pearl Harbor was bombed on Dec. 7, 1941, Herb received a draft notice. He had participated in ROTC in college and he was an accomplished pilot by the time he graduated. He had signed a letter of intent to join the Army Air Corps after graduation, and he reported to Twenty Nine Palms, Calif., and served with the West Coast Training Command, first as a glider pilot instructor and later as a flight commander in the U.S. Army Air Force Program. He received his honorable discharge Dec. 7, 1945. He was a patriot and he loved his country. After he was diagnosed with his last illness, Sen. Wayne Allard of Colorado arranged for an American flag to be flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of "Hubert P. Beckers, a great American patriot."

Herb began work as a soil conservationist with the United States Department of Agriculture in Thompson Falls in February 1945. He spent weekends working in Bigfork on the family farm until it was sold and his father retired. He worked as an engineer and work unit conservationist in Thompson Falls, Hot Springs, and Chinook, and as a district conservationist in Miles City.

He married Margaret Gilligan on Aug. 13, 1951. He retired from the USDA as the area conservationist in Billings in 1975, and he and his wife returned to Kalispell.

The family is especially grateful to Jerry and Lois Styck, neighbors of more than 30 years, to Dr. Timothy Stutzman and his staff, and to the hospice caregivers who were so kind to him — and to his family — during the last months of his life.

Herb was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Charles; and his sisters, Marie and Margaret.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Margaret Beckers, of Kalispell; his three children, Betty Strobel and husband, Kevin, of Greeley, Colo., Jim Beckers and wife, Susan, of Billings, and Mike Beckers and wife, Roberta, also of Billings; and his seven grandchildren, Ryan and Kathryn Strobel of Greeley, and Brooks Johnson and Angelica, Gena and Allison Beckers, and Matt and Amanda Beckers, all of Billings. He is also survived by four great-grandchildren, Valerie, Andrew, Aundrea and Trystan Johnson, of Billings.

Mass of Christian burial will take place at 12:30 p.m. Monday, July 28, at St. Matthews Catholic Church, with Father Dan Wetzler as celebrant. Interment will be afterward at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. The family will gather for a rosary at 6 p.m. today, July 27, in the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home chapel.

The family requests that memorials be made to the St. Matthews Building Fund, Home Options Hospice in Kalispell, or the Montana Association for the Blind.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Herb's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and sign Herb's guest book.

Franklin Leroy Beebe, 71

Franklin Leroy Beebe, 71, of Rexford, died Saturday, April 26, 2008, at his home in the West Kootenai.

Survivors include his wife, Wilma Beebe, of Rexford; and six children.

Services will be at 9 a.m. Thursday, May 1, at Montana Woodworks in the West Kootenai. Visitation will be

at 3 p.m. today at the Kootenai Community Church.

Jessie L. Becker, 86

Jessie L. Becker, 86, died Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008, at Libby Care Center in Libby.

Mass of the resurrection will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 5, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Libby. Visita-

tion will be from 1 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home, with a parish vigil and rosary at 7 p.m.

A full obituary will appear in the next paper.

Shirley L. Beick, 61

Shirley L. Beick, 61, formerly of Whitefish, died Feb. 13, 2008, at Regional Hospital in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Survivors include her husband, Mel Beick, of Thayne, Wyo.; sons, Clem, Shawn, Dennis and Tim Jo; and

daughters, Amy and Geane.

Viewing will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Austin Funeral Chapel. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

Donald Lawrence Bennett, 67

Donald Lawrence Bennett, 67, died Nov. 11, 2008, at his home in Libby.

He worked several years for the Fluke Co. in Everett, Wash.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 14, at the City of Libby Cemetery.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Martha Wayne Bennett, 85

Martha (Cavanah) Bennett, 85, a longtime Columbia Falls resident, "went to the hands of the Lord" on Saturday, June 21, 2008, at the Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. She was born to Dr. L.L. Cavanah and Bessie Cavanah on Feb. 22, 1923, in Providence, Ky.



Martha was preceded in death by her husband, Willard "Doc" Bennett; her parents; and a sister, Betty Dodds.

She is survived by two sons, Steve Bennett of Columbia Falls, and Gary Bennett of Cortez, Fla.; sister, Faye Collins, of Solana Beach, Calif.; and granddaughters, Lindsey Bennett and Jennifer Walker, both of Kalispell.

She married Willard "Doc" Bennett on April 2, 1947, in Vallejo, Calif.

Martha studied nursing at Grady Hospital in Atlanta and

became a registered nurse. She joined the Navy and went to Mare Island Naval Base in California. She was a registered nurse in the amputee ward there. She was honorably discharged there March 22, 1951.

She and "Doc" moved to Hungry Horse during the construction of Hungry Horse Dam and set up practice there. They later moved to Columbia Falls and started a longtime practice.

She was an active member in the First Baptist Church, The Eastern Star, the Republican Party and many local charities.

Interment will take place at 2 p.m. today, June 26, at the Veterans Cemetery by the Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. The United Veterans of Flathead County will present honors and present the flag to granddaughter Lindsey Bennett.

Martha requested no services be held. Cremation has taken place.

Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish is handling arrangements.

Richard R. 'Rik' Berg, 56

Richard R. "Rik" Berg, 56, passed away on Friday, Aug. 29, 2008, at Kalispell Regional



Medical Center in Kalispell. Rik was born on Dec. 10, 1951, in Bozeman, to Richard A. and Shirley Foreman Berg. He was raised in Great Falls, where he attended high school.

He received his bachelor's degree from a college in Billings.

He married Elaine Osterday on Aug. 29, 2007, in Great Falls.

He was working as the facility manager for the Wilderness Treatment Center in Marion. His main interest

in life was helping others to enjoy everything in their lives.

Rik was preceded in death by his mother, Shirley.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine; his father, Richard A. Berg; two sons, Dustin and Travis Berg; stepdaughters, Lacie Cates, Karen Winegar and Samantha Burns; brothers, Kevin and Kris Berg; one sister, Melodie; and grandchildren, Madison Rhylee Berg, Gavin Ace Berg, Alexia, Braeden and Alaina.

Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Wilderness Treatment Center in Marion.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family. You are invited to leave your condolences at www.buffalohillfh.com.

Gladys Blanche Bergen, 85

Gladys Blanche Bergen, 85, "completed the course and won the race" on June 30, 2008, passing away at Brendan House in Kalispell. She was born at her parents' homestead in Whitetail on July 31, 1922. She was the youngest child of Vernon and Beulah Potter.

Gladys lived in Whitetail until finishing high school. She then attended Canadian Bible Institute in Regina, Saskatchewan, where she soon met her "sweetheart," Irven Bergen. They were married in 1941 in Whitetail, and soon moved to Bremerton, Wash.; while there, she and her husband attended Simpson Bible Institute. They moved back to Whitetail, where they farmed on her father's land. They were called to Belgrade in 1957 to help start the Christian Missionary Alliance Church. They lived and farmed there until moving to Kalispell in 1962.

Music was a huge part of Gladys' life, from a very early age. Singing solos, duets with her sweetie, directing choirs, heading up music ministries in churches and singing on the radio were a few of the ways in which she used the marvelous voice that God had given her.

Her family and church family were the most important things in her life following her relationship with Jesus Christ.

She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend.

Gladys was preceded in death by her husband, Irven; her son, David; her parents; and all of her family.

She is survived by her children, Donn and Kathy Bergen, and Dick and Karla Bergen, all of Salem, Ore., Doreen and Dan Guthner of Amarillo, Texas, and Dottie and Drew Istre of Kalispell; and David's wife, Cheryl, of Bremerton. She also leaves behind 13 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren, with one on the way.

"We will miss her and always rejoice in the life she taught us to live."

Graveside services for Gladys will be held at 3 p.m. today, July 2, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, with Jim Davey of the Community Alliance Church officiating.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Gladys' family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneral-home.com to offer condolences and sign Gladys' guest book.

Philip Bergmann, 86

Philip Bergmann, 86, died of old age on June 25, 2008, in Oakland, Calif. Phil was born March 31, 1922, and grew up in Kalispell, the fifth child of Nora and Jim Bergmann.

He was a 1940 graduate of Flathead County High School. Phil served in the Navy in World War II, then attended Purdue University.

After college, he moved to California to work as an electrical engineer. Although he resided in California from then on, his heart stayed in Montana, and he visited his family in Kalispell every year.

In addition to his five children and six grandchildren,

Phil is survived by his older brother, Wally Bergmann, and Mary Jane, of Kalispell; sisters, Glenyce Krogstad of Kalispell, and Patty Plumb (Jay) of Wenatchee, Wash. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

His brother Walter and sister Margaret Croissetier predeceased him.

A small memorial service was held in Oakland, Calif.

In lieu of flowers, Phil's children suggest a donation to the Rebecca Mendez fund in Pomona, Calif. (account no: 0205869438). Phil's daughter Susan (510-301-6034) can be contacted for details.

Susan Janelle Berg, 47

Susan Janelle Berg, 47, of Marion died Friday, June 20, 2008, at her residence.

She is survived by her husband, Ed Berg, of Marion; her mother, Joy Wildebour, of Marion; and two sons, Joseph

Berg of Marion, and Brandon Berg of Wasilla, Alaska.

There are no services planned at this time.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Joyce E. Bergstrom, 80

Joyce E. Bergstrom passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 10, 2008, at the Colonial Manor in Whitefish, after a courageous battle with cancer.



Joyce was born to Chester L. and Grace L. Johnson on July 9, 1928, in Kalispell. She grew up and attended schools in Kalispell and graduated from Flathead County High School with the class of 1946.

The day following graduation, June 7, 1946, she married Raymond A. Bergstrom. They moved to Whitefish in 1952 and have resided there since.

She was preceded in death by her parents; only brother, Lawrence; and one grandson, Mark Robison.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Ray; daughters, Linda and Ron Olson of Whitefish, and Nancy and Ron

Robison of Columbia Falls; and son, Bruce, of Nampa, Idaho. Other survivors include grandchildren, Todd and Meg Olson, Tim and Lisa Olson, and Heidi and Mike Freeman, all of Whitefish, Mason and Lynn Robison of Eureka, and Michael and Keni Robison of Columbia Falls; as well as nine great-grandchildren. She also leaves behind devoted friends Shirlee Yeats, Shy McClarty, Dorothy Graham and JoAnna Bitney, who have been her "sisters" throughout her lifetime.

Memorial services are planned for 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, at Easthaven Baptist Church, at 2010 Whitefish Stage Road.

Memorials may be sent to Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Austin Funeral Home is caring for the family.

This paid obituary is being run again at the request of the family.

Shirley Flo Beringer, 81

Shirley Flo Beringer passed away March 15, 2008.

She was born Jan. 18, 1927, in Waxahachie, Texas, to Reford and Lois Winningham. The family moved to Clovis, Calif., and then to Santa Ana, Calif., where Shirley graduated from high school.

She married Vernon Beringer on Jan. 28, 1945, in Santa Ana. They raised their daughter, Susan, in the Los Angeles area where Shirley worked as a medical secretary in several hospitals.

She and Vernon moved to Austin, Texas, in 1973 where Shirley worked for the State of Texas as a secretary in the Office of the Governor. Following Vernon's death in 1978, she moved to the Washington, D.C., area and worked in the Washington office of the State of Texas. She was active in the Lady Lion's Club in both Texas and in the D.C. area.

Shirley retired in 1992 and moved to Lakeside in 1996. There she contributed her time to programs for the aging and to the Lakeside Friends of the Library. These activities earned her a nomination as Senior Citizen of the Year in 2000. She moved to Golden, Colo., in 2006.

Shirley was preceded in death by her husband, Vernon, and by her brother Porter.

She is survived by her daughter, Susan, and her husband, Gregory, of Arvada, Colo.; and by grandson, Joseph, and his wife, Misty, and three great-grandchildren, Conner, Kylie and Collin, of Bigfork.

A memorial service is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at Lakeside Community Chapel in Lakeside.

Donations in Shirley's memory can be made to: Porter Hospice, 1391 Speer Blvd., Suite 600, Denver, CO 80204.

Roger L. Bernhard, 73

Roger L. Bernhard, 73, a lifetime resident of the Tobacco Valley, died Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008, at Mountain View Manor in Eureka.

He had been employed by the Kennedy-Stevens — Owens & Hurst Lumber Company in Eureka, and was a distributor for Meadowgold Dairy Products until his retirement.

He is survived by his

children, Scott Bernhard of Rexford, Melani Kirkedahl of Trego; and Leonard Bernhard of Olympia, Wash.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Pat Lovitt officiating. Interment services will follow at Tobacco Valley Cemetery. Friends may call at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home in Eureka from 1 to 8 p.m. today and until noon Saturday.

Eric Richard Berry, 37

Eric Richard Berry, 37, met an untimely death, May 16, 2008, near Kalispell. Eric was born Jan. 9, 1971, in Seattle, to Sally and Kenneth Berry, and was raised in Seattle with his older brother, Ken.

He graduated from Ballard High School in 1989 and soon married his high school sweetheart, Callie.

His greatest joys came with the birth of his three beautiful children, Dane, Sierra and Olivia, whom he loved dearly. He shared his passion for life with each one of them. They will miss their father very much.

Eric's natural love of adventure brought him to the great outdoors, whether it was guiding on the Rogue River, backpacking in the Cascades, or fly fishing in Montana. He soaked up life with a smile.

Eric eventually moved to the Flathead Valley, under the great rolling sky he loved so much. He was passionate about life,

an artist in the fullest sense, breathing creativity into everything he touched.

He is also remembered for his hospitality as an amazing cook and a wonderful host. People were drawn to his positive attitude.

Eric maintained a wonderful hope for the future and cultivated a deep love for his creator, Jehovah God. He loved to talk with others about his hope and encouraged many with the Bible truths he held so close.

"We look forward to welcoming back our dear friend in the resurrection promised in the Bible."

Eric is survived by his children, Dane, Sierra and Olivia Berry; father, Kenneth Berry; mother, Araceli Grech; brother, Kenneth Berry Jr.; and numerous relatives in the Northwest.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, May 22, at the Flathead County Fair grounds in Kalispell.

Kenneth John Berryman, 46

Ken Berryman, 46, of Bigfork passed away Friday, May 2, 2008.

He was a man loved and respected for his generosity of spirit, friendly and fun-loving nature, and abiding love of family and friends.

He will be greatly missed.

Kenneth John Berryman was born in Butte on Oct. 20, 1961, to Donald W. and Norma Jean Berryman. He grew up following his dad into the pressroom at The Montana Standard and into the mountains outside Butte, both of which became lifelong passions. He graduated from Butte High School in 1979.

Ken began his career as a press operator in 1980 with the Helena Independent Record. Over the years, he became one of the most skilled pressmen in the state of Montana, working for a decade in Helena, then from 1990 to 2003 at The Montana Standard, followed by a year and a half at the Daily Inter Lake in Kalispell, then the Missoulian as a press operator and later a supervisor in the pressroom, from 2004 until his death.

His fellow crew members had great admiration for Ken's abilities as a press operator and machinist, and the care with which he approached every print job. They will miss his practical jokes and abundant good humor. He had a smile and a kind word for everyone.

Ken married Vickie Lou Hoge in 1983, and they had two sons, Kenneth John Berryman Jr., in 1986, and Nicholas Wayne Berryman in 1988. They were divorced in 1988.

Ken's sons will remember their dad as an avid outdoorsman who spent countless hours with them on motocross bikes and backcountry adventures.

In 1999, he met Tammi McDaniel, and they shared their life and love for the past nine years. Together, they raised a daughter, Amber McDaniel, now an eighth-grader at Bigfork Elementary and of whom Ken was ever so proud.

As a family, they snowmo-



bled, four-wheeled, rode jet skis and played with their three Yorkies, Dobbie, Pebbles and Bam-Bam. Ken and Amber enjoyed hiking together. He always gave her soft tickles. He was the only dad she's ever known; she loved him with all her heart.

Ken was a great dad to Amber, Ken Jr. and Nick.

All who knew Ken liked him. He was very outgoing and caring; there wasn't anything he wouldn't do for someone in need. On his trips back and forth to Missoula for work, Ken carried two first-aid kits and water in case he came upon an accident. He was a member of Flathead County Search and Rescue.

Each of Ken's friends and family members has memories that bring a smile, and a tear, in recalling. He always could make up a new, funny version of a song on the radio — on the spot. He loved rebuilding Jeeps. And every rig he owned always had to be lifted, with big tires. If his rig didn't have big tires and a lift, Ken said, he felt as if he were wearing pants that were too short and dorky shoes.

Ken was an avid hunter as a younger person, then gradually turned toward photography, eventually forgoing the hunt to shoot photos of animals instead. He always enjoyed hiking and getting out in the wilderness of Montana.

He was honest and true to his word.

Ken is survived by his life partner, Tammi McDaniel, and daughter, Amber Lynn McDaniel, of Bigfork; sons, Ken Jr. and Nick of Helena; mother, Norma Jean Berryman, sister, Kathryn Jean Berryman, and nephew, Kyle David Berryman, of St. George, Utah; and brother, Don Norman Berryman, of Butte.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Don, a former publisher of The Montana Standard and group manager for Lee Enterprises.

At Ken's request, there will be no service.

A memorial fund has been established to help with Amber's college education. Contributions in Ken's name can be sent to the Amber L. McDaniel Educational Fund, Flathead Bank, P.O. Box 308, Bigfork, MT 59911.

Bernice Olive Waller Bestul, 74

Bernice Olive Waller Bestul, 74, died Feb. 19, 2008, at The Heritage Place in Kalispell after a long battle with emphysema.

She was born Dec. 12, 1933, in Shepherd to George and Minnie Waller. She moved to Kila with her parents and four brothers, Kenneth, Marvin "Corky," Richard, and Gerald "Jerry," and her sister, Loretta, in 1950.

She graduated from Flathead County High School and married Harris Eveland. They had one child together, Kathy Hawbaker. She moved to Seattle, where she was a stay-at-home mom.

In 1961, she remarried Glen Bestul. They had one child together, Glen Jr., who preceded her in death. She also was preceded in death by her brothers, Ken and Marvin; and her sister, Loretta.

She had many different jobs, but mainly worked in dry cleaner and office manager positions.

She moved back to Kila in 1982, where she had since resided.

She is survived by her husband, Glen, and her daughter, Kathy Hawbaker, both of Kila; brother, Richard, and Donna Waller, of Seattle; brother-in-law, Gerald Grove, of Seattle; brother, Jerry, and Debi Waller, of Dillon; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

She loved the outdoors, hunting, picking berries and camping. She also loved to quilt and crochet.

Bernice was a wonderful and loving mother. She had many friends and will be greatly missed by everyone. She held her children close to her heart.

"Remember me in gladness of heart. Memories are forever."

Memorial services will be held at a later date to allow time for her family and friends to come to Kalispell.

David L. Biggar, 83

David L. Biggar, 83, of Belgrade, formerly of the Bigfork and Polson area, passed away Feb. 3, 2008, at the Billings Deaconess Hospital.



He was born Jan. 28, 1925, in Littleton, Colo., to David N. and Ella (Borgen) Biggar. His mother passed away when he was very young. His father later remarried and he was raised by his stepmother, Millie Olson Biggar. Dave was raised and attended school in Littleton.

At the age of 17 he enlisted into the U.S. Navy to serve his country during World War II. He was assigned to the USS Pinkney, an evacuation transport, in the South Pacific. The Pinkney provided aid during the Battle of the Solomon Islands, Guadalcanal, Peleliu, and Iwo Jima. In April 1945, while off Okinawa, the Pinkney was attacked by a Kamikaze plane. After repairs, the Pinkney spent the last part of 1945 and the first months of 1946 supporting the occupation of Japan and returning veterans to the United States.

After the war Dave returned to Colorado. He met and married Alta Moore on Sept. 9, 1947, in Littleton. They made their home in Littleton, where Dave worked as a lineman for Colorado Central Power.

In 1961, Dave and Alta and their children left Colorado and moved north to the Flathead Valley. Dave started to work for Pacific Power and Light and soon after arriving in Montana, he and

Alta purchased their home in Woods Bay that included a cherry orchard. He was a lineman for Pacific Power and Light and also became a cherry farmer.

Dave retired from Pacific Power in 1983. He and Alta moved to Polson in 1989. In Polson, Dave enjoyed woodworking and taking care of the wild birds that flocked to his bird feeders, while Alta enjoyed gardening and quilting. Alta passed away Nov. 2, 2001. Dave remained in Polson until he moved to Belgrade in 2005. This past December, he moved into Highgate Senior Living, where he made many friends in a very short time.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents; and his wife, Alta.

Survivors include his four children, Debbie Clark and husband, Marc, of Reno, David Biggar and wife, Debbie, of Kalispell, Rebecca Layton of Bozeman, and Robert Biggar; grandchildren, Timothy, Adam, Kayla, Emily, Bonnie, Bryce, Bryan, Seth, Tyler, and Katelin; great-grandchildren, Quentin, Aidan, Gabriel and Seth; and two sisters, Mary Ann Friend and husband, Don, of Missouri, and Joy Verhoeff and husband, Justin, of Colorado.

A celebration of Dave's life will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, in the Community Room at the Central School Museum, 124 Second Ave. E., in Kalispell.

Memorials may be made in Dave's name to the National Audubon Society, Department W., 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.dahlicares.com (the beautiful Web site created by Dave's daughter Rebecca).

Thomas Ingbret Birk, 76

Thomas Ingbret Birk, 76, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008, surrounded by his loving family at his home in Kalispell.

He was born on Feb. 28, 1931, in Oak Park, Ill., to Ingvald and Selma (Thompson) Birk.

Tom returned to Cuba with his mother at the age of 10 months to join his father at the family ranch. In 1936, at the age of 5 he moved to Miami. Five years later, the family moved to the Flathead Valley and settled in the McGregor Lake area. This is where Tom received his early education, for the most part getting one-on-one instruction because of the remoteness of the area.

Tom worked with his parents farming and ranching until joining the U.S. Army where he served briefly.

On Sept. 2, 1950, Tom married Thallis Clare in Missoula. They made their home in Kalispell. One of Tom's endeavors included breeding and racing quarter horses around Montana.

Tom was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at the age of 27; a diagnosis that answered some of the struggles he had as a youth and continued throughout his life. He enjoyed conversations and just visiting with anyone who would come across his path. Tom's pastime was filled with his family and close friends as well as cooking and



raising delicious tomatoes in his garden.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Doniell; and an infant son, Tom.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Thallis; two sons, Bret Birk of Whitefish, and Tim Birk and his wife, Julie, of Kalispell; a daughter, Kim Bell, and husband, Lloyd, of Frenchtown; 10 grandchildren, Cody, Casey, Catie, Crystal, Jason, Jennifer, Colton, Nicole, Illyhia and Marshall; as well as three great-grandchildren, Cody, Issac and Fionia.

Memorial services for Tom will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20, in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel with Pastor Jan Van der Poll of Central Christian Church officiating.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to Home Options/Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite No. 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Tom's family. You are invited to visit www.johnsonmortuary.com to offer condolences and sign Tom's guest book.

Donna Mae (Liudahl) Birky, 66

Donna Mae (Liudahl) Birky "went to be with Jesus" on Jan. 8, 2008, in Kalispell.

Donna was born in Lambert on June 23, 1941, the youngest of six children to Anton and Mabel Liudahl.

After graduating from high school in Lambert, she attended business college in Great Falls.

She and Gene F. Birky were married on Aug. 11, 1961.

She is survived by her husband; two sons, Gene and David Birky, both of Anchorage, Alaska; and one daughter, Terena Ronan of Newton, Kan.; two granddaughters, Rachel Birky and Sydney Ronan, and four grandsons, Benjamin, Daniel, and Michael Birky and Matthew Birky. She is also survived by one brother, Danny Liudahl, of Billings; one sister, Joyce Moon, of Kalispell; and 20 nieces and nephews.



She was preceded in death by her parents and three sisters, Darlene, Murlene, and Rosalie.

Donna worked in the business side of the medical field for many years in Homer and Anchorage. She volunteered in various organizations. Both in Anchorage and Kalispell, she used her love of baking bread to minister to the homeless.

She received the Patriot of the Year award in 2007 for her "kindness, thoughtfulness, constant caring, and unselfish generosity" working with hospitalized veterans.

Donna loved roses, knitting, ceramics and baking bread.

Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, at the Faith Alliance Church. Urn burial will be held at 1:30 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Contributions in memorial can be made to Faith Alliance Church, 348 Second Avenue West, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Marjorie Eula (Lais) Birky, 83

Marjorie Eula (Lais) Birky, 83, passed away Wednesday, July 23, 2008, at her home in Kalispell. She was born March 1, 1925, in Hubbard, Ore., to Daniel and Ellen (Egli) Lais.



She married the love of her life, Ezra Birky, on Dec. 31, 1948, in Hubbard. From 1943 to 1945, she attended Hesston High School and Beulah College, graduating in 1947. After marrying Ezra, Marjorie moved from Oregon to Montana, where she became the financial bookkeeper for the logging and sawmill business Ezra ran with his father and brothers. She remained the bookkeeper until Ezra's retirement.

She was a member of the Mountain View Mennonite Church, where she was lead chorister for many years, continuing to enjoy music that she had become involved in during her years in school.

Marjorie was a special mother to six adopted children as well as many foster children, all of whom she took pride in. "Time is not measured by the years that you live, but by the deeds that you do and the joy that you give," was her motto.

Marjorie was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Phillip; eight sisters. Orpha

Fisher, Celesta Lais, Mary Kenegy, Lena Blair, Susanah Stanerson, Dorothy Gingerich, Lily Berkey and Ruth Zehr; and two brothers, John and Frank Lais.

Marjorie is survived by her husband, Ezra Birky, of Kalispell; two adopted daughters, Ellen Lehman of Kalispell, and Susan Birky of Boulder, Colo.; three adopted sons, Ian Birky and his wife, Bev, of Bethlehem, Pa., Michael Birky and his wife, Marie, of Columbia Falls, and Vance Birky and his wife, Brenda, of Kalispell; three sisters, Frances Hoover of Goshen, Ind., Evelyn Birky of Kalispell, and Vera Garber of Hubbard; 12 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Marjorie will be held at 11:30 a.m. Monday, July 28, at the Mountain View Mennonite Church, with Pastor Jeryl Hollinger officiating. Burial will be held at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 27, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to Home Options Hospice, 175 Commons Loop, Suite No. 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Marjorie's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneral-home.com to offer condolences and sign Marjorie's guest book.

Howard Bischoff, 95

Howard Bischoff, 95, passed away Sunday, April 6, 2008, at Heritage Place in Kalispell. He was born May 3, 1912, in Kalispell, to Gustav and Bertha Bischoff.

Howard graduated from Flathead County High School and the University of Montana in Missoula. He served four years in Naval intelligence during World War II.

His working career started as a paperboy for the Daily Inter Lake. He spent many years representing the family brewery, The Kalispell Malting and Brewing Company.

His marriages to Betty Brady and Thelma Strom ended in divorce. Both have passed away. Ethel Brewer, his dear friend, lived in Plains, and has also died.

Howard will be missed by all who know him for his wonderful wit and his unique sayings.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and two sisters, Minnie Hall and Helen Jern-



berg.

He is survived by his nephew, Dr. Dale G. Hall, and wife, Susan Russell Hall, of Lakeview, Wash.; two grandnieces, Gretchen Hall

Distler of Millburn, N.J., and Julie Hall Akerlund of Helena; and one grandnephew, Christopher Hogberg, of Boulder, Colo.

Graveside services for Howard Bischoff will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. There will be no visitation. The family suggests donations be made to any children's charity of your choice.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Howard's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneral-home.com to offer condolences and sign Howard's guest book.

Barbara Jean Black, 77

Barbara Jean Black passed away Feb. 2, 2008, in Kalispell after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Barbara was born to James and Alta Phillips on Nov. 28, 1930, in Caldwell, Idaho. After graduating from North Central High School in Spokane, she attended Eastern Washington University in Cheney.

She married her high-school sweetheart, Robert S. Black, in 1949.

Bob and Barbara raised four children in the Flathead Valley, then moved to the Washington coast and enjoyed many years of boating. In 1995, they moved back to Kalispell to be near their family.



Barbara is survived by her loving husband, Robert; her sister, Phyllis Getchell, and husband, Scotty, of Pasco, Wash.; her daughter, Linda Sager, and husband, Robert, of Ronan; son, Bob Black, and wife, Becky, of Kalispell; daughter, Diane Volkman, and husband, Victor, of Columbia Falls; and daughter, Karen Black, and Scott Schickendantz of Kalispell; 12 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

Her zest for life and sense of humor will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home in Kalispell, with a reception immediately afterward. Viewing will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Feb. 5 at Buffalo Hill Chapel.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's disease research at www.ahaf.org.

Kathryn M. (Hader) Black, 50

Kathryn M. (Hader) Black, 50, passed away Jan. 1, 2008, in Seattle, after a long and courageous fight with pancreatic cancer. She kept her great sarcastic sense of humor 'til the end. She was born Jan. 10, 1957, in Kalispell to Jack and Marge Hader. She was raised and educated in Columbia Falls, graduating with the class of 1975.

She worked briefly at Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant before moving to the Seattle area. She spent the last 30 years living on the Northwest coast.

Her father Jack and a brother Larry precede her in death.

Kathryn is survived by her mother, Marge, of Columbia Falls; children, Shalisa and

Antar, and the love of her life her grandson, Tariq; stepdaughter, McKala Copeland, and her four children, all of the Seattle area; brother, Lance, and sister-in-law Sharon, of Gold Bar Wash., who cared for Kathy at the end; brothers, John and Kip of Spokane, Chris and Debbie, Mark, Brad and Chrystal, BJ and Crystal, all of Columbia Falls; sisters, Debbie Emerson of Hungry Horse, and Tama and Mark Guse of Columbia Falls; grandmother, Lucille Hader, of Harlem; several aunts, an uncle, and many cousins; numerous nieces, nephews; and great-nieces and -nephews.

Cremation has taken place and a scattering of ashes will be at a later date.

Margaret Black (née James), 105

Glacier Park icon, Margaret Black (née James), died at her daughter's home in Kalispell, on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008, at the age of 105, surrounded by loved ones.



She was born to Walter and Margaret (Terry) James in 1902 in St. Paul, Minn., the eldest of six children. Margaret graduated from Visitation Convent in St. Paul, and in 1929 was hired by Glacier Park Company as executive secretary. It was in Glacier Park she met Hugh Black, a park ranger. They were married in 1932, in Browning.

That year, they began the adventure of building St. Mary Resort on the east side of Going-to-the-Sun Highway and, over the years, expanded it into a well-known destination resort, while hiring thousands of employees from all over the nation and the world to have exciting and memorable summers at St. Mary.

As St. Mary grew, Margaret became the heart of the resort, captivating the love and respect of her employees, many of whom will remember her as a wonderful, gentle and generous friend. She and Hugh maintained a friendly and neighborly relationship with the Blackfeet Tribe. Margaret became Glacier's leading business woman and continued being a hands-on president of the corporation until she was 98 years old; in her 90s, she became computer literate. She traveled each year to St. Petersburg, Fla., and St. Paul, Minn.

Margaret kept an active and open mind. She loved music, poetry and art. She enjoyed hiking and horseback riding, relishing everything Glacier had to offer. She encountered, with delight, nature in all its forms; the mountains around the St. Mary valley will echo with her laughter for years to come.

She was a gracious and frequent hostess. She was a benefactor to many causes. Her church was an important part of her life and she was awarded the position of Dame of Malta. She will be dearly remembered by those who knew her over her lifetime.

It can truly be said that this was a woman who raised a village.

Margaret was preceded in death by her husband; and her son, James "Lucky" Black.

She is survived by one sister, Jean Arthur; and five children, Hugh M. Black and Mary Grace of Helena, Patricia A. Huberty and Robert of St. Paul, Roscoe W. Black and Susan of Sun Valley, Idaho, Terry Cosgrove of Missoula, and Sally Black Welder and Terry of Kalispell. She had 19 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday in the Johnson Mortuary Chapel. Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 18, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church. Burial will be at noon on Saturday, Jan. 19, in St. Mary.

Memorials may be sent to the Glacier Park Fund, P.O. Box 5600, Whitefish, MT 59937, or the Church of St. Mary in Babb, MT 59417.

You are invited to go to www.johnsonmortuary.com to offer condolences and sign Margaret's guest book.

Delores I. 'Dode' Blake, 83

Delores I. "Dode" Blake, 83, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008, in Kalispell. Dode was born March 22, 1925, in Kalispell, to Conrad and Blanche (Lee) Gilbertson.



She grew up on the family farm across from the Stillwater Free Lutheran Church. Dode attended Sparks Elementary School and then graduated with the class of 1943 from Flathead High School.

Dode married Robert H. Blake at the Stillwater Free Lutheran Church in Kalispell on Sept. 7, 1946. They were celebrating 62 years of marriage on the day of her stroke.

Dode had worked for the county extension office and then Conrad National Bank. In 1959, Robert and Dode started Blake Office Supply, at which she worked until the business was sold in 1995.

Dode enjoyed golfing, sailing, skiing, boating, and bridge with many friends. She loved being a grandmother and spoiling her

grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Conrad and Blanche Gilbertson; brothers, Lavaughn "Gil" Gilbertson and Armand Dale Gilbertson; a grandson, Blake Aaron Weeks; and a son-in-law, Arthur B. Weeks.

Dode is survived by her husband, Robert H. Blake, of Kalispell; son, Robert G. and wife, Vickie Blake, of Kalispell; daughter, Sandra K. Weeks, of Kalispell; grandchildren, Randy Blake and wife, Nickole, Rachele Berg and husband, Sam, Rory Blake and wife, Katie, Ralyssa Blake, Trey Weeks and Cassandra Weeks; and five great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Dode's life will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28, at the Stillwater Free Lutheran Church, with Pastor Tim Bartholomew officiating.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Hope Ranch, 1005 Baker Ave., Suite G, Whitefish, MT 59937.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family. Friends are encouraged to visit www.buffalohillfh.com to leave condolences and sign the guest register.

Cliff Blank, 73

Cliff Blank passed away Friday, Nov. 7, 2008, at his home in Indian Wells, Calif., after a long battle with leukemia.



For the past 15 years, Cliff had been a part-time resident of Bigfork, where he enjoyed fishing on the river, hiking in

Glacier and golfing with friends.

Cliff was a loving and caring man who will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Patty; and children, Lori, Tobin and Tracy. His grandchildren Joe, Kelli, TJ, Tessa, Jake and Luke will treasure the time they spent with him.

A celebration of life will be held Sunday, Nov. 23, at the Desert Willow Country Club in Palm Desert, Calif.

Zelma (Clapper) Block, 77

Zelma (Clapper) Block, 77, of Kalispell, passed away on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.



She was born Jan. 6, 1931, in Columbia Falls, and was the youngest of 10 children. Her parents were William and Lottie Clapper.

She attended school in Columbia Falls.

Zelma met the love of her life, Bud Block, while waitressing on the Jack McFarland Ranch up the North Fork, and they were married on July 30, 1949. She also worked as a clerk at Meridian Dairy.

Her life will be remembered most for her random acts of kindness to many that needed cheering up. Central Christian Church, friends and family benefited from her decorating skills, cooking and her expertise in arts and crafts. She

imitated her Lord and Savior by being a servant to everyone she encountered.

This wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister is survived by her devoted husband, Bud Block; daughters, Carol O'Neil and husband John, and Judy Weekly and husband Ed; and son, Walter Block, and wife, Cindy, and for a short time was care giver to her twin sister's son, Tom Reynolds; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; one brother, Eugene Clapper; and three sisters, Nellie Stone, Lucile Charbonneau and Charlotte Pollreisz.

She was preceded in death by her mother, father and numerous brothers and sisters.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, March, 22, at Central Christian Church in Kalispell. A reception will follow.

Memorials may be sent to the North Fork Landowners Association, P.O. Box 1603, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Russell Blonshine, 82

Russell Blonshine, 82, of Eureka, died March 31, 2008, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He drove a logging truck for 30 years.

Survivors include his daughters, Karen Hays of Spokane, and Julia Wilson

of Eureka.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at Pinkham Creek Schoolhouse. A potluck will follow the services.

Arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Home and Crematory in Eureka.