

Bret E. Sickmann, 50

Bret E. Sickmann, 50, of Kalispell passed away Wednesday, June 18, 2008, doing what he loved. Bret spent his last hours riding on dirt bikes



with his friends in the beautiful mountains that he lived to be in.

Bret was born Dec. 18, 1957, in Gaylord, Minn., to Earlyn and Ruth Sickmann. He was raised in Eden Prairie, Minn., where he graduated from high school. Bret moved to West Yellowstone shortly after graduating. He moved back and forth between Minnesota and Montana, finally settling in Kalispell in 1994.

Bret worked in the construction industry until 2002, when he started his own crane business, AmeriCrane. He has also worked in the logging and snowmobile industries.

Bret was a member of Montanans for Multiple Use, The Montana Snowmobile Association and the Flathead Snowmobile Association.

Bret had a passion for the outdoors. He loved snowmobiling, trail-biking, hunting, shooting and photography.

Bret lived life to the fullest; everything Bret did, he did with intensity and enthusiasm. He encouraged others to participate in life to the fullest and was known by all of his friends as the life of the party. Bret was extremely loyal and would do anything for his friends, his family, and his cherished dog, Bully. Bret will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him. His bigger-than-life voice and heart never will be forgotten.

Bret preceded in death by his mother, Ruth A. Sickmann.

Bret is survived by wife, Lisa Sickmann; stepson, Travis Knoll; father, Earlyn Sickmann; stepmother, Ella Sickmann; grandmother, Edna Sickmann; sister, Cindy, and brother-in-law, Scott Gillette, and their sons, Scotty, Travis and Cameron; his sister, Lisa, and brother-in-law, Paul Mikrut, and their children, Chelsey, Garrett and Shannon; his sister, Susan, and brother-in-law, Randy Schaefer, and their children, Ruth and Aaron; and many other aunts, uncles, cousins and special friends.

A celebration of Bret's life will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 29, at the Sickmann home. All those who knew and loved Bret are welcome to attend.

Lola Ann Snyder Sighting, 90

a son, Robert Sighting of Downey, Calif.

Services will be Friday, Sept. 26, at 11 a. m. at the Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Visitation will be Thursday, Sept. 25 from 1 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Lola Ann Snyder Sighting died Sept. 20, 2008, at the home of her daughter, Shirley Wasco, in Libby, where she had resided since 1985.

Survivors include her daughters, Donna Rae Carmon of Spokane, Wash.; Shirley Wasco of Libby; and

Kalispell man dies in dirt bike crash

The Daily Inter Lake

A Kalispell man was killed Wednesday night in a dirt bike accident near Patrick Creek.

Bret Earlyn Sickmann, 50, was trail riding with some friends about 13 miles up Patrick Creek Road when the accident occurred at about 9:20 p.m., according to Flathead County Sheriff Mike Meehan.

When deputies and medical help arrived, they discovered Sickmann was three

miles up a steep, wooded dirt bike trail off Patrick Creek Road. The Flathead County Search and Rescue team responded and recovered Sickmann's body.

The crash is under investigation, and cause of death has not been determined, Meehan said.

Because the dirt bike trail is not a maintained or regularly traveled road, the crash will not be classified under federal guidelines as a highway fatality.

Further information was unavailable Thursday.

Shawn K. Siemens, 36

Shawn K. Siemens, 36, passed away July 1, 2008, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell. He was born Sept. 18, 1971, in Vancouver, British Columbia.



Shawn was an amazing man and Bridgett's very best friend. He was a loving father and wonderful husband. His kindness, consideration and devotion to his family were evident to all who knew him. He was known to be a man who would drop anything to help another in need.

He was highly intelligent, resourceful and supercharged, and he worked very hard to provide for his family but also toward the goal to have the resources to help others. A quick-witted "goofball" who, in his son's words, was excitingly funny, he loved the water and anything with a motor or spring. He was and will always remain a hero to his family.

Shawn met and married Bridgett A. Schaff on Sept. 20, 1997, in Kalispell; together they have a wonderful son, Jordan, who is the image of his father.

He was a military man, serving in the U.S. Navy as a special maneuvers expert. He adventured on the Alaska fishing boats, later becoming an ASE-certified master tech managing Anything Automotive, a local

Kalispell business, as well as working in his own home business, Siemens Auto Start.

Shawn was preceded in death by Kenneth Isaac Siemens.

He is survived by his wife, Bridgett A. Siemens, and son, Jordan Siemens, of Kalispell; parents, Pat and Gloria Jacobs, of Columbia Falls; sister, Corrina, and brother-in-law, Shawn Parmelee, of Kalispell; two half-brothers, Greg and Chris Siemens; grandma, Edna; great-grandmother, Doris; father and mother-in-law, Jim and Cely Schaff; sister and brother-in-law, Christy and Kevin Richardson; five nieces with one on the way, and one nephew.

Funeral services for Shawn will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 7, at the Fresh Life Church (formerly Strand Theatre). Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 5, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. Burial will be after services at Glacier Memorial Gardens, with military honors conducted by the United Veterans of the Flathead.

Because of parking constraints, those attending the funeral are encouraged to car-pool where possible.

Memorial gifts may be made to Shawn Siemens Memorial, 345 Leisure Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

Diana Kay (Wamsley) Sigman, 64

"Our dear sweet Diana Kay Sigman followed the angels home to be with our Lord" on May 23, 2008.

Diana was born Sept. 19, 1943, to Ray and Kay Wamsley in Cut Bank. The family moved to Kalispell when Diane was 10, joined by her was brother, Jay, and little sister, Renae. Her grade-school years were spent at Evergreen, and then she attended Flathead High through her junior year. All three years at Flathead, she marched and danced with the band, traveling to all the sporting events. Her junior year she was voted to be the top majorette twirler. Diane was a beautiful girl inside and out.

In 1960, she married Jerry Downing, and together they had five beautiful children. They later divorced. A few years later, she married Ernie Holmquist and had two more beautiful children.

In 1983, along came the man of her dreams, Don Sigman. Together, they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on March 14, 2008. Diane loved Don unconditionally; he took her under his wing and protected her from all. Grand Coulee, Wash., was the town that they decided to retire in.

For the past 25 years, Diane was a homemaker and loved every minute of it; she spent endless hours making arts and crafts and blankets for all the new grandbabies and scarves to keep everyone warm in the winter. You name it, she could make it! Each and every one of us has something special from Diane that we can hold close to our hearts forever. She adored



her family and friends. Putting smiles on our faces made her day. There are not and never will be the words to express how much we love and miss her.

Diane was an inspiration to everyone around her; she laughed from deep within, and loved from her heart. Serving God was her first priority.

Diane was a member of the Eagles and had belonged to the Women's Bowling Association. She loved playing bingo with her family and friends. "Bingo will never be the same without my Sissy Di."

Diane had many health problems throughout her life, but she fought each and every one of these with great faith and determination.

"God did see that she was getting tired and said, 'Diane, come with me where there will be no more pain and suffering for you.'" She followed the Lord, leaving her legacy to live with us and through us.

"Diane, you impacted our hearts and lives forever." You walked your faith in Christ humbly before us with love and kindness and thoughtfulness. Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal. This is not a final goodbye, but merely a farewell. "Love ya, see you in Heaven."

Diane was preceded in death by her two daughters, Kelly Kay Downing and Eileen Holmquist; her mother, Kathryn Wamsley; her brother, Jay Wamsley; and her grandson, Dustin Downing.

She is survived by her husband, Don Sigman; father, Ray Wamsley, of Kalispell; and one sister, Renae Morton, and husband, Jeff, of Kalispell.

She is also survived by her

children, Jerry Ray Downing of Coram, Leslie and Tim Breimon of Kalama, Wash., Scott Downing of Coram, Jeff and Chris Downing of Seattle, and Ernie and Yohanna Holmquist of Pueblo, Colo.; stepchildren, Lisa and Scott Cozza of Spokane, Valerie Sigman of Spokane, and Terry and Dennis of Reno, Nev.; grandchildren, Joshua, Derrick, Doug, Kyle, Genelle, Brad, Jaden, Brook, Sam, Kayla, Madison,

Trenton, Tanner, Nicole, Scotty, Joshua, Sandra, David, Scott and Diane; and 10 great-grandkids. She also is survived by nieces, Tonya Holden and Deana Dennison; and nephews, Bodie Morton and Tony Wamsley.

Graveside services were held May 27 at the Spring Canyon Cemetery in Grand Coulee, officiated by Pastor Bob Lambert. Strat Funeral Home was caring for Diane's family.

Alvin 'Al' Francis Sihrer, 83

Alvin "Al" Francis Sihrer, 83, passed away on Saturday, May 10, 2008, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. He was born on Jan. 15, 1925, to George and Adeline (Mullenberg) Sihrer in Zell, S.D.

Al attended St. Mary's Catholic School, along with his brothers and sisters. His grandparents homesteaded in the Zell area in the early 1800s. Al's family spent many years farming the area and he used his time helping his family and uncles farm. He also was responsible for taking care of the livestock and equipment.

Al was drafted into the Army during World War II and, not being one to be told what to do, on Dec. 27, 1943, he enlisted in the Marines instead. He spent his time in the South Pacific. He saw action on Iwo Jima and Saipan. Al's last duty was as one of eight Marines stationed at Whidbey Island, Wash.

After the war, Al bought, and rode the country, on his Harley Davidson until settling in the Flathead area and returning to the woods logging, as he had started prior to the war.

Al became a self-taught mechanic and welder during his early years. He learned to operate every type of mechanical equipment available to him. In the mid-1950s, he bought and operated his first Mack logging truck. By the 1960s he owned eight bright yellow Mack trucks. He then ventured further into mechanics by buying and running the Truck Stop on the top of Viaduct Hill.

In the 1950s he became a competitive stock car driver and truly enjoyed the thrills of racing against his good friends and helping work on his competitors' cars.

Al's hobbies included stock-car racing, fishing, boating, horses, snow-cattling and hunting the Flathead, with the Bob Marshall Wilderness being one of his favorite spots. He also enjoyed camping with his wife, Gerry, and his extended family and friends.

Al taught all of us who loved and knew him the true meaning of hard work and honesty in everything we do today. His



compassion for all living things is undentable and without waiver. If he knew someone in need, he was the first one in line to help them. The saying, "He would

give the shirt off his back," would describe Al perfectly. In all aspects of his life, he never said no to work, no to a friend in need, and taught his children and grandchildren that we knew right from wrong if we just listened to our heart and soul.

Al was our friend, our father, our husband and our mentor, and we will miss him every moment of every day.

Al was preceded in death by his daughters, Susan and Mildred; his parents, his brothers, Sylvester, Kenny, Marvin and Elmer; and sisters, Sally and Maybelle, as well as many wonderful friends.

He is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Gerry, at the family home in Kalispell; a sister, Merceda Olsen of Port Orchard, Wash.; daughters, Judy of California, Carol and husband, Tony, of Kenmore, Wash., Cheryl and husband, Bob, of Kalispell, Rae Ellen of San Antonio, and Cathy of Tallmadge, Ohio. He also has 11 grandchildren, Eric, Erica, Paul, Daryl, Rusty, Randy, Lacey, Christy, Christina, Jessica and Angee; also eight great-grandchildren; and his adopted nieces and nephews whom he considered his own after their parents passed on.

Funeral services for Al will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, in the Johnson-Gloschat Chapel. Burial will follow at the Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be at the funeral home from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today. Military honors will be by the United Veterans of The Flathead. A reception will be held at the Moose Lodge following the burial.

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

Wyatt B. Silker, 79

Wyatt B. Silker, 79, of Columbia Falls, passed away peacefully at his home June 11, 2008, with his loving family surrounding him. The day Wyatt made his decision to come home from the hospital, it snowed 3 inches, and he was able to watch the snow falling in front of his beautiful mountain one last time. What a perfect ending for an avid skier. He valiantly fought COPD but unexpectedly died from an unknown metastasized cancer. Wyatt is loved and missed beyond description.

Wyatt was born in Iowa and moved to Richland, Wash., in 1950. He began working for General Electric at that time and transferred to Battelle Northwest in 1965. He worked as a senior research scientist and oceanographer.

Wyatt had a dream to retire early, move to Montana and ski as often as he could. In 1978, he met Roberta Beal, who also enjoyed skiing and who shared his dream. In 1982, they married, and their dream became a reality.

They bought an old place in the country with a stunning view of the mountains, and through the years Wyatt moved and rebuilt the entire house. He truly was a "Montana Mountain Man" in his heart, and he loved his chain saw. Wyatt savored his life in Montana, enjoying skiing, wooding, gathering huckleberries and morel mushrooms, viewing birds and wildlife, raising beloved compan-



ion dogs, and watching sports. A dedicated hunter, Wyatt kept his freezer full.

In Washington, he was involved with the Boy Scouts and the Desert Ski Club for numerous years. In Montana he was a volunteer for the Dream Disabled Ski Program for 24 years, working with clients from Flathead Industries.

Wyatt was best known for his honesty, integrity and generosity, and positively influenced many lives. His terrific sense of humor lifted many spirits. He will truly be missed by all who knew him. His love will continue on as family and friends remember the wonderful times that were shared.

Wyatt is survived by Roberta Silker, his wife and best friend of 26 years; his daughter, Valerie Hamilton, and her husband, Steve, of Kennewick, Wash.; his daughter, Lynn Maras, and her husband, Rick, of Colville, Wash.; his sister, Gwen Selby, and her husband, Jack, of Kennewick, and their families; grandchildren, Jackie Hamilton, Jennifer Hamilton and Derek Easling; and great-grandchildren, Brandy Pratt-Hamilton and Nicholas Carrasco. He also left behind numerous friends and colleagues.

An honoring of Wyatt will be held at 1:30 p.m. July 19, at his home, at 221 Sampson Lane, between Columbia Falls and Kalispell. The Rev. Christa Bourne will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Dream Disabled Ski Program, 997 Glades Drive, Whitefish, MT 59937; or the Grounded Eagle Foundation Inc., 278 Draft Creek Road, Condon, MT 59826-8801, a rehabilitation facility for injured birds.

Don Arthur Simmons, 78

Don Arthur Simmons, a former resident and businessman of Kalispell, passed away Nov. 4, 2008, in Salt Lake City. He was born Aug. 20, 1923, in Los Angeles to Wallace Simmons and Willmirth (Hundley) Simmons.

Don was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers; three sisters; and one grand-



daughter, April Palicz Gooch.

He is survived by his wife, Louise; and children, Steven and Linda Simmons, Linda and Randy Wiedmeier, Janet and Dennis Stapley, Shirley and Stan Kauffman, Gary and Cossette Simmons, and Mark and Chandra Simmons; 28 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Providence South Stake Center in Millville, Utah.

Condolences may be extended to the family online at www.nelsonfuneralhome.com.

Jerry Bruce Simpson, 48

Jerry Bruce Simpson died May 30, 2008, from a massive heart failure while at work for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. He was born Aug. 27, 1959, to Russell and Dorothy, (Kleeberger) Simpson in Missoula. Jerry attended schools in Missoula and Florence, and graduated in 1978 from Stevensville High School.

After graduation he went to work for the BNSF. In 1979 he took a leave of absence to serve in the United States Marine Corps. Jerry became the third generation of Simpsons who were proud Marines.

He returned to the railroad and, like his father, was still working for the BNSF when he died.

In August of 2005 he married the great love of his life, Anita Marie Steiner.

Jerry was a life member of the NRA and a devoted hunter and sportsman. Jerry, Anita and



Sepp enjoyed scuba diving in Mexico, Belize and Costa Rica.

His many friends appreciated his unique sense of humor and his contagious laughter.

He leaves behind his wife, Anita, and her son, Sepp, of Kalispell; his mother, Dorothy Simpson, of Corvallis; sister, Susan Wortman, and brother-in-law, Rick Wortman, of Stevensville; his aunts, Phyllis Avery of Edmonds, Wash., and Ruth Crane of Lewistown; and many cousins in Montana, Colorado, Washington and Oregon; mother-in-law, Ann Steiner, and sister-in-law, Elisabeth Steiner, of Colorado Springs, Colo., and numerous friends.

A memorial service is planned for later this summer.

Timothy James Sims, 46

Timothy James Sims, 46, passed away on Oct. 31, 2008, in Kalispell. He was born Nov. 8, 1961, in Gordon, Ga., to Reggie Sims of Marion, Ohio, and Carols Sims of Polson.

He married Donna Sims on April 24, 1999, in Columbia Falls.

He is the brother of Karla Baasch of Polson and James R. Sims of Marion, Ohio.



Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, at Christ Lutheran Church, 5150 River Lakes Pkwy., in Whitefish. A reception will

follow the service.

Florence Elizabeth (Webber) Sirianni, 77

Florence Elizabeth (Webber) Sirianni passed away Sept. 1, 2008, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center at the age of 77. She was born Dec. 13, 1930, to Austin and Iris (Tripp) Knapp in Miles City.

Her family lived at various places across southern Montana until they moved to the town of Olney, where she met and married George Webber in 1946. Their marriage ended in 1976. She then married Joseph Sirianni of Fernie, British Columbia.

When Joe died in 2007, Florence moved to Eureka and lived with her daughter until May of this year, when she moved to Heritage Place in Kalispell.

Florence completed eighth grade in regular schools and then returned to Flathead Valley Community College to complete her GED in 1973.

She worked at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish as a nurses aid from the late 1950s until 1972. She then worked as a desk clerk at the Cadillac and Kalispell Hotels until 1976, when she moved to Fernie.

Florence was a member of Rebekahs for over 40 years, an advisor for Theta Rho, a Girl Scout leader, and a member of the Eagles. She liked crocheting, playing cards, dancing and jigsaw puzzles.

Florence is survived by a brother, Russell, and wife, Betty

Knapp, of Virginia; daughters, Mary Stevens of Kalispell, Shirley and husband, Arland Riebe, of Kila, and Linda Setzer of Eureka; son, Stan Webber, and wife, Charlene, of Kalispell; and a very special friend, Cindy Hutchinson, of Fernie. She has nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands; sisters, Dorothy Camp, Bessie Pahrman, Irene Poe, and Betty Lou Vick; and brother, Joseph "Bud" Knapp.

A private burial will be held at the cemetery in Whitefish. A memorial service is planned for a later date.

Memorials are suggested to The Bass Center at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family. To send condolences, please go to www.buffalohillfh.com.

Judy Sizemore, 63

Judy Sizemore, 63, passed away suddenly on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, of an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

She was born Nov. 6, 1944, to Louie and Loretta Naylor in Hillsboro, Ore. Her adoptive father, Jim Winegar, was also a critical part of her youth.

Judy lived her early years in the Portland area and moved to Columbia Falls in 1956 at the age of 12. She was married to Frank Sizemore in June of 1963. They lived in San Diego and Fallon, Nev., while Frank served in the United States Navy before settling back in Columbia Falls.

Judy and Frank had three sons, Bud in 1965, Darrell in 1967, and Stacey in 1968.

Through the years Judy worked at many jobs in Columbia Falls but her favorite profession was to be a mom to her kids and grandchildren, their friends, and others in need.

Judy began attending Crossroads Church of Columbia Falls in 1997 and recommitted her life to Christ and was baptized in 1999. She was active in church work and hosted a ladies' Bible study for several years. Other community service included Cub Scouts, manager of concessions



for Columbia Falls Baseball for several years, and being a charter member of the Moose Lodge of Kalispell.

Judy loved to read, camp, and go on hunting trips. She also loved to cook and had a gift for hospitality, hosting people in her home regularly. She was a devoted friend and spent countless hours serving others in their time of need.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jim and Loretta Winegar; her brother, Larry Winegar; and her sister, Nancy Semantel.

She is survived by her husband, Frank, of Columbia Falls; sons, Bud and his wife Kim of Covington, Wash., and Darrell and Stacey, both of Columbia Falls; grandchildren, Dani Sizemore, Kayla Sizemore, Bryce Sizemore, Ashley Sizemore, Frankie Sizemore, Sean McBride, Kylie Gravelle, Michelle Wolfe, Chad Wolfe, Jazemine Sizemore and Cameron Sizemore; and great-granddaughter, Meriah Wolfe.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at Crossroads Church, 5091 U.S. 2 West in Columbia Falls (behind LaSalle Grange Hall). Pastors Rich Cloyed and Frank Vargas will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are asked to be made in her name at Parkside Credit Union. For more information, call Crossroads Church at 892-0587.

William Franklin 'Bill' Skates, 79

William Franklin "Bill" Skates, 79, of Polson died from cancer Friday, July 18, 2008, at St. Joseph Hospital. Bill was born Nov. 21, 1928, in Haakon County, S.D., to Walter and Ruth Skate.



Bill lived life to its fullest and loved his family, who were all dearest to his heart. He enjoyed baseball, fishing, golf and bowling.

His parents and a sister, Wanda Hellod, preceded Bill in death.

Bill is survived by his wife of 59 years of marriage, Beverly Jean Skates; his children, Rick Skates, Debbie Denton, Randy

Skates, and Shelly Merwin; grandchildren, Kristie Fenster Maker, Tiffani Bugli, Natalie Farley, Jason Denton, Jeff Denton, and Aubrey Enderle; great-grandchildren, Makayla, Olyvia, Addison, Whitney, and Nicole Marie; and siblings, Jack Skates, Marge Boehrs, Bud Skates, Doris Brown, Bob Skates and Fred Skates.

A vigil service will be performed at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, with Father Jim Connor officiating. Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 24, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.groganfuneralhome.com.

Louise Lynch Skiftun

A memorial service for Louise Lynch Skiftun, 83, who died Nov. 29, 2007, in Kalispell will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 28, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bigfork. A reception will be after the services at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bethany Lutheran Memorial Fund, c/o Bethany Lutheran Church, 8559 Montana 35, Bigfork, MT 59911; or the Sletten Cancer Fund, 1117 29th St. South, Great Falls, MT 59405; or to the donor's choice.

Florene E. 'Liz' Slemberger, 86

Florene E. "Liz" Slemberger, 86, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2008, at Brendan House in Kalispell. She was born Jan. 6, 1922, in Klein, Mont., to William and Jennie (Leslie) Dunn.

After graduation from Klein High School, Liz attended Commercial College in Great Falls. It was there she met her husband, Henry Slemberger. Liz and Hank were married on July 30, 1940, at St. Ann's Cathedral in Great Falls. They had three daughters.

After living in Great Falls for 65 years, they moved to Kalispell to be near family. Liz will be remembered for her sense of humor, love of family and zest for life.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her eight brothers and sisters.

She is survived by her husband, Hank Slemberger, of Kalispell; her three daughters, Judy Fraser and husband, Glenn, of Kalispell, Carole Nelson and husband, Norman, of Tucson, Ariz., and Jennie Jenks of Olympia, Wash.; six grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

The family suggests memorials be given to Hospice, Home Options, 175 Commons Loop, Suite 100, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

Ruthie Smiley, 84

While surrounded by family and friends, Ruthie passed away peacefully on March 10, 2008, after fighting a courageous



battle with pneumonia. She was born in Crowley, Colo., on April 12, 1923, to Fred and Maybelle Young. She spent her younger life in Ordway, Colo., with her sister, Zenetta and brother, Harold.

She was married to Johnny Jonach in 1943, then to D.W. Smiley in 1953. Out of those two marriages she has four daughters, Sherry, Joanie, Gayle and Nancy. Ruthie and D.W. lived in several towns in Colorado before moving to Billings in 1964. They also lived in Big Timber and Lewistown before moving back to Billings.

In 1989, they moved near Whitefish to be close to Gayle and Dan, and it was here that they stayed. They enjoyed their home in the woods and loved seeing the wildlife. Ruthie was known to put out feed for the critters!

She was full of spirit and life and loved everyone she met. She was a wonderful care-giver and mother. The highlights of her life were her family and friends that she dearly loved to be with. She was filled with spunk and a vitality that will be sorely missed. She loved her

flowers and couldn't wait to do her spring planting.

She was preceded in death by her husband, D.W., in Sept. 1998.

She is survived by her daughters, Sherry Patterson and Nancy Michels of Columbia Falls, Joanie and Howard Caudill of Modesto, Calif., and Gayle and Dan Brown of Whitefish. She has eight grandchildren, Joanie's — Justin and Jeremy, Gayle's — Ronica, Jake, Dan Jr., and Tracy, and Nancy's — James and Marsha. She has eight great-grandchildren, Austin, Sawyer, Hailey, Gavin, Colton, Madison, Jared and Dillon.

Ruthie is a third-generation Methodist, who proudly carried on the tradition with her family, who are now in their sixth generation at the Whitefish United Methodist Church. She had so many dear friends from the church and elsewhere in the community, especially the "girls" who did her hair and kept her beautiful!

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 15, at the Whitefish United Methodist Church at 1150 Wisconsin Avenue.

Memorial contributions can be made in her name to your favorite charity or to the Whitefish United Methodist Church.

"We will not say good-bye, as you are with us always in our hearts and prayers."

Clyde B. Smith, 82

Clyde B. Smith, 82, passed away Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at Heritage Place in Kalispell. Clyde was born April 1, 1926, in Littlefork, Minn., to Carl



and Anna Smith. He was raised in Littlefork, graduating from Littlefork High School in 1944.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he worked in aviation ordnance. He attended diesel school in Memphis, Tenn., from 1948 to 1949.

Clyde married Bonnie Briggs on Dec. 4, 1951; they had four children. He moved to Montana in 1953.

Clyde worked as a logger from 1948, founding the Smith Logging Company in 1964. He retired from logging in 1989.

Clyde was elected to the Montana House of Representatives in 1983, where he served until 1990. He served on several committees, including Natural Resources, Business and Labor, Highways, and the State Administration. He was appointed to the Governor's Natural Resource's Advisory Council in 1983, Governor's Worker's Compensation Advisory Council in 1986 and the Board of Directors, State Compensation Mutual Insurance Fund in 1988. He was the co-founder of the Montana Logging Association, 1976, served as president from 1980 until 1985, was named Logger of the Year in 1980, and was a current member of the executive committee.

He was also co-founder of ALERT Foundation, (Helicopter Rescue Program) in 1980, and

chairman of the board 1982, 1985, 1986 and 1990. He was a member of the Montana Ambassadors, board of directors, State Chamber of Commerce. He was named as the family-owned business Advocate of the Year, U.S. Small Business Administration in 1981, won the Great Chief's Award from the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce in 1983, and was given an honorary membership in the Society of American Foresters (the first and only logger to achieve such recognition) in 1983.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Bonnie; sisters, Francis Smith, Erna Baeth and Dorothy Swope; and one brother, Kenny Smith.

Clyde is survived by four children, Rick and Deb Smith, Barry and Cindy Smith, Wendy and Bill Oehmcke, and Pam and Sid Meskimen; brother, Earl, and Grace Smith; sister, Lucy Roth; 15 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Sunday, April 13, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Interment will be at 2 p.m. Monday, April 14, at Glacier Memorial Gardens, with military honors being conducted by the United Veterans of the Flathead Valley. If available, a fly-by will be done by the ALERT flight crew.

A celebration of Clyde's Life will be held at 3:30 p.m. Monday, April 14, at the Red Lion Inn in Kalispell. A reception will be after the service.

The family requests memorials in Clyde's name be given to the ALERT Endowment, in care of Healthcenter Northwest in Kalispell, MT 59901.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Doreen Smith-Szpak, 55

Doreen Smith-Szpak died of cancer at home Sunday, June 15, 2008, in Anchorage, Alaska, with her family by her side. She was 55 years old.



Doreen was born July 18, 1952, the daughter of Dlorah (Schreckendgust) Bishop and John Malatare. She grew up in Montana, graduating from Columbia Falls High School in 1970, and subsequently earned her beautician's license.

After marrying Howard Smith in March 1977 and having two children, Doreen became a domestic engineer and worked hard to take care of everyone who came through her door. Doreen was a wonderful mom, not only to daughter, Aimee, and son, Nathan, but to all of their friends as well.

After Doreen's marriage to Howard ended, she met Dwight Szpak, who became her husband in June 2004. They spent their honeymoon moving to Alaska, driving the Alcan Highway. Doreen loved to watch the moose and the Northern Lights, her two favorite things about Alaska.

Doreen enjoyed taking pictures of family get-togethers, crocheting afghans for friends, cooking big

holiday meals, beading earrings, writing letters, and spending time with the people she loved. She will be greatly missed.

Doreen was preceded in death by her brother, Dusty Mills; her mother, Dlorah Bishop; and her father, John Malatare.

She is survived by her husband, Dwight Szpak, daughter, Aimee Smith, and son, Nathan Smith, all of Anchorage; brother, Don Mills, of Columbia Falls; stepfather, Pat Bishop, of Florence; aunt, Jean Schreckendgust, of Whitefish; stepmother, Wyona Malatare, sister, June Malatare, and brothers, Shawn and Jody Malatare, all of Arlee; brother, Jack Malatare, of Newburg, Ore.; sister, Dian Jenkins, of Ronan; sister, Joann Pentland, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; sister, MaryAnn Hunter, of St. Ignatius; sister, Cheryl Malatare, of Wyoming; and sister, Dora Lynn Crane, of Hamilton.

Cremation has taken place, and Doreen's ashes will be buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls, near her brother Dusty at a later date. Cards may be sent to the family at 9456 Morningside Loop, Unit B, Anchorage, AK 99515.

They ask that memorial contributions be given to the American Cancer Society or your local hospice organization in Doreen's honor.

Elizabeth 'Beth' Smith, 88

Elizabeth "Beth" Smith, 88, "went to be with her Lord and Savior" on Monday, May 5, 2008, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell. She was born on July 21, 1919, in Alexander, N.D., to George and Martha (Wright) Grimmer.

Elizabeth married Arthur J. Smith in North Dakota and they later moved to Kalispell. They raised five children.

Elizabeth worked at the Kalispell Seed House, Kalispell Regional Hospital, Ben Franklin Store and Green Stamp Store.

She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, camping and picnicking.

She went to reside at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in May of 2007, where she was a model patient and was dearly loved by all of her caregivers, who will miss her. She also had a deep faith in her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Elizabeth was preceded in



death by her husband, Arthur.

She is survived by two sons, Arthur Smith and wife Marilyn, of Jefferson City, and Roger Smith and wife Roxy of Kalispell; three daughters, Lois Jobman and husband Paul of Kalispell, Elaine Szirbik and husband Kenneth of Great Falls, and Jo Ann Smith of Kalispell; 13 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; along with three great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Elizabeth will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 10, in the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Larry Lautaret of the Whitefish Community Church of God officiating. Burial will follow in the Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

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

Frances L. Smith, 100

Frances L. Smith, 100, died Thursday, March 20, 2008, at Heritage Place in Kalispell. Services are pending with Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory.

Robert Bjorn Bornes 'Rob' Smith, 32

Robert Bjorn Bornes 'Rob' Smith, 32, of Missoula (formerly of Libby) died Saturday in Missoula.

He most recently worked in construction doing concrete work in the Missoula area.

Survivors include his son, Gavin, of Missoula;

his mother, Jane Thom, of Libby; and stepfather, Keith Thom, of Libby.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at the Nelson & Vial Funeral Home Chapel in Libby. Friends and family may call from 4 to 8 Thursday, and until noon Friday at the funeral home.

Ruth Snyder, 76

Ruth Snyder, 76, passed away Monday, Sept. 8, 2008, at her home in Columbia Falls. She was born Sept. 6, 1932, in Milwaukee to Albert and Elizabeth Lucht.

She graduated from Milwaukee High School in Milwaukee.

Ruth was married to Larry Snyder in 1955 in Milwaukee. They later moved to Shelby, where she worked as a dispatcher and secretary for the Toole County Sheriff's Office. She was the site manager at the Columbia Falls Senior Center for many years.

She enjoyed going to garage sales, painting and drawing.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and a brother, Red Lucht.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Larry, at the family home in Columbia Falls; her children,



Tim Snyder of Chester, Dawn Fauque of Cut Bank, Bob Snyder of Martin City, Tom Snyder of Columbia Falls, Karen Rost of Columbia Falls, and Paul Snyder of Columbia Falls; her grandchildren, Tiffany and Fallon Faque, John, Savanagh, and Michelle Snyder, and Kassie and Adriene Rost; a sister, Eleanor Dembsky; and a brother, Richard Lucht, of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.

A visitation will be held from 1 to 8 p.m. today, Sept. 12, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. today, Sept. 12, at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at the St. Richard's Catholic Church in Columbia Falls. Burial will be afterward in St. Richard's Catholic Cemetery.

The family has suggested that memorials be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Dannie Fay Soennichsen, 65

Dannie Fay Soennichsen, 65, of Great Falls and formerly of Saco, died of complications from diabetes Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2008, at a local hospital.

He was an Air Force veteran and former insurance agent.

Survivors include his

wife, Alice Soennichsen, of Great Falls; and children, Patricia Durland of Chugiak, Alaska, Daniel Soennichsen of Columbia Falls, and Laura Ann Soennichsen of Chugiak.

His memorial service and interment will take place at a later date in Saco.

Susan Joan (Collins) Sorell, 92

Susan Joan (Collins) Sorell, born July 7, 1915, to Kathleen Susan and William G. Collins, "entered into eternal rest" on Wednesday, June 18, 2008, in Tucson Ariz.



She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Claude Ferris Sorell; and two grandchildren, Chris and Laurie Sorell.

She is survived by two sons, Joseph John and Laura Sorell, and Carl Ferris and Harminder Sorell; two daughters, Cheri Susan and James White, and Mary Sorell; one sister, Patricia Ann Smith; one brother, William G. and Ginnie Col-

lins; 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great grandchildren.

Susan, known as Joan to her many friends and family, was a long time resident of Kalispell and Pleasant Valley, until she moved to Tucson where she had resided since the '80s.

In lieu of any flowers, please contribute to your favorite charity on her behalf. Her ashes will be laid to rest next to her husband at 2 p.m. Friday, June 27, at Lonepine Cemetery (the Little Brown Church), 125 Swan Highway, in Bigfork. A reception will follow the services at the Lions Park in Kalispell (across from the new Rosauers).

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Joan's family.

Eugene Spackman, 81

Eugene Spackman, 81, died Friday, Dec. 19, 2008, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

Funeral services are pending.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Bonnie Elain Spaugh, 88

Bonnie Elain Spaugh, 88, a resident of Palominas, Ariz., and prior resident of Kalispell and Elephant Butte, N.M., passed away March 24, 2008.

Bonnie was born in Bandon, Ore., to Thomas and Ann Fee. She married Lyle Kenneth Spaugh in 1940.

In 1950, they and their three daughters moved to Kalispell. They relocated to Panguitch, Utah, where they owned and operated a restaurant/service station.

Bonnie and Lyle subsequently built a home in Elephant Butte, where they retired. After Lyle passed away, Bonnie moved to Sierra Vista, Ariz.

Bonnie was always a hard worker, both inside and outside the home. Before her eyesight failed she enjoyed sewing, knit-

ting, crossword puzzles, reading and playing cards.

While in Elephant Butte, she volunteered at the hospital auxiliary.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lyle, in 1995.

Bonnie is survived by her three daughters, Eleanor Morgan and husband, Dave, of Timmons-ville, S.C., Charlotte Gilley of Kalispell, and Connie Terry and husband, Gary, of Sierra Vista; 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Pursuant to her request, there will be no formal service. Bonnie will be cremated, and her ashes will be sprinkled in the area where Lyle's were in Elephant Butte.

Jensen's Sierra Vista Mortuary is handling the arrangements.

Diane E. Spencer, 61

Diane E. Spencer, 61, of Libby, died Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008, at her home in Libby from natural causes.

She was employed as a teacher with Achievements.

She is survived by her

husband, Phil Spencer, from Libby; and a son, Jon Spencer, also from Libby.

Private family services will be held.

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

Forrest F. Spencer, 85

Forrest F. Spencer, 85, a longtime Libby resident, died on Sunday, June 29, 2008, at Libby Care Center. He was born on May 13, 1923, in Libby, the son of Vern and Marie (Mitchell) Spencer. He attended school in Libby, graduating from Libby Senior High School in 1941.

He then attended college at the University of Montana in Missoula, until he entered World War II in 1942 and was honorably discharged in 1946.

He played baseball on the local Libby town team. He was a logger for more than 40 years, worked for J. Neils Lumber Company and also Esbon Bache. He met and married Kay Vander Boegh, and they were married for 61 years.

He was an avid fisherman, hunter and loved to golf. He was a member of the Cabinet View Country Club and of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Survivors include his wife, Kay A. Spencer, of Libby; sons, David Spencer and wife, Dee, of Idaho Falls, Idaho, Richard Spencer of Libby, and Lawrence Spencer and wife, Kari, of Boise, Idaho; 11 grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 3, at the City of Libby Cemetery in Libby.

Memorials may be made to St. John Lutheran Hospice, 350 Louisiana Ave., Libby, MT 59923; or to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 109 W. Poplar, Libby, MT 59923.

Harold E. 'Bud' Stahlberg, 77

Harold E. "Bud" Stahlberg, 77, passed away Tuesday, May 27, 2008, at Healthcenter Northwest in Kalispell. He was born Dec. 7, 1930, in Greenbush, Minn., to Harold W. and Olga G. (Sands) Stahlberg.

Bud received his early education in Strathcona, Minn., before the family moved to the Flathead Valley. He continued his schooling at Cayuse Prairie, graduating from Flathead High School.

He married Shirley Anderson in Bigfork. They later divorced.

Bud was preceded in death by his parents; and one sister, Yvonne "Bunny" Belston.

He is survived by four sons, John, Rand, Dan and Brad Stahlberg; two sisters, Muriel and Fern; and five brothers, Ken Wayne, Clark, Bryan, Gene and Gordon. He is also survived by eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, of whom he was extremely proud.

A celebration of Bud's life will be held Aug. 3; details will be announced in a memorial notice in July.

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

Gerard Splaine II, 48

Gerard Splaine II, 48, passed away Friday, Dec. 5, 2008, at St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula after a short illness. Gerard was born Nov. 15, 1960, in Bethpage, N.Y., to Gerard and Mary Splaine. He had one sister, Helene. He grew up in Farmingdale, N.Y., where he made many friends and many good memories.

He served his country in the U.S. Army, where he made more good friends and good memories.

He and his wife, Sherry Lee, were married in 1991 and moved to Montana in 1994.

In Kalispell since 1997, he worked at Midway Rental.

In Montana, Jerry followed his life's pattern and made many good friends and memories. Although he loved many things, he especially loved his Irish heritage and Irish music, and he



was a very loud breath of fresh air wherever he went.

Jerry was preceded in death by his father, Gerard Splaine; nephew, Frank; and his mother-in-law, Ruth Biondi.

He is survived by his wife, Sherry Lee Splaine; mother, Mary Splaine; sister, Helene, and husband, J.D. McWilliams; niece, Debora, and husband, Jodi Janis; nephews, Ben McWilliams, and Ian and wife, Brooke McWilliams; and by all his friends too numerous to list.

Private memorial services will be held in Kalispell, New York and Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Cancer Society or to the St. Patrick House at St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula. And please, in Jerry's memory, if you smoke, quit.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family. Friends are encouraged to visit the Web site at www.buffalohillfh.com to leave a condolence for the family.

Floy 'Idella' Stalcup, 97

Floy "Idella" Stalcup, 97, passed away Monday, Sept. 8, 2008, at Heritage Place in Kalispell. She was born July 2, 1911, the second of 11 children to Elmer and Minnie (Johnston) Howell at home (now Elk Park Road).



Both sets of grandparents were early settlers in the Flathead Valley — the Reuben Johnstons in the 1880s from the Gallatin Valley, and the Henry Howells from Illinois in the 1890s.

Her only schooling was eight years at the same school, as it was for both of her parents, at Deer Park School.

In 1928, she married Clifford McBroom, and they lived on the family ranch at Big Arm. They had their first three daughters there, Carol, Myrna and Floy. In 1940 they sold out their share and bought a stud mill. That lasted for one year in Whitefish and one in Columbia Falls, where Sandra was born.

By then, World War II had started, and the manpower shortage was affecting their business, so they sold the mill and moved to Polson late in 1942. Son Buzz was born there in 1943. They divorced in 1944.

She married Bud Ridnour in 1947 and divorced him in 1953. Her third husband was George Stalcup, with whom she had her second son, Corey. They later divorced and she remained single the rest of her life.

She became an excellent seamstress early in life and was still busy sewing for many people when she was hit by a drunken driver as she crossed the street in Polson in 1982. She survived grievous injuries, but

her life was changed forever at the age of 71. Eventually she managed to get around with a walker and live alone in senior housing. Then in 1987, she broke her hip and had to go to into a nursing home, where she spent the remainder of her life.

The family would like to say a special thanks to the staff at Heritage Place.

She was preceded in death by her parents; all four of her brothers, Mern, Ross, Leonard and Walter Howell; and two sisters, Shirley Howell and Jean Howell Johns; two grandchildren, Norma Lininger Carter in 2000, and Gary Howard in 2002; a stepgrandson, Dean Baker, in 1991; a granddaughter and a great-granddaughter in infancy; and all three former husbands.

She is survived by four daughters, Carol Poil of Newton, Kan., Mryna Teskey of Kalispell, Floy Baker and husband, Roger, of Whitefish, and Sandra White of Salt Lake City; two sons, Clayton "Buzz" McBroom and wife, Sharon, of Canon, Colo., and Corey Stalcup and wife, Valerie, of Washington; four sisters, Ruby Howard and Blanche Hoyt, both of Kalispell, Iva Mae Stryker of Columbia Falls, and Jessie Wunderlich of Valier; 14 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great-grandchildren, and many step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Graveside services for Idella will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, at Fairview Cemetery on Middle Road east of Kalispell. There is no visitation.

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

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Anne Marie Standley, 91

Anne Marie Standley, 91, a longtime resident of the Bitterroot Valley, passed peacefully Monday, Aug. 4, 2008, at the home of her daughter, Donna, and son-in-law, Doug Dahlgren, in Clarkston, Wash.



Anne was born Oct. 29, 1916, in Dawson County, Ga., to Charles A. and Annie K. (Byers) Stephens. When she was 5 years old, her father came to Northwestern Montana in search of employment and a "better life." He soon sent for his family, Anne, her mother, and her three brothers to join him by train. Anne attended school in Ennis prior to moving to Missoula.

In Missoula, she met and married Bryan F. Standley. They lived in Butte from 1929 to 1935 where he worked in the mining industry. Together, they had three children, Bryan LeRoy, Rosie and Donna. In 1935, the family moved to Corvallis, where they bought a small farm. They remained there until 1950, when they sold the farm and relocated to Missoula.

There, Anne, her husband, and their son and his wife, Marlene, formed a partnership doing business as Standley Reforestation. Anne took care of the bookkeeping, as numbers were her specialty, and cooked for the logging camps.

In 1978, they bought a home in Hamilton, where the coffee pot was always on. There she enjoyed spending time with her family, which was her greatest pleasure. She enjoyed many things in life that were special to her: working in her yard, tending the raspberries, reading, playing a good game of pinochle and listening to her family sing and play the piano and organ. All of these activities

brought her many smiles.

She is known as the matriarch "rock" in her family, always having words of encouragement for those in need. Most often the phrase was: "Chin up, tomorrow's a new day."

Anne enjoyed her friends in Christ and the First Christian Church in Hamilton. She always shared her sense of humor and maintained a positive attitude.

Anne was preceded in death by her husband, Bryan; her parents; two sisters, Stella and Ruby; three brothers, Charley, Elmer and Bill Stephens; a half sister, Esther; a daughter-in-law, Marlene; and son-in-law, Jack Young.

She is survived by her son, Bryan "Roy," of Kalispell; daughters, Rosie Young of Gig Harbor, Wash., and Donna and Doug Dahlgren of Clarkston; grandchildren, Debora LaRose of Kalispell, Scott and Theresa Standley of Redmond, Wash., Crystal Malek of Kalispell, Tracy Vandewall of Gig Harbor, Joe Young of Newport Beach, Calif., Todd and Karen Young of Palm Springs, Calif., Tim Young of San Diego, Kellie and Brett Mildenberger of Hamilton, Dane and Christina Dahlgren of Soldotna, Alaska, and Victoria and Kelly Harris of Elko, Nev.; sister-in-law, Flora Stephens, of Corvallis; 21 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 8, at the Daly-Leach Chapel in Hamilton. A celebration of her life with a memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Daly-Leach Chapel, with burial afterward at Riverview Cemetery in Hamilton. There will be a reception after the committal services in the funeral home's community room.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children, P.O. Box 2472, Spokane, WA 99210-2472.

Roy Ellen Statum, 90

Mrs. Roy Ellen Statum, 90, "went to be with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ" on May 20, 2008. She was born Oct. 28, 1917, in Chelan, Wash.



She married Staff Sgt. Robert Statum of Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, on Sept. 11, 1954. They moved to Columbia Falls in 1975 after he retired from the Air Force.

She was very active in the First Baptist Church of Columbia Falls and enjoyed gardening and reading.

She was preceded in death by

her father, Roy; mother, Margaret; and husband, Robert.

She is survived by her son, Charles, of Columbia Falls; brother-in-law, Hal Anglin, of Sunnyside, Wash.; and sisters-in-law, Billie Schober, of Wenatchee, Wash., and Darlene Dotson, of Sumner, Wash. She also has many nieces, nephews, and cousins spread all over the country.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 27, at the First Baptist Church in Columbia Falls, with the Rev. Jerry Buchanan officiating. Burial will be afterward at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is in charge of the arrangements.

Thomas E. Stayton, 81

Thomas E. Stayton, 81, of Libby, died Dec. 2, 2008, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital in Libby.

He served 28 years in the Libby School District as a teacher and elementary principal.

He is survived by his wife,

Nadine Stayton; daughter, Jeanne Crawford, of Libby; and son, Daniel Stayton, of San Diego.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, at the First Presbyterian Church in Libby. A reception at the church will be afterward.

Norman E. Stedje, 93

Norman E. Stedje, 93, passed away Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell. He was born near Hettinger, N.D., on April 1, 1915, to Erick and Karen Stedje. He was next to the youngest of eight children.

His parents were farmers. Norman attended a rural school and then the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis for a short time. In August 1935, Norman and his brother Arnold hopped a freight train and went to Columbus, Mont., to work on a farm. A year later they came to Kalispell. Norman found work with the Equity Supply Co. and worked there for several years.

In 1945, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Okinawa until he received an honorable discharge in 1946.

In 1950, he and his brother bought the Ford and New Holland franchises from Garey Motors. They operated this business, known as Stedje Brothers, for 40 years, acquiring stores in Ronan and Missoula also.

Norman and Ruth Prestbye were married Jan. 10, 1951, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell. They and their three children moved to Ronan in 1963. While living there, Norman was active in Faith Lutheran Church and in community affairs. He was mayor for the city of Ronan for 14 years. While a member of the Montana League of Cities and Towns, Norman served a term on the state and national League of Cities and Towns.

He belonged to the Lion's organization and served on church boards at the local, district and national levels. Norman sang in church choirs, men's quartets, and with the Flathead Valleyaires.

He helped develop the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp on Flathead Lake, served on its board, and traveled to promote interest in it and to raise funds for its development.

Norman was also a Gidion for several years, a member of the Service Corps of Retired Executives, a member of the Salvation Army board, and spent a winter



in Helena serving on an advisory board for Gov. Stephens. Norman traveled with a group of implement dealers to Russia and several European countries to observe their farming methods. He also visited Mexico and Central America. He retired in 1990.

Norman's wife Ruth died in 1981. On June 21, 1986, he married his widowed sister-in-law, Mirth E. Stedje, at Calvary Lutheran Church and moved back to Kalispell. Norman loved working with flower gardens at home in Ronan and also working around the cabin on Foy's Lake.

His Christian faith has been a great importance and strength his entire life. He moved to Immanuel Lutheran Home in November 2003 because of Alzheimer's disease.

Norman was preceded in death by his parents; five sisters; two brothers; and his first wife, Ruth.

He is now survived by his wife, Mirth Stedje, of Kalispell; one son, Rodney Stedje, and wife, Michal Ann, of Ronan; two daughters, Barbara Chapin and husband, Skip, and Kristine Stedje, all of Minneapolis; one stepson, Douglas Stedje, of Tacoma, Wash.; one stepdaughter, Joy Mahlum and husband, Ed, of Kalispell; four grandchildren, Emily Hoffman and husband, Brandon, of Houghton, N.Y., Melanie Stedje of Philadelphia, Rebecca Chapin of Minneapolis, and Erick Stedje at Montana State University in Bozeman; and stepgrandchildren, Daniel and David Mahlum of Kalispell, and Kimberly Stedje of Tacoma.

Funeral services for Norman will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Evergreen. A reception will be held at the church after the burial at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, which will include military honors by the United Veterans of the Flathead Valley.

Those who wish may memorialize Norman's life by gifts to Immanuel Lutheran Home, Calvary Lutheran Church or the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp.

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

Robert M. 'Bob' Steinke, 59

Robert M. "Bob" Steinke, 59, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008, at his residence in Kalispell. He was born Feb. 10, 1949, in Wendell, Idaho, the son of George and Helen (Burk) Steinke.

He thrived with any challenge that came along. He really loved riding his Harley and walking his dogs.

Bob worked for Burlington Northern Railroad for many years, but his true calling was with the kids of School District 5, where he drove a school bus for 25 years.

He was united in marriage May 26, 2008, to Jo in Kalispell.

He was a member of the Harley Davidson-Glacier chapter.

Bob was preceded in death by his father, George Steinke; and wife, Rita Steinke.

He is survived by his wife, Jo Steinke, of Kalispell; his mother, Helen Steinke, of Kalispell; his daughter, Amy Steinke, of Missoula; his sister,

Boni Steinke, of Portland; two stepchildren, Angie Overnick and Wendy Copeland, both of Kalispell; and numerous other extended family.

Funeral services for Bob will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral chapel, with Pastor Raymond Powell officiating. The family requests that those attending please wear pink or pink ribbons in honor of cancer survivors. There will be no visitation. Burial will be after services at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

The family suggests that any memorial contributions be sent to Lucky Dog Day Care, 2455 U.S. 93 S., Kalispell, MT 59901; or to the Northwest Healthcare Foundation, 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

Anton T. 'Tony' Stempin, 89

Anton T. "Tony" Stempin, 89, of Columbia Falls, passed away Tuesday, July 22, 2008, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

He was born Jan. 19, 1919, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Anton and Mary Stempin.

Tony served in the Marine Corps during World War II.

He was married to Doris L. Smith on June 10, 1944, in Bremerton, Wash.

Tony worked on the construction of the Hungry Horse Dam and retired from the aluminum plant.

He is survived by his wife, Doris, of Columbia Falls; his

children, Gary Stempin, Judy Stewart, Mitch Stempin, and Robin Stempin; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A graveside committal will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 31, at the Lone Pine Cemetery in Bigfork with military graveside honors.

He was especially proud of his Marine Corps service. The family has suggested that memorials be made to the Toys For Tots, USMCR, 41 Fourth St. W., Kalispell, MT 59901.

Arrangements are with the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Elaine Clara Stenson, 88

Elaine Clara Stenson, 88, of Kalispell, passed away Dec. 28, 2008, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

She was born July 19, 1920, in Mason City, Iowa, to Sven and Clara Marie (Berge) Huso. She moved to the Flathead Valley with her family in 1935 and graduated from Columbia Falls High School. She was a graduate of Kinman Business College, Spokane.

On Nov. 9, 1940, she married Perry Stenson. Elaine and Perry resided in Kalispell where Elaine was employed as a secretary for the American Timber Company for 35 years, and Perry owned and operated the Rainbow Lodge.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clara Marie (Berge) and Sven ES Huso; her beloved husband, Perry, in 1987; three brothers, Stanley, Rolf and Fred Huso; and two sisters, Sonoma Viegel and Helen Young.

Elaine will be lovingly remembered by her family and

friends for her wonderful laugh and her warm heart.

Elaine is survived by her four nieces, Pam Huso of Vancouver, Wash., Nancy Huso of Columbia Falls, and Manuela Huso and Renata Beck of Oregon; and four nephews, Ambassador Ravic Huso of Vientiane, Laos, Brad Young of Nebraska, Mark Young of Idaho, and Chuck Young of California; and many great-nieces and -nephews.

A memorial service will be held 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. There will be a graveside ceremony and inurnment in the spring.

The family suggest memorials donation should be made to the Immanuel Lutheran Home at 185 Crestline Avenue Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

Jay Stephens, 80

Jay Stephens, 80, passed away on Friday, Feb. 1, 2008, in Whitefish. He was born May 7, 1927, in Wheeling, W.V., to Floyd and Ethel (Henthorn) Stephens.

After attending school in Vienna, W.V., Jay enlisted in the Army. He served as a sergeant for four years in Germany, then he returned to his parents' new home in Clyde Park, Mont., just long enough to secure a job and enough time off to return to Vienna, to pick up his bride-to-be, Betty Winans.

Following a brief wedding service on Sept. 22, 1953, they were on the road to their new home in Eastern Montana. After moving several times, Jay and Betty, along with their four children, settled in Missoula where Jay worked for Share Corporation.

They made their last move to the Flathead Valley in 1987.



Jay is survived by his wife, Betty; one son, Russ; and his three daughters, Diana Craft and husband Larry, Rhonda Stephens, and Robin Stephens

and husband Bill Nipps. He is also survived by his four lovely granddaughters, Mandy Townsley of Missoula, and Amber Townsley, and Emily and Sarah Dempsey, all of the Flathead Valley.

In lieu of services and flowers, please come join the "Coffee Clutch" group at the Pin and Cue, U.S. 93 South in Whitefish, from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Feb. 9, to reminisce and honor our much beloved and sorely missed, husband, father, opa/papa and friend.

William S. Steppe, 66

William S. Steppe, 66, died Friday, Aug. 22, 2008, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

Survivors include his mother, Louise Steppe, of Columbia Falls; a son, Mike Steppe, of Sidney; and a

daughter, Michelle Barone, of Rochester, N.Y.

A graveside service was held Aug. 26 at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Arrangements are with Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Nicholas L. Stewart, 63

Nicholas L. Stewart, 63, of Libby, died Sunday, May 4, 2008, at St. John Lutheran Hospital in Libby.

Survivors include his son, Brent Stewart; and three stepchildren, Bille Wemple,

Liz McLaughlin and Lonna Mallory.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at the Nelson and Vial Funeral Home in Libby.

Pearlys Udella Gilbert Stinger, 84

Pearlys Udella Gilbert Stinger, 84, "went to be with her Lord Jesus" on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, 2008, in Bigfork.

Born on Jan. 22, 1924, in Ponce de Leon, Fla., she was the oldest girl of seven children born to Lonnie and Mallie Gilbert.

Growing up in northern Florida, Pearlys helped take care of her five younger siblings along with her older brother Lester. She was always a bright student and a wonderful cook.

Not long after graduating from Altha High School, she went to work in a restaurant where she met many handsome soldiers training for World War II.

Albert Stinger of Ronan won her heart and hand. They were married March 17, 1943, and made their home in the Flathead Valley in 1946. Al passed away March 14, 2006, just three days before what would have been their 64th anniversary.

Her first love was her family. She and Al had four children — Dennis, Kelvin and Lonnie Stinger, and Delrae Billmeyer.

She enjoyed gardening, sewing and was always ready to play. She was a member of the Bigfork Chapel Assembly of God, and was quick to pray for any need.

Pearlys was the head cook at Swan River School, and will be remembered by many who

enjoyed her homemade lunches and "Special K" cookies.

Pearlys and Al were foster parents for several teens who needed their loving smiles and warm hugs, not to mention the fresh-baked bread and Stinger Stew.

Her last job was at the Lake View Care Center where she worked as a CNA for more than 13 years. It was her choice to become a resident there, for she knew from experience that it is a wonderful place at which to retire.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; sister Hazel Strom; and brothers, Lester Gilbert and Broward Gilbert.

She is survived by her children and their spouses, brothers William Gilbert and Jimmy Gilbert, sister Myrtice Strom, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family thanks the loving folks at the Lake View Care Center, and requests that donations be made to the Swan View Unit.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

The family invites the community to a short graveside service at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008, at Lone Pine Cemetery in Bigfork. A celebration of her life will be afterward at 2:30 p.m. at the Bigfork Chapel Assembly of God.

Alice Joan Stocking, 74

Alice Stocking passed away peacefully at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish on June 7, 2008.

Alice was born to Charles and Florence Lare on Dec. 23, 1933, in Denver. She attended Park College and studied domestic engineering before moving to San Diego to work for Ryan Aeronautical as an executive secretary.

While there she met her future husband, Ed Stocking. They were married Aug. 2, 1958, in San Diego and raised three children.

Mrs. Stocking was active in the Boy Scouts of America, the First Presbyterian Church in Great Falls, the America Red Cross and the Roper Organization as a census field interviewer.

Alice adored her grandchildren, bad jokes, game shows and crossword puzzles, and the community of Whitefish.

Alice is survived by her son, Brian Dallas Stocking, and



grandchildren, Sasha M. Stocking and Skyler E. Stocking, all of Long Beach, Calif.; son and daughter-in-law, Bradley Todd Stocking and Karen M. Stocking,

and grandchildren, Kristina M. Stocking and Matthew M. Stocking, all of Reno, Nev.; daughter and son-in-law, Sue Ann Tomlinson and A. Ray Tomlinson, both of Reno; and brother, Charles Lare, of San Diego.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 14, at the First Presbyterian Church in Whitefish, with a light lunch reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to the First Presbyterian Church, 301 Central Ave., Whitefish, MT 59937; and the North Valley Hospital Foundation.

Greg Stoick, 53

Greg Stoick, 53, a lifelong Montana outdoorsman and the owner of Stoick Drug in Kalispell, died Friday, Dec. 5, 2008, at his home.



Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 601 First Ave. W., in Kalispell.

Greg is survived by a loving family. They include his children, Andrew "A.J.," Michael and Emily; his wife, Dawn; his parents, Jerry and Betty Stoick; sisters, Carol Lechner and husband, Fred, and Judy Stoick, and his brother, David Stoick and wife, Tracy, all of Kalispell.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Gary.

Greg was born Feb. 26, 1955, in Missoula. He graduated from Flathead High School and the

University of Montana School of Pharmacy. He worked as a pharmacist in Alaska for several years before he and his family relocated to the Flathead Valley in 1996.

Greg's greatest joys usually included adventures in the great outdoors. He and his family enjoyed countless weekends hunting, fishing, hiking and camping. Their usual destination was somewhere down the Swan Valley.

Greg was most at home "in the woods," whether in Alaska in pursuit of big game and salmon, or in Montana, where his children developed their love of hunting and fishing with their father at their side.

Greg was a big supporter of the annual Big Wheels Basketball fundraiser put on by Flathead Industries. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Flathead Industries.

Nettie Irene Stokes, 93

Nettie Irene Stokes, 93, died at Lake View Care Center in Bigfork on Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008.

At her request, there will be no services.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Donald 'Gene' Stone, 70

Gene Stone "joined our heavenly father" Wednesday, June 4, 2008, after a very courageous battle with cancer. His final day was spent at the Hospice Center of Kalispell Regional Medical Center.



Gene was born in Wisconsin in 1937. He graduated from The U.S. Naval Academy and was an officer in the U.S. Navy until he began his career at Ideal Cement Company.

Gene spent most of his career working for New York Life Insurance in Wisconsin, from which he retired and moved to Lakeside.

Gene enjoyed a very active life with his wife and friend, Judy, filled with family, adventure travel, skiing, sailing, hiking, camping and scuba diving.

He was an active volunteer and thoroughly enjoyed his work

at Big Mountain in Whitefish as ambassador ski guide. He also took great delight playing accordion with his friends at The Eagles Club in Kalispell and hiking with the local Trackers hiking club.

He was an active member in the Optimist Club for many years and acted as president of his local chapter in Wisconsin.

Before his death, Gene made special mention of his dear friends in the Ambassador Club who were close to his heart, including Bob Kimball and George "Elias" Cross, who stayed with him through his illness and never let him down. Gene wanted to especially thank Rosie Olesen, who he felt was such a faithful friend.

Gene leaves behind his wife, Judy, and their five children, Michael, Matthew, Amy, Kristin and Jennifer. Gene and Judy have six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Gene has three brothers, Richard, Bob and John, and a sister, Pam.

A memorial is being planned for a later date.

Leola Jeanne Stoneback, 67

Leola Jeanne Stoneback, 67, of Orofino, Idaho, passed away Dec. 21, 2008, at the Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle from long-term illnesses. She was born in Madison, S.D., June 26, 1941, and grew up in Madison, Waterloo, Iowa, Sandpoint, Idaho, Kalispell and Hot Springs, before moving to Orofino, Idaho, in 1975.



She was an ambitious and creative person who loved crafts, gardening and her animals, which included several years of showing the Chihuahuas she raised.

Many people who knew her marveled at her strength and courage. Leola spent 12 years as a rancher's wife, raising their three children and sharing the operation of the Merritt ranch in Hot Springs, before moving to Orofino where she owned and operated the Green Acres Nursery for several years, as well as The Puppy Palace, where she groomed and boarded animals.

She lived in Kodiak, Old Harbor, and at several logging camps in Southeastern Alaska for several years. She operated a large boarding facility in Kodiak, served as a village public nurse in Old Harbor, and cooked in the logging camps in Southeastern Alaska. Other professions she held were as a chef and a long-haul truck driver.

Leola was highly regarded as a Past Matron of Eastern Star in Hot Springs.

She is survived by two sons, Gary Merritt, Ret. Navy, and wife, Jeanette, of Marysville, Wash., and Roger Merritt and wife, Leigh, of Sydney; her daughter, Mary Jo Merritt, of Orofino; two sisters, Sharleen (Stoneback) Ashcraft, and brother-in-law, Dr. Walker J. Ashcraft, of Hamilton, and Diana (Stoneback) Fraley, and brother-in-law, Richard Fraley, Ret. U.S.C.G., of Palmer, Alaska; and her brother, James Stoneback, Ret. U.S.C.G.; and sister-in-law, Virgie (Zimmerman) Stoneback, of Elgin, N.D. She is also survived by grandchildren, Stacy Merritt, Heather Merritt, Ali Jo Merritt, Dustin Merritt, Jason Merritt and Brennen Merritt; nephews, Lt. Col. Paul Ashcraft, Brian Fraley, James Stoneback, Neal Stoneback, Eric Stoneback and Chris Stoneback; and niece, Jeannie (Stoneback) Marshall.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Stanley S. And Wilma M. Stoneback.

A tentative memorial service has been planned for Jan. 31 at the United Methodist Church in Orofino, Idaho.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to any service dog organization in honor of Leola's dedicated Labrador retriever, Emmy, her devoted companion and service dog who misses her mistress terribly; or to International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP), 38691 Filly Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48310.

Russell Elmer Stroud, 85

Russell Elmer Stroud, 85, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish. He was born April 6, 1923, in Cottage Grove, Ore., the son of William and Gladys Stroud.



On Oct. 6, 1945, he married Lois Robbe of Eureka in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

He worked at Big Pasco in Pasco, Wash., for the government, running heavy equipment. He then worked for the Atomic Energy Commission in Richland, Wash. Russ then started his long career with Standard Oil in 1951 at Pasco. He worked as a mechanic and also drove gasoline tanker trucks. In 1963, he became a supervisor for Standard Oil Motor Transport Department in California, retiring in 1971 because of health problems.

Russ and Lois then moved to Eureka in the summer of 1971 where he worked various jobs before owning his own logging truck. After retiring once again, he then decided to open his own engine/tractor repair shop.

In 2004, Russ and Lois relocated to Columbia Falls to be closer to their family.

Through the years, he belonged to several gas-engine clubs, where he enjoyed working on his various antique tractors and engines. He took great pride

in being a member of the Flathead Tractor and Engine Association in Flathead County. Russ also enjoyed all of his friends who would stop by to visit while he was in his shop.

Russ was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Louella and Helen; and three brothers-in-law.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Lois; his daughters, Charyle Boulton and husband, Bob, of Columbia Falls, and Rhonda Krieger and husband, Ed, of Whitefish; grandchildren, Kevin Boulton and wife, Carole, of Columbia Falls, Loni Krieger of Kalispell, and Kristie Holcomb and husband, Cian, of Kalispell; great-grandchildren, Jacob Holcomb and Chase Krieger; siblings, Floyd Stroud and wife, Romane, Lucille Cloninger, Laura Krieg, May Darrow and husband, Ray, and Rhoda Snider; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Russell was a very loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Services for Russ will be held at 3 p.m. today, Sept. 27, at the First Baptist Church in Eureka. Burial will be held at Tobacco Valley Cemetery. There will be a luncheon afterward at the First Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

Irene Struck, 88

Irene Struck, 88, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008, at Heritage Place in Kalispell. She was born on May 12, 1920, in Rudyard, to Louis and Matilda (Koch) Aeverman.



Irene received her early education in Rudyard and graduated from high school there.

After marrying Clarence Struck in Rudyard, the family moved to Kalispell.

Irene enjoyed playing cards, ballroom dancing, gardening and canning. She loved her trips to Reno, Nev., and was active in the Eagles Auxiliary.

Irene was preceded in death by her husband; one brother, Clarence; and a son, Clifford.

She is survived by a son, Darvin Struck, and wife, Bonnie, of Kalispell; three grandchildren, Andrew Struck and wife, Mandy, of Costa Mesa, Calif., Jennifer Rodriques and husband, Steve, of Madison, Wis., and Shelley Smith and husband, Miles, of Kalispell; and her daughter-in-law, Marlene Struck, of Kalispell.

Memorial services for Irene will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Valley Community Church of God, 2149 Hwy. 2 East, with Pastor Bill Harper officiating. Irene will be placed next to her husband in C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

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

Betty J. Stubbs, 80

Betty J. Stubbs, 80, a longtime Libby resident, and formerly of Kalispell, died Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008, in Spokane, from natural causes.

She is survived by three children, James Case and Altonia Lawrence, both of

Spokane, and Glenn Stubbs of Libby.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at the City of Libby Cemetery in Libby.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Dorothy E. Stuckey, 90

Dorothy E. Stuckey, 90, died Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008, at the Colonial Manor in Whitefish.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12,

at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Arrangements are with Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Roberta 'Robbie' McAfee Sullivan, 61

Roberta "Robbie" McAfee Sullivan was born Dec. 5, 1946, in Freeport, Texas. She passed peacefully early Jan. 10, 2008, in the company of friends and family after a short and valiant battle with cancer.

Robbie was an instructor and counselor at Flathead Valley Community College and began her teaching career in 1968.

She met and married her husband, Mark, in Oklahoma City in 1983. Together they moved to Edmond, Okla., then to Fayetteville, Ark., before their move to Whitefish, Mark's hometown, in 1989. Mark always believed that because of this marriage that he was "the luckiest man alive."

Robbie grew up in Oklahoma City and was the oldest of six children. Her mother, Henrietta McAfee, and two sisters, Sharon Ammon and Nancy Thompson and their families still reside in Oklahoma City. The youngest sister, Martha Bitter, and her family live in Tyler, Texas, and her brother, Mike McAfee, and his family live in Oregon.

Robbie was preceded in death by her father, Bob McAfee; and one brother, Pat.

She is survived by her husband, Mark, of Kalispell; her son, Robert, of Columbus, Ohio; and her daughter, Martha Rendahl. Martha is married to husband, Joe, and they reside in Whitefish with their two



children.

Robbie was a wonderful grandma to her two grandkids and would light up the room anytime she was given the chance to talk about them. She spent a great deal of time with them, and they will dearly miss their sweet grandma.

Robbie's strong belief in the value of education was passed on to her sisters and brothers and their children, as well as her own children. At Flathead Valley Community College, her enthusiasm was infectious, and colleagues and students alike enjoyed her company and respected her abilities. Her sense of humor and upbeat attitude were transmitted to all who came in contact with her.

Robbie formed many rich friendships in the Flathead Valley and all across the state of Montana. Many of these dear friends are also friends of Bill W. She will be remembered for the help and encouragement she gave to all.

A visitation will be held from 1 to 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14, at the Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish. A funeral service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at Flathead Valley Community College in the Arts and Technology building. Burial will be afterward at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell. A short reception will be after burial.

"Happy Trails, Robbie."

Walter Victor Sundelius, 74

Walter Victor Sundelius, 74, o. Kalispell, "went to fly with the angels" on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell. He was born March 6, 1934, to Victor and Emma (Tetrault) Sundelius.



He graduated from Flathead High School in 1952. Walter worked for the U.S. Forest Service during and after high school. After a year of college in Missoula, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1954.

Walter married Lona Hanson in 1956 and had five children. They later divorced.

Walter's Air Force career began in airborne radio and eventually moved into missile guidance systems. Many duty stations took him around the world until he was finally stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base.

In 1971, he married Lynn Siebel in Great Falls. Walter retired from active duty in 1974.

After retiring, Walter and Lynn moved back to the Flathead Valley and built a home and ranch in the Creston area. They raised registered Simmental cattle, AQHA registered quarter horses and many other small animals.

In 1977, they adopted Matthew David and in 1980, adopted Andrew Michael. The family enjoyed spending time at the Ashley Lake cabin, riding horses and many weekends skiing at the Big Mountain.

Walter worked for Mild Fence Co. until a knee injury forced him to stop. In 1988, he volunteered to drive the school bus

for Trinity Lutheran School when needed. Twenty years later, he was still driving as a permanent fixture with the school. He was very dedicated to his Lord and his church.

Walter loved hunting, fishing, and his favorite pastime, riding his motorcycle. The long Flathead winters only made the itch to ride worse every year. He made a point to have the motorcycle out for its first ride by his birthday every March.

He is survived by his wife, Lynn Sundelius, at the family home in Kalispell; sons, Walter Jr. of Lawrenceville, Ga., and Matthew and Andrew, both of Kalispell; daughters, Deborah, of Latham, N.Y., Laura of Waterton, N.Y., Loretta of Potsdam, N.Y., and Linda of Schenectady, N.Y.; along with 10 grandchildren; and two sisters, Florine Ficken and Henry, and Emma Jane Wutke and Dennis, all of Kalispell.

Memorial services for Walter will be at 2 p.m. Monday, May 5, at Trinity Lutheran Church, with Pastor Darold Reiner of the Church at Creston-Lutheran officiating. A reception will be immediately afterward in the church fellowship hall. Visitation for Walter was held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. A private burial took place.

The family suggests memorial gifts be given to the Trinity Lutheran School, 495 Fifth Ave. W.N., Kalispell, MT 59901, or the Church at Creston-Lutheran, Creston Road and Montana 35, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

Jane E. Sutton, 80

Longtime resident of Anchorage, Alaska, Jane E. Sutton, died peacefully July 5, 2008, at Mary Conrad Center in Anchorage.

A celebration of life, "Jane's Last Roundup," will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, July 25, at Mary Conrad Center 9100 Centennial Drive.

Jane was born Sept. 21, 1927, in Eugene, Ore., to William Dale Kinder and Ida Lenora Kinder. After moving around the Pacific Northwest, Jane went on to graduate from Roosevelt High School in Seattle.

She continued her education at Washington State University and graduated with a degree in animal science in 1949.

She married Robert H. Sutton in Kalispell in January of 1951 and lived on a ranch at Marion. After they left the ranch she and Robert moved a number of times around the state.

In 1956, they left Montana to move to Washington state. Jane went to work at Washington State University in the animal science areas doing interesting research studies on cattle feeds for feedlots. She moved to veterinary science and assisted vet students with their studies.

When Robert passed away in 1972 she decided to continue her education and went to nurses training at St. Patrick's School of Nursing located in Missoula, and graduated in 1976 as a registered nurse. She headed to Alaska and worked at Providence Hospital in Anchorage. After a stint there she went to work



at the old Valley Hospital in Palmer, Alaska, in the emergency room and worked there for many years.

This is when her love of sled dogs fully erupt-

ed. At one time she had a kennel of 50 or so dogs and trained to run the Iditarod. She had a major injury while driving her dogs and had to scratch the race and a part of her dreams. She then raised wolf hybrid crosses which became the love of her life.

She moved to Anchorage in 1986 and lived at Robert Rude. She continued her love of people, ceramics and Robert's Rules of Order in her work with the tenant council and being involved as president of Mabel T. Caverly's board of directors.

Jane was a very independent woman who did things her way!

Jane is survived by her daughter, Dale, and husband, John Reed, of Wasilla, Alaska; son, Robert W. Sutton, of Kalispell; sister, Joe Ann, and husband, Loyd Foster, of Kalispell; granddaughter, Brandy Cipriani, of Phoenix; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to Mabel T. Caverly Senior Center, 325 East Third Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501.

Condolences may be sent to P.O. Box 298667, Wasilla, AK 99629.

Irma M. Swallow, 97

Irma M. Swallow, 97, passed away Sept. 1, 2008, at her home in Reynolds Township, Minn., where she resided with her daughter, Betty Elston.

Irma Maude Marie Stevenson Swallow was born on Nov. 28, 1910, at Wyndmere, N.D., the eighth of nine children born to William and Margaret (Canham) Stevenson. The family farmed in North Dakota until moving to western Montana in the early 1920s.

She married James L. Swallow on Aug. 24, 1930, at Corvallis. The couple celebrated their 75th anniversary on Aug. 24, 2005. They farmed near Hamilton, where Irma worked as a bookkeeper.

At age 57 she returned to school, receiving her licensed practical nurse degree. She worked at the Daly Memorial Hospital in Hamilton and later helped at the Quartzsite Arizona Medical Center for many years.

Irma had a remarkable ability to memorize and recite epic poems and stories, which she did daily for family and friends.

She was very active in the Baptist church, teaching, and choir and ladies groups. Many

years were spent "snow birding" in Arizona and summering in the Kalispell area, where she helped James garden and attend farmers market weekly. She was very outgoing and made friends along the way. She will be missed greatly.

She is survived by sons, Gene A. Swallow of Quartzsite, Ariz., and Donald J. Swallow of Chain-Rai, Thailand; daughter, Betty Elston, of Long Prairie, Minn.; 24 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; 16 great-great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, a brother and sisters-in-law.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Hazel Morgan and Mabel Herman; brothers, Milford, Hubert, Warren, Nobel, Leslie and Harry Stevenson; her husband, James; daughter, Marion; son, Duane; and grandsons, Scott and Aaron Swallow.

Cremation has taken place and private memorial services will be held at a later date for both James and Irma in Hamilton, where they will be interred together.

This obituary and a guest book are available online at www.williamsdingmann.com.

Donald A. Swisher, 89

Donald A. Swisher of Whitefish passed away from natural causes Feb. 18, 2008, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.



Don was born June 30, 1918, in Columbia Falls to Hallie and Floral Swisher. He attended school in Whitefish, where he remained a lifetime resident.

He served in the U.S. Army from September 1942 to September 1945 as bombardier and nose gunner on a B-17 with the 748th Bombardment Squadron in England.

Don was a member of the Whitefish City Council, Volunteer Fire Department, Moose Lodge, Parkside Credit Union board of directors, and a long-time member of the VFW.

He was a locomotive engineer with the Great Northern and Burlington Northern railways. At one time, he owned and operated the Union 76 station on the corner of Spokane Avenue and Second Street.

On Oct. 2, 1960, Don married Opal Maddux.

He was a dearly loved stepfather, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Don was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Lester; and granddaughter, Tracy Maddux.

He is survived by his wife, Opal Swisher; a stepson, Harry Maddux, and his wife, Janet; a stepdaughter, Carole Harwood, and husband, Rollin; a stepdaughter, Barbara Willard, and husband, Bob; eight grandchildren, Terrie (Maddux) Benedict, Shelly (Maddux) Snipes, Craig, Bryan, Mark and Michael Harwood, Scott Willard and Taunya (Willard) Rivera; 17 great-grandchildren, Tanner Benedict, Cory, Tyler and Joel Snipes, Christopher, Paige, Emma and Bryan Harwood, Logan and Brady Harwood, Kayla Harwood, Alex and Cole Harwood, Tina and Faith Willard, and Joshua and Rylan Rivera.

Family services will be held at a later time.

Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish is in charge of arrangements.

Elizabeth 'Betty' Ann Symonds, 93

Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Symonds, 93, died at Billings Clinic on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, after a lengthy illness.

She was born Dec. 21, 1914, in Fort Morgan, Colo., to Herbert S. and Rebekah (Bird) Barringer. She was the third of six children. She was raised in Billings, where her father was superintendent of the Sugar Factory, and was a graduate of Montana State College in 1936 with a degree in business, where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi.

On Aug. 5, 1937, she married John "Jim" W. Symonds, and they moved often in their early-married years following his career in construction. They moved to Nebraska in 1946, living in Grand Island and Omaha.

In 1971, they retired to their cherry orchard on the east shore of Flathead Lake. In 1992, they sold their cherry orchards and moved to Buffalo Hill Terrace in Kalispell. Her husband died in 1996.

In 2004, Betty moved to Mission Ridge Retirement Community in Billings to be near her daughter Susan. In February of this year she moved to The Vista.

Betty was active in the Episcopal church, as well as raising her family. She was a 52-year member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. She

enjoyed playing bridge and traveling with her husband.

Her husband, her parents, and a son, John B. Symonds, preceded her in death. Four of her siblings also predeceased her, Daniel Bird Barringer, Sarah Jane Haerem, Rebekah Bodi and Peggy Jacobson.

Her children survive her, Anne Vette, and her husband, Verl, of Littleton, Colo., Susan Keene, and her husband, Robert, of Billings, and James "Jim" W. Symonds, and his wife, Sue, of O'Neill, Neb. She also is survived by her four granddaughters, Kelley Bachman and Amy Cordova, both of Colorado, Rebekah Mollo of Ohio, and Anne Marie Kloppel of Billings. Betty was proud of her eight great-grandchildren. Her youngest sister, Julia Brumbaugh, and numerous nieces and nephews also survive her.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, May 20, at Mission Ridge in the Lillis chapel in Billings.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Lung Association, Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, Cottey College Scholarship Fund, or the charity of donor's choice.

Cremation and arrangements are by Smith Funeral Chapels.

Eskil H. "Skull" Swanson, 98

Eskil H. "Skull" Swanson, 98, passed away Sunday, April 6, 2008, at Riverside Senior Living in Whitefish.



Skull was born in Chicago on March 19, 1910, to Eskil and Milda Swanson, but at age 3, his father died so he moved with his mother and sister to San Diego to live with his grandparents. His mother died the following year, so he was raised by his maternal grandparents.

As a young man, he learned the auto body repair business working in his uncle's shop. He later became a Chevrolet certified body mechanic and followed that career for most of his working life.

In 1931, he married Margaret "Peg" Smith in San Diego and they happily celebrated their 76th wedding anniversary this past June.

His love of fishing and hunt-

ing lured him to Montana. With their family, they moved to Whitefish in 1955, where they have made their home ever since. He owned and operated Skull's Independent Auto Body and Glass Shop until his retirement in 1975.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and one sister, Crystal Klein.

Skull is survived by four children, Bonnie and husband Joe Howerton of San Diego, Darlene and husband James Gauthier of Tendoy, Idaho, Lee and wife Karen Swanson of Roseville, Calif., and Judy and husband Lyle Phillips of Whitefish; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren. He is survived locally by grandchildren, Penny Simpson, Taunja Wagner and Ty Phillips; and great-grandchildren, Caleb and Chelsie Simpson, and Abby Wagner.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at Riverside Senior Living.

Marilyn Swinney, 62

Marilyn Swinney, 62, "found peace" on Monday, Oct. 27, 2008, after her three-year battle with multiple myeloma.

Memorial services were held Oct. 31 at Cloverdale Funeral Home in Boise, Idaho, with graveside services at the Idaho State Veteran's Cemetery.

Marilyn was born in Burwell, Neb., on Sept. 12, 1946. She was the second of four children born to Dale and Kathryn Fahey. The family moved to Boise in 1961 when Marilyn was 14. She graduated from Boise High School in 1965. Marilyn spent the majority of her life in Boise raising two beautiful daughters, Tammy and Lorayne — affectionately called Lori.

Marilyn met Oscar Swinney in 1985 and they married on Nov. 25, 1988. They were a wonderful complement to each other. Marilyn and Oscar shared the next 20 years doing all the things they love: square dancing, camping, tending their fish pond, cruising, and caring for each other, their kids, grandkids, nephews and niece.

Marilyn and Oscar were active in the Tangelfoot Square & Round Dance Club. Marilyn taught round dancing to young and old. She has an enviable collection of round dance records and had queued numerous dances.

Marilyn is survived by her loving and stalwart husband,



Oscar; her sisters, DeEtta Boyce and her partner, D.J. Lopez, of Kalispell, and Lorayne Carlson and her husband, Frank, of Upland, Calif.;

her brother, Dale Fahey and his wife, Val, of Melba, Idaho; her two daughters, Tammy Couch of Akron, Ohio, and Lori Spanton and her husband, Kris, of Spanaway, Wash. Marilyn also has five grandchildren, Emily and Isabel (Tammy's girls) and Kristin, Luke and Karissa (Lori's children).

She was a beloved aunt to four nephews and a niece, Jeff Fahey, Brad Fahey, Jim Boyce, Cameo Rhodes and Vince Boyce. Oscar's son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Annie, and their children, Austin and Hailey Swinney, accepted Marilyn as their grandmother.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents.

We will miss you but you always remain in our hearts.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Luke's MSTL, 100 E. Idaho St., Boise, ID 83712.

Condolences for the family may be submitted online at www.cloverdalefuneralhome.com.

Keith Wilson Syverson, 74

Keith Wilson Syverson, 74, of Bigfork, passed away from natural causes on Monday, July 28, 2008, at St. Joseph



Hospital. Keith was born in Valley City, N.D., to Paul A. and Bessie Syverson on June 27, 1934.

His grandparents homesteaded in Belmont, north of Billings. He attended schools in Hot Springs and Polson.

As a young man, Keith worked in logging camps on the North Fork of the Flathead River and in lookouts for the U.S. Forest Service.

He served in the U.S. Army in Germany where he met Kathe, his wife. After his honorable discharge in 1963, he returned to Montana and began a 29-year career with Pacific Power and Light as an operator dispatcher.

His father and mother preceded him in death.

His wife, Kathe; sons, Mike and Mark; daughter-in-law, Noorjahan; and his brother, Paul N. Syverson, survive Keith.

According to Keith's wishes, cremation will take place and no services are planned.

Cremation will be under the care of Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.groganfuneralhome.com.

Doreen Smith Szpak, 55

Doreen Smith-Szpak died of cancer at home Sunday, June 15, 2008, in Anchorage, Alaska, with her family by her side. She was 55 years old.



Doreen was born July 18, 1952, the daughter of Dlorah (Schreckendgust) Bishop and John Malatare. She grew up in Montana, graduating from Columbia Falls High School in 1970, and subsequently earned her beautician's license.

After marrying Howard Smith in March 1977 and having two children, Doreen became a domestic engineer and worked hard to take care of everyone who came through her door. Doreen was a wonderful mom, not only to daughter, Aimee, and son, Nathan, but to all of their friends as well.

After Doreen's marriage to Howard ended, she met Dwight Szpak, who became her husband in June 2004. They spent their honeymoon moving to Alaska, driving the Alcan Highway. Doreen loved to watch the moose and the Northern Lights, her two favorite things about Alaska.

Doreen enjoyed taking pictures of family get-togethers, crocheting afghans for friends, cooking big

holiday meals, beading earrings, writing letters, and spending time with the people she loved. She will be greatly missed.

Doreen was preceded in death by her brother, Dusty Mills; her mother, Dlorah Bishop; and her father, John Malatare.

She is survived by her husband, Dwight Szpak, daughter, Aimee Smith, and son, Nathan Smith, all of Anchorage; brother, Don Mills, of Columbia Falls; stepfather, Pat Bishop, of Florence; aunt, Jean Schreckendgust, of Whitefish; stepmother, Wyona Malatare, sister, June Malatare, and brothers, Shawn and Jody Malatare, all of Arlee; brother, Jack Malatare, of Newburg, Ore.; sister, Dian Jenkins, of Ronan; sister, Joann Pentland, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; sister, MaryAnn Hunter, of St. Ignatius; sister, Cheryl Malatare, of Wyoming; and sister, Dora Lynn Crane, of Hamilton.

Cremation has taken place, and Doreen's ashes will be buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls, near her brother Dusty at a later date. Cards may be sent to the family at 9456 Morningside Loop, Unit B, Anchorage, AK 99515.

They ask that memorial contributions be given to the American Cancer Society or your local hospice organization in Doreen's honor.