

## Daniel W. VanBemmel, 57

Daniel W. VanBemmel, 57, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, formerly of Kalispell, passed away March 26, 2008, at his home. Dan was born March 14, 1951, in Whitefish, to Joe and Mary (Reynolds) VanBemmel. He graduated from high school and served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Dan worked in sawmills in Montana and drove a truck for Ray's Transfer in Council Bluffs, where he lived for the past 16 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Chuckie, at birth, and David.

Dan is survived by his significant other, wife, Claudette Moriarty, of Council Bluffs; sons, Derek VanBemmel of Billings,

and Dan Kearney of Kalispell; numerous grandchildren; sisters, Marie Heide and husband, Eldon, of Hillsboro, Wis., Sherry Sterner of Kalispell, and Hope Ivers and husband, Bob, of Great Falls; brothers, Joe VanBemmel and wife, Sue, of Kalispell, Albert VanBemmel and wife, Geraldine, of Eureka, and Bob VanBemmel and wife, Jenny, of Exira, Iowa; stepson, Tim Kelly, of Omaha, Neb.; and many loving nieces and nephews.

It was Dan's wish to be cremated; no services will be held.

Cutler-O'Neill-Meyer-Woodring Funeral Home in Council Bluffs is caring for the family.

## Jacob 'Jake' Michael VanLeuven, 18

Jacob "Jake" Michael VanLeuven, 18, "left this world far too soon" on July 31, 2008.

He was born Nov. 8, 1989, in Webster City, Iowa, to

Mike and Robin VanLeuven. As a young boy, he lived in Iowa with his family, and they moved to Columbia Falls in 1996. While in grade school and junior high he was a star wrestler.

Jake was a dreamer, with an easygoing, carefree attitude. He loved to take things apart just to see how they worked! Jake loved music and he loved to read. He had a heart for animals and kids. He could always bring smiles and laughter to his family and friends. Even though his family teased Jake for being "accident prone" and a tad clumsy, they all loved him deeply.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Robin VanLeuven;



his maternal grandparents, Melvin and Doris Mosher; and paternal grandparents, Jeddie and Margaret VanLeuven.

He has sadly left behind his father, Mike VanLeuven; and sister, Kalena VanLeuven, and her fiance, Cody Sterna. Jake also leaves behind his aunts and uncles, Jody and John Herbold, Lee Meyers and Judy VanLeuven, Karen VanLeuven, and Dave and Laura Seelye; his cousins, Jed Laroque, Sierra and Madison Herbold, Ashley Seelye, and Alison Becke; and numerous great-aunts and uncles, and more friends than you can name.

Jake will be missed greatly by all who loved and knew him. "God bless you Jake, run with the angels!"

Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Fellowship Alliance Church in Columbia Falls.

The family suggests memorials go to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled and Burned Children, N. 820 Summit Blvd., Spokane, WA 99201.

## Larry Lockhard Vaughn, 56

Larry Lockhard Vaughn, 56, passed away Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008, at his home in Kila, due to a heart attack.



Larry was born July 23, 1951, in Aimes, Iowa, to Robert Lockhard Vaughn I and Virginia Ethel Vaughn. He was raised in California.

He attended Moorpark College in California, where he received his associate's degree and became an accredited logging professional through the Montana Logging Association.

Larry began his family in Simi Valley, Calif., with his first wife Connie. Together they raised two sons, Robert and Jesse. He also began his career as a concrete contractor.

Larry later moved on to become a cowboy on a working cattle ranch in Jamestown, Calif., where he met and married his second wife, Susan. In the 1980s, after a visit to Larry's sister Gail's home in Woods Bay, the couple moved to Whitefish. Together they raised three daughters, Cody, Vanessa and Bailey. They built and ran the Whitetail Ranch in Whitefish, and the Whitetail Land and Cattle Company.

Shortly after, Larry and his brother-in-law, Scott, started a new concrete company in Kalispell. Larry later went on to develop the Ashley Lake Estates. He became an avid logger for Plum Creek and other private parties.

He loved to socialize with all of his friends throughout the

Flathead Valley. Larry enjoyed camping and hunting in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. His other hobbies included roping, horseback riding, helping his children with their 4-H projects, and completing projects around his home.

With his third wife, Michele, whom he married in 1996 in Montana, he built a beautiful ranch in Kila. Together they had three sons, C.J., Logan and Westly.

He loved his family and was the happiest when he was spending time with them. He was very loved by his family and will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his loving mother, Virginia Ethel Vaughn; aunt and uncle, Betty and Doyle Stagers; grandparents, Elza and Gertrude Harness, and Blanche and Henry Vaughn.

Larry is survived by his wife of 12 years, Michele (Dupre) Vaughn; his father, Robert Lockhard Vaughn I; children, Robert L. Vaughn II, Jesse Vaughn, Cody Bartholomew, Vanessa Vaughn, Bailey Vaughn, C.J. Vaughn, Logan Vaughn and Wesly Vaughn; sisters, Sandy Ayers, Roberta Gambelin and Gail Burghardt; and grandchildren, Robert Vaughn, Trent Vaughn, Austin Vaughn and Justin Gronley.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Memorials may be sent to Michele Vaughn in care of Buffalo Hills Funeral Home, or to the family home at 975 Truman Creek Road, Kila, MT 59920.

## Willis B. Vance 87

Willis Vance, 87, passed away Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell, with his family at his side. He was born March 15, 1920, in Dagmar, to Julius "Jack" and Tillie (Henke) Vance.

In 1936, when Willis was 16, he moved with his family to Bigfork where he lived until he went into the service. He proudly served in the Army during World War II, from 1942 to 1945. He held the rank of sergeant. He served in the European-African-Middle-Eastern Theaters in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany.

He married Louise Hopkins of Bigfork in 1947. They settled in Kalispell where they built their home and began their family.

He retired in 1982 after 33 years with the County Road Department where he worked as a heavy-equipment operator.

Willis was preceded in death by his wife, Louise; parents, Jack and Tillie Vance; sisters, Grace Vance and Vera Vanderveer; and brothers, Allen Vance and Delbert Vance.



He is survived by his sons, Darrell and wife Christine of Kalispell, and Dennis and wife Olivia of Pearland, Texas; grandson, James and wife

Holly Vance; two great-grandsons, Kerry and Cameron, of Oregon; brother, Kenny Vance of Condon; sisters, Lois Nyby of Illinois, and Mae Christian of Somers; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family. Visitation will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 27, and from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Feb. 28. Ron Pearce will officiate the graveside service at 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

We welcome family and friends to join us for a potluck celebration of Willis' life at the Birch Grove Community Center at 594 Birch Grove Dr., immediately following the memorial service.

## Joseph F. Ventrella, 80

Joseph F. Ventrella, 80, passed away Thursday, July 3, 2008, at Immanuel Lutheran Nursing Home in Kalispell. He was born June 2, 1928, in Paterson, N.J., to Angelo and Julia (Webber) Ventrella.

He was married to Renee (Dhimitri) on Sept. 7, 1945, in Paterson. He worked as a construction worker with his brother, Martin, in their own construction company, Ventrella Brothers, for 50 years.

Joseph was a special husband, father and grandfather to his family, both in Montana and New Jersey



Joseph was preceded in death by his wife, Renee; his parents; three of his brothers, Frank, Peter and Martin; and his sister, Elizabeth.

Joseph is survived by his two daughters, Alexis Black of Trego, and Monica Sivulich of Tom's River, N.J. 11 grandchildren, Dawn Black, Jodi Fucci, Jaime Agnes, Joseph Agnes, Jenna Agnes, Nick Agnes, Allie Sivulich, Gabby Sivulich, Danielle Sivulich, Andrew Sivulich and Shawn Sivulich; three great-grandchildren, Maddox Fucci, Christina Fucci and Sheridan Black; and his cousins, Eleanor and Judy.

Joseph was cremated at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory in Kalispell. Burial was in New Jersey at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Totowa, N.J.

## Andrew Veseth, 81

Andrew Veseth, 81, of Bigfork, passed away Aug. 1, 2008, at the Brendan House in Kalispell. Andrew was born Oct. 26, 1926, to Einar and Alida (Njastad) Veseth, in Malta.

Andy enlisted in the U.S. Army the day after graduation from Malta High School in 1946 and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne as a paratrooper.

He attended Concordia College and the University of Montana.

In 1962, he married Aase B. Ophus Olson in Great Falls, and together they raised four children, Jacqueline, Andrea, RaNae and Arthur.

Andy started his career at Buttrey Foods as a box-boy and finished as a vice president. He retired in 1986 after 35 years of service.

Andy and Aase moved to Bigfork in 1987 to enjoy retirement. They joined and became active in Bethany Lutheran Church in Bigfork. Andy enjoyed volunteering at Immanuel Lutheran Home for many years, and in 1999 he received the Senior Citizen Volunteer of the Year award.

Andy loved to work with wood. He built beautiful cabinetry for the home and went on



to learn how to turn wood on a lathe. He made fabulous candle holders and bowls out of rare pieces of wood.

He had a remarkable sense of humor and remembered most all of the jokes he ever heard.

Andy was a wonderful husband of 46 years to Aase, a loving father and a kind, caring man. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Survivors include his wife, Aase; four children, Jacqueline Whitehorn of Bigfork, Andrea and Jim Burke of West Virginia, RaNae and Eric Mitchell of Oregon, and Arthur and Lori Veseth of Germany; brother, Ole Veseth, of Arizona; sister, Edda Meyer, of Missoula; four grandchildren, Justin and Amy McKerrow, Heather and Rob Mackenstadt, Andrew and Jasna Veseth, and Kristopher Veseth; five great-grandchildren, Darby Mackenstadt, Keegan Mackenstadt, Lucas McKerrow, Sydney McKerrow and Cameron Veseth, who will be born later this month.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, Aug. 5, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Bigfork.

Donations may be made to Bethany Lutheran Church; Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease research; or the charity of your choice.

Friends may post condolences to the family at [www.buffalo-hillfh.com](http://www.buffalo-hillfh.com). Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family

## Karah Leah Vial, 25

Karah Leah Vial, 25, passed away at her Kalispell residence on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2008. Karah was born Feb. 7, 1983, in Polson, to Randy and Fanny (Aposik) Vial.



Karah attended elementary school in Polson and graduated from Polson High School. She lived in Alaska and Montana growing up.

Karah worked at various jobs: 15 years in day care, five years as a waitress, one year as a bilingual helper, three years as a commercial salmon fisher in Alaska, and most recently, as a receptionist at TeleTech in Kalispell.

Karah was involved in Polson theatrical endeavors, baseball, track and work as a school aide.

She loved to shop, dance, cook, bake, sew, camp and go boating. She also enjoyed beading, music and computers.

Karah was preceded in death by her grandparents, Mary and Adam Aposik, and Don Vial; and an uncle, Scott Vial.

Karah is survived by her father and stepmother, Randy and Raeann Vial; mother and stepfather, Fanny and John Parker; brothers, Tim Alan Vial and Chance Vial; sisters, Kinca, Holly and Laraine Parker, and Alicia Thompson; beloved friends, May Becker and Lindsay Kane; grandparents, Bernie and Tom Tingle, and Dot Vial; aunts, Esther Thompson and Cori Donovan; and uncle, Adam Aposik.

Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family. Friends are encouraged to go to [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave condolences.

## Kenneth W. Vincent, 97

Kenneth W. Vincent, 97, a longtime Eureka resident, died Thursday, Jan. 30, 2008, at Mountain View Manor in Eureka from natural causes.

He had operated Hot Springs Drug and Eureka Drug until his retirement in 1974, and later was resident pharmacist for Mountain View Manor.

Survivors include daughters, Carol Carel of Eureka, and Mary Vincent White of Spokane.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, at the First Baptist Church in Eureka. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday.

Arrangements are by Nelson & Vial Funeral Home of Eureka.

## Therese Ann (Ferkovich) Vivian, 50

Therese Ann (Ferkovich) Vivian, 50, of Howell, N.J., and a former Kalispell resident, died Feb. 10, 2008, at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, N.J.

Therese was a property consultant with Harleysville Insurance Company in Harleysville, Pa., for 12 years. She also worked for Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, Chubb Insurance Company and E & F Adjusting Company in Oceanside, Calif.

Therese is survived by her husband, William N. Vivian; her daughter, Shannon Mrazik; her son, Ryan W. Vivian; and her parents, Emil J. and Sharon Ferkovich, of Oceanside, Calif.

A Mass will be held at 9:30 a.m. Aug. 20 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Forsyth. Graveside services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 20 at the Forsyth Catholic Cemetery.

Arrangements are with Stevenson and Sons Funeral Homes in Forsyth.

## Rosie Hruby Voermans, 90

Rosie (Hruby) Voermans, 90, passed away on Sept. 15, 2008, in Payette, Idaho. She was born on Aug. 30, 1918, in Eureka to John and Agnes Hruby. Rosie was raised in a hard-working homestead family of five children and parents who immigrated from Czechoslovakia.

Rosie graduated from high school in Eureka and married John Himmesoete. They had one child, Elizabeth. Rosie later married Adrian Voermans and they had two children, Robert and Dennis. Dennis passed away in infancy. Rosie and Adrian were longtime farmers in Whitefish and Rosie worked at the Whitefish Hospital.

After Adrian's death, Rosie moved to Indian Valley, Idaho, to be near her son Robert and his wife, Whitney, and their family, where she lived a number of enjoyable years until near her death. Rosie was an accomplished seamstress and loved to knit, crochet, garden and fish.

Rosie was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Louis and John, sisters Agnes and Bessie, son Dennis, husbands John and Adrian, and companion Frances Petty of Indian Valley. She is survived by son Robert Voermans and Whitney; daughter Elizabeth (Himmesoete) Stevens and William of Polson; and five grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held Monday, Oct. 13, at 10 a.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens, U.S. 93, Kalispell.

## Peter Barrett Volkmann, 25

Peter Barrett Volkmann, 25, a former Troy resident, died Monday, Dec. 1, 2008, at his home in Denver.

He had worked for the Forest Service during the summers as a recreation specialist and as a firefighter.

Survivors include his parents, Peter and Bette Volkmann, of Troy.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Troy Community Baptist Church.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

## Rena Mary Faltrino Voss, 84

Rena Mary (Faltrino) Voss, 84, passed away Monday, Jan. 29, 2008, peacefully at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell, with family members at her side.



She was born Nov. 11, 1923, in Havre, the daughter of Joseph and Ida Pauline (Mariani) Faltrino. Rena graduated from Havre High School in 1942.

She married Louis Voss on Dec. 30, 1943, in Havre. Louis was a hunter and fisherman, and Rena took naturally to those sports, accompanying him on many excursions. She was an excellent shot and harvested deer, antelope, pheasant and a bull elk during her hunting years. She was an avid fisherman but "catch and release" was not in her vocabulary. Her

children recall coming home from school to find the kitchen full of tubs of salmon in brine, waiting to be smoked, or boxes of fruit to be canned. Rena also loved to pick huckleberries and hunt for mushrooms.

She loved all animals, especially her little dog Sassy. Rena thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors and gladly would leave the housework for later if there were an opportunity for adventure.

Over the years, Rena clerked for Davall Mercantile and the B & B in Columbia Falls. As time went on, she concentrated more of her boundless energy on knitting and crocheting, and acquired a large collection of yarn and crochet thread. Louis liked to remark that if the yarn shop ever ran out of a color, they could always call Rena to see whether she had a skein or two on hand for a customer. If someone called and asked for Rena, he would report that

he thought she was at home because he could see a cloud of crochet dust surrounding her favorite chair. Rena's family and friends can look around their homes and see doilies, afghans, pot holders, slippers, hats and mittens lovingly made just for them.

She liked to keep with the times, so in her 70s she bought her first computer and learned to use e-mail and surf the 'Net for quilt and crochet patterns.

Rena will be remembered for her independent attitude and wonderful sense of humor, her love for her life partner, Louis, and her family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

Rena was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Ida Faltrino; and her only brother, Louis Faltrino.

She is survived by Louis, her husband of 64 years; two sons, Joe Voss and wife, Shirley, of Columbia Falls, and

Larry Voss and wife, Marj, of Whitefish; two daughters, Lindalee Mummey of Kalispell, and Arlene Fish and husband, Ron, of Glenrock, Wyo. Rena was a grandmother to seven; great-grandmother to 10; and had many nieces and nephews. Three sisters; MaryLou Haugen and husband, Dale, and Josephine DonTigney and husband, Dick, reside in Havre, and Rita Taylor resides in Vancouver, Wash.

A memorial service for Rena will be held 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5, in the Johnson Mortuary chapel, with the Rev. Jeryl Hollinger officiating.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to Three Rivers EMS, P.O. Box 1411, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Johnson Mortuary and Crematory is caring for Rena's family. You are invited to go to [www.johnsonmortuary.com](http://www.johnsonmortuary.com) to offer condolences and sign Rena's guest book.

## Stella Mae Vranish, 86

Stella Vranish died Friday, Jan. 25, 2008, in Kalispell. She was born on Dec. 4, 1921, at Grass Range. She and her younger sister had many



adventures riding their horses, including going up a mountain trail blazed by a local trapper for them to attend early grade school. Her family then moved to Musselshell and finally Roundup where she completed her secondary education. She was awarded a scholarship in mathematics and nursing but due to economic restraints was unable to attend.

Her family had a rich historical background. On her maternal side, her great-grandfather was a French-Canadian buffalo hunter, guide, and interpreter at Fort Maginnis for the Gros Ventre Indians and white settlers. While gone cutting firewood for the steamboats on the Missouri River their oldest son died. His wife along with their other child took their son on a travois and walked 160 miles, taking a week to get to Fort Benton for a Christian burial. He also built the first log post office in Lewistown.

Her other grandfather stowed away on a ship at 9 years of age to come to America, and later joined the Cavalry to come out West, arriving at Fort Maginnis.

On her paternal side, the family came up from Texas and had a ranch next to the fort. Her father worked as a cowboy, ranch hand, judged rodeos, and worked in the Roundup coal mines.

She married Steve Vranish on

May 14, 1941, in Roundup. They had one son, Loren. They lived most of their enjoyable life in Roundup where she was active in the Senior Citizens, Methodist Church, hospital auxiliary, running card games and Meals on Wheels. She was honored for her 4,000 hours of volunteer service. She never refused a request for help, or someone in need.

She was secretary of the Roundup bowling league for 22 years. She enjoyed spending time at their cabin at Checkerboard, Mont.

She leaves behind her husband, Steve, of 66 years, at Buffalo Hills Terrace; her son, Dr. Loren Vranish, and wife, Sherry; and four grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren: Scott Sander and wife Peg, and three children in Bainbridge, Wash.; Rhett Vranish and wife Kellie, and two children who reside in San Diego; Dave Vranish and wife Jennifer, and two children in Bozeman; Adria Livensparger and husband Justin, and two children in Littleton, Colo. She also leaves behind her sister, Eva Satre, of Billings; and nephew, Mark, of Phoenix.

Stella's family wishes to thank the "angel care givers" of Immanuel Lutheran Home and Buffalo Hill Terrace for the loving care given her these past years.

All family and friends are welcome to help us celebrate Stella's life at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, at the dining room of Buffalo Hills Terrace where a brunch will be served.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a charity of your choice or Evergreen or Flathead Food Bank.

## Helen G. Vukonich, 95

Helen G. Vukonich of Eureka passed away peacefully at her daughter's home on Lost Creek on May 27, 2008, "after waiting two years for the Lord to come." She was born March 28, 1913, to Leland E. Tripp and Gertrude Stansell Tripp in Warland. She had an older sister, Rolene (Tripp) Haboush, and an older brother, Julian Tripp. Younger brother Merrill (Nellie Mae) Tripp joined the trio later.

When Helen was 6 years old, her mother died at childbirth, leaving four children motherless. Leland E. Tripp never remarried, keeping the family tightly knitted together.

Helen was independent and strong, being a housekeeper, organizer and boss. She could write poetry and plays, make something out of nothing, and never throw a thing away. Being from the Depression era, she never let us forget she traded her class ring for a sack of flour.

In 1941, she married John W. Vukonich, and they lived hap-

pily on Grave Creek until the draft called him away during World War II. He preceded her in death in 1994.

She was an active member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Eureka.

Helen is survived by her daughter, Judy, and Bob Gallagher, of Lost Creek; her nine grandchildren, Robert and Elizabeth Gallagher of East Helena, Daniel and Rebecca Gallagher of Palmer, Alaska, Theresa and Owen Vyner of Denver, Kathy and Kevin McDonough of Chicago, John and Kristen Gallagher of Fallon, Nev., Lisa and TJ Gerhard of Mansfield, Texas, Jim Gallagher of Butte, Tricia Gallagher of Butte, and Christy Gallagher of Butte; and 11 great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 31, at Saint Peter's Catholic Church in Anaconda.

Longfellow Finnegan Funeral Home in Anaconda is entrusted with the funeral arrangements.