

Hatsu Taira, 76

Hatsu Taira, 76, died Monday, June 20, 2011, in Kalispell. Private family services

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

Patricia Tanner

Patricia Tanner died Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011, at Expressions in Columbia

Falls. Arrangements are pending with Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Thomas James 'Jim' Tannehill, 86

Thomas James "Jim" Tannehill, 86, passed away on Friday, Jan. 21, 2011, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.



He was born on Oct. 18, 1924, in Helena. At the age of 18 months he was adopted by Myrtle and Thomas P Tannehill.

He lived on a ranch east of Roundup and attended area schools, graduating from Roundup High School in 1942. After graduation, Jim went to work hauling grain from Kansas to the Canadian border.

In 1946 he served in the Army of Occupation in Japan.

Jim married Ruby Anderson in Seattle on Dec. 27, 1953.

Jim went to work for Urbanec Motors in Glendive, in January of 1950. He was in the car business until retirement in 1999. He and his family moved to Kalispell in 1970 where he worked as a sales manager for Rygg Ford. He and Sterling Rygg were partners in G & R Volkswagen and later Tannehill Auto Center. Jim later worked for DePratu Ford, Volkswagen & Audi in Whitefish.

Jim was active in various service organizations, including Jaycees, Kiwanis, and as a board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

He was an active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell. Jim was an accomplished auctioneer. He enjoyed sharing his talent at church auctions and other charity functions.

He enjoyed playing golf and spending time at the cabin on Ashley Lake. He was

proud of getting a hole-in-one in 2003.

Jim is survived by one daughter and son-in-law, Laurie and Gary Morrison; two sons and their wives, Scott and Martha Tannehill, and Tom and Lisa Tannehill; seven grandchildren, A.J. and Jon Peters, Greg Morrison and his wife Jenny, Holly and Megha Tannehill, and Kelsey and Kyle Tannehill; one sister, Myrtle, and husband, Don Leuschen; one sister-in-law, Marie Anderson; and one brother-in-law, Floyd, and wife, Judy, Anderson; and several nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his special friend, Marion Dickman, of Columbia Falls.

A special thanks to the staff at Bojangle's where Jim enjoyed eating breakfast for many years and his friends at Spencer's, his favorite dinner place.

Jim's family wishes to thank the staff at Immanuel Lutheran Home for their caring support and help in the last year.

The family suggests that memorials be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 603 S. Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901; or Immanuel Lutheran Home, 185 Crestline Avenue, Kalispell, MT 59901; or the charity of the donor's choice.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church with Pastor Mark Gravrock presiding. Burial will follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. There will be a visitation from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Jim's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to view Jim's guest book, offer condolences and share memories.

Bernardo Taormina, 87

Bernardo Taormina, 87, a United States Navy and World War II veteran, died of natural causes on May 28, 2011, in Kalispell.

He was born May 26, 1924, at St. Louis, Mo., and was educated there at Hadley Tech. He served as a naval aviator from 1941 to 1947 in the South and Western Pacific; in the Guadalcanal, Saipan, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and Japan campaigns. He was wounded in battle and highly decorated with many medals for his heroism and actions against enemy forces.

He married June Smith of Clearlake Highlands, Calif., in St. Louis on April 28, 1946, at Mass in Lourdes Catholic Church. He completed his enlistment in California after the war. He finished his education after discharge from the Navy and settled there. He worked for the United States Civil Service in the Aircraft, Ballistic Missile and Space system design and development programs, participating in the Atlas Mercury and Centaur Space programs and the Ballistic Atlas and Minuteman Development and Deployment, during which he was on the site selection team which selected Vandenberg Air Force Base as the Western Missile test, launch and training facility. He was involved in the flight testing there and at Cape Canaveral and Edwards Air Force Base.

He moved his family to Great Falls in 1964, and was the Site Activation Task Force Program Manager for the construction and placement of the last Minuteman ICBM Squadron assigned to Malmstrom Air Force Base. After modernization of the other in-place missiles, he retired in March 1967, and started his second career in the construction field with United Industries,

Northern Materials Division in Great Falls, in a management capacity. He retired in March 1983, moving to the Somers-Lakeside area at Flathead Lake. He purchased and remodeled a then 96-year-old handhewn log home and lived there until his death.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and backpacking with his family. His hobbies were gardening, woodworking and the outdoors. Besides his wife and children, his love was the lay ministry for St. Ann's Catholic Church in Somers. Ben left his mark by his service to his country and everything he accomplished in life. His great smile was infectious to everyone. In Ben's own words, "Que Sera, Sera."

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, June, children Margaret Taormina Sutherland (Will), of Aloha, Ore.; Theresa Taormina Rupnow, (Bill) of Great Falls; and Steven Taormina (Karen), of Ontario, Ore.; a sister, Pearl Oliver, of Normandy, Mo; eight grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Giuseppe and Giuseppa Taormina; two brothers, Sam and Angelo Taormina; and two sisters, Nellie Tosto and Josie Epifonio.

Mass of Christian Burial for Ben will be held on Saturday, June 4, at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew's Catholic Church. There will be a visitation for Ben at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home on Friday, June 3, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and a Rosary service will follow at 7 p.m. Burial will be in Great Falls. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Ben's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and view Ben's tribute wall.

Arva Dorothy Taylor, 93

Arva Dorothy Taylor, 93, of Columbia Falls died Sunday, May 29, 2011, at Whitefish Care and Rehabilitation.

She is survived by her children, Charles Taylor

of North Dakota, and Diane Taylor of Washington.

Services to be held at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to Columbia Mortuary.

Irene Elizabeth Taylor, 81

Irene Elizabeth Taylor, 81, passed away in the early morning of Aug. 30, 2011, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.



Irene was born in Galahhead, Alberta, on Jan. 20, 1930, to Jacob "Elmer" and Annie Rayburn Ehlers. She grew up in Edmonton, Alberta, and spent her childhood speed skating and playing with her cousins.

On Nov. 23, 1948, in Wallace, Idaho, she married Jesse R. Taylor. They later moved to Whitefish in 1955, and have lived there ever since.

Irene and Jesse enjoyed camping and fishing and were members of the Flathead Pioneer Auto Club. She also enjoyed sewing and quilting. For a time she worked as a waitress at

Sally's Cafe. For the last six years she had a little dog named Zoie who brought much joy to her and the other residents at Heritage Place.

Irene was preceded in death by her husband Jesse, in 1986.

She is survived by her two daughters, Diana Ginther of Gering, Neb., and Tracie Keister and her husband Howard Keister of Whitefish; four grandchildren, Jay Weitzel, Corey Weitzel, Brendan Keister and Taylor Keister; and three great-grandchildren.

Irene will be greatly missed by her family.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 3, at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements are entrusted to Austin Funeral Home. You are invited to go to www.austinfh.com to offer condolences and view Irene's tribute wall.

Donna Theissen, 85

Donna Theissen, 85, passed away peacefully at her home on March 2, 2011.

Donna was born in 1925 to Lester and Lilly Wallace in Pilot Rock, Ore., and was the youngest of four children. Donna graduated from Kendrick High School and attended Kinman Business College. Throughout her life, Donna worked as a bookkeeper in several businesses.

Donna was married to John Theissen in Geneese, Idaho, and the couple had two sons, Dennis and Nicholas. After her husband died in 1963, she finished raising her boys in Clarkston, Wash.

Donna was involved in her children's school and extra-curricular sporting activities, and was very proud of their athletic accomplishments.

After Donna retired, she relocated to Whitefish in 1993 to be near her eldest son, Dennis, and her brother, John Wallace. Donna was active in the Whitefish community during the 15 years she resided in Whitefish and Columbia Falls. Donna volunteered at the North Valley Food Bank, the Soroptomists, the Whitefish Historical Society, the CCW and the Veteran Women's Association.

In addition to the satisfaction she found in volunteering, Donna also enjoyed

gardening, sewing, crocheting and visiting with family. Most recently, Donna worked part time in the office of her retirement community.

Donna was always willing to share her expertise and skills with others; she remained vital and independent through her last days.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, Lester and Lilly Wallace; her husband, John Theissen; and her youngest son, Nicholas Theissen.

Donna is survived by her three siblings, John Wallace, Glenn Wallace and Ervalyn Hill; her eldest son, Dennis Theissen, and his wife, Ginger; her daughter-in-law, Jeannie Theissen; her four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; as well as many nieces and nephews. Donna will be dearly missed by her family.

A Mass will be held in Donna's remembrance at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 8, at St. Charles Catholic Church in Whitefish, and services will be held at a later date in Clarkston, Wash.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the North Valley Food Bank, 311 E. First St., Whitefish, MT 59937.

Arrangements are entrusted to Austin Funeral Home.

James K. Taylor III, 89

James K. Taylor III was born in San Diego, on April 17, 1922. He laid down his rod and creel and turned in his hammer and saw when he passed on June 27, 2011, in Kalispell, after suffering a stroke.

Jim and Roberta spent many happy years together from the time they were introduced in 1982. Roberta and Jim hit it off from the beginning and the widow and the widower were soon partners. Roberta had lost her husband Del and Jim had lost his wife Marion, so both their losses were softened by their partnership.

An avid hunter and fisherman, Jim loved the outdoors. His passions in life included the many annual trips he and Roberta made to his favorite fishing spots in Wyoming. He fondly recollected many of the hunting trips he made with his bird dogs. In his later years, Jim, Roberta and her brother Will made a trip to fish in Alaska waters. His daughter Wanda enjoyed their last fishing trip together near her home in California; she was able to rib Jim with the knowledge that while he caught the most fish, she caught the biggest.

Jim may have been a short fellow in stature but he was the tallest man in the crowd. Jim was a kind person that was a friend to everyone he met; his heart as big as Montana itself. He was quick with a helping hand or a bit of input on how to improve the project at hand. Jim was one of those rare people that needed almost no help when he was building a project; he could do almost anything with nothing. He could talk a warped board straight. If it came to fixing things either metal or wood he would often times build a part because it wasn't available.

While Jim was a welder by trade, he never ceased to amaze everyone with the beautiful works of art he produced as a woodworker during his later retirement years. He was rightly proud of the fruits of his many hours spent working away at the remodel of the house on Spencer Road and of his pride and joy was the ability to complete his "den."

His life was full of adventure; he would tell stories about his four years of overseas service in the Navy serving in Japan, Austra-

lia, New Zealand and other South Pacific islands during World War II.

He joined Pacific Gas & Electric Utility of California when he was discharged from the Navy and he loved recollecting the many construction and pipeline projects he worked on in his 32 years of service with them.

He fondly recalled his travels, hunts and fishing trips, from California to his beloved Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho and Montana. He had a passion for football and baseball and could talk away the night fixing America's political problems.

Jim's quirky little grin and his laughter will be missed, as will his love of homemade cookies. Jim wasn't a social butterfly but loved company that would gab with him. He loved his family very much.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Marion McNew; sisters, Loraine Ferguson and Annette Collins; and granddaughters Kimberly Hillquist and Sheila Downs.

Jim is survived by a son, Jerry, and Donna McNew, and granddaughter, Susie Clabby, of Pinole, Calif.; granddaughter, Sharon Johnson, of Pinole; grandson, James McNew, of Prescott, Ariz.; and seven great-grandchildren; daughter, Wanda Hillquist, of Sacramento, Calif.; granddaughters, Lisa Hillquist of San Jose, Calif., and Kristy Hillquist of San Diego; and two great-grandchildren. He has many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his extended family — wife, Roberta, of Libby; stepsons, Steve and Cherie Gunderson of Libby, and Scott and Linda Gunderson of Kalispell; and stepgrandsons, Dustin and Janel Gunderson of Kalispell, Jason Gunderson of Kalispell, and Ryan Gunderson of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 5, at Christ Lutheran Church in Libby. Burial will be at Pine Crest Cemetery in Sandpoint, Idaho.

Memorials in lieu of flowers may be made in Jim's name to Christ Lutheran Church, the VFW, or Kootenai Pets for Life.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Faye Agnes Thigpen, 92

Faye Agnes Thigpen, 92, passed away peacefully with family at her side on Sept. 21, 2011, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.



Her funeral was held at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Los Angeles on Sept., 29.

Faye was born of a young Italian immigrant family in Los Angeles in March of 1919. By the age of 3 she had lost her mother to tuberculosis. Her grandmother and aunt continued her childhood upbringing. Faye graduated from Franklin High School in Los Angeles in 1936.

She attended Chouinard Art Institute to study fashion design. During her 18th year her father passed away. Faye left Chouinard for a sales position at Bullock's Wilshire in Beverly Hills to help support the family.

With the advent of World War II, Faye found employment assembling torpedoes for the war effort. During this time she met a young Marine corporal and veteran of the Guadalcanal and Tarawa South Pacific Campaigns. Near the end of the war she followed him to his last active duty post in Klamath Falls, Ore., where they

were married. Faye managed a women's clothing store in Klamath Falls.

By 1946 the family had returned to Southern California. By 1949 Faye had two sons. The family built a home in the foothill community of Linda Vista near the Rose Bowl. Faye occupied her time as a mother and homemaker until losing her husband in 1966.

Faye returned to work as a collections specialist for Bank of America. After 20 years of service, Faye retired from the bank. By this time both of her sons had married and given her two grandchildren. During the 15 years after her retirement, Faye left few parts of the world untraveled. In the fall of 2008 she moved to Bigfork to live with family.

She lived her life with humility, grace, generosity and a simple elegance. Her ready smile ingratiated all she met. Faye loved her family, blessed John Paul Catholic Church, entertaining, sewing, a good steak and the occasional martini. She could do without chicken and teaching boys to drive.

Faye is survived by her son, Greg Thigpen, and his wife, Doreen Thigpen, of Bigfork; son, Richard Thigpen, and his wife, Sara Thigpen, of Livermore, Calif.; grandchildren, Thomas Thigpen of Valdez, Alaska, and Heather

Schidler; and great-grandchildren, Ben Schidler and Abigail Schidler of Bothell, Wash. She will be a long-remembered inspiration to those who loved her.

Our thanks go to Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell for the wonderful care she received and to

blessed John Paul Catholic Church for supporting her faith.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Faye's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to view Faye's guest book, offer condolences and share memories.

Betty Jean Sievert Thoma, 84

Betty Jean Sievert Thoma, 84, passed away on Feb. 28, 2011, in Bigfork. She died at Lake View Care Center with her daughter and son-in-law by her side.



Betty was born April 7, 1926, "up" the Old San Jose Road out of Soquel, Calif. She weighed 2 pounds at birth and was kept warm in a box by the wood stove. She lived on the family ranch and attended Mountain School until the age of 10. Betty and her parents, Leo and Gertrude (Pingrey) Sievert, then moved to Santa Cruz and lived in the house behind her father's sign shop (now Mackenzie's Chocolates).

Betty attended Branciforte schools and graduated from Santa Cruz High School in 1944. During World War II she was a telephone operator at Camp Roberts.

Betty married Leland Richard "Dick" Thoma in 1948. They were married four short years before Dick's passing in 1952.

While living in Santa Cruz, Betty worked for the telephone company, medical offices and the library at Cabrillo College. Betty was an excellent seamstress

and in 1968 purchased a knit fabric shop. She successfully ran the Spinning Wheel for 12 years.

In 1981, Betty moved to Bigfork to be closer to her daughter and her family. She continued to sew and do alterations. She learned stained glass and sold her wares at the Bigfork Festival of the Arts. Betty enjoyed quilting and had a terrific eye for color.

Betty is survived by her daughter, Kathy and husband, Jim Greytak of Bigfork; granddaughter, Erin and husband, Ed Bauer, and great-grandson Flint of Spokane; grandson, Michael Greytak of Missoula; sister, Leah and husband, Ed Gerkey of Surprise, Ariz.; and brother, Ken Sievert of Council, Idaho.

The mention of Santa Cruz and the beach always made Betty smile. She will be buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, next to her husband, in her beloved hometown. "All Aboard!"

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, with Pastor Ron Pierce officiating.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Betty's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and view Betty's tribute w^h

Richard H. Thom, 69

Richard H. Thom, 69, of Libby, died Thursday, April 7, 2011, at St. John's Lutheran Hospital from natural causes.

Survivors include his children, Rick Thom of Kalispell, Chris Thom, Chuck Thom, Leandra Huntsman and Jessica

Smith, all of Libby, and Teresa McLeod of Troy.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at Christ Lutheran Church in Libby.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Kyle M. Thomas, 47

Kyle M. Thomas, 47, of Whitefish passed away on Dec. 6, 2011, from complications of a stroke at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

Kyle was born on Feb. 6, 1964, in Ponca City, Okla., and lived in Shidler, Okla., with his parents and older brother. The family was transferred to Cut Bank soon after his birth and Montana became the place that he loved and wanted to live.

His father was transferred to Casper, Wyo., and Williston, N.D., where Kyle grew up and graduated from high school. During his growing-up years, he was active in the Boy Scouts of America and earned the Eagle Scout award.

Kyle's next move took him to Marietta, Ohio where he spent the next four years obtaining a degree in sociology with a minor in economics. While at Marietta, he became active in student government and was vice-president of the student body his junior year and president of the student body his senior year. His summers were spent working for the Boy Scouts of America at summer camps.

When he was finished with his college years he began

work as a district executive for the Boy Scouts of America and had two districts, the Silvertip that includes Polson and Ronan, plus the district in Flathead County. He enjoyed his scouting work but decided to make a change and went to school to earn his real estate license, and began his life work following that profession. His last job was for Century 21 in Whitefish.

Kyle was preceded in death by his father, Howard L. Thomas; and both sets of his grandparents.

Survivors include his mother, Betty L. Thomas of Polson; two brothers, Mark and Janice Thomas of Breckenridge, Colo., and Paul and Kristi Thomas of Charlotte, N.C. He was especially fond of his three nephews, Matt, Grant and Jack, and his niece, Cate. Kyle will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

Cremation has taken place and services will remain private.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family online at www.groganfuneralhome.com. The staff of Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory in Polson considers it a privilege to care for Kyle's family.

Marc Donovan Thomas, 37

Marc Donovan Thomas, 37, died Sunday, May 22, 2011, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. today, May 25, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Robert Clark 'Bob' Thomas, 61

Robert Clark "Bob" Thomas, 61, passed away on April 6, 2011, following a brief illness. Bob completed his journey on this earth, leaving behind friends and family who will remember him for his keen sense of humor and willingness to help anyone at anytime, with anything that he was able to provide.

Bob was born on Oct. 24, 1949, in Lawrence, Kan., to Robert and Susan (Byler) Thomas (now Susan Cowan). Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Utah. In 1952, the family moved to Tulsa, Okla., and in 1958, to Boulder, Colo., where Bob lived for the next 35 years.

Bob's life was consumed by all things mechanical. While in high school, he worked at a gas station and purchased his first car, a 1960 Ford Starliner, which became the platform for his early automotive education. His curiosity with the internal combustion engine ultimately led him to Weber State College in Ogden, Utah, where he graduated in 1972 with a degree in automotive technology and an undeclared minor in pool playing.

Bob returned to Boulder

and worked very briefly in the local Ford and Chrysler dealerships. Quickly realizing that he had mistaken a hobby for a profession, he began looking for a different career. He worked as a heavy-equipment operator in Colorado, a miner in Wyoming, a construction worker and, for a period of time, worked in the mail room of Soldier of Fortune magazine before settling on a career as a metal fabricator and welder.

In 1973, Bob began a lengthy love affair with a Harley Davidson motorcycle. Over the next 25 years, he put more than 100,000 miles on his bike and in the late 1990s reached a major turning point in life... he sold his 1973 Shovelhead and purchased a newer Harley with an electric starter.

Bob perfected his skills as a metal fabricator in Boulder and ultimately moved to Northwest Montana, where he enjoyed four-wheeling, hunting, camping, fishing, rafting and, of course, motorcycling. He worked for over a decade in a high-tech metal shop as a quality control inspector, and frequently demonstrated his expertise in

stainless steel and aluminum welding.

After being caught up in a company-wide layoff, Bob had the option of retiring or retraining. He became, once again, a student. At the time of his passing, he was a few weeks short of receiving his gunsmithing certificate from Trinidad State Junior College in Colorado, where he excelled at his new craft. The school chose a custom Mauser rifle that Bob built to be displayed at the 2011 SHOT Show in Las Vegas as an example of the skill exhibited by students in the program.

Bob consistently gave more than he received in his life. Known to some as "Pastor Bob," he performed wedding ceremonies and would travel any distance to perform a ceremony for friends. Also known as "Famous Bob," he became a poster boy for a local brewery and his posters still hang in finer Northwest Montana drinking establishments. He also volunteered his time instructing vo-tech students in MIG and TIG welding procedures.

Bob is survived by his girlfriend and longtime companion, Karen Osborn, of Marion.

He is also survived by and will be especially missed by his brother with whom he spent most Saturdays in their shop, fabricating race cars, drinking a little beer and going over the finer points of mechanics and metal fabrication. Bob will also be missed and remembered by the many friends he made throughout his life, the names of whom are too numerous to mention here. Bob is also survived by his parents, sister-in-law, niece, nephews, uncle, aunt, and cousins in Montana, Nevada, Missouri, Wyoming and Idaho.

His family would like to give special thanks to the angels at Home Options Hospice for the special care they gave Bob and his family.

At Bob's request, no formal memorial service will be held. However, remembrances may be sent in Bob's name to the Gunsmithing Program at Trinidad State Junior College, 600 Prospect, Trinidad, CO 81082.

Friends are also encouraged to visit the website, www.buffalohillfh.com, to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and crematory is caring for the family.

Birgitta Astrid 'B' Thompson, 77

Birgitta Astrid "B" Thompson passed away peacefully in her sleep early Friday, June 24, 2011, at Kalispell Regional



Medical Center, following a brief illness. With her husband Scott by her side, Birgitta passed just four days after the death of her husband, Bill, on Monday, June 20, 2011.

Birgitta Thompson was born Jan. 24, 1934, in Börlange, Sweden, to Götha and Birgir Paulson and raised in Linköping, Sweden, where she and her two older sisters attended private schools, learning several languages.

After spending two years at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, she was encouraged by her parents to travel all over Europe with her sisters for the next several years. She arrived in New York with her sister Barbaro Ingrid on Jan. 14, 1957. Birgitta spent time with her sister Ingrid and her husband Vincent Benya. While living in New York City, Birgitta worked for a company in the recording industry.

Birgitta met Robert Leedy and together they moved to California and married in 1964. She worked in the California office of Pakistani Airlines where she met her dear friend Lya from Columbia. Following a divorce from Leedy, Birgitta became co-owner of The Windmill Club, a popular Rodeo, Calif., cocktail lounge.

Birgitta met Bill Thomp-

son in Sausalito, Calif., during the 1980s and they were inseparable from the start. They enjoyed many close friendships during their time together in the Bay Area. Following the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, they moved to Kalispell, where they quickly made new friends with whom they were fixtures at the Kalispell Elks, Eagles and Moose lodges. They married Oct. 8, 1999, in Kalispell.

Birgitta was blessed with an infectious laugh and razor wit. She was a loving wife, impeccable homemaker and devoted friend. She prided herself on immigrating to the United States and making a new life for herself, while cherishing her Swedish heritage.

Birgitta is survived by her sister, Barbaro Ingrid, and Vincent, of Cedar Grove, N.J.; nephews, Richard Benya, John Paul "J.P." Benya, and Stefan Lingheimer; stepsons, Scott and Kathy Thompson of St. Louis, and Chip Thompson of Red Bluff, Calif.; and stepgrandchildren, Amiya, Samuel and Molly Thompson, of St. Louis.

A memorial service for Birgitta and Bill is scheduled for Friday, July 8, at the Kalispell Elks Lodge. Please call the Elks Lodge for details.

Birgitta and Bill will be interred together at Bill's family crypt in St. Louis at a date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Kalispell Elks Charity Fund, care of the Kalispell Elks Lodge.

Earl Lindy Thompson, 83

Earl Lindy Thompson, 83, passed away on Wednesday, July 6, 2011, at his home in Columbia Falls.



He was born March 18, 1928, in Lakeview, Mont., a beautiful historical ranching community in the Centennial Valley. His father was George William Thompson and mother, Edna Laurena Hibsman.

He was educated only until the seventh grade so he could work as a ranch hand. In Dillon he married Shirley Ann Henneberry on Dec. 24, 1948. Together they had seven children, Earl Perry Thompson (passed), Sharon Ann Mitchell, Judy Lynn Dempsey, Deborah Faun Parks, Earl William Thompson, Timothy Ambrose Thompson and Deanne Rosemarie Tyler.

Throughout his life he worked in service stations, as well as Rollenson's John Deere in Dillon. The last 20 years he resided in Columbia

Falls. After retirement he enjoyed woodworking, hunting and fishing.

Throughout his life he enjoyed 15 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; children, Sharon and Howard Mitchell, Judy and Jeff Dempsey, Debbie and Tom Parks, Earl Thompson, Tim and Traci Thompson, and Deanne and Allen Tyler; and many more family and friends.

He lived life, loving and keeping the Lord in his heart.

"He is welcomed with open arms in heaven by father, mother, siblings, and grandson James."

Funeral services for Earl Lindy Thompson will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday at Columbia Mortuary.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Lindy's family. You are invited to go to www.columbiamortuary.com to view Lindy's guest book, offer condolences and share memories.

Frederick Seth Thompson, 78

Frederick Seth Thompson, 78, died on March 6, 2011, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

He was born Dec. 15, 1932, in Richfield, Minn., to Richard and Virginia (Mills) Thompson. He came to Libby in 1951 with several Rice Lake, Wis., boys and went to work at J. Neils Lumber Company pole yard.

He joined the Army Signal Corps during the Korean War and hitchhiked home in February to marry the light of his life, Marvel Leckrone, in 1954. They moved to White Sands Proving Ground, Las Cruces, N.M., until his discharge in 1955.

They returned to his favorite little town of Libby and he continued work at J. Neils until he went to work selling cars for Hgdem Ford. He loved the "art of the deal" and was good at it. He started selling State Farm Insurance until his retirement in 2006.

Fred and Marvel traveled extensively with Rotary International in Europe, Asia and Hawaii and the whole state of Montana.

He enjoyed hunting and skiing. He was beneficial in



Ambulance, and their house went on the block if they needed a new ambulance. That scared Marvel many times.

He was an exceptional friend, husband and father and always forgave those that were disenchanted with him. He always just said, "consider the source" and turned the other cheek.

After many years of dealing with diabetes and shingles, heart attacks and strokes, he went downhill fast and died in Kalispell with pneumonia.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, Dick and David. They later adopted Marvel's cousin, Judy Monk Eby, who died in 2004.

Survivors include his wife, Marvel Thompson, of Libby; two children, Scott Thompson of Libby, and Julie Thompson Woodley of Brooklyn, N.Y.; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren; and two surviving sisters, Virginia Haynes and Susan Emmons.

Visitation will be from 1 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10, with rosary at 7 p.m., at Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby. Mass of the Resurrection will be at 11 a.m. Friday, March 11, at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Mae Thompson, 93

Mae Thompson, 93, died Saturday, Dec. 24, 2011, at her home from natural causes.

Mae was born Oct. 17, 1918, in Lustre, Mont., to Edward G. Brownlee and Nellie Brownlee.

She was an avid golfer and a member of a bowling league for many years. She enjoyed sewing and quilting.

Mae was married to Walter Thompson. Together they owned the Orpheum Theater in Whitefish.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Walt.

Mae is survived by her children, daughter Karen

Benson and husband Ken of Missoula, son Don Thompson and wife Val of Wells, Nev., and daughter Julie Norby of Whitefish.

A private family service will be held in the summer.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Whitefish Fire Department, 275 Flathead Ave., Whitefish, MT 59937.

Arrangements are entrusted to Austin Funeral Home. You are invited to go to www.austinfh.com to offer condolences, share memories and view Mae's tribute wall.

Peggy Ann Thompson, 43

Peggy Ann Thompson, 43, died March 25, 2011, at her home in Walla Walla, Wash.



Peggy was born November 11, 1967, in Whitefish to Lloyd and Shirley Mathwig. She graduated from high school in Bigfork.

On Nov. 2, 1991, she and Timothy Eugene Thompson married in Bigfork.

Peggy was a loving, devoted wife and mother and always looked for ways to meet the needs of others. She had a very lengthy battle with cancer which she fought with great courage and determination. She had a strong trust in her Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, which she lovingly shared and lived out before others.

She was very talented at doing many kinds of fine handwork as a hobby, and enjoyed selling some at craft

shows and making gifts for family and friends. She had many family friends who loved her dearly and will miss her greatly for now.

"But someday we will be together again. Praise God!"

She was owner of Helping Hand Senior Assistance and was a member of the Trinity Baptist Church.

Peggy is survived by her husband, Tim Thompson, and their four children, Dominic, Elizabeth, Benjamin and Katherine Thompson; her parents, Lloyd and Shirley Mathwig; four brothers and three sisters-in-law, Walter and Amanda, Lonnie, Everett and Patti, and Jacob and Kay Mathwig; and many loving nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 3, at First Baptist Church of Bigfork.

Memorials in Peggy's name may be made to The Gideons International.

Friends may write memories and sign the online guestbook at www.mountainview-colonialdewitt.com.

William Duncan 'Bill' Thompson, 73

William Duncan "Bill" Thompson



was born Nov. 5, 1937, in St. Louis, to Charles Lewis Thompson II and Winifred Duncan Thompson. He died Monday, June 20, 2011, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls, after a brief illness. He was 73.

Bill graduated from Taylor School in Clayton, Mo., and attended Hobart College in Geneva, N.Y., and Washington University in St. Louis before joining the Missouri National Guard in 1961, in which he served as a radio-man training Green Berets during the Vietnam Conflict.

Bill married Mary Stephens Jones Nov. 27, 1959, and they had two sons, Edward Scott Thompson and Charles Stanley Thompson. Following the birth of their first son, the couple moved to Pittsburgh, where Bill worked for National Roll, a division of General Steel. Following the birth of their second son, the family moved to San Rafael, Calif., where Bill took over western region sales for the company. They divorced in 1973.

Bill married Nancy Wycoff in the late 1970s and later left National Roll to become an independent manufacturer's representative in the steel industry before going into auto sales in San Francisco and Marin County. They later divorced.

Bill met Brigitta "B" Paulson, the love of his life, in

the late 1980s and they moved in 1990 to Kalispell, where he was involved in auto and marine sales and eventually the insurance industry. They married Oct. 8, 1999.

Bill and B enjoyed life in Montana and flourished quickly after arriving, making many close and lasting friendships and actively participating in local service organizations, including the Elks and Eagles.

Bill made friends everywhere he went and was a sincere, generous and reliable man who would do whatever was needed for his friends. He lit up every room with his sense of humor and love of life. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Bill is survived by his wife, B, of Kalispell; sons, Scott and Kathy Thompson of St. Louis, and Chip Thompson of Red Bluff, Calif.; sister, Joyce, and George Stericker, of St. Louis; and nephew, George Stericker, of St. Louis; grandchildren, Amiya, Sam and Molly Thompson, of St. Louis; stepgrandsons, Chris and Malysa Long of San Anselmo, Calif., and Ryan and Julie Foley Long of San Francisco; and stepgreat-grandson, Ian Long, of San Anselmo.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service will be held at the Kalispell Elks Lodge at a date to be determined. Interment will be at a later date in a family crypt in St. Louis.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Kalispell Elks Charity Fund, care of the Kalispell Elks Lodge.

William and Birgitta Thompson

A memorial service for William "Bill" Thompson, 73, who died June 20; and Birgitta "B" Thompson,

77, who died June 24, will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, July 8, at the Kalispell Elks Lodge.

Faye Alene Thornton, 84

Faye Alene Thornton, 84, of Frederick, Md., died on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, at the Kline Hospice House, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was the lifelong wife of Kern D. Thornton.



Born in Kalispell on June 8, 1927, she was the daughter of the late Perley and Alma McKnight.

Faye worked at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., for 35 years. At the time of retirement she was the chief financial officer for the general clinical research centers.

Faye was a devoted mother, loving wife and wonderful role model. In addition to spending time with her family, she led an active life and enjoyed traveling, outdoor activities, needle crafts, playing tennis, reading, pinochle, bridge and, most of all, playing her piano.

She was always a kind and gentle person. Faye was a member of the Calvary United Methodist Church, the Friendly Circle Sunday School class, and the Tuesday Morning Bible Study class.

In addition to her husband, Faye is survived by two chil-

dren, daughter Deborah Cera and her husband Thomas of New Market, Md., and son Douglas and his wife Renee of Frederick. Faye also leaves behind four grandchildren, Teresa Phelan and her husband John, Brian Cera and wife Kimberly, Alexandra Thornton and Chandler Thornton. Additionally, Faye is survived by three great-grandchildren, Carrigan, Connor and Collin Phelan.

Faye has three surviving brothers, Perley McKnight of Chaparral, N.M., Richard McKnight of Kalispell, and Gerald McKnight of Las Vegas; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, Faye was preceded in death by her sister, Lois.

Visitation was held on Sept. 26 at Keeney and Basford P.A. Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. today, Sept. 27, at Calvary United Methodist Church, 131 West Second Street, Frederick. Interment will follow in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in her name to Hospice of Frederick County, 516 Trail Avenue, Frederick, MD 21701; or to the Calvary United Methodist Church, 131 West Second Street, Frederick, MD 21701.

Robert 'Bob' Thornton, 79

Robert "Bob" Thornton, 79, passed peacefully Dec. 18, 2011, at his home in Kalispell, after a courageous battle with infection.



"He is now pain free and will have excellent weather to catch all the fish he desires."

Bob was born in Canyon City, Colo., Nov. 9, 1932, where he remained until he was old enough to enter the Navy. After serving during the Korean War, he left the service with dreams of bigger and better things. He found his way to Montana and worked operating and repairing heavy equipment.

In Great Falls he met his wonderful wife of 45 years; together Bob and Lorraine shared many laughs and adventures. They lived in numerous places for the first 15 years of their marriage, and they finally called the Flathead Valley their home for the last 30 years.

Bob was always an innovator who worked on improving anything with an engine and recently anything that involved fishing. When he had an idea, nothing was

impossible. He always said whatever you do, do it in a way that you would be proud to sign your name to it.

It wasn't until about 15 years ago that he was able to take some time off work to do some serious fishing. Fishing became his passion. He loved being out on the lake; it didn't matter if he wasn't catching fish, he just enjoyed watching others reel them in. He took pride in finding his friends and family a big one.

His sense of humor, his can do attitude and encouraging words will be missed by everyone.

He is survived by his wife, Lorraine, of Kalispell; sons; Murv, Dan, Rob, Steve and his wife Wendy, and family, all of Kalispell, Rod and his wife Nancy and family of Norfolk, Va.; and daughter, Lori, and her husband, Joe, of California. There are numerous nieces and nephews, too many to mention, who had wild times with their Uncle Bob. He also leaves behind his fishing crew and his precious guard dog, Mia.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 22, at the First Church of the Nazarene in Kalispell. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Humane Society of Northwest Montana.

Frankie Jean Thyen, 84

Frankie Jean Thyen, 84, of Columbia Falls, died Wednesday, June 1, 2011, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

She is survived by her children, Curtis L. Egvedt and Cindy L. Morrissey,

both of Washington, Terry M. Egtvedt of New Mexico, Linda S. Walter of Colorado, and Lorene A. Thyen of New Mexico.

Services will be private. Arrangements are by Columbia Mortuary.

Claudia Tindall, 85

Claudia Tindall, 85, died Wednesday, March 16, 2011, at the Brendan House in Kalispell.

At her request there will be no services. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Helen Delores Tipton, 79

Helen Delores Tipton, a day short from 80 years old, passed away from pneumonia on Friday, Sept. 30, 2011, in Missoula.



She was born on Oct. 1, 1931, in Highmore, S.D., to Frank and Dorothy L. (Taylor) Grover.

She was married on Aug. 9, 1948, in Miller, S.D., to Herbert H. Tipton from Harris, Mo. They had two sons and three daughters, Herbert R. Tipton, Lee Tipton-Jackshaw, James A. Tipton, Mona Thompson and Iva Schroeder.

They moved to Davenport, Iowa, and then to Columbia Falls where they lived for 15 years. Helen and Herb moved to Drummond in 1973, until 1981, when husband Herbert H. Tipton passed away.

Helen moved to Kalispell and worked until she retired from the State of Montana social services department on July 7, 1997, and then moved back to Drummond.

Helen was baptized in Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Herbert H. Tipton; her mother, Dorothy Kirk; father, Frank Grover; and son, James A.

Tipton.

Survivors include three daughters and their spouses, Lee and Ken Jackshaw, Mona and Bob Thompson, and Iva and Greg Schroeder; and one son, Herbert R. and Delcie Tipton. Helen has 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Family meant everything to her and, in turn, her family and friends felt that there could not be a better mother or friend. Helen was spunky, fun, a spitfire, and would always be there for anyone. She was best known for her kind heart, big smile and funky hats she would always have on.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Cremation & Burial Society of the Rockies, and at Helen's request a private family memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, at the New Chicago Cemetery in Drummond.

She wished to express her heartfelt gratitude for all of the kindness, caring and friendships she received and enjoyed throughout her life.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Granite County Medical Center, 310 Sansome, Phillipsburg, MT 59858; or St. Patrick Hospital Head Trauma Research, Missoula, MT 59802.

Fred G. Torbergson, 75

Fred G. Torbergson, 75, passed away on Saturday, April 23, 2011, at the Veterans Hospital in Sheridan, Wyo.

He was born in Somers on March 3, 1936, the son of Peter M. and Meryl (Andrews) Torbergson.

He served his country in the U.S. Army and since his discharge, he has been a resident of Sheridan.

He is survived by one brother, Alfred Torbergson, of Somers.

Graveside services for

Fred will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 29, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, with Pastor Tim Bartholomew officiating, with full military honors. Visitation will be held from noon to 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Fred's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and view Fred's tribute wall.

Ava Emily (Harder) Toavs, 75

Ava Emily (Harder) Toavs, 75, of Sun City, Ariz. and Columbia Falls passed away on Monday, Nov. 14, 2011, at her home in Sun City.



Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22 at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home Chapel in Kalispell, with Pastor Rodney Myrum officiating. Burial will follow at Woodland Cemetery in Columbia Falls. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22 at the funeral home.

Ava was born on Jan. 11, 1936, the daughter of Edward and Anna Maude (Birnel) Harder in Zurich, Mont. The family moved to the LaSalle area and Ava attended the LaSalle grade school and Flathead High School.

On April 3, 1955, Ava married James N. Toavs in Columbia Falls. In November of 1957, they purchased their first home where they raised their family. Ava was able to be a stay-at-home mom while raising Kathy, Laurie, Diane and Michael. Through the years there was hunting, fishing, camping, gardening and a "little hood riding" in the snow. The home place has been a welcoming haven for the grandkids and all those who wished to enter. Ava joyfully kept her home warm and inviting, a place where one could daily find fresh cookies or pie on the counter. Weekly, the smell of freshly baked bread, buns and rolls wafted through the house. She loved preparing substantial meals for her family, feeding anyone who walked through the door; if you left hungry, it was your own fault.

With a hug and a kiss goodbye, her family would leave for school and work every day, knowing her Bible was on the table and she would pray for each of them.

Ava had a wonderful sense of humor and loved to enjoy life. Her greatest contribution was her infectious laugh-

ter. With her listening ear and patient way she would give sound advice, imparting her wisdom.

When feet were caught in bike spokes, heads injured in creek bottoms, fingers slammed in doors or fingernails hit with hammers, she would be there in her loving, caring way and you knew it was going to be O.K. With her kind, generous and encouraging ways she gave willingly of her time and talents to her husband, children and any who crossed her path.

Ava didn't finish high school but in 1989 she earned her GED, graduating with all As.

When retirement came for Jim, they started spending time in Sun City during the winter months. Ava enjoyed yard sales and spending time with family and friends who were there. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Ava was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Dick and Jim; and daughter, Laurie.

She is survived by her husband, James of Sun City and Columbia Falls; daughters, Katherine and Jerry Choate of Sidney, and Diane and Tim Werner of Crosby, N.D.; son, Michael Toavs of Glendive; son-in-law, Rodney Emmert of Columbia Falls; eight grandchildren, Micah and Teresa Emmert of Columbia Falls, Christopher and Katie O'Clair of Sidney, Joshua and Chilleen O'Clair of Sidney, Holly and Sean Newbury of Eureka, Jonathan and Tina O'Clair of Queen Creek, Ariz., Amber Emmert of Colorado Springs, Colo., Heath and Alisa Werner of Bloomfield, Mont., and Anna Sharbono of Glendive; eleven great-grandchildren; sister, Doris and Bob Bernhardt of Salem, Ore.; brother, Irvin and Jolynn Harder of Gilbert, Ariz.; three brothers-in-law, and four sisters-in-law and their spouses.

Stakston-Martin Funeral Home of Crosby and Buffalo Hill Funeral Home of Kalispell are assisting the family.

Celia Bernadine Torgrenud, 88

Celia Bernadine Torgrenud, 88, of Santa Barbara, Calif., and formerly of Polson, "ended her earthly sojourn and



went home to be with her heavenly father" Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011. She was born May 31, 1923, in Waukon, Iowa.

In 1942 she married her high school sweetheart, Don Torgrenud, and they were married for nearly 60 years before her beloved husband preceded her in death.

During their life together they relocated many times throughout the United States, as well as to Finland and Sweden, as a result of Don's military career. They finally settled on a small commercial cherry orchard on the East shore of Flathead Lake upon Don's retirement from the Air Force in 1963, later relocating to Dayton and subsequently to Lakeside in their retirement years. They were long-term and active members of the congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Polson and First Presbyterian Church in Polson and Dayton. She was active in elder visitation

during her years in Dayton, and her deep faith in God sustained her over the last 10 years.

Family was always one of the singular hallmarks of Celia's life, and that family was centered around six children. She is survived by her children, Penn Borden of Santa Barbara, Sherry Ferris (Bob) of Santa Barbara, Leif (Laurie) of Spokane, Wash., Kevin (Marty) of Polson, and Colin of Polson; as well as her daughter-in-law Heather Torgrenud of Arlee. She was preceded in death by her eldest son, Don. She is also survived by her sister Barbara Hastings of Columbia, Mo., and 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

A graveside service is being coordinated by Grogan Funeral Home for Monday, Sept. 19, 2011, at 2 p.m. and interment will follow alongside her beloved husband at Lakeview Cemetery. Visitation will be held at Grogan Funeral Home, 101 Sixth Ave. East, Polson, from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 19.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family online at www.groganfuneralhome.com. The staff of Grogan Funeral Home considers it a privilege to care for Mrs. Torgrenud's family.

Larry Edward Torgersen, 68

Larry Edward Torgersen, 68, of Whitefish, passed away suddenly on June 10, 2011.



Larry was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He spent his childhood in Koosharem, Utah, and went on to serve in the U.S. Navy aboard the destroyer USS Everett F. Larson. He served from 1960 to 1963.

He spent much of his civilian life working as an auto mechanic at shops in Arizona and in Whitefish, where he worked for Stacey Oil Company until his retirement, when the shop closed.

Larry loved living in the mountains of western Montana and enjoying the outdoors. He especially liked spending time in and around Glacier National Park. He enjoyed reading, tinkering with cars and spending time with his grandchildren.

Larry was preceded

in death by his parents, Edward and Bea Torgersen; his brother, Ted Torgersen; and his wife, Marilyn (Keans) Torgersen.

He is survived by his children, his daughter, Terrie and husband, Sven Peterson, and grandchildren, Eiger and Laeta, all of Colorado; and his son, Lawrence and wife, Tonya Arneson-Torgersen, and grandchildren, Tresa and Devin Torgersen and Christian Arneson, all of Washington; his brothers, Garth, Noel, Rodney and Dwaine, all of Utah; his sister, LaRee Porter of California; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family members, as well as the friends, neighbors, colleagues and clients he got to know over the several decades he lived and worked in Whitefish.

The family would like to thank emergency responders and the staff of North Valley Hospital for their efforts.

Friends and family are welcome to attend a simple memorial service at 10 a.m. on July 30 at the cemetery in Koosharem.

John C. Torgison, 60

John C. Torgison, 60, died Monday, Dec. 20, 2010, in Kalispell.

Private services will be

held.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Mary Carey Torgison, 92

Mary C. Torgison quietly passed away Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011, at the age of 92, while residing at St. Luke's Extended Care in Ronan.

She was born in Wayzata, Minn., on April 30, 1919, to John and Pauline Carey, the second daughter in a four-girl family. They lived and recreated at their home on the shores of Parker's Lake.

Along with her sisters, Mary grew up during the Great Depression. They entertained themselves with fishing, swimming and skating. She was a self-described "tomboy" who loved a good practical joke. Mary was the senior editor of her school annual and graduated from Wayzata High School in 1937.

She enrolled in Eitel Hospital School of Nursing in Minneapolis after high school and graduated as a registered nurse in 1940. During World War II, she moved to Portland with two of her good friends.

After the war, Mary followed them to Whitefish where she worked at North Valley Hospital as the head surgical nurse for many years. It was there that she met her future husband, Loren "Bus" Torgison, after attending a town baseball game in which he had played.

Bus worked on the railroad and together they raised two sons, John, who followed his father's footsteps and worked on the railroad, and Paul, who was a special education teacher. Mary retired from her hospital job in 1975 to

help raise her grandchildren. Her family always came first.

Mary loved to garden, follow local sporting events and read. She always had her nose in a "good book." Mary was an excellent cook who enjoyed fixing meals for her family, making sure that all the kids were well fed. She was also an avid dog person, spending much time spoiling her favorite basset hound, Frank.

Mary was a member of St. Charles Catholic Church in Whitefish. She was also a member of the North Valley Hospital Guild and a member of the Ladies of the Moose.

As Mary's health declined, she moved to Evergreen Assisted Living Home in Kalispell. She spent her final days in the residence of St. Luke's Extended Care in Ronan.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, John and Pauline Carey; her sisters, Helen Ellis, Bernice Wheeler and Grace Eisinger; her husband, Loren; son, John; and nephew, Doug Eisinger.

She is survived by her son, Paul, his wife, Colleen, of Polson, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish.

The family would like to extend their personal, heartfelt thanks to the ladies who worked with Mary at St. Luke's Extended Care. Their special care and loving ways helped fill Mary's final days with dignity, joy and respect.

Marcetti June Totten, 91

Marcetti June Totten, 91, died at her residence in Fortine on Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011.

Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Christina Ann Tranberg, 95

Christina Ann Tranberg, 95, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at her home in Lakeside.



She was born to Elling and Elena Anderson on July 21, 1915, in Hillhead, Marshall County, S.D. The family moved to Circle in 1928. As a girl, she helped with the farm work and broke range horses to ride.

The family moved to New Deal in 1934, where she met her husband, Cecil Tranberg. They were married on June 26, 1935. They moved to Lakeside in 1936. They had two children, Patsy and Leroy.

When Cecil enlisted in the Navy, Christina took the children to Seattle and worked building airplanes at Boeing. When the war was over, they built a house in Kalispell. They moved to Eugene, Ore., in 1950, and back to Lakeside in 1971.

She enjoyed gardening, cooking, sewing and crocheting, making many lovely things for her family, but most of all she enjoyed her family.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Cecil; her parents; six brothers, Emil, Arthur, Lloyd, Lorance, Elmer and Edwin;

and sister, Josephine Wolf.

She is survived by sisters, Tillie and Dean Sprinkel, and Helen and Dean McManus; brother, Leonard; children, Patsy and Roy Foote, and Leroy and Joyce Tranberg; grandchildren, Christina and Alan, Roy, David, and Catherine and John; and great-grandchildren, Amanda, Stephanie, Benjamin, James and Elena.

Funeral services for Christina will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, in the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Chapel, with the Rev. Wayne Pris officiating. Burial will follow in the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. A visitation will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 15.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Christina's family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer condolences and view Christina's tribute wall.

Linda K. Tredway, 66

Linda K. Tredway, 66, died Monday, June 13, 2011, at Brendan House in Kalispell. At her request,

there will be no services. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Donald George Trankle, 89

Donald George Trankle passed away at Kalispell Regional Medical Center Aug. 20, 2011, on Don and Betty's 65th wedding anniversary.

Donald was born Nov. 20, 1921, to George and Jessie (McDonald) Trankle in Big Sandy. He was joined by sisters, Georgena and Pauline, and brother, William; they lived on the family homestead on Lone Tree Bench south of Havre until 1934, when they moved to the Flathead Valley.

Donald graduated from Flathead County High School in 1940. He was among the first of 20-year-olds from Flathead County to be drafted into the Army in 1942; serving in the Army Air Corps Transport Command with over 1,000 hours as an aerial engineer ferrying B-17s from the East Coast to Arizona, until his honorable discharge in January 1946.

Donald was married to Betty Dawn McCullough in Sigourney, Iowa, on Aug. 20,



1946. They made their home in Kalispell and were blessed with two children, Dawnita Sue and D. Craig.

Donald was employed at automobile dealerships; he greatly enjoyed working with people. He retired in 1984. His time was spent restoring John Deere tractors, visiting with friends at Sykes', and riding his Honda Ninety. As a family, they spent many happy hours with friends at their Echo Lake property.

Donald is survived by his wife Betty, daughter Dawnita French and Bob, son Craig and Bev, and grandson Brandon French and Katie, all of Kalispell; grandson Reg Trankle, and great-grandson Andrew, of Millstadt, Ill.; sister, Pauline Mulliner, of Twin Falls, Idaho; and brother, William, and Jeanne, of Washington, N.C.

Donald was a member of Bethel Baptist Church. Memorials may be made to missionaries with ABWE or Baptist Mid-Missions through the church in Kalispell.

There have been private burial services in Glacier Memorial Gardens. Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Nellie Mae (Martin) Tripp, 90

Our lovely mother, Nellie Mae (Martin) Tripp ended her long journey of 90 years among family and friends on Aug. 9, 2011.



Nellie was born on May 31, 1921, in Kalispell, to Ed and Ellen Martin. She grew up on the family farm just north of Kalispell on U.S. Highway 93. She attended the Pine Grove and St. Matthew's schools and graduated from Flathead County High in 1939. After graduation, she began working for Western Union in Kalispell and Libby.

Nellie married Merrill Tripp in 1943, and they journeyed this earth together for 53 years. Nellie and Merrill lived in several Montana and Idaho towns until Dad finished college and started teaching. They lived in Eureka for 14 years, moved to Tacoma, Wash., in 1968, and returned to Kalispell in 1978.

Nellie was a loving wife, mother and homemaker. She was very active as a 4-H leader and kept very busy taking her four children and many others to activities and events. Mom was never too busy to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Mom was an avid lover of kids, cats and dogs and never failed to ask friends and family how theirs were doing. For many years, a winter day would find Mom and a friend or two ice fishing on the Kootenai River. Nellie and Merrill performed for many area residents as members of the Kitchen Band.

Nellie was preceded in death by her husband, Merrill, on Feb. 2, 1996, brothers, Charlie, Edwin, Emmet and Buzz Martin; and sisters, Elsie Knutson and Margaret Hart.

Nellie is survived by her children, Marilyn Black of Saco, Wendy Tripp of SeaTac, Wash., Leland and wife Michelle Tripp of Seattle, and LaVera and husband Ron Foster of Kalispell; grandchildren, John and Roy Black, Paul and Rory Tripp, Nicholas Michalski, Debbie Paynter, Tony Foster and Tiffany Weber; great-grandchildren, Sumin Black, Shelby and Bailey Wade, and Kyle Paynter. Other family in this area include her long-time best friend and first cousin, Ruth Anderson; and nephew, Ron, and wife LilliAnn Martin.

There are no services planned at this time.

We wish to thank the staffs at Prestige Assisted Living and Hospice for their tender and loving care.

Charles E. 'Chuck' Trush, 85

Dr. Charles E. "Chuck" Trush passed away on March 25, 2011, in Lynnwood, Wash., where he and his wife Ruth have resided since early 2008.



He was born Jan. 14, 1926, to Emil and Caroline Trush in Waukesha, Wis.

He graduated from Carroll College and got his medical degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he met his one love, Ruth Marion Rincker. They were married on June 18, 1949.

After completing his medical training, they moved to Kalispell to open his first practice, which was promptly interrupted with a call to military service as a Naval officer in the Korean War. Returning to Kalispell after the war, he re-established his practice and raised his family.

Chuck was an intrepid adventurer who found the Flathead Valley the ideal place to experience it all. Hiking in Glacier National Park and snow skiing on Big Mountain became two of his passions. He never turned down an opportunity to experience something new, from hunting and fishing to flying an airplane.

An active and faithful member of Trinity Lutheran

Church, he was one of too few who tried to live his life as he felt God would have wanted him to. Willing to make house calls to the sick and his generosity to those who could not afford set him apart from many other physicians.

In 1980, they moved to Malta until 1982, when he decided to follow his childhood dream of making Alaska, "The Last Frontier," his home. He continued private practice in Alaska, along with participating in medical missions in South and Central America, Africa and Mongolia. He concluded his professional career in locum tenens throughout Alaska and much of the lower '48.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Ruth, of 61 years; daughters, Amy Henry, and Gayle and Brian Bourke; sons, David and Annie, Paul and Donna, and John Trush; grandchildren, Nathan, Alina and Jason Henry, Hayden, Bennett and Boone Bourke, Kyla Trush, and Danielle, Brandon and Paxton Trush; sister, Marian Doody; and niece, Eva Bellinger.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Chuck's memory to Medical Ministry International, P.O. Box 1339, Allen, TX 75013; or online at www.mmint.org.

A celebration of Chuck's life will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 30 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

John A. Troxel, 55

John A. Troxel, 55, died at his residence on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011.

Private family services

will be held.

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

Thomas E. Twichel, 75

Thomas E. Twichel, 75, of Helena, died July 26, 2011, at his home.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, of Helena; and children, Dennis Twichel of Milton, Wash., Helen Kropp of Missoula, David Twichel and Tracey Goetz, both of Helena, Mary Fusaro and Mark Twichel, both of Kalispell, and Judy Rothie of Hamilton.

The family will receive friends from 3 to 5 p.m. today, July 28, at Retz Funeral Home Chapel, 315 E. Sixth Ave., in Helena. A vigil service will be 6 p.m. Friday, July 29, at the Cathedral of St. Helena. Funeral Mass will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 30, at Cathedral of St. Helena. Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery.

Andora Jan Tutvedt, 49

Andora Jan Tutvedt, 49, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2011, at the Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington, N.J., following a heart attack. Her organs were donated to the Organ Sharing Network of New Jersey, per Andora's request.

She was born June 10, 1962, in Kalispell to Harold and Shirley Tutvedt. In her youth, she was active in 4-H. While in high school, she was an FFA Sweetheart, danced with the Akekowan drill team and was active in speech and debate. Andora graduated from Flathead High School in 1980.

She attended Montana State University in Bozeman, where she was a Chi Omega and sang in the New Genesis Gospel Choir. She spent her senior year at the University of Georgia in Athens, and graduated in 1984 with a degree in communications from MSU.

Andora started her career in San Diego before moving to Montville, N.J. She worked in human resources and public relations for various firms.

In 1992, she married Gary Needleman at the Stillwater Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

Andora was passionate about singing and dancing;



she enjoyed taking pictures and music. She loved shopping and glamour, fashion and shoes. Later on, she enjoyed gardening, bird houses, frog figurines and the color red.

Andora loved family history, spent significant time in Norway and made it a priority to connect with family there. She was proud to be named after her grandmother Andora, and she had a love of all things Montana. She was vivacious, enthusiastic, creative, friendly and warm.

Andora is survived by her parents, Harold and Shirley Tutvedt; her ex-husband, Gary Needleman; sister, Sarah McClure, and husband, Daniel McClure; brother, Bruce Tutvedt, and wife, Linda Tutvedt; and nieces and nephews, Andora Dale Tutvedt, Colin McClure, Emily Tutvedt, Joel McClure, Nathan McClure and Valerie Gravage.

Andora was preceded in death by two brothers, Bradford Allen and Eric John; as well as her grandparents, Dale and Erlise Phillips, and Hans and Andora Tutvedt.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 19, at the Stillwater Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

Memorial contributions will go to Life Center Northwest, 2307 Stephens Ave., Unit B, Missoula, MT 59801, which promotes organ donation in Montana and Washington, or a charity of your choice.

Lucy (Stearman) Tyler, 57

Lucy (Stearman) Tyler, 57, of Loveland, Colo., passed away on Sept. 27, 2011, at North Shore Health & Rehab Facility in



Loveland, after a six-year battle with colon cancer.

She is survived by her son, Kurt Tyler, of Boulder, Colo.; parents, William C. Stearman Jr., and Dorothy (Lillard) Stearman of Dallas; and brother, Dr. William C. Stearman III, of Coppell, Texas.

Lucy was born on Oct. 10, 1953, in Dallas. Her family moved to Hico, Texas, in 1956, where she grew up on a 3,000-acre cattle ranch. She returned to Dallas to graduate from high school in 1972.

She attended Texas A & M University from 1972, until moving to Houston with her then husband, Keith Tyler, in 1975. In 1977, they moved to Casper, Wyo., where Lucy began working for Pacific Power & Light. Their only child, Kurt, was born in 1981.

Lucy and Kurt moved to Whitefish in 1990, where Lucy worked as one of only three (at that time) female district managers in Pacific Corp. Aside from her family's ranch outside of Hico, she considered Whitefish her

home. She moved to Sunnyside, Wash., in 1994, but returned to Montana shortly thereafter to begin a second career as a high school math teacher. Lucy moved to Loveland in 2004 and immediately became an active member of her church community. She became especially close with Charlotte Pate, who remained a devout friend to the very end.

Lucy was a beloved daughter, sister, mother, friend, teacher and boss. She was always uplifting to those around her, despite years of fighting multiple sclerosis and cancer. Through her career and community involvement, she made deep and lasting friendships wherever she went. Her life will continue to inspire those who came to know her and she will be missed by many.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 801 Cleveland Ave., in Loveland.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made in Lucy's name to Heifer International, 1 World Ave., Little Rock, AR 72202, or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 733 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017.

To send condolences and sign the family guest book, please visit www.allnutt.com.