

Dewey Eugene Bacon, 56

Dewey Eugene Bacon, 56, was born June 28, 1957, in Whitefish and passed away on Nov. 29, 2013, at his home in Hungry Horse due to complications of cancer.

He grew up in Whitefish and graduated from Whitefish High School. He had worked at Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. for 25 years until he was disabled, and then retired.

As a young man he loved to ski on Big Mountain and learned how to box. He always loved a good boxing match. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, taking his four-wheeler into the mountains and riding motorcycles, especially into Glacier National Park. He also loved going out to the ocean.

He was preceded in death by his grandpar-



ents, Lloyd Murphy and Minnie Mae Murphy-Dunn, Dewey Lee Bacon Sr. and Enid Bacon-

Gregg.

He is survived by his wife, Donna; sons, Travis and Michael Bacon; stepchildren, Kelley Kercher, Kathy Park and Joshua Kercher; parents, Dewey and Dorothy Bacon; and brothers, Allan and Randy Bacon, and John and Jan Bacon, and their children. He is also survived by several aunts, uncles and cousins, and many brothers and sisters of the heart.

At this time there are no memorials planned, just remember the good times you had with him.

Janet Arlys Szymanowski Baden, 76

Janet Arlys Szymanowski Baden, 76, of Malta, passed away on July 4, 2013, after her battle with cancer.

She was born March 5, 1937, in Reeder, N.D., the daughter of Josephine and Stanley Szymanowski. The family moved to Kalispell in 1941.

Janet graduated from Flathead County High School in 1955. She married Gary Baden in 1957 and became a Navy wife. After Gary's discharge, they lived in Bozeman while he attended school, then moved to Malta in 1964.

She managed the Heritage Manor Apartments in Malta for many years; however, her favorite roles were that of a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and a friend to many. She enjoyed visiting over a cup of coffee with friends, crocheting and spending time with her family.

Janet was preceded in



death by her husband, her parents, and her brother Jack.

She is survived by

a son, Robert, and Kathy, of Friendswood, Texas; and a daughter, Lynda, and Wes Brown, of Malta; seven grandchildren, Kristin and Steven Mitchell of Orlando, Fla., Cindy and Dwayne Teagle of Fort Mill, S.C., Jeff and Carrie Baden of Spring, Texas, and Kimberly, Riley, Cole and Reese Brown of Malta; five great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Adelaide Cook of Florida and Judy Chittim of Oregon.

Funeral services were held July 9 at Kirkwood Memorial Chapel in Malta, with interment at the Malta Cemetery.

Condolences for the family may be left at www.kirkwoodfuneral-home.com.

Cecil F. Bache, 78

Cecil F. Bache, 78, of Libby, died of natural causes at his home Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013.

He is survived by his wife, Donna, of Libby; daughters, Glenda Larson and Cheryl Wolleat of Libby; and sons, Darell Bache of Tampa, Fla., Paul Bache

of Libby, and Cory Bache of Royal Palm Beach, Fla.

Graveside services will be 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, at the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, at Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Ann (Jung) Baer, 91

Grandma Ann (Jung) Baer, 91, of Kalispell, "went to be with her Creator" on Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2013.

Ann was born to Henry and Katherina Jung on June 7, 1922, near Bowdle, S.D. Ann's parents were German immigrants from South Russia, who homesteaded in South Dakota. Ann was a first-generation American. She was raised in a sod hut on a prairie homestead. Ann's first-grade teacher learned German from Ann, while Ann learned English from her.

Ann married Harold Samuel Baer on Jan. 1, 1946, in Bowdle. She spent her life as a faithful, nurturing wife and mother. Years ago, she baby-sat grandson baby Jo-Jo; this year Grandma met her three newest great-grandchildren.

Grandma Ann is survived by her children, Peggy and Dan Jones, and Michael and Pattie Baer;



daughter-in-law, Annie Baer; grandchildren, Shelley and Jim Gilliam, Kristen, Matthew

Baer, Josiah and Emily Baer, Luke and Jennifer Baer, Joanna and Elliot Adams, Ruth and Nathanael Probert, David Baer, Bethany Baer, Shalom Baer and Rachel Baer; and great-grandchildren, Caleb, Taylor, Emily, Abigail, Billy Esther, Lydia and Mabel.

Ann was preceded in death by her husband, Harold S. Baer; her children, Paul and Mark; and her grandchildren, Billy, Isaac and Levi.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. today, Aug. 23, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Loyal 'Buck' Baertsch, 94

Loyal "Buck" Baertsch, 94, died in Polson at Polson Health and Rehab Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2013.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12, at Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory

in Polson. Burial with full military honors will take place at Lakeview Cemetery immediately after the service. A reception will follow at the funeral home after the graveside service.

Raymond Wallace Baier, 70

Many hearts were broken when Raymond Wallace Baier passed away peacefully "in the loving arms of his Lord," Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2013, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, from a heart attack. Ray was surrounded by his family and will be greatly missed, but his spirit will always remain with us.

Ray was born in Kalispell Nov. 8, 1942, to Lorraine Schultz and Ray Baier Sr. He lived his early years in a cabin with his parents at Ashley Lake before moving to Airport Road.

In his early years, Ray served in the National Guard, and worked in the woods with his "Pappy Wise" and Uncle Buzzy. He later owned his own auto renovation business and then ventured out across our great United States as a professional transportation engineer (aka truck driver) for many years. The business he enjoyed the most and is still in operation is Ray Baier Septic Service — hauling "Political Promises" valley-wide!

Ray's hobby was his family and what he could do for them. His goal in life was to find humor in all situations and to make others laugh.

His greater attributes were bargain hunting and frequenting the auction and Craig's List. Ray was famous for his tapioca pudding and various food creations. He was the family fix-it man and the go-to person. Ray's creativity was unusual and with few limitations. He could always get help because he "rode with Geronimo" and knew lots of "injun tricks." Ray was an avid guitar player with a love for Johnny Cash and George Jones. He and his wife loved playing pool, keeping track of every game won (She is still winning).

Ray loved the Lord. He accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior on Oct. 31, 1996.

Ray was preceded in



death by his father, Ray Baier Sr.; and siblings, Larry Baier and Joy Lynn Schultz.

Ray is survived by his wife of 24 years, Barbara

"Sami" Baier; parents, Donald and Lorraine Schultz; children, Michael "Rocky" and Robyn Lee of Spokane, Connie add Terry Adkins of Magnolia, Texas, Shelly and Senal Perera of Snohomish, Wash., David and Kristl Baier of Kirkland, Wash., Brandi and Andrew Farley of Enid, Okla., and Les Goo "The Red Headed Stepchild."

Ray loved his 23 grandchildren, Bryce and Haley Adkins, Rochelle, Trent Adkins, Megan, Max, Melissa, Adam, Nicholas and Jasmine Lee, Sarah and Liz Carpenter, Colton, Kayla, Wyatt and Shania Baier, Seth and Solomon Perera, Corey, Karl, Kaiya and Casey Farley and Mason Goo. He also had four great-grandchildren.

Rays' brothers and spouses are Ronald G-George and Shirley Baier, Lance Baier, Don, Daniel, and Todd and Yvonne Schultz. His sisters and spouses are Gail and Steve Welch, Gwendy Baier, Tami and Mark Whitehead, and Laurie and Craig Roberts; and sister-in-law, Catherine Baier. Ray also had many nieces, nephews and cousins whom he loved and adored. He was a friend to nearly every one he met and will be immensely missed by all.

There will be a memorial service for Ray at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 15, at Bible Baptist, 64 Dove Lane, in Evergreen, with a reception immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Kalispell Food Pantry or Bible Baptist Church.

Laurie Lorraine 'Loz' Baker, 50

Laurie Lorraine "Loz" Baker, 50, "went to heaven" on Oct. 13, 2013.

Laurie was born on July 7, 1963, to Del and Nancy Baker in Kalispell.

Laurie had a great passion for her son Brad and her grandsons. Brad was the greatest light in her life and he was known as her "little spook!"

She also had such an unconditional love for animals and would take anything in. She would share her love with them and she had so much to give. As a little girl, Laurie was Little Miss Rodeo Queen of the Tiny Tykes Rodeo. Her daddy Del was so proud of her and boy, she was her daddy's little girl. "They are now together reminiscing about those good 'ol days in the big rodeo in the sky."

Laurie was preceded in death by her father, Del Baker; Grandpa and Grandma Gibson; Grandpa Smokey and Eunice Baker; her uncles, Rick and Jim Baker; and stepfather, Maynard Bolster.



Laurie is survived by her son, Brad Dunkin of Kalispell; grandsons, Dawsen and Carter

Dunkin of Kalispell; mother, Nancy Gibson Sharp of Moses Lake, Wash.; mother, Harriet Baker of Kalispell; brothers, Justin Baker, Jeff (Jessa) Baker, and Shawn (Suzanne) Baker, all of Kalispell; nephews, Joshua Baker of Sandpoint, Idaho, Matt Baker of Priest River, Idaho, Colt Baker of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Brady Baker of Kalispell; and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

A celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 18, at the Creston Cemetery.

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

James Bakke, 82

James Bakke, 82, died Thursday, June 6, 2013, at HealthCenter Northwest.

He was a self-taught artist who had his work exhibited widely in Montana. He had lived in

Whitefish since 1947.

No services are planned at this time. Burial will take place at Whitefish Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Austin Funeral Home.

Ross Hartley Barefoot, 84

With many family members at his side, Ross Hartley Barefoot passed away in the comfort of his home on July 23, 2013, in Kalispell. Ross was born Sept. 1, 1928, in Johnstown, Pa.

Ross was proud to serve his country in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. Being stationed in North Dakota and, on a weekend pass, Ross met the love of his life, Carol Joyce Cossette. They were married in Fargo, N.D., and together they embarked on a life-long journey.

Ross and Joyce moved to Missoula for Ross to attend the University of Montana. Ross worked for the Anaconda Company, the Florence Hotel and later realized education was his calling. Ross became a history teacher working in Victor, and later became an administrator, moving his family from Missoula to Baker, where he felt it was the best place to raise his family. After a successful career Ross and Joyce retired to Kalispell.

He felt the most important element in his life was his family. He established a rich tradition of family gatherings with his children who returned home to celebrate family and life.

Ross was preceded in



death by his parents, Glenn Hartley Bare-

foot and Anna Howells Barefoot; twin brother, Thomas Glenn Barefoot; and daughters, Kimberly Anne Barefoot and Shelly Joyce Barefoot Havlovick.

Ross is survived by his wife, Carol Joyce Barefoot; his three sons, Jeffrey, Hartley and Kellee Jo, and Benjamin Lita; and seven daughters, Margo, Ruth, Rebecca and Rick, Jae and Marty, Glenna and Dan, Molly and Jerry, and Jessie; 24 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The family will have a private gathering to celebrate Ross' life with the spreading of his ashes at one of the family's favorite places in Montana.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be to the Shelly J. Havlovick Endowed Scholarship at MT Tech Foundation, 1300 West Park Street, Butte, MT 59701.

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

Anita L. Banning, 69

Anita L. Banning, 69, died Friday, Dec. 13, 2013, with her family by her side at her home in Libby.

Survivors include her children, Clayton McBroom and Kris Bowers.

Visitation will be 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22, at the Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby. Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 23, at the funeral home.

Arlynda B. Barnes, 74

Arlynda B. Barnes, 74, died in Kalispell on Friday, Dec. 20, 2013.

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

MEMORIALS

Jerry Barnes

A memorial service for Jerry Barnes, 82, who died Nov. 18 will be held at 11 a.m. July 6 at the First Presbyterian Church

in Whitefish.

A luncheon will follow at noon, with internment at the Whitefish Cemetery at 1 p.m.

Carol Janice Barnett, 83

Carol Janice Barnett, 83, passed away Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

She was born into the world on Dec. 15, 1929, in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Rupert Lester and Era LaVerna (DeWitt) Frey. She was the eighth child to join the family. She was known to her siblings as "Lois."

During Carol's life she lived in Idaho, Missouri, Iowa, California and moved to Montana in 1954. She married George A. Barnett in 1955 and raised four children. She moved to Kalispell in 1966.

She had worked as a waitress, bartender and a bookkeeper-secretary. She enjoyed fishing, playing cards, reading and doing crossword puzzles. She was a member of the Moose Lodge and loved country music. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents; her



husband in 2006; and seven of her siblings.

She is survived by her four children,

Ron Barnett and wife Sandy of Marion, Wanda Barnett, Lester Barnett and wife Michele, and Lonnie Barnett, all of Kalispell; also two brothers, Doyle Frey and wife Betty, and Jerry Frey, all of Albany, Ore., also seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, with tons of nieces and nephews.

Graveside services for Carol will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 30, at Glacier Memorial Gardens with Pastor Tim Bartholomew officiating.

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

James 'Gaylord' Barnhart, 78

James "Gaylord" Barnhart, 78, of Elgin, N.D., died Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013, at Sanford Health, Bismarck, N.D.

Gaylord's Mass of Christian Burial was Feb. 1 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Dickinson, N.D., with Father Keith Streifel as the celebrant. Burial took place at the Medora Cemetery in Medora, N.D. Visitation was on Jan. 31 at Ladbury Funeral Service in Dickinson, with a prayer service at 7 p.m., with Deacon Al Schwindt presiding.

Gaylord was born on Jan. 16, 1935, to Jim and Hattie (Godfrey) Barnhart, and was raised in Medora.

He married Irene Emma Reiche, who survives, on May 9, 1958. They adopted a son, John William Barnhart in 1963, and a daughter, Kelly Anne (Barnhart) Hoffman in 1965.

Gaylord was a honky-tonk musician who played in bars, at parties, dances, nursing homes, senior citizen activities and family events all his life. He spent 23 years as a Ford mechanic and 12 years as the maintenance director



for a meat packaging plant. He was a jack-of-all-trades who could fix anything and always did.

His family was always the most important thing in his life. He always had a smile and a good word for everyone. He never met a stranger.

He is survived by his wife; his daughter; one brother, Clifford, and Delores Barnhart; one sister, Joan, and Jack Johnson; numerous nieces and nephews; and one grandson, James Dallas Barnhart, of Chino, Calif.

He was preceded in death by his son, John William Barnhart, who passed away Jan. 10, 2011; his parents, Leslie M. "Jim" and Hattie Barnhart; two sisters, LaDelpha (John) Nunn and Gloria (Max) Wilson; and two brothers, Gerald (Dorothy) Barnhart and Leland "Miles" Barnhart.

Arrangements are with Ladbury Funeral Service, Dickinson; www.ladbury-funeralservice.com

Endsley A. Barrett, 33

Endsley A. Barrett, 33, died Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Cremation is being taken care of by Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory.

Ila May Barta, 80

Ila May Barta, 80, passed away peacefully Sept. 15, 2013, from natural causes, at home in Columbia Falls, surrounded by her family.

She was born May 19, 1933, to Steven and May (Prichard) Slack in Fort Benton on her father's birthday. She was the first of four children. She had a sister, Bonnie, and two brothers, Jack and Roy.

Her parents moved to the Snowy Mountains outside of Lewistown where she attended Beaver Creek schools through the eighth grade. She went to high school at Fergus High School in Lewistown and graduated in 1950.

She met her husband Bob Barta while attending a dance in Hobson in 1949. They dated until Oct. 22, 1951, when they were married in Billings. They celebrated 61 years of marriage. To this union, three sons and a daughter were born, Steven, Donald, James and Laura.

She moved to Leadville, Colo., where she lived for four years while her husband worked for the Climax Mining Co. She moved back to Lewistown in 1957 until 1960, when they moved to the Flathead Valley. She and her husband built a home south of Columbia Falls where they raised their family and lived until her passing.

She had a love for horses, picking huckleberries, picking pine cones and being in the mountains. She also enjoyed hunting, fishing, getting firewood, playing pinochle, garage sales and being a home-maker.

She served one term on the board for Bad



Rock Fire Department. She was a volunteer for voting registration and kept score for basketball games at Deer Park School for several years.

She supported NRA (National Rifle Association), Montanans for Multiple Use and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

She enjoyed watching her grandchildren and great-grandchildren play sports.

She and her husband spent afternoons at the Nite Owl having lunch, and danced for many years on Saturday nights at the Blue Moon.

She was preceded in passing by her parents, Steve and May Slack; sister, Bonnie Craft; and brother, Roy Slack.

She is survived by her loving husband, Bob Barta, and four children, Steven and wife Merla Barta, Donald and wife Kim (Flemming) Barta, James and wife Faye Barta, and Laura and husband Shane Christianson, and her brother Jack and wife Carolyn Slack, all of the Flathead Valley; 14 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, cousins, sisters and brothers-in-law and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent in her name to Bad Rock Fire Department.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, at Deer Park

Charles 'Chick' Clayton Bartsch, 72

Chick Bartsch was born Jan. 13, 1941, in Billings.

He passed away on March 18, 2013, following a brief illness.

He graduated from high school in Kalispell. After serving in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in Korea, Chick moved to Seattle during the World's Fair in 1962, and attended The Art Institute. He joined Boeing Aircraft Company in 1965. He worked as an illustrator and project planner in both Washington, D.C., and Seattle. He retired from Boeing in 2000.

He was preceded in death by his father Clayton, mother Alma, and wife Janet.

He has a brother, Jerry, living in Kalispell; and two daughters, Tammy Hebert of Nampa, Idaho, and Kristie Bartsch of San Carlos, Calif.

Chick was an avid Unlimited Hydroplane fan, going to many Northwest races in Seattle, Tri-Cities, Wash., and



Kelowna, British Columbia. His motor home was where

everyone gathered in between heat racing. He crewed on a five liter "limited" hydro for several years and moved up to crew on the unlimited class U-52 Design 360 hydroplane.

In 1990 he joined the Seafair Security Committee in Seattle, where he volunteered for several seasons. He helped with the restoration of Bruce McCaw's Slo-Mo-Shun V, and got a ride in the famous hydroplane for his efforts. Most recently, Chick was the crew chief for various 1/10th scale R/C hydroplanes, following the R/C circuit for the past seven years.

Funeral services were private.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that remembrances be made to the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum in Kent, Wash.

Randall Merle 'Randy' Bartscher, 64

Randall Merle "Randy" Bartscher, 64, formerly of Kalispell, died June 19, 2013, in Butte.

Friends may call at 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 24, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Butte. Liturgy of the Resurrection will

be celebrated at 11 a.m. His ashes will be interred in Holy Cross Cemetery in Butte, with a reception to follow at The Copper King Inn, Butte.

Axelson Alternative Cremation in Butte is caring for the family.

Henry Charles Bauldauf, 86

Henry Charles Bauldauf, 86, died Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

Arrangements are pending with Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory.

Floyd Baumman, 88

Floyd Baumman, 88, of Bigfork, died Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013, at Lakeview Care Center in Bigfork.

Funeral services will be

at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, at Conrad First Presbyterian Church in Conrad.

Miser Mortuaries in Conrad is handling arrangements.

Yvonne Irene Bausman, 69

Yvonne Irene Bausman, 69, died Wednesday, March 27, 2013, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

No services are planned at this time.

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

Evelyn Akey Beauchene, 81

Evelyn Akey Beauchene passed peacefully on Dec. 8, 2013, in Nevada, Iowa. Evelyn was born in Whitefish July 30, 1932, and lived most of her life in the Flathead Valley, but most recently in Nevada.

Evelyn was married to Robert R. Beauchene, and together they had five children. Evelyn spent her adult life helping others. First, nurturing and raising five successful children, Bob (Karen), Susan (Randy) Ruby, Tim, David (Jill), and Mark (Adele). She was blessed with 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Evelyn continued nurturing others later in life as an activity therapist at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell. There she worked with the elderly, planning activities and events such as taking a van of residents to the Northwest Montana Fair and Glacier National Park.

Evelyn retired and lived in Montana, Arizona and Iowa. In Montana, Evelyn loved hiking with friends in Glacier Park, huckleberry and raspberry picking, and watching her grandchildren's track meets and theatrical events.

Though her heart was always in Montana, she loved her time in Iowa as a foster grandparent at Central Elementary.

She was "Grandma Evelyn" to a host of Nevada children, but most importantly to Madeline and Olivia. Grandma Evelyn spent her final years perfecting her apple pie recipe, attending flute recitals, baby-sitting, making rolls, residing at the Meadows and Stonehaven and making homemade candies at Christmastime.

In her final days of hospice, Evelyn received much joy from knowing her great-granddaughter Leona went home from the hospital healthy and well, listening to Olivia sing her harvest breakfast songs, talking with her grandchildren via iPhone, Skyping to see her newest grandchild Amity smile, eating popcorn and reminiscing over old movies such as "Singin' in the Rain" with Maddie, and watching ISU basketball with her son Mark.

There will be a private family Mass, and Evelyn wished for her ashes to be buried in Montana next summer.

Memorials should be directed to Story County Long Term Care, Nevada, Iowa. Story County Long Term Care offered Evelyn a happy and well-cared-for home in her final days.

Bacon Funeral Home in Nevada is handling arrangements.

Steven D. Bech, 68

Steven D. Bech, 68, passed away at home Saturday, May 11, 2013, surrounded by his wife and two sons.

He was born Feb. 15, 1945, in Spokane, to Raymond R. "Rasmus" Bech and June Vinther Bech. Spending his first eight years of schooling at Roosevelt Grade School, he then attended Lewis & Clark High School where he was a member of the varsity basketball team, graduating from there in 1963.

Briefly attending Wenatchee Junior College, he transferred to Linfield College in McMinnville, Ore., where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education in 1968. Subsequently he served in the Army Reserve from 1969 to 1975, as sergeant, drill instructor and electrician.

Having earned his way through college by working summers for Power City Electric of Spokane, he found his vocational joy in line work and subsequently earned his journeyman lineman's ticket from the Northwest Line Construction Joint Apprenticeship Training Council in 1974. He worked for line contractors Swain & Morris, Williams Construction and Power City Electric before joining Washington Water Power Company in 1974.

In 1980, he moved to Montana to work with Pacific Power & Light in Kalispell. Working as a journeyman lineman for 13 years, he was promoted to district line foreman in 1993. With the acquisition of Montana PP&L by Flathead Electric in 1998, Steve elected to remain in Kalispell and became safety manager for Flathead Electric until his retirement in 2007.

Steve loved the outdoors, enjoying countless hours in the Flathead skiing in the winter and hiking in the summer. But his heart belonged to the family lake cabin on 8 Mile Island in Priest Lake, Idaho, where his family has summered since 1900.



brought him so much joy.

Steve was married July 7, 1973, to Eileen Bach of Helena. They made their home in Spokane where son

Aaron was born in 1976, and then in Kalispell where son Nathaniel was born in 1980. The family spent many years as members of Epworth United Methodist Church, and then later as members of the Flathead Valley UCC.

Steve was active during his working years with Glacier Kiwanis and also thoroughly enjoyed his role as a "Lunch Pail Pal" with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. After his retirement, Steve spent many happy hours volunteering in the woodworking classes of Jeff Steiner at Flathead High School where he again enjoyed working with students and emphasizing safe working practices.

He is survived by his wife, Eileen, of Kalispell; by his son, Aaron, and his wife, Kaarin Ekstrum, and children, Annika and Colin of Portland; by his son, Nathaniel, currently of Kalispell; as well as by his three brothers, Terry R. Bech of Enschede, Netherlands, and son Daniel and family of San Francisco; James W. Bech and wife, Gay, of Spokane with children, Delsey and family of Spokane, and Cory and family of Baton Rouge, La.; and Stanley V. Bech and wife, Peggy, of Spokane and children, Patrick, Katrina, and Megan of that city. Also surviving is his mother's sister, Aunt Jean Corbin, of Spokane; as well as numerous cousins, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Steve loved line work and believed that work should be fun. He believed passionately in electrical safety. Having done two pole-top rescues of co-workers in Spokane and then, shortly after, moving to Kalispell, having been saddened by the electrocution of a child climbing in a tree, he took it as a personal crusade to push for awareness of the facts and dangers of electrical powerlines, devoting himself to the "Zap Board" presentations to local schools which

The family requests memorials to be donated to Foy's to Blacktail Trails in memory of Steve: online at www.FoysToBlacktailTrails.org, or email info@FoysToBlacktailTrails.org.

Funeral services for Steve will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, with interment to follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. A buffet reception will follow at a location to be announced.

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

Paul C. Beckstrom, 80

Paul C. Beckstrom passed away on April 20, 2013, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish, after an extended battle with pneumonia.

He was born Dec. 17, 1932, in Tucson, Ariz., to Wilmer and Grace Beckstrom. At the time of his birth, they were living in Bowie, Ariz. They lived in Douglas, Bisbee (twice), Wilcox, Yuma and Tucson. In January 1937, his father was transferred to Havre, then to Sweetgrass, Fort Missoula and finally to Eureka, where Paul graduated from high school in 1951. Paul then entered Montana State University (now University of Montana), as a journalism major, and then changed to "unlisted major." While in college, he worked in the kitchen of the Chimney Corners Café next to the campus, and for the Carpenter Paper Company.

He was also active in square dancing in The Royaleers, where he met Delores Eileen Howard. They were married on Sept. 19, 1959, in Missoula. He was employed by Carpenter Paper from 1955 to 1964, during which they lived in Yakima, Wash., Wenatchee, Wash., Billings and Kalispell.

He was then employed at Columbia Falls Lumber, until early 1966. He then was employed at the Anaconda Aluminum Plant (now Columbia Falls Aluminum Company) until his retirement on Jan. 1, 1995.

In June 1965, the family had moved to Columbia Falls, where he lived until his death. He was a part-time gunsmith until his retirement, when he and his wife became too busy enjoying travel for him to continue.

Paul shot his first firearm (a BB cap .22 rifle) during the summer of 1937, igniting a lifelong passion for all things related to the sport. During his life, he was active in many shooting clubs and other firearm-related activities, including

being an instructor for the Junior Rifle Club, a hunter safety instructor, chairman of the Kalispell Gun show, and avid gun and ammunition collector. He passed his love for shooting and firearms on to his wife, children, other family members and many friends. Paul studied many reference books and was always eager to pass along his knowledge. He also enjoyed horse riding in his youth, spending time with his family and friends, reading many genres of books, and camping, fishing and being in the outdoors his entire life.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents and wife.

He is survived by his younger brothers, David and John; and his children, James and Kathryn. He is also survived by nieces, nephews, and grandnieces and -nephews.

The family wishes to extend a note of gratitude to the staff of the Nite Owl Restaurant for giving Paul such hospitality after his wife's death.

The memorial service will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 4 at the Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls, followed by a reception from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Back Room of the Nite Owl Restaurant.

Cremation has already taken place.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation in Paul's name to a charity such as the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association, NWMACA, the American Diabetes Association, the North Valley Sportsman Club, the Les Bauska Shooting Range or the NRA.

John L. Beebe, 90

John L. Beebe, 90, a longtime Libby resident, died peacefully at home Monday, April 15, 2013.

He was born July 6, 1922, in Eureka, to Russell and Julia (Haitt) Beebe. John spent his early years in Eureka. His family moved often and John attended many country schools, including McGinnis Meadows, Plains and Polson. At one time the family lived in such a remote place that he was unable to get to school for two years. John attended high school in Libby where he completed the 11th grade.

He was drafted into the United States Army on Oct. 12, 1942. John fought in the Battle of the Bulge, as well as in Germany where he was wounded and received the Purple Heart. He was honorably discharged January of 1946 and returned to Libby where he purchased 80 acres.

John went to work for the Forest Service where he built many roads, ran horse-drawn graders, packed supplies into area lookouts and worked on trail crews.

On March 3, 1950, he married Mable Goyen in Libby. Shortly thereafter, they added another 240 acres to their ranch. In 1955 John took a job with J. Neil's Lumber Company and went right to work as foreman of the road crew.



He retired from St. Regis in 1982.

John's passion in life was his ranch south of Libby. He spent over 60 years working side by side with Mable clearing the land and turning the forest into the ranch it is today. John also enjoyed working with his tractor and spent his 90th birthday cutting hay.

He was preceded in death by his son, Wayne.

Survivors include his wife, Mable Beebe, of Libby; sons, Harry and Teri Beebe, and Ronald Beebe, all of Libby; daughters, Joan Evans of Beaver, Wash., Juanita Rose of Libby, and Charlotte and Mark Morain of Libby; six grandchildren, Charlie and Colleen, Will and Peni, Brett and Jennifer, Amanda and Chris, Andy, and Hannah; five great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; two brothers, Robert and Mary Beebe of Lake Montezuma, Ariz., and Donald and Naomi Beebe of Springfield, Mo.; and a sister, Betty Kimber, of Stockton, Calif.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 19, at Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home Chapel, 422 W. Second St., in Libby. Luncheon will follow at the VFW.

Theresa 'Terry' Guest Beebe, 52

Theresa "Terry" Guest Beebe, 52, passed away peacefully Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013, at the Hospice of the Valleys in Mesa, Ariz.

Terry was born May 25, 1961, in Kalispell to Michael and Constance "Connie" Guest. After graduating from Flathead High School in 1979, she moved to Mesa, working as a waitress while going to Mesa community college part time. In 1984, Terry married Craig Beebe and graduated with a B.S. in accounting from Arizona State University.

She went to work as a junior accountant at Brent Stewart and Co., a public accounting firm, in 1984. She passed the certified public accounting exam in 1986, and became a member of the highly accredited AICPA.

In 1988, she became a junior partner at the firm specializing in installation and implementation of accounting software. Terry established a thriving clientele at Brent Stewart and Co. in this specialty area.

In 1995, she left Brent Stewart and Co. to open her own CPA accounting firm specializing in this area called Integrated System Solutions (ISS). She grew this business annually until selling it to a national firm called Tectura in 2001. Terry went to work for Tectura as a project manager/consultant implementing Microsoft high-end enterprise accounting software for Fortune 500 companies across the nation. She quickly became one of the top project managers/consultants for Tectura and was



sought after by almost every one of their major clients. In 2010, she was heav-

ily recruited by Microsoft to work for them directly and made the decision to work for this dynamic, stable organization where she continued to excel as an implementation consultant.

Craig and Terry had four children together, born in 1985, 1987, 1989 and 1993. Through her life she had a never-ending passion for her children. She loved spending her spare time reading or golfing. Every summer you could find Terry and her family golfing, fishing and camping in the great outdoors of the Flathead Valley. Terry's work ethic was an inspiration to all who knew her. Terry's life here ended too soon. She will be deeply missed by her family and friends, but her spirit will forever be in our hearts.

She was preceded in death by her son, Michael Beebe; and father, Michael Guest.

She is survived by her mother, Connie Guest; brothers, Timothy and Brian Guest; sister, Barbara Guest; son, Christopher Beebe of Tampa, Fla.; daughters, Jacque and Crystal Beebe of Mesa; and niece, Heather Hayak.

Terry's life will be celebrated next summer at one of her favorite places on the South Fork of the Flathead River with family and friends.

Maryetta Beebe

A celebration of life for Maryetta Beebe, 63, who died Jan. 21 will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, at New

Covenant Church, 436 Birch Grove Road, Kalispell. A light lunch will be served following the memorial service.

Lynette K. Bellmore, 95

Lynette K. Bellmore, 95, died Thursday, June 6, 2013, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

Services are pending.

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

Anna 'Ann' Rosalie Benda, 92

Anna "Ann" Rosalie Benda, 92, passed away Friday, March 22, 2013, at her Whitefish residence.

Ann was born Dec. 21, 1920, in Iona Township, Todd County, Minn., where she was also raised.

Ann had been a homemaker. Community activities included the RSVP, and knitting hats and gloves for children and adults and stocking caps for newborns. Ann enjoyed gardening, knitting and baking.

Ann was preceded in death by her parents; an

infant child; two brothers; and two nephews.

Ann is survived by her niece, Sherri Cooke, of Loma.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Humane Society of Northwest Montana in Kalispell, Meals on Wheels in Whitefish, or to the St. Labre Indian School in Ashland.

There will be no services.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website, www.buffalohillfh.com, to leave notes of condolence for

the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Cre-

matory is caring for the family.

Dean Berens Sr., 76

Dean Berens Sr., 76, died at St. Joseph Hospital in Polson on Oct. 29, 2013.

A memorial will be held at his home, 38484 Pinewood Dr., in Polson off of Rocky Point

Drive, at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3. Burial will take place in Auburn, Wash., Friday, Nov. 8. Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory is handling the arrangements for the family.

Dennis Mitchell Benzien, 78

Dennis Mitchell Benzien, 78, died Monday, June 17, 2013, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

No services are planned at this time.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

Mary Louise 'Marylou' Benson, 86

Mary Louise "Marylou" Benson, 86, a wife, mother and homemaker, passed away peacefully on April 2, 2013, from natural causes at the Marias Medical Center in Shelby.

Mary Lou is survived by her sons, John Benson and Debby of Houston, Dave Benson and Jane of Franktown, Colo., Gary Benson and Kathrin of Houston, and L.G. Benson and Yanira of Houston; a daughter, Wanda Kennedy and Larry of Shelby; as well as 16 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Marylou was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, David "Dave" Benson; and a grandson, David Benson of Bigfork.

Marylou was born the youngest of five children to Frank and Mary Jane (Buchanan) Billmeyer of Harlem, Mont. Marylou was raised in Harlem but lived with her family for a brief time in Tacoma, Wash., where she attended Aquinas Academy before returning to Kalispell, where she graduated from Flathead County High School in 1945.

In 1946 she met and married Dave Benson while employed as a cook



at the M-Lazy-B Ranch in Marion. They lived at the ranch for nine years. During that

time they hand built a log house and had their first son, John. After spending 1948 in Ker-ville, Texas, the family then returned to Montana where Dave and Marylou completed their family. Dave worked in road construction which took them all over the state. After many years the family purchased a home and settled down in Bigfork where they resided until 1994. From there, they moved to Sunburst where they spent their summers, and they wintered in Quartzsite, Ariz. While in Quartzsite, Mom enjoyed four-wheeling, bingo, dry washing for gold, potlucks and visiting with friends.

A memorial celebration is being planned for early in July of 2013. Anyone with questions regarding the memorial service may contact Wanda Kennedy at (406) 424-8095 or kennedy@3rivers.net.

Condolences for the family may be posted at www.whittedfuneralchapel.com.

John J. Benningfield, 50

John J. Benningfield, 50, passed away on Monday, Aug. 26, 2013, in Portland.

John was born in Kokomo, Ind., April 25, 1963. The family moved to Whitefish, where he was raised and attended schools. The family lived in Sweetwater, Texas, where John graduated from high school.

Living back in the Flathead Valley, he attended Flathead Valley Community College where he graduated with a Associate of Applied Science degree. He then attended Northern Montana College where he got his Bachelor of Science degree.

John worked as a field service engineer for Eaton Corporation, field service engineer for Kapiscan Systems, semiconductor technician for Intel Corporation and as a final test technician

for Semitool. He was a member of the NRA-GOA and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

John was preceded in death by his grandparents, Henry B. and Levita A. Benningfield, and Harold and Maxiene Bitner.

He is survived by his father, John Benningfield, of Reserve, N.M.; mother, Barbara Bitner, of Bayview, Idaho, brother, James Benningfield; sister, Candace Benningfield; and brother, Scott Andrew Benningfield.

A celebration of life service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. A private family interment will be at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

You are invited to go to www.buffalohf.com to leave message or sign John's guest book. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Otto Alonzo Bessey

A memorial service for Otto Alonzo Bessey, 77, who died Dec. 8, 2012, will be held at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3 at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, with an ice cream social to follow at Woodland Park Pavilion.

Wayne Charles Bengtson, 42

Wayne Charles Bengtson passed away on Friday, March 8, 2013, at his home in West Glacier.

Wayne was born on Jan. 20, 1971, in Whitefish, the son of Charles and Susan Bengtson.

Wayne was a wonderful father, husband, brother, uncle, friend, son and treasured son-in-law.

He worked for the Glacier National Park Service as a heavy equipment operator, at his family-owned excavation business and for the State Highway Department. He worked a number of years with Jordt Logging and with his father as a sawyer and equipment operator.

Wayne was an avid outdoorsman. He loved fishing, hunting, skiing, waterskiing and, most of all, spending time with his family and son. Wayne was a dedicated and loving father with a great sense of humor. One of the many things he will be remembered for was his integrity. He was an honest man with a hard work ethic and his word was good.

We can't describe how much we loved him and he will be missed by so many people.

He was survived by his wife, Lindsey, and son, Colter; his parents,



Charles and Susan Bengtson; eight brothers and sisters, Theresa and husband Greg

McClure, children Michael and Natasha; Michelle; Lynn; Bill and his wife Theresa; Luke; Cheryl; Faith and husband Russell Yerian, children Wyatt and Quinn; and Suzanne and her husband Luke Warner; mother-in-law, Liz Calkins; brother-in-law, Jason Calkins; also numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; and godparents, Thad and Brenda Jordt.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 14, at Christ Lutheran Church, 5150 River Lakes Parkway, Whitefish; 406-862-2615. All friends and family are welcome.

As per Wayne's wishes his ashes will be spread in his favorite hunting spot.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to Colter's college fund which has been established at Edward Jones in Columbia Falls, and can be contacted at 406-892-7283 under the name of Elizabeth Calkins, beneficiary Colter Bengtson.

Charles 'Chuck' Leamon Biegler, 73

Charles "Chuck" Leamon Biegler, 73, died Saturday, May 25, 2013, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He is survived by his mother, Lucille Biegler; his daughters, Faith Weed

and Rhonda Walker.

A memorial will be held for family and friends at a later date.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Eureka.

Geraldine 'Geri' Bielenberg, 81

Geraldine "Geri" Bielenberg, formerly of Great Falls, passed away peacefully on Aug. 20, 2013, at Lake View Care Center in Bigfork, after a courageous three-month battle with a brain tumor.

She was born in Salt Lake City on Oct. 13, 1931, and the family moved to Great Falls when she was 4 years old. Geri attended Whittier and Roosevelt elementary schools, Paris Gibson Junior High and Great Falls High School.

She then worked her way up in the retail business from the age of 17, starting as a stock girl at Kress dime store, moving next to J.C. Penney, and then on to The Paris of Montana. Eventually Geri became the buyer for the infants, children's and yard goods departments at Montgomery Ward in Holiday Village Mall.

Geri was previously married to Robert "Bob" Nelson (1951), and they raised their three children in Great Falls — daughters, Pamela Smith and David of Auburn, Wash., and Vicky Golie and Michael of Taylorsville, Utah; and son, Rick Nelson, and Dorene, of Orem, Utah. Bob and Geri divorced in 1974.

Geri married Donald D. Bielenberg on Dec. 10, 1975, in Bozeman, and since then, the two have lived in the beautiful community of Swan Lake.



After her marriage to Don, Geri retired from her career in retail and became active in

the Swan Lake Chamber of Commerce, assisting for many years with the annual Huckleberry Festival and other community functions. She was admired for her stunning handwork, afghans, doilies and scarves, as well as her great home cooking (most especially her coveted apple pie and chocolate cake).

Geri was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Amy Linnell; and sisters, Helen (Briggs) and Darlene (Williams).

Don and Geri Bielenberg's lives were blessed by her three children, plus Don's children, Paulette Haxton and Flynn North of Great Falls; Danny Bielenberg of Seeley Lake, and Karen Bielenberg of Bozeman. Between them, the two have 13 amazing grandchildren, Dustin, Aimee (deceased), Sunny, Tia, Brenna, Emiley, Cassey, Seth, Meisha, Joshua, Jarom, Natasha and Nicholas; plus 19 precious great-grandchildren.

The legacy Geri leaves behind is unconditional love, dedication, devotion and the optimism she has shown to her husband,

children, extended family and friends throughout her entire life. Her fearless courage and tender nature will be forever cherished in the hearts of all those who have known and loved her.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Swan Chapel, located at 22376 Mon-

tana 83, Swan Lake. Geri's final resting place will be in the family plot in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

Friends are 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.

Jason King Billedeaux, 31

Our beloved son Jason King Billedeaux, 31, passed away Dec. 3, 2013.

He was born on Dec. 31, 1981, in Orem, Utah. Jason was well traveled as the family moved often during his childhood. Most of his education and upbringing was in Glendive. He finished his education at the Anaconda Job Corps, graduating with a welder certificate.

Jason was a very talented individual in the areas of mechanics and construction. He was blessed with a keen mind. He learned quickly and was always an asset wherever he was employed. He had a great work ethic — always going above and beyond what was asked of him. He was most recently employed by Granite Creek in Kalispell where he was in the process of learning the art of shaping and installing granite in homes. His boss and co-workers were amazed at his dedication and loved working with him. He often was at work by 6 a.m. — waiting to get on a job.

Jason had a big heart and would give anyone anything he had. He often would stop working to help someone with another need. He loved living in the Flathead Valley and would often go exploring to seek solitude and discover the beauty created here. He also loved people and was very concerned for those suffering throughout the world. His ability to see the needs of and feel for others was huge.

Jason had a strong testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ and was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He also loved his time in Boy Scouts where he cherished campouts

with his dad and brother. His best friend in life was his brother Mike.

“We are grateful for the blessing of having you as our son — the sorrows and pains you suffered in this life have ended. You can now be at peace.”

Jason always admonished us to “be positive” and “don’t look back — always look ahead.”

Jason made and kept good friends throughout his life.

“Our hearts are broken at your passing. You left us too soon; we will always love and miss you. God be with you son, ‘til we meet again.”

A special thank you to all who have offered comfort and support at this most difficult time, especially to Catherine, Ellen, Casey, Chad and everyone who he loved so much at Granite Creek.

Jason is survived by his parents, Louis and Lynn Billedeaux, of Kalispell; also brothers, Mike and wife Erika of Glendive, and Jesse of Rexburg, Idaho; sister, Anissa, and husband, Ben Keyes, of Glendive; grandparents, King and Dee Billedeaux of Arizona, and grandmother Donna Rice of California; nieces and nephews, as well as cousins, aunts and uncles.

A memorial service to celebrate Jason’s life will be held at 1 p.m. on Dec. 31 at the LDS Church in Kalispell. Cremation has taken place and burial will be at a future date.

Memorial contributions can be made in Jason’s name to the American Red Cross.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Jason’s family. You are invited to go to www.jgfuneralhome.com to offer a condolence and sign Jason’s guest book.

Bonnie L. Berger, 74

Beloved wife, devoted mother, daughter and proud grandmother, Bonnie L. Berger, "went to be with our Lord" on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, after a prolonged battle with cancer.

Bonnie was born Jan. 8, 1939, to Ralph and Emma Hennessey in Whitefish. Bonnie received her education in Whitefish, graduating from Whitefish High School in 1957. While in high school, she was very active. She represented Whitefish at Girls State, for which she was very proud. Bonnie served on the High School Council, sang in the Glee Club and was a Rainbow Girl.

Soon after graduating from high school, she married her high school sweetheart, John Berger. They initially made their home in Los Alamitos, Calif., where John was stationed with the Navy, ultimately settling in the Seattle area.

Bonnie's lifelong priorities were God, her husband, her children, extended family and friends. She was very loyal to the goals associated with her priorities. She made no enemies and extended Christian fellowship to all she met.

She was a true homemaker and never wanted or needed to work outside the home. Bonnie always felt she was so fortunate to be able to stay home and raise her three sons.

Bonnie was noted for her thoughtfulness and particularly her card writing. She never missed an opportunity to recognize a good deed done to her or a friend's birthday, or any other occasion she



deemed proper.

Bonnie was always looking for an opportunity to represent her Lord

whenever possible. Many felt she was a wonderful example of a Christian woman.

Bonnie was preceded in death by a baby daughter; her father, Ralph Hennessey; mother, Emma Hennessey; and sister, Jesse Schlinger.

She is survived by husband, John Berger, of Bellevue, Wash., three children, John E. Berger of Seattle, David Berger and his wife Magda of Seattle, and Dane Berger of Seattle; and two grandchildren. She is also survived by brother, Ralph N. Hennessey, and his wife, Peggy, of Whidbey Island, Wash. Bonnie also had several nieces and nephews who were very special to her.

Bonnie's passing is an overwhelming loss to her family and friends, and especially to her husband John. They were to celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary on July 1, 2013. All who knew her were touched in some special way and Bonnie was loved by many for her kindness and selflessness. She will be missed by so many people.

A celebration of Bonnie's life will take place in Bellevue at 2 p.m. on May 26 at Crossroads Bible Church. A second celebration of her life will take place in Whitefish at 2 p.m. on June 30 at the Whitefish United Methodist Church.

Mary Jane Bergmann, 91

Mary Jane Bergmann passed away peacefully on May 22, 2013, in Aurora, Colo.

She was born in Walla Walla, Wash., on Nov. 13, 1921, the daughter of Harry C. Petram and Ruth Sundelius Petram. Her father died from a fall in a construction accident when Mary Jane was 17 months old. At the age of nine, Mary Jane moved with her mother to live with her grandparents in Half Moon. In 1932, when Mary Jane was 10, her mother married Albert Sales and they moved to his ranch in the upper Thompson River area, where she attended the one-room Thompson River Schoolhouse. Mary Jane lived in Kalispell with her uncle, Dr. Victor Sundelius and his family, while attending Flathead County High School.

After graduating from high school Mary Jane opened her own public stenography office, and after proving her capabilities, became a stenographer for a local oil refinery office. Mary Jane first met Wally Bergmann across the meat counter at Sykes' Cash Market while shopping with her mother. In the summer of 1941, she was singing for entertainment at a dance at Boisvert's Resort west of Kalispell when Wally and a friend showed up and that began their relationship. They had only been dating a short time when World War II began with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Wally enlisted in the Navy and was soon sent to San Diego for basic training. Even though they had only had a total of nine dates, one of those to church, Mary Jane moved to San Diego in late September, and they were married on Oct. 3, 1942. While her husband was serving aboard ship in the Pacific, Mary Jane worked as a teller at banks in San Diego, and later on in Oakland.



learn new things, Mary Jane attended Flathead Valley Community College where she

took classes in computer science, as well as drama and other subjects. About 1975, she was able to continue her federal employment with jobs at the U.S. Forest Service offices in Hungry Horse and Columbia Falls. Mary Jane kept in touch with family and friends through email until her health began to fail at age 90.

Mary Jane loved music and had a beautiful voice. She had sung in many venues around Flathead County from high school through the 1960s, as a soloist for many different occasions, and in the Methodist church choir. Mary Jane was a member of the Epworth United Methodist Church for 77 years until moving to Colorado on Oct. 29, 2012, to be near her daughter Ruth and family. She was also an active member of the Rebekkah Lodge in Kalispell during the 1940s, at which time she had worked her way through the "chairs" to be Noble Grand, and then again from the 1980s until age 89 in active participation with Wally, who became Grand Master of the International Order of Odd Fellows for the State of Montana. They traveled all over the United States and parts of Canada to attend lodge activities. Mary Jane was very active in Beta Sigma Phi sorority for over 50 years, where she made lifelong friends. She was also secretary of the Kalispell Community Concert Association Board for several years in the 1960s.

At the end of the war, Mary Jane and Wally moved back to Kalispell where they raised their two children, Ruth and Roger. When the children were young, Mary Jane worked nights, after the children had gone to bed, doing bookkeeping for businesses around town so she could be home with the children during the day. When Roger was in fifth grade, she went back to work as a bookkeeper for SaveMore Drug Store, then for Henry Jordahl, CPA, Matelich Construction and the Rambler dealership. About 1965, Mary Jane was employed as the Executive Secretary for the Kalispell office of the U.S. Selective Service System, where she remained until the draft ended and the Selective Service office was closed in 1973.

Always wanting to

Mary Jane was preceded in death by her husband, James Wallace "Wally" Bergmann; her father, Harry Petram; mother, Ruth Sales; stepfather, Albert Sales; and brother, Bill Petram. She is survived by her two children, Ruth Levin of Aurora, and Roger Bergmann of Las Vegas; two grandchildren, Tali Levin-Myers and her husband Kurt of Aurora, and Jeremy Levin and his wife Aneta of Spaldwick, Cambridgeshire, England; five great-grandchildren, Zak Levin of Hayward, Calif., Reece and Lindsey Myers of Aurora, and Sophia and Alexander Levin of Spaldwick, Cambridgeshire, England; and many cousins, nieces, nephews and their families.

The family is being assisted by Neptune Society Funeral Home, and Colorado Crematory.

Memorial service for Mary Jane Bergmann will be scheduled later, to take place in Kalispell during the summer months.

Rudy Bergstrom, 90

Rudy Bergstrom, 90, was born March 14, 1923, in Kalispell to Rudolph and Alma Bergstrom.

He "went home to be with the Lord" on Dec. 13, 2013, after a brief illness.

He grew up in Somers where he met his future wife, Ruth Wright. They were married on Feb. 7, 1944, in Tucson, Ariz., while Rudy was in flight school. He had taken an interest in flying while in high school which led to a career in the Air Force during World War II as a flight instructor. During the war and after he flew 20 different types of planes, including B-17s and B-25s.

He returned to the Flathead Valley where he and Ruth built a home on Flathead Lake and began their family of five children, at the beginning of the Baby Boom. Following his discharge from the Air Force, he joined the Montana National Guard to be able to continue flying. He worked at Buttrey's and then Kelly-Main Street Furniture for 18 years. Rudy's faith in Jesus Christ and his love of God's Word were foundational to his life and values. He was involved with Youth For Christ in the Flathead Valley for several years. Rudy and Ruth were charter members of Central Bible Church in Kalispell.



able to travel with assistance to Washington, D.C. on the Big Sky Honor Flight to visit the World War II Memorial along with 85 other World War II veterans.

Rudy is survived by his wife, Ruth, of nearly 70 years;

children, Trudy Waggener and her husband Ted of Kalispell, Terry McNichols and her husband Ken of Seattle, Richard Bergstrom and his wife Leona of Seattle, David Bergstrom and his wife Allison of Anaheim Hills, Calif., and James Bergstrom of Dupont, Wash.; 10 grandchildren, Janis Waggener, James Waggener, Jody Waggener, Joshua McNichols, Jeremiah McNichols, Bethany Wallace, Jonathan Bergstrom, Lynnea Common, Dylan Bergstrom, and Ashley Bergstrom; 20 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and his brother, Raymond Bergstrom of Columbia Falls.

In 1965, the family moved to Phoenix where they lived for the next 47 years, frequently returning to the Flathead Valley for visits. They were long-time members of Bethany Bible Church in Phoenix. While in Arizona Rudy worked for Barrows Furniture, while Ruth sold real estate. Due to health reasons, Rudy took an early retirement in 1979. They were able to visit their children and grandchildren in their retirement. They enjoyed living in Sun Village, Surprise, Ariz. for 23 years. With their health declining, they returned to Kalispell in 2012 and took up residence in the newly built Sykes' Apartments, where Rudy was able to celebrate his 90th birthday in March of this year with many friends and family present.

In September Rudy was

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his sister, Dorothy Graham.

Viewing will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by a funeral service at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19 at Central Bible Church on Thursday, Dec. 19 at Central Bible Church, 902 First Ave. E., in Kalispell, with a graveside service following. Arrangements are by Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Missions Fund of Central Bible Church or the Big Sky Honor Flight, P.O. Box 80201, Billings, MT 59108.

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

Charles 'Charlie' Thomas Berry II, 61

Charles "Charlie" Thomas Berry went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Friday, April 12, 2013, after suffering a massive brain hemorrhage.

Charlie was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and friend. He sought excellence in all that he did, and was a respected leader with a heart for serving others.

Born on Dec. 16, 1951, to Guy Archibald Berry and Anna Bonna Gertrude Nelson Berry, he was the third of six sons. He graduated from Hopkins High School in Hopkins, Minn., in 1970. It was at the graduation party that he met Becky Brewster, who would become his wife in 1975. They had their first daughter, Jane, in 1981, and their second daughter, Shannon, in 1982.

A skilled master craftsman, Charlie loved to work with his hands. Much of his career was spent working in the construction industry. Most recently he served as superintendent of the Depot Place project in downtown Kalispell. Although he loved building homes, he also took delight in smaller projects, such as making wooden toys for his children and grandchildren.

Charlie always had a project. He never sat still. He loved spending time with all of his family and was constantly teaching them something — gardening, hunting, gun safety, the proper way to stack wood (the proper way to do everything, really), how to work hard and how to serve others. He loved hunting and fishing with his brothers, his sons-in-law and his grandchildren. He always had a story to tell and a rock 'n' roll song for every line spoken.

He was a strong, quiet man, with a great sense of humor, who showed by his constant acts of service that he loved Jesus, and that he loved to put others before himself.



He had a unique gift of finding beauty in everything.

Charlie was a member of Grace

Church in Kalispell, as well as a vital part of its leadership team. He attended Bible Study Fellowship for more than 25 years as part of his commitment not only to grow in his own faith and understanding of God's Word, but also to help others do likewise. He was a man whose heart was genuinely resolved to walk in the ways of Christ.

Enjoying life to the fullest, Charlie lived the verse, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not for men" (Colossians 3:23.) Although we will miss him on this Earth, we are fully convinced that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

He leaves behind Becky, his beloved bride of 38 years; daughters, Jane and Josh Turner, and Shannon and Mike Woodberry; grandchildren, Caleb, Andrew, Julia, Moriah, Nathan and Josiah Turner, and Joshua, Anna, Judah and Asher Woodberry. He also leaves his five brothers, Guy Jr., David, John, Jim and Byron; as well as 20 nephews and nieces; and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews, cousins and dear friends.

Memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 19, at Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish.

Memorials can be sent to Grace Church, 1225 U.S. 93 N., Kalispell, MT 59901, in Charlie's name, to be disbursed to Bible Study Fellowship and Rafiki Foundation, an international organization dedicated to befriending orphans and widows in their distress.

Howard A. 'Howie' Berry

Howard A. "Howie" Berry passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, March 24, 2013.

Howard was born in Scobey on Sept. 27, 1932. Howard was the youngest of six children, born to Howard G. and Adele McCauley Berry. His father was a flour miller in the family business, and later a grain buyer in Conrad for Greely and Cargill elevators. Howie spent much time at the elevators checking the grain bins for his father.

He graduated from Conrad High School in 1950, and while in school played taps for many veterans' services. After graduating, he helped build Sunburst Mustard Elevator in Sunburst, and later Schultz Lumber Co. where he was employed until he entered the Armed Services in 1952. He became a teletype operator and instructor, serving in San Louis Obispo, Calif., and Fulda, Germany, near the Russian border.

In 1954 he married his soul mate, Mary Lee Eppe, and to this union four children were born. While in Conrad, he was a volunteer fireman for 15 years, a member of the Moose organization and served on the board of St. Michael's Parish. He owned Berry's Greenhouse and Floral, until moving to Whitefish in 1969.

He loved the mountains and beauty of Whitefish Lake where he spent many hours fishing, summer and winter. He loved to dance and ice skate,



learning at age 2 with his father on the river in Scobey. He owned Valley Vending for 10 years, was a salesman at The Toggery in Whitefish for

13 years, and was later employed by the Whitefish Credit Union until retirement. He was a jack-of-all-trades and could fix nearly anything.

Howard is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary Lee Berry; and four children, Jill M. Berry, Jennifer L. Marvin, Joe M. and Shelley Berry, and Jim C. and Angie Berry; grandchildren, Josh Marvin, Jessica Berry, Joe P. Berry, Jacob Berry, Jade Berry, Angie Febbo and Dustin Marvin; and great-grandchildren, Chloe Marvin, Kayla and Bryon Marvin, and Jackson and Travis Febbo.

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

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at Austin Funeral Home.

Memorials may be giving in Howard's name to Wings or the Humane Society.

Arrangements are entrusted to Austin Funeral Home.

You are invited to go to www.austinhf.com to offer condolences, share memories and view Howie's tribute wall.

Julie Sheffer Berry, 47

Julie Sheffer Berry, 47, of Polson, formally of Conrad, died Sunday, April 4, 2013, at her home in Polson.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday,

April 11, at New Life Christian Center, Polson. A reception will follow the service at the church.

Grogan Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Berniece DeLaire (Reynolds) Bishop, 87

Berniece DeLaire (Reynolds) Bishop, 87, of Stevensville, passed away at Hillside Manor in Missoula on Saturday, Aug. 3, 2013.

She was born in Bainville, Mont., on March 2, 1926, the daughter of Curtis and Ida Adams Reynolds, the third oldest of five children. Berniece received her education in Bainville and began working in Havre as one of the first employees of the Butrey Food store.

She married John "Jack" D. Lee in Big Sandy on Dec. 24, 1944, bringing into this union eight children. She and Jack lived in Ferndale around family for a number of years before moving to Seeley Lake, where she was well known for her huge family dinners and spending time helping Jack run his trucking business. She spent many hours taking care of her home, participating in her children's activities, being PTA president and swimming with her kids in the river behind the house or at the pot hole.

In 1964, the family moved to Stevensville to a small dairy farm where she learned the art of the automatic milking machines, and worked for approximately 20 years at the Fort Owen Inn where she became affectionately known as "Bea." She worked for Stevi Bakery, Stevi Drive Thru and other eating establishments. She also owned and operated the Lee's Husky gas station and eatery in Victor.

After Jack's passing, she married Paul Bishop in Lethbridge, Alberta, in December of 1974. She loved traveling and fishing trips with Paul until his death in 1980. This brings to mind the fishing trip up the Yaak where, while fishing, she disturbed a mama moose that proceeded to chase her back to a campground looking for safety.



ers. Her family will remember her for her love of picnics, which were on all summer holidays

and attended by many. Bring on her famous fried chicken!

She also much enjoyed her visits by her great-grandson Ty. He walked in the door, and her face would just light up, and this was only increased as Zane and Zack were born and began to move around her house this past year.

She was preceded in death by Jack Lee, Paul Bishop, Gayle Franklin, Beverly Steele, Morgan Lee, Dorothy Lee, Kenny Evans; and siblings Valera, Trudy and George; as well as grandsons, Brad Franklin, Michael Lee and Elliott Geurin.

She is survived by her children, David and JoAnne Lee of Elberta, Ala., Teri and Gary Iverson of Sunburst, John Harris and Sharon Lee of Missoula, Sheri and Gerry Clark of Charlo, and Tami and Ruben Armijo of Victor; her sister, Judy and Glen Stevens, of Bigfork; 44 grandkids, 87 great-grandkids and 15 great-greats; and son-in-law, Terry Franklin, of Kalispell.

Visitation will begin at 1 p.m. today, Aug. 10, at the Whitesitt Funeral Home in Stevensville. A funeral service to celebrate her life will be held at 3 p.m., also at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Riverside Cemetery in Stevensville.

A potluck picnic will be held at the Bass Creek campground following the committal ceremony.

She was a wife, mother, grandmother, great- and great-great-grandmother. She spent her time caring for her family. Her hobbies included playing bingo, gardening, fishing and caring for plants and flow-

Karen 'Ko' Bird, 64

Karen "Ko" Bird, 64, died Friday, May 17, 2013, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula.

A rosary will be said at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, and a memorial Mass will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 22, both at Sacred

Heart Parish in Ronan. A celebration of life will follow in July for family and close friends. Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory of Polson is handling the arrangements for the family.

Memorials in Berniece's name may be made to the Stevensville Senior Center Meals on Wheels. We would also like to ask you to just do a single random act of kindness for an elderly person. Berniece appreciated those moments when someone held the door for her or gave her a cheery hello. Condolences and memorials may be left for the family at www.whitesitt-funeralhome.com.

Douglas Robert 'Bob' Birk, 94

Douglas Robert "Bob" Birk, 94, of Aurora, Colo., and formerly of Marion, passed away on Nov. 27, 2013, in Englewood, Colo., following a short illness.

He was born to Ingvald and Selma Thompson Birk in Fertile Township, Walsh County, N.D., on Dec. 22, 1918. His childhood was spent on his family's ranch in Tanamo, Cuba, where he lived the perfect boy's life — sailing boats, hunting for treasure and riding horses.

In 1934, the family relocated to Miami where he completed high school before working for Pan American Airlines. In 1940 the family bought a ranch in Marion and Bob studied at the University of Montana at Missoula, graduating with a degree in chemistry. He continued his education at the University of Montana's School of Law.

He married Elizabeth Lou "Bette" Bond, of Kalispell, on July 3, 1943, in Superior. After their marriage he worked for the U.S. government until the late 1940s when they relocated to Chicago. In 1958, Bob and Bette founded Ade Chemical Company in Tiskilwa, Ill.

His wife, Bette, died on Aug. 21, 1968, in Tiskilwa, and is buried in C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

In 1988, he moved to Ocala, Fla., where he married Margaret Kellogg. She preceded him in death in September 2004. In 2012, he moved to Colorado to be closer to his daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

Bob was fluent in Spanish and, to the end of his life, he would try to engage anyone, going out of his way to speak to those who also spoke Spanish. Whenever he met someone, he would say, "I'm Bob Birk. Glad to know you." And he

was. He loved people. He also authored several books.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ingvald and Selma C. Thompson Birk; his wives, Bette and Margaret; his sisters, Inger Birk and Burget Birk Boyce; his brother, Tom Birk; his nieces, Jacqueline Boyce Nelson and Doniell Birk; his nephews, Thomas Birk and Randall Ingram; and his sister-in-law, Lorraine Bond Hanchett Stenseth.

He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth "Marbeth" Birk Marcheschi, and her husband, Michael Marcheschi, of Aurora, Colo., along with his stepdaughters, Sarah and Robie Travis of St. Charles, Ill., and Jennifer and Chuck Barth, of Princeton, Ill., and their families. He was the grandfather of Jordan and Jesse Honea of Boulder, Colo., Ian Marcheschi, of Denver, Katherine Marcheschi and Matthew Millyard of Cambridge, England, and Emily Marcheschi of Boulder. He was also the great-grandfather of Jared and Christopher Honea of Boulder. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Thallis Birk, of Kalispell; his nephews, Tim and Julie Birk, Brett Birk, Scott and Nancy Hanchett, and Larry Hanchett, all of Kalispell, Bill and Kathy Hanchett of Twin Falls, Idaho, and Mike and Mariellen Hanchett of Anchorage, Alaska; and his nieces, Jolanda Boyce Ingram of Polson, Eileen and Bob Nordwick of Missoula, Kimberly and Lloyd Birk Bell of Washington, and Linda and Randy Hanchett Snyder of Bigfork.

A memorial service with the interment of ashes tentatively set for the summer of 2014 at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.