

Gary Freeman Karlstad, 72

Gary Freeman Karlstad, 72, lost his battle with cancer and died on Sept. 24, 2014, at North Valley Hospital, with hospice care, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born July 8, 1942, in Mayville, N.D. He was raised in rural Mayville and attended school at Mayville High School, graduating with the class of 1961.

Gary was an all-around athlete in high school and a jack-of-all-trades. He served in the Army National Guard and Reserves, serving as a sergeant E-5 with the military police. Growing up, he raised cattle and was also a bricklayer, farmer, truck driver, general contractor, loving husband and a wonderful father and grandfather.

He married the love of his life, his wife Nancy, of 40 years. Gary and Nancy lived in Denver for a short time and also in Detroit Lakes, Minn., then they moved to Mayville, where they raised their children, until they moved to Whitefish in 1988.

Gary loved to hang out with family and friends. He loved hunting in North Dakota, and then learned to hunt in the mountains of Montana. He enjoyed watching



the grandchildren grow and going to all the sports and other activities they were involved in.

Gary was preceded in death by his

parents, Edgar and Agnes Karlstad; wife, Nancy Karlstad; brother, Mervin; and nephew, Todd Karlstad.

He is survived by his children, Kimberly and husband Mike Pillman of Milford, Ohio, Brant and wife Jeanne Karlstad of Kalispell, Chris Karlstad of Portland, N.D., and Jenny and husband Justin Johnson of Whitefish; grandchildren, Ryan, Bryce, Hunter, Brooke, Payton, Tanner and Kinzlee; and great-grandson, Travis; and two sisters, Sharon Ramstad, and Wanda Hanson and Loren, and their families.

A potluck-style celebration of Gary's life will be held at 5 p.m. today, Sept. 27, at the Whitefish Armory, 315 Armory Road, in Whitefish.

Cremation has taken place. Austin Funeral Home in Whitefish is in charge of arrangements.

David 'Doc' Kauffman, 92

David "Doc" Kauffman, 92, passed away on Monday, April 14, 2014, at Whitefish Care and Rehabilitation.

Doc was born to the late Anna and N.L. "Roy" Kauffman in Creston in January of 1922. He was the middle child of 15 children. He lived in Creston and attended a one-room schoolhouse through the eighth grade. He worked on the family farm, in the family sawmill and as a packer for the U.S. Forest Service until World War II. During the war he served his country as a "conscientious objector" in the Civilian Public Service (CPS) program taking care of the National Parks, working as a smoke-jumper fighting fires in Idaho and on a cattle boat taking livestock to Poland. Upon his return he ended up in Virginia where he obtained his GED and attended Eastern Mennonite College (Eastern Mennonite University) in studies for pre-med.

He met his future wife, Ruth, at school and they married in Akron, Pa. The newlyweds lived in Philadelphia where Doc completed his medical training at Hahnemann University Hospital in family practice. After a short, two-year surgical residency in Spokane, Doc and Ruth moved to Whitefish where he practiced family medicine for over 40 years. Doc was an original "country doctor" who made many house calls for patients.

an active member of the Back Country Horseman.

Music was something Doc enjoyed from a very young age with his family and in church. He sang with the local Barbershop Chorus and in the Flathead Community Choir for many years.

His zest for life, welcoming smile, love of family and his ever-present cowboy hat will be missed by all those who had the privilege of meeting him. He lived life to its fullest and considered anyone he met a friend.

Doc was preceded in death by his parents Anna and N.L. "Roy" Kauffman and 11 of his siblings.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth E. Kauffman of Whitefish; two sisters, Gladys Reimer of Whitewater, Kan., and Rosella Eby of Drake, Saskatchewan, Canada; one brother, Joe and Ruth Kauffman of Lebanon, Ore.; two sons, David Jr. and Anita of Whitefish, and Stephen of Yakima, Wash.; two daughters, Elizabeth "Betsy" Kauffman-Harmon and Stephen of Wasilla, Alaska, and Rebecca "Becky" Kauffman-Piotrowski and David of Durango, Colo.; and six grandchildren, Britta and Brice Kauffman of Yakima, Wash., and Justin, Travis, Darren and Ashley Kauffman of Whitefish.

Remembering Doc Kauffman

Whitefish Moose Lodge
Saturday, June 7th, 11am to 3pm



Come
and
participate
in
celebrating
Life

If you missed the formal services even if you went. Come join the celebration of his 92 years well spent. Stop in and share a story or just listen to a few. You will be a lot more comfortable than sitting in a pew.

A man of many talents, Doc also served for over 20 years as a lay minister for the Whitefish Christian Church. He performed marriages and funerals all over the Flathead Valley. He never kept count but was busy most weekends. Some of his most memorable ceremonies were performed at various locations in Glacier National Park and on horseback.

Among Doc's passions were horses and hunting. Anyone who knew Doc surely heard of the hunting trips with his pack string into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This yearly sojourn spawned many tall and interesting stories about hunting and those who accompanied him. His hunting trophies were proudly displayed in his home. Doc was also

A celebration of Doc's life will take place at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 18, at Whitefish Lutheran Church, 5150 River La Parkway, in Whitefish. An informal reception will follow services.

In lieu of flowers the family encourages you to make a donation in Doc's name to one of the following organizations: Mennonite Central Committee, 21 S. 12th St., P.O. Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500; Angel Tree Foundation, P.O. Box 1550, Merrifield, VA 22116-1550, (800) 206-9766; Whitefish Food Bank, 311 First St., Whitefish, MT 59937, (406) 862-5866; or Alzheimer's Foundation of America, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, D.C. 20090-6011, (800) 272-3900.

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

Paul S. Kauffman, 97

Paul S. Kauffman, 97, died Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014, at Wel-Life Assisted Living in Kalispell.

He is survived by six children, Elaine Kauffman, Daniel Kauffman, Ken Kauffman, Steve Kauffman, Brenda Younger and Alice Arneson.

Graveside services will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 8, at Fairview

Cemetery. Memorial services will follow at 10:30 a.m. at the Mountain View Mennonite Church with the Rev. Jeryl Hollinger officiating. Visitation will be from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, March 7, in the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Violet M. Kautt, 85

Violet M. Kautt, 85, died Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, at the Whitefish Care & Rehabilitation Center in Whitefish.

She is survived by her son, Bryan Kautt and a daughter, Shari Launius.

No services are planned

at this time. Her remains will be placed with her husband in the Glacier Memorial Gardens at a later date.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Alison 'Big Mama' Fuller Keene, 53

Born Aug. 31, 1960, Alison Fuller Keene passed away from a heart attack due to an enlarged heart at her residence on Feb. 23, 2014. She was 53.

Alison was born a spirited child to Robert and Barbara Fuller. Alison and her older brother, Michael Frank Fuller, were raised in Somers. Full of joy and life, she attended Flathead High School as a member of the class of 1978. After high school she spent several years in Texas and Oregon before returning home with her firstborn daughter in 1982. She spent the rest of her life in her beloved Flathead Valley.

She was the vice-president of the Flathead Valley Gay Alliance and was well known for her activism within the community. Due to her warm and caring nature, she became known as "Big Mama" to friends, family and coworkers alike. Many who met her remarked that she had become a second mother and even occasionally called her Mom.



She had a love of singing and performing, along with a passion for reading that she bestowed

on all her children. She was happiest among people, listening to their stories and enriching their lives with her unending good nature.

Big Mama was preceded in death by her father, Robert W. Fuller; and best friend, Charles Lemming.

Her survivors include her mother, Barbara Tipton Fuller; brother, Michael Frank Fuller; daughters, Spring Clover Keene, Jen Hawkins, Beth Hawkins, Maria Conrad and Stormy Sky Fuller; and her grandson, Steven Conrad. Innumerable friends remain to keep her memory as full of life as she was.

A colorful potluck celebration of life will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. on March 22 at the Eagles Club in Kalispell, on the top floor. Come as you are.

Roscoe Junior 'J.R.' Keeney, 84

"I know one thing for sure, Jesus is the only way to God" — J.R. Keeney

Roscoe "J.R." "went to be with Jesus" on July 30, 2014. He died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Columbia Falls. J.R. was 84.

Roscoe was born in Hortshone, Okla., (Pushmataha County) March 30, 1930, to Samuel and Mary (Reed) Keeney.

J.R. moved to Waterford, Calif., with his family in 1944.

He married Leone "Reenie" Hyatt in 1947. They had three children, Roy, Jim and Mike. The family lived in Waterford until the time of her death in 2002.

J.R. began driving truck at 25 years of age and had accomplished 2 1/4 million miles in his career. J.R. had worked as a farmer, construction worker, underground sprinkler installer, millwright and was the foreman running the cement batch plant during the construction of Stanford University.

J.R. moved to Montana in 2002. He loved, hunting, fishing, camping, gold prospecting and building rifle stocks and woodworking in general.

J.R. served many people through his food ministry where he co-founded the Waterford Food bank and



he considered this service to be one of his great accomplishments.

He was preceded

death by his parents; his wife "Reenie" of 50-plus years; his son, Jim, and daughter-in-law Diane Keeney.

He is survived by his wife, Louella Keeney; his sons, Jim and Marie of Three Forks, Mont., son Mike and wife Shela Keeney, stepson Tim Murry and wife Sandy, and stepdaughter Rhonda and husband J. Frederick, all of Columbia Falls; stepdaughter Tamra, and John Tveit of Kalispell; stepson, Kindal Murry, and wife, Bonni, of Trego; sisters, Vivian Hedden and Annacarole Lenen of Waterford, Calif.; and numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren, one great-grandchild and one great-great-grandchild.

A memorial service will be held at noon on Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Columbia Bible Baptist Church, 195 Veterans Drive in Columbia Falls. A potluck reception will follow.

Cremation has taken place. A burial will take place at Lakewood Cemetery in Hughson, Calif. at a later date.

Phyllis Keibler, 88

Phyllis Keibler, 88, died April 4, 2014, at the Timber Creek Village in Columbia Falls.

She is survived by her children, Robert Keibler

and Lori McCarthy. A private family service will be held at a later date.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

Raymond C. Keibler, 82

Raymond C. Keibler, 82, passed away on Nov. 20, 2014, at hunting camp in Lima, Mont., with family by his side.

Ray was born on Sept. 10, 1932, and grew up on the family farm in Apollo, Pa.

He enlisted in the United States Air Force at 18 years of age and married the love of his life, Fran, on July 3, 1955. Ray and Fran lived in various states as well as Europe during his 13 years of active service. Ray continued serving in the Air and Army National Guards, eventually ending 32 years of service in the military.

In 1967 Ray began his second career with the United States Forest Service in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, advancing through various positions and locations, eventually being assigned to Columbia Falls in 1978 working at Spotted Bear Ranger Station. He retired in 1992.

Retirement years were spent traveling and spending time with



friends and family. Nothing meant more to him than his wife, children and grandchildren. Ray loved the outdoors. His passions

were hunting and fishing. Throughout his life he was active in various community organization, including the Masons.

He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Fran Keibler; four children, Cindy Gleesing and Joe, Bryan Keibler and Lianne, Greg Keibler and Connie, and Kathy Kilburg and Tom; eight grandchildren, Justin and Melissa, Aaron, Amanda and Jacob, Cody, Brandon and Alyse, Jared, Colton, and Elizabeth; and one great grandchild, Maximus.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Pamela 'Pam' Sue (Goldizen) Keith, 55

Pamela "Pam" Sue (Goldizen) Keith, 55, "rejoined her loved ones in heaven" on Jan. 6, 2014, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. She passed away due to complications of cancer.

Pam was born Dec. 28, 1958, in Kalispell. To her family, she was known as "Pami Sue" or "Pappi Too." She began school at St. Matthew's School, and completed grade school at Cornelius Hedges Elementary. During high school, Pam worked as a carhop for A&W, and was also employed by Pepsi.

She graduated from Flathead High School in 1977 and enlisted in the Army.

While in the Army, Pam was stationed in Germany, where she met her first husband, and was married in Copenhagen, Denmark. Pam received three honorable discharges and served for six years. After her service, she returned to Kalispell.

In 1987, she met her best friend and husband, Robert "Bob" Keith. They married March 25, 1988, and would spend the rest of her days together. She was honored to be a stay-at-home mom of her two daughters from 1988 to 1994. In 1994, she began her career as a courier for Grizzly Security Armored Express. Pam touched many lives during her years as a courier, where she worked until her passing.

Pam was known to her family and friends as a caring, loving and compassionate wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, sister and friend. She could knit everything from slippers to quilts, and her baking and cooking were unmatched. Pam loved the outdoors, and spent



her entire life rafting, camping and hunting. Her home showed her love of gardening, mirroring an atrium. In her later years, her greatest

joy and passion were her four grandchildren, Gavin, James, Makynzi and Callee. Her love for them, and the light that shined in her eyes when they were with her, was seen by anyone in her presence.

Pam was preceded in death by two children, Kent Allen Payson and Robert Charles Payson; her mother, Deanna Celeste (Yerkes) Goldizen; and father, Robert Charles Goldizen.

Pam is survived by her husband; two daughters, Nikki Keith and Staci Payson; and her four grandchildren; along with her brother, Bryan Goldizen, and his wife, Stephanie; sister, Patti Hall, and her husband, Doug; sister, Robin Keller, and her husband, Bruce; stepmother, Dyanna Goldizen; stepsisters, Dyanna Thompson and Donna Cox; stepbrother, Dale Thompson, and his wife, Darla; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Memorial services are being held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with graveside service following at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. A celebration of life will continue afterward at South Kalispell Volunteer Fire Department.

Alma Jean Kellenberger, 92

Alma Jean Kellenberger passed away May 14, 2014, in Fort Collins, Colo., after battling Alzheimer's for many years.

Jean was born Nov. 22, 1921, to Arthur and Nelle Blom in Glendive.

At the age of 6, her family moved to Livingston where her younger brother Arthur was born. Her father worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad as an accountant and her mother was a schoolteacher as well as a bookkeeper for several shops in Livingston. She enjoyed traveling on the train as she was growing up.

She attended St. Mary's Catholic College in Leavenworth, Kan. After graduating summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree, she worked in Billings, Denver and St. Louis as a lab technician. It was in St. Louis where she met her husband, Robert Kellenberger, while he was studying medicine after having served in the Army during World War II.

Jean married Robert in June 1950, in Alton, Ill. While they moved frequently due to her husband's military career, they eventually settled down in Kalispell after her husband retired from the Army, reaching the rank of colonel. Her husband Robert continued his medical career while in Kalispell. Jean worked as a lab technician for him at his lab near Kalispell Regional Hospital. Jean



and Robert were married for 50 years.

Jean was a devout Catholic, a gifted pianist who

played for over 70 years and a very charitable person, donating to many charities. The nursing staff, which took care of Jean over the last few years, enjoyed her wonderful sense of humor. She was a loving mother and wife, and will be missed dearly.

She was preceded in death by her oldest son, James; her husband, Robert; her father, Arthur; her mother, Nelle; and her daughter-in-law, Rita.

She is survived by her children, David, John, Joan and Scott Grieve, and Karen and Terry Sander; her grandchildren, Andrew Grieve, Samuel Grieve and Kevyn Sander; her brother, Arthur; one niece and several nephews.

A rosary will be said at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 26, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with a Mass of Christian Burial at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27, at Risen Christ Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

To send a note of condolence, please visit www.buffalohillfh.com. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Michael G. Keller, 66

Michael G. Keller, 66, of Libby died Saturday, April 19, 2014, at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane of natural causes.

Services will be 2 p.m. Friday, April 25, at St. John's Lutheran Church

with burial at the City of Libby Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Local arrangements are under the care of Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Susan B. Keller, 85

Susan Bissey Keller of Libby passed away unexpectedly on July 1, 2014, just a few days before her 86th birthday.

She was born July 5, 1928, in State College, Penn. to the late C. Van Dolah Bissey and Sarah Wright Bissey. Susan received her primary education in the State College Public Schools. Her father was a professor at Penn State where he taught languages and served as a statistician; her mother was a private kindergarten teacher. Susan's school interests included intramural sports, instrumental music and journalism. She also enjoyed spending several summers as a camp counselor in New England.

Susan graduated from Penn State University in 1949 where she was active in her Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, symphonic band and orchestra, and cheerleading for her beloved Nittany Lions. Following Penn State, Susan received her Master's Degree from Wellesley College in Massachusetts. Her first teaching job as a college professor was at the University of New Hampshire where she taught dance and individual sports for two years.

Susan married her high school classmate Robert Keller on December 23, 1952, in Colorado Springs, Colo., before Bob was deployed to Korea. After his return, they moved to Salt Lake City, Utah where Bob attended law school and Susan taught classes at both the junior high school and at the University of Utah. Susan and Bob moved to Kalispell in 1955 where they enjoyed skiing with friends at Big Mountain, summers on Echo Lake and raising their four children: Geoff (Teri)



now in Billings, James (Catriona) now in Mount Vernon, Ohio, Jill Mitchell (Kurt) now

in Minneapolis, Minn., and Johanna, a special needs daughter who preceded her in death. In Kalispell, Susan was very active with her daughter's swim team, serving as an official at swim meets throughout Montana, and teaching her sons her favorite sport of tennis.

Susan and Bob moved to Libby in 1988 and instantly formed new and lasting friendships. Susan was active in St. Luke's Episcopal church and its music program, and also thoroughly enjoyed singing with the Lincoln County Chorale, learning Hardanger embroidery and water color painting, and participating in NordicFest. She loved visits from her six grandchildren now living in Ohio and Minnesota (Ian, Gillian, Fiona, Sophia, Olivia, and Lara) and enjoyed introducing them to the Northwest. In addition to her children and grandchildren Susan is survived by her husband Bob and her sister Joan Field from New Jersey.

Services will be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Libby on Wednesday, July 9, at 2 p.m. Arrangements are being made through Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home & Crematory. Memorials may be made to the Susan Keller Scholarship at Libby High School, 724 Louisiana Avenue, Libby, MT 59923. Online condolences and memories may be shared by visiting www.schnackenbergfh.com.

Viola May Blasdel Keller, 86

Viola May Blasdel Keller, lifetime resident of the Flathead Valley, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2014, at Hidden Meadows Memory Care in Columbia Falls.

She was born to Jesse and Ethel Blasdel on Oct. 3, 1927, at the family homestead, now marked by the picturesque Blasdel barn and the Blasdel Waterfowl Production Area in Lower Valley. She attended Brocken School and graduated from Flathead County High School.

Viola met Charles Keller while working at the Park Inn. On April 23, 1947, Viola boarded a train and then plane to Anchorage, Alaska, where she married Charles on April 29, 1947. Their son, Joe, was born there in 1948. The family soon returned to the Flathead in 1949, and four more children, Mary, Bonnie, Terry and Lonnie were born.

Viola and Charles were involved in their own logging business for more than 60 years, with Viola keeping meticulous handwritten financial records. As a member and president of the Loggerettes, a precursor to Montana Women in Timber, she was among the first to speak publicly about the impacts of wilderness designations on logging.



fair, Viola was named "Lady of the Valley" to honor her service to the community.

Viola and her husband Charles helped shape Evergreen's landscape, buying, selling and developing land, including East Evergreen Mobile Manor and Storage. They were members of Evergreen Business and Property Owners Association.

Viola and Charles loved dancing, listening to accordion music and going to jam sessions at the Eagles, Sykes and around Apache Junction, Ariz., where they most recently spent winters.

For many years they spent their winters on the island of Hawaii, and their home there was always open to many visitors. Getting together with family and friends at their lake place on Conrad Point was always special. Viola and Charles enjoyed traveling in their motorhome throughout the United States, with Alaska via the Alaska-Canada Highway among their favorites. They also enjoyed cruising.

Viola was preceded in death by her husband Charles, her parents Jesse and Ethel Blasdel, and her sister Eva Belle Mower.

Besides raising five children and actively managing their business, Viola was a tireless volunteer in service to her community. In May 1987, she received a plaque from the Flathead County Park board honoring her retirement from the board after 12 years in appreciation for her community service. A "People in the News" article in the May 21, 1987, Daily Inter Lake listed her many accomplishments that included the park board, Eagles Auxiliary, Future Homemakers of America, Northwest Montana fair parade floats, Red Cross blood drawings, Loggerettes Club, Heart Fund Drive, American Cancer Society, Evergreen PTO, Flathead Safety Council and Evergreen roadside cleanup. She also served on election boards.

Viola was especially active in the Eagles Auxiliary for years, going through all the chairs at the local and state levels, eventually serving as State Auxiliary president. She also served several chairs at the national level with the Grand Auxiliary. For 11 years, Viola and special friend Phyllis Carda were co-editors of the Eagles Aerie 234 newsletter, and Viola was a member of the drill team for 19 years.

The Northwest Montana Fair was an important part of her life. Each year she entered canning and baked exhibits from her large garden, garnering many ribbons. As a member of the 4-H Council and leader of two 4-H clubs, she helped hundreds of 4-H members prepare their fair projects. Many fair parade floats for 4-H and the Eagles were built in their yard. At the 1967

She is survived by her sisters, Marie Cuzick and Ruby Powell; brothers, Don Blasdel and Ed Blasdel; sons, Joe Keller and Sheila, Lonnie Keller and Debbie, and Terry Keller, all of Kalispell; her daughters, Mary Cabbage and Frank, and Bonnie Schuman and Laurie, of Kalispell; grandchildren, Chuck Keller, Angie Olsen and Russell, Tony Keller and Sarah, Sgt. Joshua Keller and Amy, Dustin Sturgis and Jessica, Lynette Ovnicek and Chad, Lisa Keller, Leslie Keller, Brian Lockhart and Kaija, Kevin Lockhart, Robin Grainger and Kurt, Kristin Burns and Randy, Kimberly Huhn and Jeffrey, Michael Schuman and Jesi, and Jeffrey Schuman and Maren; 34 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to friend Jo Anne Johnson who gave Mom such special care. We would like to give special thanks to the staff of Hidden Meadows Memory Care for their compassionate and loving care for Mom.

Funeral services for Viola will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 11, at Bethel Baptist Church, 936 4th Avenue West, with burial in Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery. A viewing will begin prior to the service, at 9 a.m. at the church.

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

Marian Kelly, 83

Marian Kelly, 83, passed away on May 21, 2014, at Health Center Northwest in Kalispell after a long and fulfilling life. "She went to join her husband Chuck, parents and siblings."



Marion is survived by her son, Terry and wife, Jean, in Kalispell; her daughter,

Kathy and husband, Mike Fritz from Rathdrum, Idaho; five grandchildren, Brett and Amy Kelly, and April and Jerry Snell from Kalispell, and Ryan and Lex Fritz, Kelly and Mary Fritz and Michelle Fritz from Rathdrum; and 10 great-grandchildren, Hannah, Hailey, Aurora, Savaha, Peyton, Jori, Kyle, Kate, Klaire and Gwendolyn.

A visitation will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27 at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 28 at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. Burial will take place at 3 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Flathead Food Bank or the Humane Society.

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

Chuck and Marian had two children, Charles Terry and Kathy Layne. While the kids were growing up, they enjoyed camping, fishing and traveling. Marian was a very active lady. She enjoyed walking every day, which she did until she had open heart surgery in 2012. She enjoyed playing bridge, taking care of her bluebird houses, and watching her hummingbirds. Her greatest times were spent with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

ter, Kathy and husband, Mike Fritz from Rathdrum, Idaho; five grandchildren, Brett and Amy Kelly, and April and Jerry Snell from Kalispell, and Ryan and Lex Fritz, Kelly and Mary Fritz and Michelle Fritz from Rathdrum; and 10 great-grandchildren, Hannah, Hailey, Aurora, Savaha, Peyton, Jori, Kyle, Kate, Klaire and Gwendolyn.

A visitation will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27 at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 28 at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. Burial will take place at 3 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Flathead Food Bank or the Humane Society.

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

Patrick James Kelly, 69

Patrick James Kelly, 69, died Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014, at his home in Kalispell.

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

Betty T. Kennedy, 89

Betty T. Kennedy, 89, died on Sept. 17, 2014, at the Spring Creek Inn in Bozeman, after a short illness. Members of her family were at her side.

She was born Betty Jean Terry, to Harold and Norma Marie Terry in Kalispell, Aug. 20, 1925. She graduated from Flathead County High School in 1943.

Betty attended two years of college at the University of Montana and was a member of the Delta Gamma Sorority. She met Russell Glenn Kennedy, a World War II veteran from Anaconda during a social function at Montana State College in Bozeman. The couple were married in Missoula on June 13, 1948. The couple lived in Wilsall and Fort Benton where Glenn taught school prior to moving to Columbia Falls in 1954, when Glenn took a position at the aluminum plant.

Betty and Glenn raised three children, Merry Kay (1951), Terry Glenn (1954), and Daniel Frank (1957).

Betty was member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church and directed the choir for many years. She was active in Ladies Aid and Circle and belonged to a bridge club. After her children left home, she took a part-time job with the Columbia Falls Chamber of Commerce. Betty played the clarinet with the Flathead Valley Community Band and University of Montana Alumni Band, and marched in several homecoming parades. Betty was a Grizzly and Glenn was a Bobcat, making for some friendly bets during game days.

Betty enjoyed garden-



ing, raking leaves, and long walks around Columbia Falls and Apgar with friends or Glenn. She wished to be remembered most as one who loved her family, and as patriotic to her country. Her friends and friendships were very important. She loved picking huckleberries, which often became a neighborhood affair. Her huckleberry pies were the highlight of birthdays and special occasions.

Betty and Glenn never missed a concert, sports event or other school function that included their three kids.

Betty was diminutive, pretty and prided herself in being neat and well dressed even in casual clothes. She had a special ability to engage people, even those she did not know. She put a smile on everyone's face. New acquaintances came away feeling that they somehow knew her. In turn, she was adored by those around her.

Betty was preceded in passing by her parents; and Glenn in 2009.

She is survived by her three children, Merry Kay Kennedy of Fallon, Nev., Terry Kennedy and Diane of Bozeman, and Dan Kennedy and Janet of Wasilla, Alaska; seven grandchildren, Brenda, Rebecca, Naomi, Lindsay, David, Rachel and Teresa; and three great-grandchildren, Lucas, Logan and Eden.

Betty's family would like to thank her neighbors in Columbia Falls and friends everywhere

for being a part of her life; and a special thanks to her assisted living caregivers from Hillcrest and Spring Creek Inn during her last years in Bozeman.

A more formal memorial will take place in Columbia Falls later. Please check church@oursaviorscfalls.org for an announcement of the date and time.

The family is asking that a donation be made to Our Savior's Lutheran Church or Flathead Valley Community Band band@fvcband.com, in lieu of flowers.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.dahlcares.com.

Shirley 'Joan' Kennedy, 85

Shirley "Joan" Kennedy, 85, passed away on Sunday, July 20, 2014, at home in Kalispell, surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

Joan was born Oct. 2, 1928, in Poplar to Roy and Violet Grainger. As a child she lived in many small towns in Eastern Montana while her dad worked on Fort Peck Dam. She moved to Polson with her family when she was 12. She had many fond memories of being a young teen in Polson, swimming in the lake and staying in the cabins on the east lake shore. During the war her family moved to Fort Lewis, Wash., where her parents worked. When she was 17 her family moved to Kalispell.

Joan worked as a surgical technician at Kalispell General Hospital in the late '50s and became a registered X-ray technician there in the early '60s, later becoming head X-ray technician at the hospital.

In 1970 her family started a two-year adventure, moving to Seattle and then to Boston. Those were enjoyable years for her, traveling and seeing the country and learning the history of the West and East Coast. After returning to the Flathead, she went to work for the New Medical Arts radiology department.

Joan's family was very important to her. She loved going to the family cabin on Bitterroot Lake with her children. She was young at heart and enjoyed spending time and being involved in her grandchildren's lives. One of her favorite vacations was going to Vegas with



her mother, sister and daughters. During her retirement she spent much time with her family and,

most importantly, her husband Keith, at the family "camp" on McGregor Lake.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Violet Grainger; her sister, Elda Stone; granddaughter, Janalee Jenkins; and the love of her life, husband Keith Kennedy.

She is survived by her children — son Gregg Mosley and wife Joy, daughter Lillian Jenkins and husband Louis, daughter Connie Kvaalen and husband Pat, son Mark Kvaalen and wife Karen, daughter Kari Mackin, sons Mitch and Jeff Kennedy, and daughter Jill Carral; grandchildren, Graham Mosley, Jacob and Sarah Jenkins, Catalina Daza-Obregon, John and James Kvaalen, Mark and Jain Walsh, Amie Ernst, Rob, Tanner, Jordan, Kaleb, Savannah and Ronnie Mackin, Britney Hammond, Christian and Branden Carral, Nicole, Ally and Jeffrey Kennedy; as well as 10 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held at noon, Thursday, July 24, at Central Christian Church in Kalispell, with services to follow at 1 p.m. Burial will take place at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements are entrusted to Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home Kalispell.

Shirley Buker Kent, 78

Shirley Buker Kent, 78, passed away on Feb. 2, 2014, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 18 at Whitesitt Funeral Home, 314 Church St., in Stevensville. Interment will be at the Victor Cemetery in Victor. A luncheon

gathering for family and friends will follow after the burial at the Victor Senior Center in Victor.

The family suggests that memorials be given to a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.whitesittfuneralhome.com.

Lorraine Margaret Kerzman, 92

Lorraine Margaret Kerzman, 92, passed away peacefully on Tuesday June 3, 2014, at her home surrounded by her family in Kalispell.

She was born in the farming community of Max, N.D., one of 10 children born to Roy and Katy Thompson.

She was a graduate of Max High School and then attended Minot State Teachers College where she received her teaching degree. She then taught in a one-room country school in the Max area.

Lorraine met and fell in love with Glenn Kerzman and they were married upon his return from serving in the Army during World War II. They then bought a farm in Turtle Lake, N.D., and shared the duties of farming. By 1961, the couple had five children, three boys and two girls, and decided to sell their farm and move to Kalispell. Lorraine returned to teaching and was hired as the teacher for a one-room school at Pine Grove. She later taught at St. Matthew's School. Child number six, a girl, would be added to the family while they were living in Kalispell.



Lorraine was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Glenn; her parents; her six

brothers, Joseph, Tommy, Allie, Herb, Elmo and Ray; and her two sisters; Irma and Alice.

She is survived by her six children and spouses, Lynn and Cindy Kerzman, Neal and Ann Kerzman, Craig Kerzman and Susan Clements, Cathy and Steve Staab, Rhonda and Jim Good, and Amy and Jeff Kelly; 22 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; her sister, Blanche Zenz; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Lorraine will be cremated and her remains will rest with Glenn. A private service is being held to celebrate her life.

The family suggests that memorials may be given to Risen Christ, 65 W. Evergreen Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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

Laurence Gale Kiefer, 73

Laurence Gale Kiefer, 73, died at his Bigfork residence Oct. 11, 2014.

He is survived by his wife Maraleigh and

daughter Nancy.

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

Patricia E. Kirchhoffer, 95

Patricia E. Kirchhoffer, 95, died Saturday, June 28, 2014.

She is survived by her children, Richard Kirchhoffer III of Lincoln City, Ore., Mary Porter of Atlanta, Margaret Tsukaguchi of Philadelphia, Christopher Kirchhoffer

of Wenatchee, Wash., and Patricia Kirchhoffer of Whitefish.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Monday, July 7, at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 2048 Conn Road in Columbia Falls.

Austin Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Ella L. Kieltyka, 73

Ella L. Kieltyka, 73, of Bigfork, died at her home on May 29, 2014.

No services are planned

at this time.

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

Tammy Jean Kinkel, 50

Tammy Jean (Simkins) Kinkel, 50, passed away Jan. 23, 2014, at her home in Somers, of natural causes.

She was born Sept. 30, 1963, in Missoula. She was raised in Kalispell and attended Flathead High School.

Tammy married Rick Kinkel in 1981 in New York.

She worked as a dispatcher for the Forest Service after Mount St. Helens erupted in 1982. She most recently worked for Insty-Prints in sales and delivery.

Tammy was a longtime member of the Somers Volunteer Fire Department auxiliary.

In Tammy's own words, she was an "athletic supporter." She never missed one of Rick's softball games or bowling nights. She also loved watching her sons Adam and Robbie play hockey, whether it was a pick up game or a tournament. She also supported Adam in his stock



car racing endeavors.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Pat.

Tammy is survived by her husband of 33 years, Rick Kinkel, of Somers; sons, Adam and wife Lacey of Somers, Robert and wife Tabitha of Kalispell, Drew of Florence, Ariz., and Jake of Kalispell; sister, Tonya Jacqueline, and husband Charlie, of Florence, Ariz.; brother, Chad Thorne, of Kalispell; and sisters, Candy and Terry, of Kalispell; grandchildren, Emma of Somers and Lilly of Kalispell; uncles, Tim and Ernie Veigel, of Kalispell; and her "sisters," Debbie Hayes and Wendy Kienas, both of Somers.

A celebration of Tammy's life will be held this summer. Memorials may be made in Tammy's name to the charity of your choice.

Martha L. King, 79

Martha L. King, 79, "joined her loving family in heaven" on May 1, 2014, at her home in Columbia Falls with her family at her side.

She was born in Gainesville, Mo., and lived with her family in Cheyenne, Wyo.

She married Richard C. King in 1950, and moved to Montana in 1962.

Martha loved her family, friends, music, flowers, dancing, sled riding down the hill with her grandchildren, traveling, camping, panning gold and singing in her church and community choirs. She also sang and played the bucket at the North Valley Senior Center in Columbia Falls.

She loved to fly around the valley with Breezy Bob and went with him to take pictures over Glacier National Park, which won a TV contest.

She attended Flathead Valley Community College, learning welding and small engine repair. She celebrated her 70th birthday by parachute jumping at Lost Prairie.

Martha was the bravest fighter ever against cancer, always with a smile, helping with the Relay for Life and any other way she could. She spent many hours gathering funds to fight cancer when she could hardly walk. Martha's smile will be deeply missed. The family thanks



everyone for their loving kindness to her and her family.

"God bless you all."

She was preceded in death by her parents, Chaney and Lillie Webber sister, Ella Mae; brother, Bob Webber; grandchildren, Chris Weaver and Trista King; and many other loved ones.

Martha is survived by her husband, Richard King; six children, Rick King of Columbia Falls, Velma (Gee) Weaver of Kalispell, David King of Somers, and Selena King, Ronda King and Martha Ellen King, all of Columbia Falls; 14 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; sisters, Mattie Paterson, Helen Scott, Mildred Altizer, Loretta Heath and husband Lee, Sharon Wells, and Connie Harmon and husband Darrell brothers, Joe Webber and wife Maxine, and Jim Webber and wife Carolyn; and many nephews and nieces.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, at the United Methodist Church, 117 Second Street West, in Columbia Falls. Bring your happy memories to tell.

Jeanette Kinniburgh, 66

Jeanette Kinniburgh, 66, died June 15, 2014, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

She is survived by her daughter, Tracy Eisner.

There are no services planned at this time.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Viola 'Vi' Helen Kinniburgh, 84

Viola "Vi" Helen Kinniburgh, 84, "went to be with her Lord and Savior" on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

She was born on June 12, 1929, in Aitkin, Minn., to Arthur and Helen (Perry) Johnson.

Vi received her early education in Aitkin, but at a young age the family moved to Marion where she completed her education. This is also where she met and married Theodore Kinniburgh, on June 30, 1947. They raised two daughters, Sherian and Diana. They also raised a niece, Katie Allen, then helped raise her son, Christopher.

Vi was a substitute teacher at the Marion School and also was the bookkeeper for the family business, Kinniburgh Bros. Inc.

She loved to read, bake and cook and relished her vacations to Aitkin. She loved her family most of all.

Vi was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, all her brothers, her sister, and her daughter, Diana Ryan.

She is survived by her daughter, Sherian Hanson, and husband, Allen;



grandsons, Brian Hanson, and Jesse and Silvia Lindahl; granddaughters, Crystal

Hanson, and Sandra and Daniel Engeland; niece, Katie Allen; a great-nephew, Christopher Van Schloyk; her sister-in-law, Marge Johnson; seven great-grandchildren: Cody, Lucas, Austin, Ian, Brice, Colton and Zoe; along with numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. She was loved by all and will be missed by all.

Funeral services for Vi will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home with Pastor Matt Schrepfer officiating. Burial will follow at the Glacier Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 24, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

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

Ida Katherine Kirack, 100

Ida Katherine Kirack, 100, "went home to the Lord" on Oct. 15, 2014, in Kalispell, with family by her side.

Ida was born in Fullerton, N.D., on Nov. 28, 1913, the seventh of 15 children born to August and Sophia Gemar. Her early childhood years were a rich and rewarding experience on the large family farm in Oaks, N.D.

Ida eventually moved to Portland where she met and married her husband Garvin Kirack in 1949, and in 1951 they had their first child, Noel. The two had a happy, albeit short, marriage. Garvin died in a construction accident in 1956 when Ida was pregnant with their second child, LeAnn. Following her husband's death, Ida moved to Newberg, Ore., where she raised her children.

In her latter years, Ida moved to Vancouver, Wash., to be closer to LeAnn and her family, and then in 2006 she relocated to Kalispell to be near Noel and his family. She lived at Buffalo Hill Terrace until the time of her death.

Ida loved life and added sparkle and spunk to everything she did. She will be fondly remembered for giving patient time to everyone, especially babies and children; for the twinkle in her eyes when she was being mischievous; and her



flare for making family times so much fun. She loved her family dearly. Ida enjoyed her daily devo-

tions, growing beautiful flowers, and had a reputation for making the best pies in town. Her family jokingly attributed her longevity to eating lots of sweets and anything chocolate.

Ida is survived by her sister, Cora Triplett; and her brother, Harold Gemar; son, Noel, and Marilyn Kirack; daughter, LeAnn and Gary Bixler; grandchildren, Jenny and Jamie Woods, Ryan Kirack, Travis Bixler, and Alissa and Chris Munoz; great-grandchildren, Emily and Ethan Woods; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The number of her days were in the hands of the Lord, and there were many. She left a treasure of a million golden memories. She is home at last. The family is planning a celebration of her life on her birthday at Thanksgiving.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Buffalo Hill Terrace and the Assisted Living staff, Susan and the hospice team, and Dr. Habel for providing Ida with such wonderful care.

Patricia E. Kirchhoffer, 95

Patricia E. Kirchhoffer, 95, passed away Saturday, June 28, 2014, surrounded by her family.

Pat was born in Indianapolis and attended Shortridge High School and Sweet Briar College. She went to French camp on Lake Champlain and lived in Dijon, France, with the Experiment in International Living. She went to art school in Indianapolis and was so talented — Pat created beautiful stained glass works of art that her children enjoy today. She enjoyed sewing, Hawaiian quilting and Chinese cooking. She also loved riding around Oahu in her little red Triumph convertible that was a gift from her husband.

Pat married the Rev. Richard A. Kirchhoffer Jr., in October 1945 before he went to Virginia Seminary. They lived in Virginia, Tennessee, Hawaii (18 years), Indiana, Wyoming and Montana. She did lots of volunteer work — Waimano Home in Hawaii, Literacy Volunteers of America in Whitefish and North Valley Hospital in Whitefish. She belonged to the Junior League of Honolulu and hosted many international exchange students.

After retiring in Whitefish, they moved to Hawaii for 18 months and continued their love of travel by going to places like Japan, Italy, England and France.

Pat loved to entertain and always prepared fabulous meals for her guests. She came to Atlanta when



her first grandchild was born and gave two dinner parties — one with Chinese food and

the other with Mexican food. She took cooking classes from Mary Sia in Honolulu and gave each of her children a Mary Sia cookbook. She was definitely the hostess with the mostest.

Pat was a loving, generous mother and grandmother who cared deeply for her family. She was community oriented and loved nothing more than to sit on their front porch in Whitefish and wave at all the people who passed her way.

Pat was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Dick Kirchhoffer.

She is survived by her five children, Richard Kirchhoffer III of Lincoln City, Ore., Mary Porter of Atlanta, Margaret Tsukaguchi of Philadelphia, Christopher Kirchhoffer of Wenatchee, Wash., and Patricia Kirchhoffer of Whitefish, plus her six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, July 7, at All Saints' Episcopal Church located on 2048 Conn Road, in Columbia Falls.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to All Saints' Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 1923, Whitefish, MT 59937.

Clifford William Kirkendall, 57

Clifford William Kirkendall, 57, passed away at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center Aug. 31, 2014.

There are no services at this time.

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

Linda J. Kirkwood, 70

Linda J. Kirkwood, 70, died Monday, Dec. 15, 2014, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

No services will be held. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Audrey F. Kiser, 96

Audrey F. Kiser, 96, died at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct.

24, at Glacier Memorial Gardens. A celebration of life will be held in the summer of 2015.

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

Bruce Delbert Kiser, 78

Bruce Delbert Kiser, 78, died Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014, in Kalispell.

Services will be held in

the spring.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Bruce D. Kiser, 78

Bruce D. Kiser "left this world to rejoin his beloved wife" Hazel M. Kiser on Nov. 22, 2014, after a prolonged struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

Bruce was an avid outdoorsman and taught all of his children to hunt and fish, as well as many of his grandchildren. His love for the woods was also mirrored in his lifelong career as a logger. He enjoyed time spent logging on the Alaskan Islands where he learned to fish for halibut. Remembered by many for his amazing mechanical skills, Bruce, in his younger years, was always willing to lend a hand to those who needed his talents.

Bruce was known for his love of animals and in his lifetime had a wide variety of unique pets.

Bruce was preceded in death by his wife, Hazel M. Kiser; mother, Blanche Swaney; father, Fleetice "Fleet" Kiser; and brother, Noel D. Kiser.



He is survived by his brother, Keith "Bill" Kiser, and his wife, Kathy, of Kila; daughters,

Marie McDowell and her husband Randy of Kalispell, Kay Leeds and her husband Dan of Kalispell, and Susan Wilkinson and her husband Jeffrey of Cheyenne, Wyoming; and sons, Noel Kiser and his wife Tammy of Kila, Todd Kiser and his wife Karla of Kila, and Craig Kiser of Kalispell. He also leaves behind a legacy of numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Graveside rights will be held for Bruce at 1 p.m. on April 9 at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery with longtime family friend Ron Pierce presiding.

In lieu of flowers, please contribute to the Humane Society of Northwest Montana in his honor.

Rita M. Kline, 86



Our Mother, Rita Kline, passed away peacefully Oct. 5, 2014.

She was born in Fort Wayne, Ind., on May 23, 1928.

She graduated from Cathedral Catholic School and South Side High School in Fort Wayne, and attended Indiana University Extension Center for two years in Fort Wayne. She worked at Capehart-Farnsworth as a government billing clerk.

Rita married Noel M. "Gus" Kline in 1950, and had two sons, Gregory and Jeffrey.

In 1960, they moved to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Mom enrolled in a Pilot Program at Broward Community College,

establishing the first Medical Assisting Curriculum at the school with a certificate in

that title. At age 38, she once again enrolled in college, earning a Bachelor's Degree in business education. She then taught at Stranahan High School in Fort Lauderdale. After gaining a Master's Degree in education at Florida Atlantic University, she continued to teach both at the high school and in adult education. She became the department head of the Business Education Department.

She also earned a real estate license in Florida and worked as an independent Realtor for The Keyes Company.

For two years she taught in a pilot program for an alternative school which sought to prevent 300 students from dropping out of school. Her success rate stood at 98 percent. She then returned to the "regular" school and taught in a cooperative business education program wherein students were trained in office skills and placed in part-time jobs within the Fort Lauderdale area for further "on-the-job" training.

In 1986, she and Dad retired and moved to Spring City, Tenn.,

where they built a home on Watts Bar Lake. They became very active as volunteers in the community. She, along with another resident, became instrumental in re-establishing the Tennessee Valley Theater, a group of volunteers dedicated to live theater and community service. The theater now has its own building and continues to thrive. It was also at this time she began a newspaper column of short stories in the Rhea County News.

In 1994, they moved to Kalispell to be closer to Greg and his family. They were both active in church activities at Northridge Lutheran Church. She also served

as a trustee for Neighbors in Need. Her love of writing continued and led to a short column in the Daily Inter Lake newspaper in Kalispell.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Marie Moritz; and by two brothers, Kye and Gene; and by two beloved sisters-in-law, Mary and Lila.

She is survived by her sons, Gregory and

Jeffrey; as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces and cousins.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 13 at Northridge Lutheran Church.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Lowell Marvin Knopfle, 79

Lowell Marvin Knopfle, 79, was born May 30, 1934, in Bottineau, N.D., and passed away on Thursday, May 8, 2014, in Kalispell.

Lowell Knopfle was a jack-of-all-trades, from running a gas station in Columbia Falls, running and maintaining the alleys at Canyon Bowling Alley, working on Big Mountain running the top of Chair 3 and giving the daily weather report from the mountain, working for Napa Auto Parts in Browning and as mechanic at Stacie's gas station in Whitefish.

He was willing to help others if they needed the help, if it was within his power to do so. He loved the outdoors, from hunting to fishing to gardening. He bowled in Whitefish right to the end.

He is survived by his wife, Ellen Mae; sons, Tim Knopfle and Raymond



Richards; daughters, Terri Frey, Loni Fisher, Clara Craft and Rhonda Wartnow; mother-

in-law, Ellen Nutting; 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, with burial following at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the charity of your choice.

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

Evelyn Margaret Knutson, 92

Evelyn Margaret Knutson, 92, passed away on Aug. 8, 2014, at Lakeview Care Center in Bigfork with some family by her side.

Evelyn was born on Aug. 3, 1922, fourth of five children, to Gerhard G. and Mathilda (Schneider) Gerving, in Glen Ullin, North Dakota. She attended Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School and then public high school in Glen Ullin. After graduating from Glen Ullin High School in 1940 Evelyn worked for a time as a housekeeper in Glen Ullin and then moved out to Seattle to join two of her siblings. She went to work there in the defense effort during World War II, as so many people did in the early 1940s.

In Seattle Evelyn met Clarence I Knutson, an Eastern Montana farm boy who was working out there in a shipyard. Clarence and Evelyn were married March 9, 1943 and "within a few months" they moved to Glendive, Montana, near where Clarence grew up and not too far from Glen Ullin, where Evelyn grew up.

They moved to rural Richey, N.D., in the spring of 1944. They lived in or around Richey, on one farm or another, until 1973 when they moved to the Flathead Valley to be near the kids and the grandkids, after Clarence had a second heart attack and retired from farming.

Evelyn and Clarence raised seven children and were married nearly 40 years when Clarence passed away. Family, longtime friends, music and her faith in God were important aspects of life for Evelyn. Evelyn's faith and church were always important to her, passed down to her by her parents. She was responsible for her children being baptized, attending catechism, confirmation and church, and she followed those beliefs all her life. She was ready for "God to call me home" and she

was very much at peace.

For recreation in mid-life Evelyn liked to go bowling and was on several bowling teams. They went to the state tournaments numerous times and went to the national tournament one time, where they did quite well and which she was proud of. She very much enjoyed visiting longtime friends and family, sharing knitting time and playing music. She played the piano and a small organ and very much encouraged her kids to play one instrument or another. None of them continued playing into adulthood, but some have a great appreciation for music. She knitted many, many afghans for kids, grandkids, great-grandkids and friends. She was always making a special one for the newest, youngest member of a very extended family. Evelyn always had a smile and she whistled a lot in her younger years, even though her several kids many times gave her a reason not to!

Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence, her parents, two sisters, two brothers, and one son, Dale Robert, in 1965. Evelyn is survived by her children, Douglas (and Lin) of Kalispell, Rodney (and Melva) of Ronan, Rita and Bob Boese of Bigfork, Larry (and M.J.) of Priest River, Idaho, Lonnie (Swede) and Leona of Hinsdale and Terry of Bigfork; additionally 14 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Thank you to the caring staff of Lakeview Care Center and the hospice organization during Evelyn's final day. Burial of ashes will be at 10:15 a.m., Thursday, August 14, at Bethany Lutheran Church Cemetery on Swan River Road, Bigfork. The memorial service will follow at The Church at Creston, 5447 Montana Montana 35, Creston, at 11 a.m., with lunch to follow.

David Lyle Kohs, 52

David Lyle Kohs, 52, of Hamilton "joined the company of Heaven by God's grace" on Good Friday, April 18, 2014, following a brief, but hard-fought battle against an aggressive cancer.

David was born on Feb. 3, 1962 in Duluth, Minn. to Lyle and Barbara (Bodie) Kohs. He was joined by one younger sister, Dee-Anne. During the past years, David had been employed by Plum Creek Lumber, Swank Construction, in the Bakken oil-fields, and most recently Cliff Reed Trucking of Corvallis.

David loved and was loved by his family. His daughter, Tia, made him proud every day and was the gift of his lifetime; parents, Lyle and Barb; sister, Dee and Vern Sandersfeld; nephews, Luke and Carrie and Graysen, Brett, Mark and Lani, and Alex Sandersfeld; uncles and aunts, Dennis and Sheila Bodie, Chuck Bodie, Steve and Debby Bodie, Gloria and Chet Hanson, and Kenneth Kohs; great-uncles, Ernie and Norma Holmstrom, and Fred Holmstrom; numerous cousins in Minnesota, Colorado and Washington; and special friends, Ken and Carol Holste, Jeff and Robert.

"He is welcomed into



heaven" by his Grandma and Grandpa Kohs, Grandma and Grandpa Bodie; Aunt Janet

and Uncle Bob Willeck; and cousins, Brian Hanson and Kathy Kohs.

Special and heartfelt thank you to the staff of doctors, CNAs and especially nurses at Community Medical Center in Missoula. David and our entire family very much appreciated the loving care he was given.

His heart and hands were always open and he was willing to give all he had; it was his way of loving God even as he trusted God's love for him in Christ. Blessed are those who die in the Lord."

A Memorial Service will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 275 Hattie Lane, Hamilton, MT 59840 on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at 2:00pm.

Any memorials may be given through Grace Lutheran Church to a college fund for David's daughter, Tia. Or you may give to the fund directly at any First Interstate Bank, Attn: David Kohs Memorial. Condolences may be left for the family at www.dalyleachchapel.com.

Patricia Ann 'Pat' Knutson, 77

Patricia Ann "Pat" Knutson, 77, of Polson, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, March 15, 2014, at home in Polson of natural causes.

She was born Oct. 4, 1936, in Ronan, the daughter of Elliott and Alice (Dupuis) Menzie.

Pat graduated from Ronan High School in 1954. She married Lilburn W. Knutson on June 4, 1954, in Polson. They would have marked their 60th anniversary this June.

Pat, a member of CS and K Tribes, was a dental hygienist for tribal health until her retirement in early 2013 at the young age of 76. Pat was proud of her service to the tribe but she was even more proud of another title — Grandma. She had 10 grandchildren, all of whom would attest to her status as the worlds' greatest.

She spent countless hours supporting her family, either in a gym or beside a field as her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren participated. She enjoyed reading and jigsaw puzzles and long visits. She loved to bake, and all her family members have fond memories of the scrumptious meals she hosted. No one ever left grandma's house without a care package.

Pat also had a large circle of friends. One of her favorite pastimes was meeting her "lunch bunch" (Carol Plouffe, Barb King, Helen Frye,



Betty Erickson and many others).

Preceding her in death were her parents, Elliott

and Alice; her stepmother, Marion; her sisters, Vi and Vernie; and brothers, Rudy and Jim.

Survivors include her husband, Lilburn, her daughter, Karen and Bill Ludwick, and her sons, Wes and Dixie, and Wayne and Jeannie, all of Polson; her sister, Leah Sheumaker of Huson; 10 grandchildren, Shawna Blankenhorn, Stacey Renick, Shayne Ludwick, Kati Knutson, Melissa Owen, Amanda Hagen, Sheena Moe, Katrina Knutson, Anita Kovarik and Heidi Morgan; 19 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 21 at Grogan Funeral Home in Polson, with Pastor Paul Rowold officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Donor Services, P.O. Box 650309, Dallas, Texas, 75265-0309 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements are under the care of Grogan Funeral Home of Polson. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family online at www.groganfuneralhome.com.

Catherine Ann Gregory Kohrt, 56

Catherine Ann Gregory Kohrt, 56, died April 27, 2014, from brain cancer. She was a teacher.

She is survived by her husband Michael, daugh-

ters Ashely and Morgan, son Tyler, and mother Norma Herbkersman Gregory.

Burial is 11 a.m. on Aug. 15, at Fairview Cemetery, Columbia Falls.

Merle Elaine Komenda, 82

Merle Elaine Komenda, 82, was born Jan. 12, 1932, in Brockway, Mont. She was the second child of John D. and Jeannette E. Kinniburgh.

Merle peacefully "left this world" on Friday, Feb. 14, 2014, surrounded by her family and with a good-bye kiss from her loving husband, Donald.

When Merle was a toddler the family moved to Marion. Merle went to grade school in Marion and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1949.

Merle married Donald Komenda of Ashley Creek on Dec. 5, 1953, on the original John and Jeannette Kinniburgh home place. Merle and Donald had three sons, Ricky, Robert and Bradley. Through the years the family lived in Swan Lake, Ashley Creek, the Marion highway house, and then were able to return to the "old home place" in Marion. Merle loved the land of her childhood and shared that legacy with her family.

Merle's primary love was her family. Her children and their spouses were the apples of her eye, right until she had grandchildren, who promptly took that role. Most recently, she has also enjoyed her great-grandchildren! Merle's nurturing spirit, faith in all things good, genuine love for family and sense of humor were an inspiration to all who knew her.



Merle particularly loved to do and she took pride in having taught all of her grandchil-

dren all about "Spite and Malice."

Merle was preceded in death by her parents; and her siblings, Betty (in infancy), Johnny, Dale and Ruthie. She was also preceded in death by numerous aunts, uncles and extended family.

Merle is survived by her loving and attentive husband of 60 years, Donald Komenda. She is also survived by her sons, Ricky and Charlotte, Bob and Julie, and Brad and Laili; grandsons, Montana and Meghan, and Montana's mother, Mary; grandsons, Jason and TomiAnn, Brandon, Shane, Tyler, and Travis and Jason, Roman and Erick; and great-grandchildren, Monica, Hunter, McKenna and Madelynn; as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and extended family. She also leaves behind her family pet, Shyla, who also continues to bring joy to the home.

Donald and Merle loved camping with their family and friends, especially the extended camping trips made on Hungry Horse Reservoir. Merle also loved holding down the fort at hunting camp. Some of her favorite times were when she was planting trees and picking cones for a timber company. Additionally, Merle loved to knit, read and do crafts. Very special memories and friendships were made when Merle was on bowling leagues when she lived in Swan Lake and later in Marion. Cooking and holidays were also always a highlight for her. Playing cards with friends and family was something

Jean M. Korte, 87

Jean M. Korte, 87, died in Kalispell June 11, 2014. She is survived by her daughter, Kim.

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

Sharon L. Kosareff, 71

Sharon L. Kosareff, 71, died in Kalispell on Sept. 13, 2014.

Services are pending.

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

A celebration of Merle's life is being held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral home, with viewing to be held at 1 p.m. prior to services. Interment will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens. A reception will follow at 4 p.m. at Smith Valley School, 2901 U.S. 2 West. Arrangements for shuttling or "valet" parking have been arranged for elderly guests. Drive to the front or back door of the school gym. We'll have someone to move cars so that you can pull up as close as possible.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to Home Options Hospice, whom the family is ever thankful to for their nurturing care, service and spirit.

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

Jacqueline 'Jackie' Kovar, 59

Jacqueline "Jackie" Kovar, 59, died in Kalispell on Nov. 19, 2014.

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

Helen Kowan, 79

Helen Kowan, 79, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014, at her home in Kalispell, after a long period of failing health.

Helen was born on Oct. 5, 1934, in the Bronx, New York, to Marcus and Rose Reichman, both deceased.

Helen was a retired beautician and homemaker, and had moved from the Reno, Nevada, area to Kalispell three years prior. Prior to her stint in Nevada, Helen spent over 30 years living in Sunnyvale, California, where she and her husband spent the most rewarding part of their lives raising their two children. Helen was always involved in her kids' schools and extracurricular activities. Helen also loved the beauty and excitement of the Reno and Lake Tahoe area, and made a trip to the area almost every year while living in California. She loved the excitement of the casinos and always looked



forward to the shows while taking advantage of the natural beauty that the area had

to offer.

Helen was married to Ralph Nathan Kowen who preceded her in death.

Survivors left to cherish Helen's memories are her children, Laura Backen of Kalispell, and Mitchell Kowen of Prosper, Texas; daughter-in-law, Brenda Kowen of Prosper; six grandchildren, Toni Lynn Backen of Spokane, Jessica Backen and Matthew Backen of Libby, and Cooper Kowen, Connor Kowen and Kendall Kowen, all of Prosper. Helen also had one great-grandchild, Noah Backen of Spokane.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Helen's family.

Cynthia Kramer, 76

Cynthia Kramer, 76, died Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014, at her home in Troy.

She is survived by her husband, Ted Kramer; and her children, Daniel

Kramer, Lee Kramer, Karla Martinson and Greg Kramer.

A memorial will be held at 3 p.m. Jan. 24 at the Door of Hope Church in Troy.

Alvin Krejci, 89

Alvin Krejci, 89, passed away Nov. 13, 2014, at the Whitefish Care Center.

Alvin was born on Feb. 7, 1925, in Rudyard to Joseph and Emily (Tichey) Krejci. He graduated from Rudyard High School in 1942 and worked with his father in the family business, Krejci Service Station, in Rudyard. After his father passed away when Alvin was 18, Alvin and his sister took over the business while his brothers were in the Army. He was later drafted into the Army and was an Army engineer veteran. His mother sold the business and Alvin went to work at Sanvik's store.

Alvin married Helen Gatzemeier on Sept. 29, 1945. In 1949, he and Helen moved south of Rudyard to the Gatzemeier farm and soon built a house west of the farm



Lodge in Chester.

After losing Helen, his wife of 67 years, in October 2012, Alvin moved to the Flathead Valley to be near family.

Alvin enjoyed gardening, playing cards and bingo. He loved picnicking at Bitners Grove on the Marias River and the many trips the family made to Two Medicine. He like to fish and hike in the mountains. Alvin and his wife Helen also had enjoyed many trips to Las

where they raised their family. In 1968 they sold the farm and moved into a new house in Rudyard. In 2010 they moved to the Sweetgrass

Vegas.

Alvin was preceded in death by his wife; parents; and three siblings, Ervin Krejci, Geraldine Een and Clifford Krejci.

Survivors include four daughters, Carol Martin of Elmo, Jane and Dave Allen of Nashua, Peggy Sweat of Lakeside, and Rose and Mike Hall of Kalispell; one son, Dale Krejci, of Rawlins, Wyo.; 10 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

Per Alvin's wishes, he was cremated. A memorial service will be planned in the spring at the Rudyard Cemetery. Arrangements are being handled by Rockman Funeral Chapel of Chester.

Memorials may be offered to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or the donor's choice.

Joan Lynn Nelson Kuemmerle, 51

Joan Lynn Nelson Kuemmerle, 51, passed away Sept. 22, 2014, at the Colorado University Memorial Hospital Hospice Wing in Colorado Springs. She died of cirrhosis of the liver and now is free from struggle, "resting in the arms of Jesus."

Joan was born May 9, 1963, at Deaconess Hospital in Billings. Her parents are Jerry Nelson and Mary Crowe Bond.

The family moved to Columbia Falls in 1964, where her father taught junior high school.

Joan attended school in Columbia Falls and graduated from Columbia Falls High School in 1981, where she was very active in music, a member of National Honor Society and a Girls State representative. She then attended Cottey College, a two-year girls school in Nevada, Mo. Joan was a member of PEO, a Philanthropic Educational Organization that owns Cottey College. She later attended Eastern New Mexico in Portales and graduated summa cum laude in 1986.

Joan married Bill Kuemmerle in 1986, in Roswell, N.M. She taught elementary music and junior high and high school band and choir at Hagerman, N.M., before starting their family. Their daughters are Kayla, Brittney, Cynthia and Samantha. Joan was a director and accompanist for the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale, and



her girls are still active members. The Kuemmerle sisters sing like angels.

Joan was preceded in death by her father, Jerry Nelson; and grandparents, Rev. Fred and Janet Crowe.

Survivors are her husband, Bill Kuemmerle of Colorado Springs; mother, Mary Bond and husband, Ron; brother, John Nelson and wife, Heidi and family from Pasco, Wash.; and sister, Jackie Ashcraft and husband, Kelly and family from Clovis, N.M.

"Joan Lynn Nelson Kuemmerle — beautiful outside and in, God's child, daughter, sister, wife, mother, friend and teacher."

A celebration of life service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11 at the United Methodist Church, 117 Second St. W., in Columbia Falls. A luncheon will follow the service. There will also be a service the same day in Colorado Springs at 1 p.m.

Memorial donations may be made to Colorado Springs Children's Choir Chorale, P.O. Box 7841, Colorado Springs, CO 80933; Pike's Peak Hospice, 2550 Tenderfoot Hill St., Colorado Springs, CO 80906; or the United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 27, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Rodney 'Rod' Walter Kuiava, 75

Rodney "Rod" Walter Kuiava passed away Sunday, April 20, 2014.

Rod was born Dec. 6, 1938, to Loretta and John Kuiava.

He came to Montana as a young boy and graduated from Havre High School.

Rod moved to Las Vegas and found employment with the North Las Vegas Fire Department. He retired 20 years later as a captain.

In 1988, he and Colette were married. They moved to Dayton and 16 years later to Polson. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and golfer.

Rod is survived by his wife, Colette; one brother, Ike Kuiava and Sherrie; one sister, Sandy Craig and Bob; five children, Tim Kuiava and Gail, Jeannie Mitchell and Lamar, Kevin Kuiava, Rich Rimbey and Rodney Rimbey; eight grand-



children, Brittany Tucker and Matt, Quincey Kuiava, Matthew Sathrum, Jessica

Kuiava, Keelie Mitchell, Kenna Rimbey, Clayton Rimbey and William Rimbey; and one great-grandson, Grayson Tucker.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 16 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Polson. Time will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Lake County Hospice, 711 Main St. S.W., Ronan, MT 59864.

Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory is handling the arrangements. Messages of condolence may be shared with the family online at www.groganfuneralhome.com.

Elaine 'Granny' Kusch, 85

Elaine "Granny" Kusch "went home to be with the Lord" on Dec. 27, 2014. "She went to join" her daughter, Joedy and son, Scott.

Elaine was born on Aug. 30, 1929, in Racine, Wisconsin, to Henry and Minnie Wilkens, and was married to her husband Raymond Kusch on March 23, 1949.

She is survived by her husband Ray, daughter Kim, and son Dean and wife Cheryl, as well as nine grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Granny was a woman who loved the Lord with all her heart and longed for everyone to get to know him and accept Jesus as their savior.

She spent a lifetime raising her family, working careers, loving and serving the Lord and being the best mother and granny she could possi-



bly be. She loved making people laugh and, when asked how she was doing, she would

always answer "Miserably, thank you."

Family meant everything to her. Holiday gatherings, playing Scrabble and cooking were some of her many passions. She aced every crossword puzzle with her very sharp mind and, until the Lord called her home, she charmed us with her beautiful smile and loving compassion! In our hearts, Granny will always be 22!

A celebration of life will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 10, at Kalispell Elks Lodge No. 725, 1820 U.S. 93 South.

MEMORIALS

Rodney W. 'Rod' Kuiava

A funeral Mass for Rodney W. "Rod" Kuiava, 75, who died April 20, will be held at 10

a.m. Friday, May 16, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Polson.

Norman F. Kurtz, 86

Norman F. Kurtz was born Sept. 25, 1927, and passed away Jan. 10, 2014, in Missoula.

Norm was all the stories and views of who he was — a musician, serviceman and journalist; any job one can think to do at a ski area — marketing, skier; a sailor, golfer, pilot, photographer, father, radio host — and again one heck of a musician.

Born in Seattle, the second son to Gus and Vida "Toots" Kurtz, Norm had a childhood of adventure, music and hard work. His stories of childhood years thrill us to this day. His older brother, Harold, was his music tutor, his nemesis, his brother, and in later years, his dear friend.

He was an entertainer from his early days, playing dance jobs at all sorts of establishments. His love of music went hand in hand with his quick wit and humor.

Norm was also a veteran, serving our country in the Navy during World War II, and later as a Marine during the Korean War.

He met his wife, Carolee, in Seattle, and not too long after, they married, then moved to Whitefish. Simply seeking good skiing, they fell in love with the young ski area and the town, and were hooked. They made Whitefish their home for over 50 years, raising a family and immersing themselves in the growth of Big Mountain and Whitefish.



the mountain and the Valley.

Summers would find him on the water or in the air. He loved the sailboat races on Wednesday nights and also took many trips to the San Juan Islands to sail about there, with family in tow. He earned his pilot's license and bought a plane and that was a new love!

He served for many years on the Glacier Park International Airport board and worked very hard to bring in flights from Canada in the early days of Big Mountain. This connection with Canadian flights brought in more tourism through the creation of "Ski Weeks."

After leaving Big Mountain, Norm started his own marketing business. Ski areas, credit unions and even the tourism industry benefited from his marketing. His voice was well known around the Flathead Valley, and he was famous for his "on hold" messages at the Whitefish Credit Union.

He was a people person. He loved to be around groups and take care of them. Entertaining with his quick wit, music and humor, he rarely left people without a smile on their faces.

use some midwinter revelry and bring folks down from the mountain to partake in Whitefish! He worked hard to make it a partnership between

the mountain and the Valley.

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He was a people person. He loved to be around groups and take care of them. Entertaining with his quick wit, music and humor, he rarely left people without a smile on their faces.

Brandon, Logan, Galen, Alexander, Zachery and Christien.

"So many memories and so many wonderful friends he had made throughout the years! This is such a small sample of the memories we have from our dad and thank him and you for sharing in his adventure!

"A life well lived, a song well played, a smile well placed!"

A memorial service is scheduled for 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, at Garden City Funeral Home, West

At the Big Mountain Resort in Whitefish, Norm fought hard to make it a success under the tutelage of his former boss and friend, Ed Schenck. He had a vision, along with Ed, of what the mountain and Whitefish could be in the tourism industry. He was instrumental in bringing the first time-share condominiums to Montana, with the Alpin-glow Inn. Norm was also actively involved on the Montana Board of Tourism and the Montana Ski Area Operators Association.

It always amazed us how the pieces of his life connected. His ties to the railroad and his time at the Seattle PI allowed him to connect the ski area to the railroad. This began a new chapter on Big Mountain with tourists arriving on ski trains from Seattle to Minneapolis and St. Paul. While visiting St. Paul, he attended the St. Paul Winter Carnival. After returning home from St. Paul, he and a few of his great friends wrote the original script for the Whitefish Winter Carnival. He figured that folks from town could

Broadway, Missoula.

In addition, a celebration of life will be held in Whitefish later this year.

Memorials may be made in his name to the following: Alzheimer's Association (alz.org); Whitefish Ski Museum, (<http://www.fvsef.org/p/museum.html>); or Museum of Mountain Flying (<http://museummountainflying.org/>)

Condolences and memories may be left for the family at www.missoula-funeralhomes.com

Over the past few years, the dread disease Alzheimer's dementia stole many of those great memories. Fortunately, we were able to share them back to him, always for a smile or a laugh and before the disease really took hold he wrote the book, "Chair One." The disease was never able to steal his great sense of humor, his desire to entertain and care for people, or even his ability to play the piano. He was well known in his home as a great musician and entertainer.

Norm was preceded in death by his parents; his older brother, Hal; and his wonderful wife, Carolee; who was his sounding board and partner for 51 years.

He leaves behind four children, Lisa Kurth of Kent, Wash., Peter Kurtz of Anaconda, Gretchen and Val Murray of Missoula, and Joni and John Wootton of Kuna, Idaho; and six grandsons,