

David Palmer, 58

David Palmer 58, passed away Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014, at home surrounded by his family, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

David was born in Ronan on Dec. 26, 1955, to Del and Bernice Palmer. He graduated from Charlo High School in 1974. He was part of the six-year undefeated Charlo football team and was an active member in 4-H.

His many adventures took him from working for the U.S. Forest Service as a packer to construction, masonry and carpentry all over Montana and Alaska and as a hunting guide, to his many years at Plum Creek and the Crow Haven Arabian horse ranch. After he became disabled he started his own Old Wood Art, and his favorite job of being Papa.

Dave's true passion was being in the mountains hunting and fishing with his father, brothers, son, niece and nephew and many friends, also at the cabin teaching his grandchildren how to fish and hunt. He started teaching his bride these things on their honeymoon in a blizzard.

His love of nature and family will never be forgotten; nor will a few of the million pranks that he pulled on his family and friends.

On March 27, 1976, he married the love of his life, Kimberly McDonald. In this marriage they welcomed three children Brian, Caysie and Stacy.

David was preceded in death by his grandparents, E.M and Olive Palmer, and Dee and Rachel Shriner; brother, Dennis Palmer; mother-in-law, Ann McDonald; as well as several other aunts,



uncles and cousins.

He is survived by his wife, Kim, of 38 years; and children, Brian and

Sue, Caysie and Travis, and Stacy and Cory; parents, Del and Bernice, and Tom and Shirley McDonald; brother, Skip, and Sue; best friend/brother/cousin, Eddie, and Jan; sister, Charlene; grandchildren, Tori, Billy, Bayleigh, Olyvia, Richard and Crystal, Casey, Cassie and Shelby, extended grandchildren, Matthew, Nick, Haley, Emily, Dusty and Trenton; great-grandchildren, Macao, Keeley, Richard and Liam; brother-in-law, Tom; sisters-in-law, Kris, Terry and Cindy; nieces, Jennifer and Jereme, and Nichole and Andrew; nephews, Ben and Brandy, Justin, and Tommy; and great-nieces and nephews, Greydon, Rachel, Logan, Ian, Tommy, Dillon and Brody. We can't forget Dad's trusty companion of 10 years, Shy; special friend and extended brother, Paul Toussaint, and Sharon; last but not least, all of the "Fish Creek" family.

A celebration of life will be held on April 26 at Leon Hall in Charlo.

Donations in memory of David can be made to The Lustgarten Foundation, 1111 Stewart Avenue Bethpage, NY 11714 (pancreatic cancer research) or Lake County Hospice, 711 Main St. SW, Ronan MT 59864.

Arrangements are under the direction of Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory.

Memories of condolence may be shared with the family online at www.groganfuneralhome.com.

Delbert M. Palmer, 93

Delbert M. Palmer, 93, died at home Friday, Nov. 14, 2014.

Memorial services are

pending. Arrangements are under the direction of Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory.

Ralph Vincent Panico, 75

Ralph Vincent Panico passed away peacefully on May 7, 2014, with wife Judy, and beloved standard poodles, Alex and Henri, by his side. His long struggle with diabetes ended at the age of 75.

Ralph was born and raised in Los Angeles and moved to Bigfork with Judy after retiring from Petersen Publishing Co. in 1999.

Upon graduating from St. Francis High School in La Canada, Calif., Ralph pursued his Bachelor of Science degree in business at Cal State-L.A. A 40-year career in newspaper and magazine publishing followed.

Ralph worked at The Los Angeles Times, National Geographic, and finally his most successful and enjoyable positions were as sales representative and national advertising sales manager for Petersen Publishing Company in Beverly Hills, Calif. He supervised up to 40 sales representatives nationwide for magazines such as Hot Rod, Car Craft, Rod & Custom, Circle Track and Skin Diver Magazine. Many of Ralph's former employees and business associates remained in contact with Ralph through the years. Ask anyone who worked for Ralph and he or she will tell you he was the best boss they ever had. His business sense, positive attitude and approachability made him someone everyone wanted to emulate.

During retirement, Ralph and Judy enjoyed many road trips exploring the United States, visiting family on the West and East coasts, or traveling to European countries such as Italy where Ralph's father was born.

Ralph was an avid football and basketball fan. His extensive knowledge of the game, players, coaches and final outcomes was always a hot topic of discussion during football and basketball seasons. Ralph and Judy spent many summer days and nights at their



home along the Swan River, enjoying numerous barbecues with family and friends.

It was a very good life and Ralph always said he could not have asked for more. He was a very content and happy man.

Ralph was preceded in death by his father, James Panico; mother, Celeste Panico; and son, Stephen Panico.

Ralph is survived by Judy, his wife of 24 years. He also leaves behind his canine companions, Alex and Henri. He is also survived by son, Daniel Panico, and daughter-in-law, Glenda, of Paso Robles, Calif.; grandson, Troy Panico, of Reno, Nev.; brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Louise Plumb, of Potomac, Md., niece and nephew-in-law, Sarah and Lou DiGioia; great-nephew, Jack, of Burke, Va.; and several cousins residing in California and Washington.

"Ralphie, we thank you for being our friend and mentor for all these years. Your positive and congenial nature was a gift to all who encountered you. What would we have done without your advice, sense of humor and consistent friendship? We will take what we have learned from you and incorporate it in our daily lives as best we can. The positive light you have shared will endure indefinitely. We love you dearly and will miss you always."

No public services are planned. A celebration of Ralph's life will be held in the near future.

The family suggests a memorial gift to the American Diabetes Association at diabetes.org.

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

Flathead air-rescue pioneer Parod dies

By **LYNNETTE HINTZE**
The Daily Inter Lake

Ted Parod, a pioneer in emergency air-rescue service in the Flathead Valley, died Saturday in Columbus of heart failure at age 73.

Parod and Hank Galpin of Kalispell were partners in Mountain West Helicopters and flew for ALERT air ambulance in the 1970s before Kalispell Regional Hospital got its own helicopter.

The death of a logger in Northwest Montana inspired Parod to create an air medical transport service.

"It was probably one of the things he put the most effort into in his entire life and was the most proud of," Parod's wife, Debbie, said.

His long career in aviation included not only search-and-rescue operations but also aerial film work, law enforcement support and fighting forest fires. His accomplishments earned him the



TED PAROD piloted the ALERT helicopter in the early days of the air ambulance service. (Photo courtesy of Debbie Parod)

See **PIONEER** on A10

Montana Outstanding Pilot of the Year Award and the Distinguished Service Award from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Marty Boehm, who worked as a flight nurse for ALERT and later ran the program for 12 years, recalled that Parod was always ready at a moment's notice.

"He never turned down a flight," Boehm said. "He was always willing to do what needed to be done."

"Ted was really enthusiastic about the program. He was a team player," Boehm said.

Dr. Van Kirke Nelson, who was among the air-rescue pioneers, recalled in a 2013 interview how Parod and Galpin would

land the helicopter in his front yard or at the old hospital in Kalispell to pick him up for rescue missions.

Nelson, a charter member of the ALERT board, recalled how Parod was part of one of the most memorable air rescues in ALERT's early days when a hiker atop the Ptarmigan Wall in Glacier National Park slipped and fell.

"It was about 3:30 to 4 in the afternoon," Nelson recalled in the Inter Lake interview last year. "Ted Parod still had the air ambulance with Hank Galpin. We flew to the top of Ptarmigan; he [the injured hiker] was on the Elizabeth Lake side.

The hiker's companion

had hiked to Many Glacier to get help. As the helicopter made a slow circle around looking for a place to set down, "Parod flew 1,500 vertical feet below where he [the hiker] was," he said. "I said, 'Ted, what are you doing?'"

The two park rangers they had picked up to locate the hiker had to be dropped off and were forced to hike overnight through the mountains to their cabin in Belly River. And Nelson still remembers the queasy feeling from the dramatic take-off when they "popped over the ridge and dropped like a rock" until Parod got enough momentum to propel the aircraft forward.

Debbie Parod said she

has a scrapbook filled with news clippings and documentation of Ted's many awards and activities through the years with air search-and-rescue work.

"In the very early days he lived right next to the [Kalispell] airport," Debbie said. "To the day he died, when the phone rang, he was instantly ready to go."

Heart problems over the past few years prevented him from flying, she added, "but he was a pilot when he looked in the mirror."

A full obituary is on Page A7.

Features editor Lynnette Hintze may be reached at 758-4421 or by email at lhintze@dailyinterlake.com.

Obituary on next page

Ted Parod, 73

Ted Parod, loving husband, father, grandfather, and founder of the ALERT air ambulance and rescue program in Kalispell, passed away Sept. 27, 2014, at the age of 73.

During his life, Ted flew thousands of hours in airplanes, helicopters, hot air balloons and experimental aircraft. His career included off-shore and bush flying in Alaska, search and rescue operations, aerial film work, law enforcement support and fighting forest fires. He was both a civilian and military flight instructor, a check pilot and safety officer for the FAA, and a certified EMT. Ted was the recipient of the Montana Outstanding Pilot of the Year Award and the Distinguished Service Award from the Federal Aviation Administration, its second highest award.

The unnecessary death of a logger in Northwest Montana inspired Ted to work to establish aerial medical transport. An entrepreneur, Ted founded Mountain West



Helicopters in Kalispell and supported the company with a variety of other aviation work, while

making presentations to local civic organizations and encouraging support for a hospital-based air ambulance program. From ALERT's inception until the foundation purchased its own helicopter, Mountain West provided the aircraft and pilots for the program.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Debbie; and their children, Dr. Jennifer Parod and husband Dr. Steven Howell, Katie Hansen and husband Erik Hansen, Daniel Parod, Christopher Parod and Bobbi Parod; and grandchildren, Reagan and Jackson Hansen.

He was preceded in death by parents, Carl Parod and Loretta Harbour; his brother, Don; and his first wife, Sandra Parod.

At Ted's request, no funeral will be held.

George W. Parrish Jr., 84

George W. Parrish Jr., 84, died at his residence on Sept. 13, 2014.

George is survived by his wife, Barb; and children, Dolly, Bill, Laurie,

Vicki, Jerry and Louie.

At his request, there will be no services.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

Daniel Lee Pattie, 75

Daniel Lee Pattie, 75, died Tuesday, June 24, 2014, at his home in Troy.

Survivors include his wife, Bertha Pattie of Troy; daughters, Debbie Hahn of Troy and Kathleen Pillans of Missoula; and son, Don-

ald Pattie of Troy.

Services will be at 3:30 p.m. Monday, June 30 at the Troy Church of God.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home & Crematory in Libby.

Beverly Geddes Paullin, 82

Oh! The places she has been, and the things Bev has done!

We celebrate the incredible life of Beverly Paullin who passed away Sept. 29, 2014. She has lived in eight states, made 14 places home, traveled to all parts of the world — from Greece and all points in Europe to the tip of South America. Along the way, she raised three great kids and as everyone knows, stayed passionately in love with her husband, Hal.

Talk to anyone that has known Beverly and they will tell you how bright and engaging she was. She practiced as a certified public accountant with a sharpness and professionalism right up to her recent illness. While the cascading health problems took all of us by surprise, we want all who knew Beverly to remember the fun and good times we shared with her! Raise a glass of wine and toast to a life well lived! She would like that.

Beverly was born in Ponca, Neb., on April 23, 1932. She spent her early years in Kalispell where she married Harold in 1950. Mark was born in Kalispell, and Pam in the Dalles, Ore. The family lived in Los Angeles, and San Juan, Puerto Rico, before settling in Charlotte, N.C. Patrick was born in Charlotte. Beverly completed her undergraduate degree at University of North Carolina-Charlotte and eventually taught principals of accounting there. Harold and Beverly operated their CPA partnership



for many years in Charlotte, and continued after moving to Kiawah, and then on to

Savannah.

Beverly was an avid fitness buff. For many years she ran daily, participated in numerous marathons and 10Ks, often winning her age class! Many of you know Bev from her daily workout at the Landings fitness center. She loved to cook, drink wine and travel.

She has been preceded in death by her mother, "Mayme" Stuart Geddes; her father, S. Reed Geddes; her sister and brother, Yvonne and Eddy; and her daughter, Pamela Jo Paullin Finberg.

Surviving Bev are her husband, Harold Paullin; her son, Mark, and his wife Karen; grandson, Eric, and his new bride Jennifer; her son, Patrick, and his wife, Sandra; and her granddaughter, Autumn Finberg. She also leaves behind her beloved dachshund, Maggie Sue.

Her extended relatives in the Flathead Valley are brother-in-law, Howard Paullin, sister-in-law, Joyce Ivey, along with her daughters and husbands, Sheryl and Rob Border, Paula and Gary Baldwin and Marsha Shepard; and Beverly's late brother's children, Steven C. Geddes and Rhonda Geddes Hassler.

Please make donations to Hospice of Savannah, P.O. Box 13190, Savannah, GA 31416.

Fox & Weeks Funeral Directors, Savannah, is handling arrangements.

Agnes Pearson, 100

Our dear mom and grandma, Agnes Pearson, passed away on Jan 18, 2014, surrounded by her loving family and the wonderful and caring staff at Park Place Assisted Living in Spokane.

She had recently turned 100 years old and celebrated this milestone at a party at Park Place with family and her many friends.

Aggie was born in Missouri on Dec. 27, 2013. She enjoyed an interesting and adventurous life, but her greatest joy and accomplishment was raising her six children and loving and caring for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Aggie was preceded in death by her husband, Carl Pearson; and daughters, Norma (Olson) Dachwald of Whitefish, and Darlene (Olson) Nelson of Kalispell. She is survived by sons, Wayne and Gerry Olson of Coeur d'Alene Idaho, Dennis and Barbara Olson of White-



fish, Larry and Beverly Olson of Pacific, Wash., and Michael and Susan Pearson of Greenacres,

Wash.; and daughter-in-law and loving friend, Marilyn Martin Pearson. Aggie cherished her 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren who all brought a sparkle to her eye with their visits.

Graveside services for Aggie will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

She was loved so much and will be greatly missed, but will always be with us in our hearts and memories.

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

Patricia Ann (Schlicht) Pearson, 67

Patricia Ann (Schlicht) Pearson, 67, died June 21, 2014, at Heritage Place Nursing Home from a progressive neurodegenerative disorder.

She was retired from the U.S. Forest Service. She is survived by her husband, Jim Pearson. Cremation has taken place. No services are planned.

Charmian Elaine Pederson, 93

Charmian Elaine Pederson, 93, died Sept. 3, 2014, in Mesa, Arizona.

She was born Aug. 25, 1921, in Kensal, North Dakota, to Elmer and Nana Bakke. She grew up in the Kensal area and after high school graduated from the secretarial program at the North Dakota State College of Science. In college she met her future husband, John Pederson. They were married Nov. 1, 1941. While John served in World War II, she worked in Jamestown, North Dakota and in the San Francisco area. After the war they settled in Jamestown. They eventually moved to Great Falls where she was a secretary for many years with an insurance company.

In 1978, they both retired to their Bitterroot Lake place west of Kalispell. They enjoyed

many years on the lake and traveling around the country in their motorhome. The last number of years they lived in the Mesa area. She loved playing the organ and crocheted hundreds of booties and caps, and gave them to local hospitals for newborns.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her older sister, Mildred, infant daughter, and granddaughter, Lori.

She is survived by her husband, John of Mesa; younger brother, Winton of Severna Park, Maryland; son, Clinton of Kalispell; son, Duane of Kalispell; daughter, Debra of Mesa; son, Lee of Missoula; and a number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Services and a family gathering will be held at a later date.

Thomas Neil Pelican, 57

Thomas Neil Pelican passed away April 25, 2014, at his home in Bigfork.

He was born in San Francisco on Aug. 25, 1956, to Frank and Edythe Pelican.

Tom worked at Quakerdale group home in Manning, Iowa, for over 10 years and enjoyed cooking, teaching and making a difference in the lives of young teens.

In 2000, he went back to school to be a computer programmer.

In 2007, Tom and wife Theresa moved to Swan Lake to run a Ma and Pa shop of their own. The last few years of Tom's life were spent fishing, wood and leather working and riding his Harley. Oh, how he loved to ride!

He was preceded in



death by his parents.

He is survived by his childhood sweetheart and wife, Theresa

Pelican, of Bigfork; daughter, Nicole Pelican, of California; son, Nicholas Pelican, and wife, Amanda, of Idaho; sister, Sheila Seale, and husband, Lod, of California, and brother, Frank Pelican, and wife, Carolyn, of Georgia.; in-laws, Terry and Nancy Ketterman, of Bigfork; as well as countless other family members and friends he met along the way.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Swan Lake and Lake Tahoe, Calif.

Melba Ardene Pedersen, 75

We celebrate the life and mourn the loss of Melba Ardene Pedersen who passed away May 31, 2014, at North Valley Hospital.

Melba was born Feb. 7, 1939, in Kalispell to Elmer and Dorothy Colby.

Melba is survived by her husband of 52 years, Curtis Pedersen; her sisters, Loretta and Lois; and her brothers, Lynn and Butch; her children, Pati, Leslie, Layna, Laurie, Daniel, Michael, adopted daughter Kathy, and their families, including 13 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and numerous in-laws, "outlaws" and others.

As a child, Melba overcame many childhood adversities, was a star athlete and a natural swimmer. She was captain of her baseball team. She graduated eighth grade.

As an adult Melba was proud to achieve her GED



so she could become a certified nursing assistant at Colonial Manor, where for 18 years she

passionately cared for her patients as if they were her own parents.

Anyone who met Melba became family and affectionately called her Mama P. She was known for her famous fudge and bottomless cookie jar. No one was ever turned away from a meal at her house.

Melba will be missed, but will live on in the hearts and memories of those who loved and knew her. She was a truly great woman and will always be loved dearly.

Please join us in celebration of a life well lived from 2 to 5 p.m. today, June 4, for an open house at her daughter Pati's home.

Isaac 'Joe' Penner, 89

Isaac "Joe" Penner, 89, died Aug. 30, 2014, in Kalispell.

An urnside memorial service will be at 2 p.m. today, Sept. 4, at the

Veterans Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, Kalispell.

Audrey Boe Pemble, 86

Audrey Boe Pemble, 86, died Nov. 4, 2014, in Kalispell.

She is survived by her husband, Fay.

A celebration of life will

be at noon on Saturday, Nov. 8, at the First Presbyterian Church in Kalispell.

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

Melba A. Pedersen, 75

Melba A. Pedersen, 75, died on Saturday, May 31, 2014, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

Melba is survived by her husband Curtis Pedersen, and children Pati Jones, Leslie Fuller, Layna Tatum, Laurie Lopez, Dan Pedersen, Mike

Pedersen, and Kathy Howard.

An open house to celebrate Melba's life is going to be held this Wednesday, June 4 from 2 to 5 p.m. at her daughter Pati's Home.

Arrangements entrusted to Austin Funeral Home.

Lawrence Rawlin Periman, 70

Lawrence Rawlin Periman, 70, passed away on Feb. 17, 2014.

He was born Jan. 17, 1944, in Missoula. He attended school in Drummond from 1950 to 1960.

He married Margorie Dendy on June 15, 1960.

While living in Drummond, Lawrence worked for Cominco Phosphate from 1962 to 1969. He moved to Flathead Valley to purchase a cedar fence mill which he operated for 36 years. He enjoyed fence work and running a small farm. Lawrence also enjoyed hunting, fishing and gardening.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Rob-

ert Periman, in 1988.

Lawrence is survived by his wife, Margorie; sister, Barbara Mc Omer; children, Richard Daniel Periman, born April 15, 1960, and Christine Maree Benton, born Jan. 4, 1962; grandchildren, Zachary Breese, born May 8, 1982, Anthony Benton, born Aug. 28, 1986, and Alicia Benton-Coleman, born May 24, 1988; and great-grandchildren, Bruksia Rayne Coleman, born Oct. 5, 2006, Riley Rose Benton, born April 30, 2008, and William David Lawrence Benton, born July 22, 2009.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Paul Edward Persinger, 81

Paul Edward Persinger, 81, passed away Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014, at his home in Kalispell.

He is survived by his wife Josefina, and daughter Kristi Persinger.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. today, Nov. 18,

at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. A celebration of life will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with military honors to follow.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Patricia 'Trish' Petero, 65

Our darling Patricia "Trish" Petero, 65, of Columbia Falls, passed "into the loving arms of her lord and savior Jesus Christ" on July 28, 2014.

Trish was born Oct. 2, 1948, in Indianapolis.

She has left behind her husband of 49 years. Trish and Wayne have a love we all long for. There has never been a love so pure and strong as the love they share.

Trish was preceded in death by Grace and Stanley Montgomery and James Branam.

She is survived by her husband, Anthony "Wayne" Petero, of Columbia Falls; her children, Anthony "Tony" Petero of Evergreen, Benjamin and Tonya Petero of Kingman, Ariz., James and Angela Petero of Yelm, Wash., and Tammy Petero of Hamilton; her siblings, Doug and Debbie



Branam, Joe Branam, Wanda Montgomery, and Cindy and Jerry Membrino; nine grandchildren,

and numerous great-grandchildren.

"You will forever be in our hearts, you will be dearly missed by all who love and knew you, our darling Trish."

There will be a visitation for Trish from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday Aug. 2, at Columbia Mortuary. A funeral service for Trish will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 3, at Columbia Mortuary. The family will greet guests one hour prior to services. Burial will take place at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Trish's family.

Margaret L. 'Peggy' Person, 97

Longtime Kalispell resident Margaret L. "Peggy" Person died peacefully at the age of 97, Thursday, March 20, 2014, at her apartment at Touchmark in Helena.

Peggy Wilson was born March 9, 1917, to Douglas N. Wilson and Ethel Louise (Lambie) Wilson in Great Falls where she grew up. She loved telling childhood stories about family trips she took throughout Montana in the family's Maxwell automobile, when camping along the roadside was the norm for accommodations. The family enjoyed a cabin at Power Coulee in the Little Belt Mountains that was the center of many outdoor adventures and many of her happiest moments. Peggy was an avid swimmer and sharp-shooter and was very active in a wide range of school activities including playing flute in the band. Her abiding love of the outdoors was a gift passed on to her children who at her knee learned the names of the flowers, the joys of cold mountain streams and the bracing sweetness of the moun-

tain air.

Upon graduation from Great Falls High School, Peggy attended the university in Missoula (then called Montana State University) where she majored in English. While at the university, she continued playing the flute and was active in the Delta Gamma sorority, eventually serving as chapter president. She also spent one memorable summer working at the Two Medicine Chalet in Glacier National Park, which left her with wonderful memories.

Peggy married Bruce Person in 1943 when he was stationed with the Army Air Corps in Great Falls. After a number of moves with the military and later completion of Bruce's education, the family moved to Missoula and later to Kalispell.

While in Missoula, Peggy resumed teaching high school English as a substitute teacher at Missoula County High School. She later resumed full time teaching responsibilities in the English faculty at Flathead High School.

Upon her retirement

from teaching, Peggy remained active in the Kalispell community volunteering in schools and other community groups. She remained an active member of the AAUW, PEO, First Presbyterian Church and Friends of the Library, and maintained many strong friendships. She also traveled extensively in Europe, the U.S. and Canada.

Following a period of failing health she moved from Kalispell to Helena late in 2013.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bruce A. Person; her brother, D. Norman Wilson; and her son-in-law, Michael Kress.

She is survived by her sisters, Helen Wilson and Muriel Buckley of Great Falls; her son, Bob Person, and his wife, Toni, of Helena; her daughter, Kathryn Kress, of Missoula; as well as four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The family is extremely grateful for the excellent care she received from the staff at Touchmark who were above and beyond in their very

personal services to her. Hospice of St. Peter's and their team were also key supporters, if for a very short time at the end of life.

Memorials may be made to the nature or wild animal conservation organization of your choice.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, at the First Presbyterian Church in Great Falls. A reception will immediately follow with location to be announced. Interment will follow the reception and will be held at Hillcrest Lawn Memorial Mausoleum in Great Falls.

Retz Funeral Home in Helena is handling arrangements. Please visit www.retzfuneralhome.com to offer the family a condolence or to share a memory of Peggy.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Margaret 'Peggy' Person, 97

A memorial service for Margaret "Peggy" Person, 97, who died March 20, will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, April

21, First Presbyterian Church, 540 S. Main St., in Kalispell.

A reception at the church will follow.

Mereanus Knabe 'Pete' Petersen, 83

Mereanus Knabe "Pete" Petersen, 83, passed away Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014, at his home on Rogers Lake. He was born July 25, 1930, in Garfield, Utah to Durwood and Mamie (Knabe) Petersen.

Pete was a correctional officer at the Flathead County Jail for many years and was a retired reserve deputy from the Flathead Sheriff's Posse. Pete was also an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served his God and his community, as well as his fellow man. He was proud of the fact he was a WWII veteran. Pete will be forever loved and forever missed.

Pete was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Lamon and Norman Petersen and a daughter, Sharry Moon. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Shirlene Petersen, and five children: Dan Petersen of Price, Utah; Dean Petersen of Plains; Debbie Nielsen and Gail Thompson of Kalispell; and Dianna



Petersen; as well as 18 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Visitation for Pete will be on Tuesday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

in the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, as well as for one hour prior to the services at the church.

Funeral service will be held on Wednesday, March 5, at 2 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1380 Whitefish Stage Road, with Bishop Don Chery conducting. Burial will be in the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery with military honors.

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

Douglas Lynn Peters, 60

Douglas Lynn Peters, 60, passed away in Kalispell on May 12, 2014.

Douglas was born in Kansas City, Mo., on Nov. 2, 1953, the son of Dick and Selma (Murry) Peters. He was raised in St. Paul, Minn., and graduated from Highland Park High School in 1971. He then went to Hamline University, graduating in 1975 as a music teacher.

Douglas then moved to Flaxville, Mont., where he taught music and coached boys and girls basketball. He married Shelley Fossen at Pleasant Prairie Church in Flaxville in 1979. He then taught in Scobey for eight years and was a morning disc jockey at KCGM radio for five years. He played drums and sang in a country band also.

Douglas then moved to Bigfork and taught band for 20 years. While in Bigfork, he also taught drivers' education. He then worked for the National Flood Service for one year, taught band at Somers/Lakeside Schools, then relocated to Wallace and Osborn, Idaho, for another year. Douglas had been director for pep bands and jazz bands

throughout his career.

Douglas enjoyed bicycling, camping, animals and sports, especially the Minnesota Vikings, Twins, Wild and the Golden Gophers.

He was preceded in death by his father Dick Peters, and a brother Lon Peters.

Douglas is survived by his wife of 34 years, Shelley, of Bigfork; mother, Selma Peters; daughter, Lindsey Peters; brother, Rick Peters; and numerous nieces, nephews, brothers- and sisters-in-law.

A celebration of Douglas' life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, at the Bigfork High School gymnasium.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to Home Options Hospice, 275 Corporate Drive, Ste. 600, Kalispell, MT 59901; or the Flathead County Animal Shelter, 225 Cemetery Road, Kalispell, MT 59901.

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.

Shirley Jean Peters, 43

Shirley Jean Peters, 43, passed away Saturday, March 15, 2014.

She was born June 24, 1970, in Brainerd, Minn.

Shirley met her husband from a newspaper ad she had placed, and the first night they spoke for eight hours. At the end of the conversation she told him that she knew she was going to marry him. They met at the Burger King in Chippewa Falls, Wis., the next day and had been together ever since. Shirley said that she and Robert were like peanut butter and jelly — terrific together and impossible to tear apart.

Shirley and Bob shared a love for the mountains that brought them from Wisconsin to Wyoming, then to Idaho, and finally

Kalispell. Anyone who knew them saw them as true soulmates.

The loss of Shirley will be felt by everyone who came to know her. You could not know Shirley and not love her.

"Bobby's angel is now God's angel."

Shirley is survived by her loving husband Robert, and three daughters, Chelsea, Amber and Autumn. She is also survived by her mother, Helen, in Chippewa Falls.

Private family services will be held.

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.

Elda Rae (Coverdell) Griffey-Petersen, 71

Elda Rae (Coverdell) Griffey-Petersen, 71, Flathead Valley native, died Feb. 5, 2014, in Pocatello, Idaho.

She is survived by her husband, Gerald "Pete" Petersen, and children,

Darrel Ray Griffey, Dawne Griffey and Tracy Griffey-Bixby, all of Pocatello; and her mother, Helen Coverdell of Kalispell.

A memorial service is planned for this summer in Glacier Park.

Gerald Lee 'Jerry' Petry, 73

Gerald Lee "Jerry" Petry, 73, passed from this life on Dec. 12, 2014, at the Brendan House in Kalispell, after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's disease.

Gerald was born May 26, 1941, in Ferdinand, Indiana, to Alvin and Ardella Petry. He was the eldest of 11 children. Jerry had many fond memories of his family and growing up in Indiana.

At the age of 17, Jerry and his brothers moved to Glendive. His parents and other siblings followed soon after to live in Glendive. Jerry graduated from Dawson County High School in Glendive. Not long after graduating, Jerry and his family moved to Kalispell. He worked at the C & C Plywood Company and went on to become an electrician.

Jerry met Jennifer Karstetter in 1965, at the Park Inn, in Kalispell. At the time, Jennifer was working at the telephone company and Jerry was in the Army National Guard. It was love at first sight! Gerald married Jennifer Alice Elaine Karstetter six months later on Aug. 7, 1965, at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Whitefish. Together they made their home in Kalispell and raised three daughters.



Jerry served four years active duty in the U.S. Army and was a member of the Army National Guard as well. He saw duty locally dur-

ing the Evergreen Flood of 1964, and helped fight the Glacier National Park forest fire in 1968. Jerry loved where he lived in Montana and was always a proud American. Jerry was an electrician at Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant for over 20 years. He had a very strong work ethic, never missing a day of work!

Jerry loved all music but was especially fond of country western and Elvis Presley. Jerry enjoyed bowling on a league in his younger years.

Jerry and his family attended St. Matthew's Catholic Parish. He also loved hunting, reloading, fishing, camping, boating and riding trails on his motorcycle. He loved spending time outdoors bicycle riding, ice skating and hiking. Jerry was a very talented carpenter and enjoyed remodeling his home and building a garage and wood shed. He

also made furniture. He could build and repair anything. He enjoyed watching football and baseball. Jerry was an avid reader and also liked playing cards, especially cribbage. Jerry loved birds of all kinds and enjoyed watching the eagles in Glacier National Park.

The family would like to acknowledge how thankful they are for the amazing staff and the wonderful care Jerry received during his time at the Brendan House.

Jerry was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. He will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

Jerry was preceded in death by an infant sister, Patricia Petry; brothers, Eugene Petry and Alvin Petry Jr.; and his parents, Ardella and Alvin Petry.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Jennifer Petry of Idaho Falls, Idaho; daughter, Ann Muth and husband Bob of Whitefish, and grandchildren Ocala, Deagan, Dillon and Dawson; daughter, Paula Kindel and husband Kenny of Eureka, and grandchildren McKenna, Jakeb and Joey; and daughter, Mary Brown, and husband, Abram, of Idaho Falls, and grandchildren Clairra and Adalyn. Jerry was

especially proud of his family. He would light up whenever he was around them! Jerry was a proud husband, father and papa of nine grandchildren. Jerry is also survived by his four sisters and three brothers, Mary Hegel of Kalispell, Ken Petry of Columbia Falls, David Petry of Kalispell, Lucy Sterling of Columbia Falls, Alan Petry of Columbia Falls, Deb Cisol of Kalispell, and Darlene Vincent of Oregon; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration remembering Jerry's life will take place at 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 23, at the Canvas Church in Kalispell.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Brendan House or to the Parkinson's Foundation.

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.

John Richard Petrusha, 84

John Richard Petrusha, 84, formerly of Libby, died Friday, Sept. 19, 2014, in Eureka, Calif.

He had worked in a zonolite mine, a mill and drove a logging truck in Montana.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Ann Petrusha; and five children, Cynthia Marie Petrusha, Charles Edward Petrusha, Michael Richard Petrusha, Johna Sue Petrusha Mullins and Timothy Victor Petrusha.

Visitation will be from 2 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, at Pierce Mortuary in Eureka. A rosary will be said at 6 p.m. Thursday at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Eureka. A funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at St. Bernard's Church in Eureka, with a graveside service immediately following at Ocean View Catholic Cemetery and a reception in the Pinochi Center at St. Bernard's Church.

Francis Wayne Pettit, 88

Francis Wayne Pettit passed away Jan. 27, 2014, in Forest Grove, Ore.

He was born Oct. 16, 1925, in Jackson, Mont., to George and Josephine Quigley Pettit. He lived in the Big Hole for 12 years and then moved to Dillon. He graduated from Beaverhead County High School in 1943.

He enlisted in the Marines that fall. He was in the Philippines for three years. After returning home, he enrolled in Montana State Normal College in Dillon because "they were playing football there." While attending college, he was on the track and football teams. He was the captain of the 1948 championship football team. He graduated in 1949 with a degree in education.

Francis began his teaching career in Libby in 1949. He was called back to the Marines in 1950 for the Korean War. Upon returning in 1951, he continued his teaching career in Libby.

In August of 1953, he married Catherine Roberts in D'Aste, Mont. They had seven children, George, Elizabeth, Joan, Joe, Margee, Julie and Patty. Francis taught PE and coached football, basketball and track in Libby until his retirement in 1977. He will be remembered by many for having the gym open on Sunday afternoons during the winter for any student.

The Forest Service was his second career. He is fondly remembered by many as "Smokey," as he was Smokey Bear in parades from Libby to Tucson, Ariz.

His wife, Catherine, died in 1990. He moved to Centralia, Wash., and married Helen Caulkins. They lived in Centralia and Tucson until her death in 2011. He then moved to Forest Grove to be near his daughter.

Francis enjoyed visiting with people most of all. If you didn't know someone he knew, you hadn't visited long enough. The only



people that weren't his friends were the people he hadn't met. He also enjoyed reading, sports, getting wood with his friend Gary Elmore,

spending time with his children and grandchildren and traveling. While living in Centralia, he became very active in the Veterans Memorial Museum in Chehalis, Wash.

Francis was preceded in death by his wife, Catherine, in 1990; son, George, in 2011; a brother, Dale, in 2008; sister, Margie, in 2011; and his second wife, Helen, in 2011.

He is survived by his son, Joe Pettit, and Deb, of Gillette, Wyo.; and daughters, Elizabeth Booth of Olympia, Wash., Joan Pettit of Tucson, Margee Bronec and Pat of Geraldine, Mont., Julie Long of Libby, Patty Harmon and Kevin of Cornelius, Ore., and daughter-in-law Debbie Pettit of Tucson. He has 13 grandchildren and one great-grandson, Alicia Long of Spokane, Sarah and Elias Long of Libby, Asa Toburen Pettit of Tucson, Katie and Lydia Pettit of Tucson, Avery Booth of Olympia, Wash., Trevor Pettit of Gillette, Wyo., Erin and Matt Harmon of Cornelius, and Hallie, Sam and Sean Bronec of Geraldine; and his great-grandson, Paul, of Spokane. He is also survived by stepchildren, Terry Caulkins, Larry Caulkins, Dennis Caulkins and Joe Caulkins of Washington.

Visitation will be from 1 to 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3, at Schnackenberg Funeral Home in Libby. Rosary will be at 7 p.m. at the funeral home. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Libby. Burial will follow at Libby Cemetery.

Mark Thomas Pfankuch, 53

Mark Thomas Pfankuch, 53, died Jan. 8, 2014, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

There will be a private

celebration of life for the family on Tuesday.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Dennis W. Phillips, 68

Dennis W. Phillips, 68, died Friday April 4, 2014, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He is survived locally by his wife, Donna Phil-

lips; and granddaughter, Cambra.

No services will be held. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

John E. 'Jack' Phillips, 76

John E. "Jack" Phillips, 76, passed away Sept. 3, 2014.

John was born March 30, 1938, in Seattle.

After moving to the Flathead Valley, John went to work for Rosauers where he became the manager. After receiving Manager of the Year, he transferred to Kennewick, Wash., for two years. There is where he married his wife Colleen in 1980. After returning to the Flathead, John was employed with School District 5, from which he retired.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Col-



leen; two stepdaughters, Julie and Dick Robinson, and Chris and Darrell Smith; grandchild-

dren, Derek Smith, Jason and Josh Robinson, and Rachel Doble (Robinson); and four great-grandchildren, Sage, Sawyer, Dillyn Doble and Maibel Robinson.

At John's request there will be no services.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

William 'Bill' Alfred Phillips, 80

William "Bill" Alfred Phillips, 80, of Kalispell "passed into heaven's glory" on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2014.

He is survived by his wife, Lora Phillips, his children William Phillips II, Cynthia Stafford, Debra O'Malley, Tamara Valentino and John Phillips.

He was pre-deceased by his first wife, Patricia Ann Phillips.

Bill was born in Los Angeles, California, on Sept. 28, 1934, the son of James Allen Phillips and Laura Evangeline Efford Phillips. He grew up in Reseda, California, attended high school at Reseda High and studied art at The Chouinard Art Institute in Pasadena, California. His passion for boats and classic cars started at a young age.

Bill started his sound editing career with the television show "Rawhide" in Burbank, California. His career spanned 54 years in the sound effects industry and he was an award-winning sound effects editor.

He won a Golden Reel for his sound editing



work on the film "Bonnie & Clyde" and a British Academy of Film and Television Arts

award for his work on "Mississippi Burning." His career included editing of over 100 films and television series including "The I Love Lucy Show," "Sister Act," "The Natural," "Rain Man" and "Good Morning Vietnam."

While not sound editing, Bill enjoyed many passions including building the 42-foot wooden schooner "Endurance," restoring Dearborn winning classic cars and building "Salt Box" houses.

He had many great talents and will be dearly missed.

Bill was reunited with his first love and they are sailing the open seas together.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in William Phillips' name to the charity of your choice.

Katherine Marie Pierce, 77

Katherine Marie Pierce, 77, died Monday, March 24, 2014, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

Memorial services are being planned for 11 a.m. Saturday, March 29, at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Melvin T. Phillips, 73

Melvin T. Phillips, 73, a resident of Polson, died

March 10, 2014, in Missouri. Services are pending.

Bruce Wayne Piasecki, 62

Bruce Wayne Piasecki, 62, passed away Jan. 18, 2014. He was born Sept. 24, 1951, the son of Ann and Anthony Piasecki of Holland, Ohio.

Bruce graduated from Springfield High School in Springfield, Ohio.

He married the love of his life Connie and moved out West, where he lived an active life. Bruce was a great outdoorsman and loved being a pilot.

He was a member of the Rotary Club of Bigfork where he lived and owned a business for over 10 years.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Connie; and brother, Mark.

Bruce and Connie have five children, Shelli, Brandy, Bryce, Bryan and Bret. They have six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He is missed and loved by many friends and family members.



There will be a celebration of Bruce's life from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 15, at BruMar Estate in Big-

fork. All friends and family near and far are welcome! Bruce loved a good time and we are going to honor him by doing just that! Bring your stories and great memories to share!

Anyone who would like to make a memorial donation in Bruce's honor, please do so at Flathead Bank, Piasecki Benefit Fund.

Allene Willson Pierce, 83

Allene Willson Pierce was born July 5, 1930, to Fred and Violet Willson at Noonan, N.D., and she passed away on March 16, 2014, at Gig Harbor, Wash.

She grew up in Williston, N.D., Choteau, Havre and Bozeman. She graduated from Bozeman High School and was an international exchange student to England for several months. She attended Montana State University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics in 1952.

In March 1953 she was employed as county extension agent at Miles City. In 1958 and 1959 she was awarded a National Fellowship to Washington, D.C., and attended the University of Maryland, obtaining a Master of Science degree. She returned to Miles City as county agent. In May of 1961 she became Flathead County agent (Home Ec) in

Kalispell.

She married Wallace Pierce and in 1968 she and Wallace became real estate agents in Bigfork. In 1970 she returned to Extension as an area agent. She served as Lake County Extension agent from 1976 to 1986. She retired from Montana State University Extension Service in 1986.

When her husband died she moved to Ridgecrest, Calif., to be near her sister Barbara and her family.

She was an avid bridge player and enjoyed playing in bridge tournaments.

In 2013, Allene moved to a retirement facility in Gig Harbor where she was close to her sister, Linda House, and her family. Allene became ill there and died of cancer on March 16, 2014. Her ashes will be buried in Bigfork, alongside those of her husband.

Alice Pierson, 85

Alice Ione (Rasmussen) Pierson passed away peacefully with her daughters at her side on Jan. 20, 2014, in Kalispell.

Alice was born Dec. 28, 1928, on the home farm, near Maddock, N.D. She was the daughter of John and Clara Rasmussen.

Her early school years were spent in the township of Hesper, where piano lessons began in fifth grade. High school began for Alice in Wahpeton, N.D., where she lived with her oldest sister and brother in law, Anna and Gordon. Saxophone lessons gave her the chance to play in the Benson County High School in Maddock during her final two years of high school. After graduating salutatorian, she worked at the Farmers State Bank as a teller and bookkeeper.

College days were spent at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. The saxophone joined her in the concert and pep bands. She graduated in 1952 in business education, sociology and psychology with a minor in economics.

Alice's first job after college was a teaching position in Stanford, Mont. Helmer Pierson, an eligible railroader, introduced the farm girl to the exploring the mountains, and they were married in December 1953. Barbara Jean was born in 1955 and Janice Joy was born in 1956. After a break from her teaching career to care for toddlers, she returned to teaching in Stanford.

The family relocated to Shelby where Alice taught high school until Helmer's railroad retirement. With both daughters out of the house and completed college, Alice and Helmer packed



the pickup camper in search of a home in western Montana. They landed in Thompson Falls

and enjoyed trips in the mountains for huckleberries and firewood. Alice landed a gig with her saxophone again, this time with the Old Moldies band.

Helmer resided in the Montana Veterans Home for several months prior to his death in 1995. During his illness, Alice moved to Whitefish where she resided until 2010. Another move to Heritage Place in Kalispell provided a warm, loving, compassionate environment until Jan. 20, 2014.

Survivors include sister, Anna Rasmussen, of Fergus Falls, Minn.; brother, John Rasmussen, and Joyce, of Maddock; and sister, Donna Buletti, and Henry, of Meridith, N.H.; daughters, Barbara and Jim Lewandoski of Fairbanks, Alaska, and Joy and Gil Raviv of Portland, Maine; granddaughters, Emmy and Elise (Joy) and grandsons, Dawson, and Casey and Barbara.

She was predeceased by her husband, Helmer; brothers, Roy and Donald; and sister, Helen.

A memorial service and graveside ceremony will be arranged at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in the memory of Alice may be made to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Whitefish; Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp; or to a recipient of the donor's choice.

Arrangements are being made through Sunset Hills Funeral Home in Plains.

Robert Wesley 'Bob' Pilote, 68

Robert Wesley "Bob" Pilote passed peacefully in his sleep on Jan. 28, 2014, in Lewistown.

Bob was born on Sept. 8, 1945, one of six children to Frank and Lois Pilote in Danvers, Mass.

After graduating from Danvers High, he ventured west to the University of Montana where he earned a bachelor's degree in education. After a few years of teaching in Missoula and assistant coaching the U of M golf team, Bob moved to Whitefish and opened Big Mountain Insurance. He spent the best years of his life devoted to his business, golf, fishing, hunting, friends and family.

Bob was a longtime member of the Whitefish Lake Golf Club and an honorary member of the Crystal Lakes Golf family. He was also involved in Rotary and was an active participant in the greater Whitefish community. Bob loved art and nature. He spent much of his free time looking for wildlife, taking pictures and collecting antlers. He carved countless antler chandeliers, belt buckles, lamps and cribbage boards. Bob was a man of big dreams and great ideas. While none of his inventions ever made him rich in money, he was, and will always be, rich in friends.



Bob was preceded in death by his father, Frank Pilote.

He is survived by his

mother, Lois Pilote; his sisters, Marcia Colella and Marilyn Warfield; his brothers, David, Donald and William Pilote; his cousin, Richard Lewis of Whitefish; his daughters and their families, Amy, Bryan and Kyle Wright of Boise, Idaho, and Jill, Jeff and Samantha Thornton of Portland, Ore.; his stepchildren and their families, Kory, Liz, Kaylie, Landon and Ridge McGavin, and Becky, Jake, Chase and Gracie Gronley, and Chad Queen; and several nieces and nephews.

An open house in celebration of Bob's life will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 22 at Mountain View Manor, 100 East Fourth St., in Whitefish. A funeral service will be held at a church in Boston with Bob's immediate family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Gary Norby Foundation in Bob's name at First Interstate Bank in Whitefish. This program supports golf programs for young people in the Whitefish Community.

SHE SPENT several years trying to help her son rise above his drug addiction, choosing to help him through detoxification two times. The struggle to save her son was agonizing.

A year ago Barwiler's life also had unraveled to a point of despair.

"My life was plummeting. I was falling into a dark, dark hole," she recalled.

She tried to commit suicide by taking 65 Xanax pills.

"Coty came home and found me on the bathroom floor," she said. "He called 911, and they revived me. I was on a ventilator for a few days."

Ironically, she said, the person she was trying desperately to save had saved her.

Barwiler is sharing her son's story at an outreach program on Feb. 25 aimed at helping other parents

use in their home, Coty was grounded and had privileges revoked, but Barwiler said she worked hard to keep an open line of communication with both of her sons.

"I felt I had a strong relationship with them, that they could come to me about anything," she said.

Coty's pot smoking continued, though, and soon led to an addiction to prescription pain medication. Since the family had no such pills in their home, Barwiler can only surmise he got them from friends or other sources.

"I found a cigarette pack in his dresser, along with a razor blade and some residue," she recalled. "I took it to the sheriff's department and they said it looked like cut-up prescription pills ... I brow-beat him until he confessed."

When Coty turned 18 at the end of his junior year, his grades had slipped and he had quit high-school sports. At his mother's insistence, he graduated a year early from Flathead in 2012.

Barwiler and her husband, Bryce Piasecki, had divorced, and he returned to Ohio. Coty spent the summer after graduation

JODIE BARWILER lost her son to a heroin overdose and has begun speaking out about the risks of the drug. (Brenda Ahearn/Daily Inter Lake)

recognize and deal with drug abuse.

"My biggest focus is that we can't handle this on our own," she said. "We don't do them any favors by keeping it private."

And, she added, "it can happen to anybody."

COTY LOVED everything Montana had to offer when the family moved to the Flathead Valley from Ohio in 2007. He had a passion for the outdoors — camping, hunting, fishing, climbing and hiking.

He met a few neighbor

kids right away and was off and running in his new life here.

"Right out of the gate he had great friends," Barwiler said.

The Piasecki family had chosen the Kalispell area as their home because of the Montana lifestyle and also because of Flathead High School's outstanding wrestling program. Barwiler went so far as to interview wrestling coach Jeff Thompson before the family relocated to Kalispell.

Wrestling was big in Ohio, she said, and big

with the Piasecki family. Coty's older brother Caleb placed four times at the state level.

As Barwiler mulls the last five years in her mind, she believes Coty's use of marijuana — she caught him smoking pot his freshman year — set the stage for greater drug use later on.

"I believe marijuana is a gateway drug," she said.

WITH A "zero tolerance" policy of drug

See MOTHER on Page A8

A MOM SPEAKS OUT

WHEN: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25

WHERE: Gardner's Auction, 200 United Drive, Kalispell

WHAT: Jodie Barwiler will speak about her son Coty Piasecki's death from a heroin overdose.

Several other guest speakers, including a recovering addict, will talk about heroin addiction. Information about inpatient facilities and other resource materials will be available. There also will be musical performances by local musicians at the event.

CONTACT: For more information, email Barwiler at reachoutmt@gmail.com.

with his father, working odd jobs, but returned to the Flathead after a couple of months.

In hindsight, the breakup of the Piaseckis' marriage may have been

a factor that contributed to Coty's drug use, but Barwiler said her son had what she calls an "addictive personality" that played into his drug habit.

"By December 2012 I knew Coty was in bad shape," Barwiler said. "I told him he needed to get out of my life if that [drugs] was the choice he was making. It was tearing us apart."

Coty's reply to his mother was a plea for help: "If you give up on me, I'm done."

BARWILER stripped her son's room, took away his keys and proceeded to help him through two weeks of detox — by herself.

"The first five days were terrible, but the first focus was getting him clean," she said.

He began seeing a counselor and got a job as a ski-lift operator at Blacktail Mountain.

Things were OK for a while.

Coty bounced around in 2013. He spent a short time with his father in Ohio, then returned home and worked at a couple of jobs here.

"At first things were OK, but slowly I started

seeing him slip away again," she recalled.

Sometime in 2013 Coty switched from using prescription medication to using heroin.

"I kept finding pieces of burned foil and I did some research and found kids using [the foil] to smoke Oxycontin and heroin," she said.

"I'd given up. This is a devil drug," Barwiler said about heroin.

After Barwiler tried to commit suicide, she spent time getting her own life back on track. She got help through Pathways Treatment Center, which gave her the resources and coping skills she needed.

"I focused on fixing the things I could fix," she said. "I couldn't fix Coty, and when I stopped trying, I got stronger."

His mother's brush with death jolted Coty enough to make him want to try to get clean again. So for a second time Barwiler detoxed her son, not leaving him alone for a month.

AGAIN, THINGS got better. Coty got a job with Montana Helical Piers and was out of town much of the time. The company had a strict

Coty Wayne Piasecki, 20

Coty Wayne Piasecki, 20, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014, at his home.

Coty was born in Toledo, Ohio, May 10, 1994, to Bryce Piasecki and Jodie Barwiler.

Coty was involved in many sports, including football, baseball, basketball and wrestling.

The family moved to Montana in 2007. Coty loved everything Montana had to offer. He had passion for the outdoors. He lived to camp, hunt, fish, float the rivers, water ski, snow ski, rock climb and hike in the mountains.

Coty loved people. He loved his family and friends. Coty had a huge heart and anyone who knew him loved him.

Coty graduated from Flathead High School in 2012. He was working at Montana Helical Piers and loved it. He was learning a trade and he loved traveling all over the place.

Coty fell in love with



his nephew Bennett. Bennett will never know how wonderful his Uncle Coty was.

Thankfully

our memories will keep him alive and the million stories we have will take a lifetime to share with Bennett.

Coty is survived by his parents, Jodie Barwiler and Bryce Piasecki; brother and sister-in-law, Caleb and Emaly Piasecki; nephew, Bennett Piasecki; and grandmothers, Patricia Wilson and her husband Doug, Norma Stebing and her husband Paul, Connie Piasecki, and Sue Barwiler.

Funeral services for Coty will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 7, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. There will be a visitation for Coty from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home,

and one hour prior to services on Friday.

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

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drug policy that kept him clean.

"He was learning a trade and he loved traveling all over the place," Barwiler said.

Coty had some time off work in late October and was home for a visit. On Halloween night the entire family gathered at Scotty's for dinner and had such a nice time, his mother remembered.

The following day, on Saturday, Coty got his hair cut and visited friends around town. He helped one of his friends cut firewood.

Somewhere during that final day of his life, Coty scored some heroin. He also started drinking heavily at some point during the day.

Barwiler found her son dead Sunday morning, his body already cold to the touch, several hours after he had overdosed.

"Over the last two years I had said a million times I'll find Coty dead," she grimly recalled.

SHE REMEMBERS

Coty telling her at one point he wished he'd never started smoking pot.

More than 200 friends and family members attended his funeral. The

outpouring of support comforted Barwiler.

"Coty was very loved and he loved everybody," she said. "He was an amazing, amazing son."

Despite the tragic outcome, Barwiler believes she was a very good parent. "I was so dialed in and so intuitive," she said.

As Barwiler worked through the grief, she realized she needed to shed light on drug abuse in a public way. Now her goal is to help other parents who may be going through the same agony she experienced. She hopes the event she's planned in February will be a springboard to create local support groups for addicts and their families.

Other parents have reached out to Barwiler since Coty's death, some expressing the same fear she had. One parent confided she had the same "gut feeling" her son, too, will die of an overdose.

"If I can save even one mother or family from having to go through this, then it's worth speaking out," Barwiler said.

Features editor Lynnette Hintze may be reached at 758-4421 or by email at lhintze@dailyinterlake.com.

G. Faye Pitchford, 72

G. Faye Pitchford, 72, died March 23, 2014, in Kalispell.

Services will be held in

Idaho at a later date.

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

Winston R. Pluid, 93

Winston R. Pluid, 93, of Eureka died Thursday, April 10, 2014, in Eureka.

Survivors include his children, Lyle Pluid, Bill Pluid, Don Pluid, Sally Cheff, Jake Pluid and Judy Pluid, all of Eureka.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 15 at the First Baptist Church in Eureka. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 14 at Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home, 222 1st Ave W., in Eureka.

Bill Plummer, 82

Bill Plummer, 82, had a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. He passed away March 9, 2014, in the skilled nursing Cottages at the Grandview in Great Falls.

Bill was born in Kalispell on May 25, 1931, to William and Laura Plummer. Bill's early schooling was at St. Matthew's in Kalispell with graduation from Kalispell High.

After graduation from high school, he attended college at Gonzaga University and later moved to Montana State University where he attained a degree in civil engineering.

On Sept. 6, 1958, Bill married Sandra M. Blair. Son Steve was born in Bozeman the next year. Upon graduation with his engineering degree, Bill went to work as a practicing civil engineer, ultimately partnering with a fellow engineer to form a thriving consulting firm. As the firm grew, Bill and his partner branched out into the insurance industry where they were extremely active inspecting ski areas.

Bill and Sandra retired in Great Falls and wintered in Nevada. In his retirement years, Bill was extremely active



with hunting, fishing and motorcycle riding. He especially enjoyed fishing for salmon in

Alaska with friends and relatives and motorcycle riding in Montana and Nevada.

Bill is survived by his wife of 56 years, Sandra; son, Steve, and his wife, Lori; grandchildren, Brian and Michelle; and brother, Ted and his wife, Stella.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Betty and Kathleen; and brothers, Ellison, Lawrence, Edward and Frederick.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 15, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 201 44th St. South, Great Falls. Following the service, a reception will be held at the Meadow Lark Country Club beginning at 12:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bill's name to a charity of your choice. You may also choose to donate to your local hospice.

Schnider Funeral Home in Great Falls is handling arrangements.

Nancy Louise Polte, 78

Nancy Louise Polte, 78, died Aug. 30, 2014, in Kalispell.

A memorial service

will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

Nancy Polte, 78

Nancy Polte, 78, passed away peacefully Aug. 30, 2014, at her home in Kalispell.

She was the youngest of four daughters to Harry and Ann Foster. Nancy grew up in Springfield, Ohio, where she met her husband, of 57 years, Hans Polte. Together, they traveled the world, as an Air Force family, before retiring to Kalispell in 1980.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Hans;



daughter, Lori; son, Scott; five grandchildren; and her sister, Ruth. She will be

greatly missed.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 13, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. A reception will follow, for family and friends, at her home.

Esther Marie Poor, 79

Esther Marie Poor, 79, of Kalispell, passed away April 8, 2014, "and is now reunited in heaven with her husband James" who passed away on Feb. 3, 2014.

Esther was born on Dec. 11, 1934, to Rudolph and Regina Gettel. She attended Power High School and Northern Montana College where she received her degree in elementary education.

She married James Poor in 1955, and after a brief teaching career she and Jim lived and raised their four children, Bradley, Julie, Libby and Eric, in Great Falls.

Esther spent most of her children's growing up years as an amazing stay-at-home mom. She displayed warmth, love and generosity to all who knew her.

She worked tirelessly for her church congregations in any capacity that was needed, in any situation. She will be remembered for her loving spirit, hard work ethic and humble heart.



Esther was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Jim; her sister, Emily Dixon;

and her daughter, Julie O'Dell.

She is survived by her sister, Dorothy Naumann, of Claremore, Okla., brother, Arnie Gettel, of Power; son, Brad Poor and family, of Clancy; daughter, Libby Sutherland and family, of Columbia Falls, son, Eric Poor and family, of Billings; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service in her honor will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 26, at Peace Lutheran Church in Great Falls. A reception will follow.

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

James Dale Poor, 77

James Dale Poor, 77, of Kalispell "went to be with our Heavenly Father" on Monday, Feb. 3, 2014.

He was born to the late Cecil "Floyd" and Lynn Poor on July 24, 1936, in Livingston.

Jim was Christian and a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. His life's story was painted literally and figuratively as a man perfectly happy with his place in the universe, and as a loving father, grandfather and teacher who left much to all of those who were touched by his art and creativity. He was extremely passionate about creating and sharing art in all mediums.

Jim married the love of his life, Esther Marie Gettel, in 1955, and they lived and raised their family in Great Falls before relocating to Helena, and finally, to Kalispell.

Jim received his Bachelor of Arts degree in art and secondary education from Eastern Montana College, Billings, and a Master of Arts degree at Stanford University in California. Further studies included Montana State University and Ph.D. course work in art education at the University of Oregon, Eugene.

Jim taught art in Great Falls before becoming art superintendent for Great Falls Public Schools from 1968 to 1989. During this time he was also coordinator of secondary curriculum for Great Falls Public Schools, along with serving as acting director for the School of Art, Montana State University, Bozeman. Jim was honored as Montana Art Teacher of the Year by the Montana Arts Education Association in 1981, and also received a fellowship from the Montana Institute of the Arts. He was honored as the Montana Arts Administrator of the Year by the Montana Art Education Association before retiring from Great Falls Public



Schools in 1989, and moving to Helena. There he actively maintained his art studio

and continued to exhibit his work throughout the state.

Jim held numerous accomplishments, including past president of the Montana Institute of the Arts Foundation; National Art Education Association, National Art Education Association for the Montana Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Arts Council; past chairman of the Montana Cultural Advocacy; member of Montana Alliance for Arts Education; Montana Institute of the Arts; Visual Arts Fellowship Panel; and representative of the State Capital Complex Advisory Council, Helena.

Jim's life work was to create, share and teach art and the importance of art in every aspect of life.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Gary and Stanley; and his daughter, Julie O'Dell.

He is survived by his wife, Esther Poor; his son, Brad Poor, and family, of Helena; his daughter, Libby Sutherland, and family, of Columbia Falls; his son, Eric, and family, of Billings; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all of his loving family.

The family suggests donations be made to the Paris Gibson Square in Great Falls, or your local musician.

A celebration of life memorial will be held at 4 p.m. on March 8 at Paris Gibson Square in Great Falls.

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

Scott Lelend Prangley, 51

Scott Lelend Prangley, 51, died at his residence on Aug. 6, 2014.

A celebration of life will be held at noon on Sunday,

Aug. 10, at 250 Browns Meadow Road in Kila.

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

William Arthur Prichard, 73

We celebrate the life and mourn the loss of William Arthur Prichard who passed away May 26, 2014, at his home in Columbia Falls.

Bill was born July 20, 1940, in Great Falls to Arthur Mackey Prichard and Lucille Delger Prichard.

He raised his family in the Flathead Valley.

Bill is survived by his wife, Marilyn June Prichard; his brother, Dennis Fredrick Prichard; and his children, Barren Fredrick Prichard and family, Giselle Evette Varn and family, and Logan Kelly Prichard and family. With seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and one more great-grandchild on the way, he cared deeply for his family and was a loving role model to them all.

Bill proudly served his country, first in the Air National Guard in Great Falls, and then in the United States Army where he served a tour in Vietnam. Bill was always willing to help those he could and did so with his wife as foster parents to 13 kids in need. He was scout master for Pack 101 in Columbia Falls, he led the Sea Scouts (Explorer Scouts) in Columbia Falls, and volunteered his time with his bloodhound Duffy as a man-tracking team for the North Valley



Search and Rescue. Bill was proud of his years as a heavy equipment operator, and particularly proud of his skills as a grader operator in his youth.

However, being a devoted father was more important to him than a life on the road so he gave up his first career and chose instead to work a steady job at the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company where he spent 33 years and retired in 2000. An avid outdoorsman, Bill loved hunting, fishing, camping, and spending time in his yard with his water gardens.

Bill will be missed but will live on in the hearts of those who were close to him. He was a truly great man and will always be loved dearly. As per his wishes there will not be a large service kept, instead, an intimate affair. For those of you who wish to pay your respects, the next time you find yourself in the South Fork, take a moment to remember him, as this was a dear place in his heart.

Columbia mortuary is caring for Bill's family.

Jimmy Jean Probert, 69

Jimmy "Jim" Probert died peacefully at his home on Oct. 9, 2014.

He will be missed by his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Lilly Probert; and his sister, Adelia Voight.

He is survived by his brothers Raymond Jr., Ed, Don, Dwane and Kenneth, also by his sisters Ruth and Charlotte, and their families; and his children and their families. He is also survived by his life partner, Vivian Adams; and many, many friends.

A gathering of family and friends will be held outdoors in the spring on

a date to be determined later. If you wish to attend, please contact Ken Probert at 509-487-4204 with your name, address and phone number to receive the date, time and location of the gathering.

Jimmy Gene Probert, 69

Jimmy Gene Probert, 69, died Oct. 9, 2014, in Columbia Falls.

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

Gary Arthur Purdy, 66

Gary Arthur Purdy, 66, died April 23, 2014, in Kalispell.

Services will be held Monday, April 28

in Eureka.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.