

Edna Eleanor (Nelson) Baarson, 97

Edna Eleanor (Nelson) Baarson passed away in Wenatchee, Washington on Jan. 15, 2015, at the age of 97.

Edna is predeceased by her loving husband of 50 years, Donald K Baarson, her loving daughter Lynn Ellen Romstad and siblings; Hans, George, Thelma, Myrtle, Gordon, Laura, Ellen, and Dorothy.

Edna is lovingly remembered and survived by her two sons, Douglas of Chelan, Washington, and Gregory of Phoenix, Arizona, and her grandson, Vincent of Phoenix.

Edna was born in Kalispell, Montana, on March 6, 1917, graduated from Flathead County High School in 1935 and went on to earn a teaching certificate from normal college in 1937. Edna stayed in Montana, where she taught school for three years.

She married Donald

Baarson June 14, 1941. During World War II, the couple lived in Alabama and South Carolina while Donald attended the U.S. Army's navigator training for B-17s. Edna and Donald lived in the Seattle area for many years and after Don's passing, Edna continued to live in the home they had shared. She retired from the Seattle Public Library in 1979, working there for 20 years. After leaving the Seattle area, Edna moved to Santa Clarita, California where she lived for several years, before moving to Wenatchee.

Edna was an avid walker and enjoyed and practiced yoga well into her 80s. She also was an avid reader.

A service of remembrance will be held at C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, on October 5, 2015, with Pastor Kirk Rau officiating. Interment will follow the ceremony.

10 Feb 2015

Larry L. Baer, 70

Larry L. Baer passed away on Feb. 5, 2015, at the age of 70.

Larry was a man full of passion and love, dedicating himself to his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; his mother, Adelaide; his three children, Samuel, Carin and Charles; and his two grandchildren, Lauren and Vaughan.

He was born in Chicago, lived in many states, but loved Montana and was happy to call it "home."

Though his family always came first, his life was filled with many professional accomplishments: Navy hospital



corpsman, policeman, business owner/entrepreneur, published author, artisan, attorney and Montana state senator.



The funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Feb. 12 at St. John Paul II Catholic Church in Bigfork. Preceding the Mass will be a rosary at 10 a.m.

Memorial donations can be made in his honor to the Creston and Bigfork Volunteer Fire Departments.

8 Apr 2015

Winston Keith Baer, 87

Winston Keith Baer was born March 6, 1928, in Longview, Washington. He passed away April 6, 2015 — his big heart just wore out.

Dad was the youngest of five. He attended school in Lewiston, Idaho, where he was active in many activities, including National Honor Society and sports, lettering in baseball, football and boxing. He was twice named an All-State Football Player and twice won the Heavyweight Golden Glove Championships

for the Northwest Region (Idaho, Oregon and Washington). He was invited to play in two Shrine football games and selected to take the game ball to the Shrine Hospital in Spokane. Dad said his greatest high school accomplishment was courting and marrying the love of his life, Ruth E. Judd. They were married following



in many capacities including Montana District governor. He was also a member of Elks and the Masons.

Dad left a wake of love and laughter everywhere he went. He started A-1 Vacuum & Janitorial Supply in 1971. Mom and Dad retired in 1991 and moved to Polson where they enjoyed their home on Flathead Lake. It became a haven of joy for all who visited.

Dad is survived by his wife, Ruth, at the family home; and his four

children, Fran Tabor of Kalispell, Larry and Maureen Baer of West DeMoines, Iowa, Winstenia and Tom Lambdin, and Winston Keith Baer II, of Missoula; 15 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Dad was a member of Polson Community Church where his funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 11. The family will scatter his ashes on his beloved lake this summer.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to a children's charity of your choice.

Former Montana Gov. Tim Babcock dies at age 95

HELENA (AP) — Former Gov. Tim Babcock, who served seven years as Montana's chief executive and was a fixture on the Republican political scene for decades, has died at the age of 95.

Babcock died Tuesday morning in Helena, state Republican Party Executive Director Chris Shipp said. A cause of death was not immediately available.

Born in Littlefork, Minnesota, in 1919, Babcock was elected lieutenant governor in 1960 and became the state's chief executive two years later when a plane crash killed Gov. Don Nutter in 1962.

In 1964, Babcock narrowly won election to a four-year term as governor. He lost a U.S. Senate race to Democrat Lee Metcalf in 1966 and in 1968 lost his bid for another term as governor to Democrat Forrest Anderson.

Babcock's wife, Betty, was a former state legislator who helped write the Montana Constitution. She died in 2013.

The Babcocks were stalwarts of the Republican Party, attending every GOP presidential nominating convention over a 60-year period. That included the 2012 convention



BABCOCK

BABCOCK Continued from A1

in Tampa, Florida, where Tim Babcock was recognized as the event's oldest delegate.

Gov. Steve Bullock on Tuesday lauded Babcock's "long and storied history of service."

"He was a pillar of politics in Montana," Bullock said, "stepping up to lead our state when tragedy struck and helping to guide it through the years that followed. His presence will be missed."

Milford "Tim" Babcock was born to homesteader parents who moved to Montana when Tim Babcock was just six months old, according to "Challenges: Above and Beyond," a 2009 biography written by the former governor and his wife with the help of a professional writer.

The family farmed along Crackerbox Creek in Dawson County, where Tim Babcock attended a one-room country school house before going to high school in Glendive. He served in the U.S. Army Infantry in Europe World War II, and after his return started a trucking company, Babcock & Lee, with his father-in-law. Babcock entered poli-

three terms in the Montana House of Representatives before agreeing to run on the 1960 gubernatorial ticket with Nutter, a longtime friend.

In January, 1962, Babcock was at the train depot in Helena about to head home when he received word that Nutter had died in a plane crash. "It was one of the emotional crises of my life," Babcock recalled in his 2009 book. "I never aspired to be governor ... It just happened. But once I became governor, I was pretty well thrust into a political life full-time."

After leaving the governor's office in 1969, Babcock went to work for wealthy businessman Armand Hammer as a vice president at a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum. In the ensuing years, Babcock got caught up in a campaign finance scheme linked to Hammer and Richard Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign.

The former governor pleaded guilty in 1974 to charges of violating federal laws by concealing the source of a \$54,000 contribution to Nixon.

Babcock later blamed Hammer for his troubles

was a schemer," he told his biographer. "He used people, and he used me too. Whenever I work for someone, I'm as loyal as I can be. Unfortunately, in this case I was too loyal."

Babcock was fined \$1,000 and sentenced to four months in jail; Hammer received a \$3,000 fine and one year of probation. Babcock's jail term was eventually set aside by a federal judge. Hammer was pardoned in 1989 by President George Bush.

Babcock later started a mining industry consulting firm, owned a hotel in Washington state and operated a cattle ranch in Wolf Creek — but always kept a hand in politics.

State Republican Party Chairman Will Deschamps said he regularly went to the Babcocks for advice after being named to lead the GOP in 2009. Deschamps said conversations with Tim Babcock often turned to the era when Will's father, Por, wrote bills with Babcock in smoke-filled rooms at Jorgenson's, a restaurant in Helena where Republicans still caucus.

Funeral arrangements were being made with

John David Bailey, 71, died on Jan. 13, 2015, with his family surrounding him at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, after a valiant 11-month battle with kidney cancer.

John was born Sept. 11, 1943, in Havre, first child of Edward and Maxine Bailey, lifelong educators.

Above all else, John revered family and was fiercely loyal, proud and supportive of his wife, children, grandchildren and close friends. He valued the life lessons passed on by his ancestors, including those from his grandparents, who had Irish and Scottish roots. Visits to explore his family history in both Northern Ireland and Scotland helped to shape and tighten John's strong family bond.

John loved Montana. He valued its wide-open spaces, astonishing beauty and the lasting connections easily formed among its people.

As a boy in Eureka and Kalispell, he enjoyed shooting baskets against the garage, fishing in Ashley Creek and attending Boy Scout and church summer camps. Growing up, both of his grandfathers were employed by the Great Northern Railway. John spent many days learning about the history of railroad life in Montana. He carried on this passion for railroads by taking annual train rides to Essex with his grandchildren.

John graduated from Flathead County High School (FCHS) in 1961. He was a class officer, a Boys State delegate, and a Master-Councilor of DeMolay. His family belonged to the First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell where John sang in the choir and discovered his love for music.

His proudest Braves' moment was being a member of the 1959 undefeated Montana State Championship football team coached by Jim Sweeney, defeating Butte 39-0 in the infamous "play or forfeit" game.

At the University of Montana, John studied finance and music. He



of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, building many lifelong friendships. In 1963, he was a cast member of a UM drama department produc-

tion of the musical "The Fantasticks," which was performed at the Bigfork Summer Playhouse. That fall, the cast and production performed throughout eastern Asia on a USO tour. He often reflected on the tour memories and friendships gained. John graduated from the University of Montana in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in finance and earned a master's degree in economics in early 1967.

While in Missoula, he dated his future wife of 47 years, Robin (Connie Graham), and they married in 1967. John was accepted into the United States Marine Corps and began his training by completing Officer Candidate School and the Marine Corps Officer Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. John entered U.S. Naval aviation training in Pensacola, Florida, was awarded his Naval flight officer "Wings of Gold," and was designated as a radar intercept officer (RIO). He completed follow-on training as a RIO in the F-4B Phantom. His operational tours included flying with VMFA-513 in Cherry Point, North Carolina, and VMFA-334 in El Toro, California. In January 1970, John was forward deployed with VMFA-334 in Iwakuni, Japan, completing missions in support of the Vietnam War. He was honorably discharged as a captain in 1971.

John valued duty and service to country and, throughout his life, honored the military service and sacrifice of others.

Following his military service, John, Robin and their two young children returned to Montana where John became a commercial loan officer

Bank. They raised their children in Great Falls where he enjoyed coaching their basketball teams and teaching them music, tennis and golf. John was president of the Great Falls Kiwanis Club, a board member of the United Way of Cascade County and a founding director of Paris Gibson Square.

In 1984, John returned "home" with his family to Kalispell, becoming the chief financial officer, CFO, of Crop Hail Management. In 1989, John became a certified financial planner (CFP) and opened the Investment Centers of America (ICA) office in Hamilton, growing important personal relationships with his clients, where he continued working until his death. During his 25 years with ICA, he served on the ICA Advisory Council and board of directors of Invest Financial Corporation. John split his time between his business in Hamilton and homes in Kalispell and West Glacier. He shared his leadership and business acumen while serving on the President's Advisory Council for the University of Montana. He was also an active member and Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International, and served for many years as a board member for the Daly Mansion and as chairman of the City of Hamilton Zoning Board of Adjustment.

John loved music. Primarily a vocalist, he was also a self-taught pianist and stand-up bass player. His favorite moments were spent as part of jam sessions with friends, his son, daughter and grandchildren, adding the foundational bass line and perfect harmony to whatever song was being played.

John sang with the Great Falls Symphonic Choir, the Glacier Orchestra and Chorale, the Montana Chorale, the Missoula Mendelssohn Club and the Missoula Symphony Chorale. Among his musical performing highlights were concerts in the Sydney Opera House in Australia, the Musikverein in Vienna, Austria, Ireland,

Republic, New Zealand and the United States Bicentennial celebration at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Most notably, John often shared his beautiful baritone voice singing "Danny Boy" on many occasions.

More than any other place, John and Robin enjoyed spending time with family and friends in Glacier National Park, at their family homes on Lake McDonald and in West Glacier. John was committed to teaching his grandchildren the lessons of life. Topics varied from geology, Broadway musicals, Montana history, macroeconomics and the simple pleasure of birds and their migratory patterns and sounds. John's other major passions included golf, his lupine garden and flowers, and his ferocious loyalty to the Griz.

John is survived by his wife of 47 years, Robin; son, Chris Bailey, and his wife, Gilan, of Carmel Valley, California; daughter, Kate Bailey French, and her husband, Dale, of Portland; sister, Helen Moen, and her husband, Gary, of Lakeside; brother, Jim Bailey, of Spokane; nephew, Brent Bradley, and his wife, Kathleen, of Bend, Oregon; and his beloved grandchildren Will French, Addison French, Read Reynolds, Kerry Reynolds and Weston Bailey; and numerous cousins.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service is being planned for this summer. Donations in memory of John may be made to the Hockaday Museum of Art (Ed Bailey Scholarship Fund); the Northwest Montana Veterans Stand Down and Food Pantry; or a music-related non-profit organization of choice.

A favorite quote of John's by Mark Twain was, "Always do what is right. It will gratify half of mankind, and astound the other."

The family would like to thank everyone who offered their support, especially the medical staff at KRMC and Health

28 Jun 2015

Allen Algy Baese, 94

Allen Algy Baese, 94, passed away in his sleep on Thursday morning June 18, 2015 at his home in Wood Bay near Bigfork. He was born Nov. 12, 1920, near Richey, Montana, to Henry Baese and Nettie (Rickert) Baese.

He was the oldest of ten children: Vera, Elsie, Levi, Dwayne, Leroy, Rosie, Evelyn, Stella and Jason.

He was a farmer, coalminer and a mechanic. He served 27 years, 9 months in the Army, from which he retired. He served three years active in Korea, the Philippines, and Japan. He worked a little over 24 years for the Montana National Guard as a mechanic at Oms No. 6, in Billings, Montana. He achieved the rank of E-8, first sergeant. He retired Nov. 12, 1980.

On Oct. 22, 1950, he married Lorraine C. Smith. They had three children, Allen L. (Linda) Baese of Bigfork; Susan K. and Max Cleverley of Shelby; and Douglas



H. Baese of Virginia. He has eight grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 1 until 2 p.m. at

Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church, 30631 Montana 209 Bigfork, (Ferndale) on Tuesday, June 30, 2015. A funeral service at 2 p.m. will follow at Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church. Interment will follow at Bigfork Community Cemetery, on Swan River Road with full military honors, with a reception to follow down stairs at Saint Patrick's Church.

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

11 Apr 2015

Marvin A. Baker, 86

Marvin A. Baker, 86, was born March 17, 1929, to Forest and Berneice Baker in Wolf Point.

Marvin passed away April 7, 2015, surrounded by his loving family.

He grew up on a farm in McCone County, Montana, and graduated from Wolf Point High School in 1948. After graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served four years, receiving an honorable discharge in August of 1954. Marvin met and married Dorothy Vest in 1952. To this union two children were born.

Upon returning home from the military, Marvin worked for PCA until he had the opportunity to purchase part ownership in Triple Supply, a farm and ranch supply store. After several years, he and his wife became sole owners. They retired in 1980 and moved to Bigfork.

Later on Marvin and Dorothy divorced, and after several years of bachelorhood, Marvin met Judy Waymire and they were married and spent 26 wonderful years wintering in Mesquite, Nevada, and their summers in Bigfork.

During his younger years, Marvin was very active in the Wolf Point community, serving on



the Chamber of Commerce, City Council, Jaycees, Masons and serving his community in any way he could.

He was preceded in death by his

parents, his ex-wife, his mother and father-in-law and sister-in-law.

Marvin is survived by his wife, Judy, of Bigfork, daughter Sherry and Nufry of Wolf Point, son Randy and Angie of Bigfork, as well as four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his stepsons Sean Waymire, Wisconsin, and Kirt Prestwich, Utah, and brother Douglas Baker of Fort Peck.

A visitation will be held for Marvin from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, with services at 1 p.m. at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Bigfork Community Cemetery.

Please visit www.jgfuneralhome.com to leave condolences for the Baker family. Arrangements entrusted to Johnson-Gloschat Funeral home and Crematory, Kalispell,

25 May 2015

Mary Arlene Baker, 82

Mary Arlene "Cookie" Baker, 82, passed away Wednesday, May 20, 2015, at home.

She is survived by her husband, Ronald L. Baker; daughter, Wanda K. Ivers; son, Terry Hendrickson and family; brother, Lynn Carey and family; and numerous nieces, nephews and grandchildren. Her passion was bak-

ing homemade breads for several people. She was a loving, kind and giving person with a big heart. Her favorite music was Daniel O'Donnell.

Funeral services will be held at noon, Friday, May 29, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home with inurnment to follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Chase Robert Baldwin, 19

"You are a star now. Your light shines so bright. With every day, closer to your light. You gave life your all. You did it with style. Like a magnet of love was your beautiful smile."

I am crushed beyond belief knowing you are not here, but in my heart, and in my soul, I know you are near. So many memories that will never fade, so many laughs, the best that were ever made.

Chase was so full of life. It was pure joy to be around him and feed off his love for life. Chase was a master at everything. He was passionate about making and recording awesome music, surfing, snowboarding and mountain biking.

Chase was starting college in the fall to pursue his passion and musical dreams in San Diego. He attended St. Matthew's Catholic School, which gave him his loving relationship with God. A lifetime Boy Scout, he earned the Eagle Award in 2014.

Chase's spirit lives on



through his father Daniel Baldwin, his mother Angela Baldwin, his brothers, Augustus,

Erik and sister-in-law Lauren Baldwin, numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, Ray Lobello and a huge circle of epic friends.

Your caliber of character and integrity is unmatched. You gave everyone your all even if they didn't know your name.

Just one look in your eyes and a smile was all it took to make an impact for a lifetime. Your heart failed you, but never any of us.

We love you Chase!

And we miss you forever with a heart of gold, you touched us all.

Chase was born June 12, 1996, and left us Aug. 19, 2015.

Catholic Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 29, at St. John Paul II Catholic Church in Bigfork.

19 Aug 2015

Dennis Lynn Baldwin, 68

Dennis Lynn Baldwin, 68, of Kila, passed away Monday, Aug. 10, 2015, in Scottsdale, Arizona, after a long, courageous battle with cancer.

Honoring his wishes, cremation has taken place.

Dennis was born on Dec. 9, 1946, to the late William and Connie (King) Baldwin in Flint, Michigan.

He married Joan Zauner on June 3, 1967, in Linden, Michigan.

Dennis worked for General Motors after high school graduation for 10 years as a machine repair machinist until he followed his dream of living in the West. He moved his family to Kila in 1975 where he made a living building beautiful, custom log homes and thoroughly enjoyed his life there. His passion was building log homes, racing '60s muscle cars, hunting and explor-



ing the outdoors with his family. He lived as he dreamed.

Surviving are his wife, Joan,

of Kila; his eldest son, Pete Baldwin, and his wife, Karen Schulz, of Scottsdale; daughter, Jennifer, and her husband, Addison Clark, and their two children Joshua and Katie Clark, of Kalispell; and youngest son, Randy Baldwin, and his wife, Shelley Smith, and their two children Cora and Jake, of Kila. Dennis has two sisters, Diane and Kris; and six brothers, Bruce, Dana, Paul, Blake, Jeff and Matt Baldwin. Dennis had many cousins, nieces, nephews, loving family members and friends.

His life was well lived and he will forever live in our hearts!

Leandra Gabrielle Baldwin, 22

Leandra Gabrielle Baldwin, born on Oct. 22, 1992, was the most outgoing and amazing person that has walked on this earth. She passed away on May 30, 2015.

Leandra was born to Angela Costello and Edward Baldwin, in Idaho Falls, Idaho. From that point on she grew to be loved by so many.

Leandra has family from coast to coast, as well as many friends from far and wide. Her outgoing personality and outstanding sense of humor made her someone that everybody wanted to be around. All throughout her childhood she made many friends, starting with her little brother and best friend, Jordan Caleb. Her journey then began to become an outstanding person, athlete, idol, friend, sister, daughter, granddaughter, fiancée, niece and, most of all, mother. No matter what it was, or who it was with, she had the can-do attitude to get things done, but it couldn't have been done without the help of her dad and mom, Edward and Angela. With life having its many ups and downs, Leandra held her chin up high and kept chugging along to do what she had to do to be happy.

After high school, Leandra met her one true love, Logan Galloway, with whom she had given birth to their one and only daughter, Adeline Hadley Marie. Lee had a heart of gold and loved her family more than anything. She would've done anything to get them where they needed to be, to make it all work, so baby Adeline could have the best life, just like she had. Lee may be gone, but she will never be forgotten.

Leandra is survived by her only daughter, Adeline Galloway; her fiancée, Logan Galloway; her pal, Baine; mother and stepfather, Angela and Christopher Costello of Kalispell; father and stepmother, Edward and Ronda Baldwin of Dickinson, North Dakota; her brother,



Jordan Baldwin; stepbrother, Jordan Christensen; half sister, Skyler Baldwin; grand-

mother, Sarah Duncan of Pinehurst, Idaho; mother and father-in-law, Debbie and Rick Galloway; great uncle and aunt, Dave and Barb Perrine; grandmother, Margaret Gray of Boise, Idaho; grandfather, Wayne Bruno of Browning; grandfather, Brenden Costello of Navarre, Florida; great-grandmother, Lois Lewis of Mullan, Idaho; aunt and uncle, Erin and Brad Trunnell of Butte; aunt, Brenda Baldwin of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; aunt, Bobi Sahr of Jamestown, North Dakota; uncle, Casey Bruno of Austin, Texas; and stepsisters, Sarah Fedje of Minneapolis, and Kelley Costello of Northfield, Minnesota. Leandra is also survived by her cousins, Taylor, Morgan, Lyla, Jager, Ashley, Sami, Dylan, Maelyn, Natalie, Aiden, Brianna, Sarah, Kylan, Dylan, Riley, Toni and Kim.

Leandra "is joined in heaven" by her uncle, Bill Baldwin; grandfather, Red Lewis; grandfather, Eric Gray; aunt, Ramona Knapp; great-grandmother, Donna Bruno-Burd; great-grandfather, Wilbur Meineke; great-grandparents, Jim and Helmy Knutson; as well as her grandmother, Tress Costello; future sister-in-law, Hannah Galloway; great-uncle, Spike Griffin; and great-aunt, Judy Leferson.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 14, in DeBorgia, Montana, at the old schoolhouse.

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to make donations of any amount to any Wells Fargo Bank for the Adeline Hadley Marie Galloway education fund.

One may sign Leandra's online guest book at www.shoshonefuneralservice.com.

Lois Aimee Ballenger, 79

Lois Aimee Ballenger, 79, of Kalispell, died Dec. 27, 2015, at Regency Hospital in Minneapolis. The past year she lived with her daughter, Victoria Graham, in Minnesota. The cause of death was due to complications with diabetes.



Keightley and Jim, Victoria Graham and Doug, and Melinda Redmann and Trent;

Lois was born on Dec. 4, 1936, in Whitefish to Ray and Elta Drewry. She grew up in Circle, Montana, where she graduated high school.

14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters, LaVonne Tew and Helen Rabenberg; and brother, Gale Drewry.

Lois married David Ballenger on July 19, 1960. They had four children. God and family were two priorities in her life. She loved going to church and taking care of her family. She always had a positive outlook on life.

She was preceded in death by her husband David Ballenger, parents Ray and Elta Drewry; and sister Barbara Huseby.

Lois is survived by her children, Barry Ballenger and Miriam, Brenda

The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, at Canvas Church, 255 Summit Ridge, Kalispell. Burial will take place at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Betty Lou Barlow, 75



the next five years traveling all over. They went to Europe, all over the United States, and on many cruises. After only five years of marriage Russell passed away. Betty sold her house and moved to Whitefish to be closer to her son Steve. Betty is survived by her two sons, Gary Smith of Bend, Oregon, and Steve Smith and his wife Cynda of Whitefish, grandchild-

dren, Lisa Ramirez of Fresno, Kelly Smith of Bend, Marissa Smith of Portland, and Troy Smith of Whitefish; great-grandchildren, Andre Smith and Aaron Benavidez, and her stepdaughter Elizabeth Barlow Owens and her loving family of Clovis, California. The family wanted to thank Helen Brooks and The Springs staff for their loving care of our mother. No public services are planned. Memorials are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org.

Betty Lou Barlow passed away on Aug. 22, 2015, at The Springs in Whitefish, Montana.

She was born on Aug. 24, 1929, in San Antonio, Texas, the daughter of Clarence and Helen Owens.

Betty met Earl Smith when she was a secretary at a church. Earl worked at the bank across from the church. Betty and Earl married and had two sons, Gary, who retired as a chiropractor, and Steve, who retired from the City of Whitefish. When the boys were little the family's favorite past time was boating. Gary and Steve loved swimming and water skiing.

When Betty's boys were in middle school she went back to school and got her teaching degree. She taught for 11 years as a home economics teacher in Fresno County in a small town called Teague.

When Earl passed away, Betty moved to Pismo Beach, California. After being there a few years, she got a knock on the door by an old friend. There stood Russell Barlow. From that moment on they were in love. Russell and Betty spent

30 Aug 2015

Second crash victim dies

By MEGAN STRICKLAND
The Daily Inter Lake

A second man has died from injuries sustained in a crash Sunday evening on Pipe Creek Road north of Libby.

Passenger Joseph Wesley Barnes, 39, died Wednesday night at

Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Driver Tyler Ruhter, 31, died at the hospital earlier that day.

According to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, the 2004 Ford pickup Ruhter was driving rolled several times near mile marker 3 on Pipe Creek Road.

The driver was head-

ing northbound on Pipe Creek Road, failed to negotiate a curve properly and lost control when he overcorrected.

All three occupants, who were not wearing seat belts, were ejected from the truck as it rolled.

A 13-year-old boy sustained non-life-threatening injuries in the crash.

Alcohol was a factor in

the crash. 9-11-15

Deputies responded to the scene along with Libby Ambulance, Advanced Life Support, Life Flight helicopter, ALERT helicopter and Libby Volunteer Fire Department.

Reporter Megan Strickland may be reached at 758-4459 or by email at mstrickland@dailyinterlake.com.

4 Oct 2015

Dorothy May (McElwain) Barnaby, 87

Dorothy May (McElwain) Barnaby, 87, a many-year resident of Columbia Falls,



it all! — A family who loved and respected her and a job that she enjoyed.

Dorothy passed away in Renton, Washington, Sept. 12, 2015. "She is now reunited with her husband of 66 years, Ralph," who passed away in January of this year.

Dorothy was born March 24, 1928, in the family home in Halfmoon, just north of Columbia Falls. She was raised in Columbia Falls where she graduated from high school. She then attended Montana State Normal College (Western) in Dillon where she received her Associate of Arts degree in teaching.

Upon arriving in Dillon she met Ralph (the big man on campus). They married while in college and then returned to Columbia Falls in 1949 when Ralph was offered a teaching job. She also began teaching elementary school in the Columbia Falls School District, but cut her teaching career short to start raising her family.

She was known to have a beautiful garden that she was always working to make even better. She was one of the moms who truly had

was an amazing and loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, daughter and sister. She was always there for her family, including helping raise many of her grandchildren. She will be missed by all who loved and cared for her.

She was preceded in death by her husband Ralph, and infant son Wayne Michael; also, her parents Cecil and Mildred McElwain; and two brothers, Cecil and LeRoy McElwain.

She is survived by nine of her 10 children, Ralph Barnaby Jr. and Elana, Linda Moldestad and Norman, Elaine Thompson and Nels Maki, David Barnaby and Barbara, Mary Driscoll and Mike, Laura Couty and Pete, Robert Barnaby and Jacey, Barbara Cozza and Sam, and Margaret Pfeifle and Scott; 25 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Vera McElwain.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 5, at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Columbia Falls.

28 Jan 2015.

Ralph R. Barnaby Sr., 97

Ralph, 97 years young, a many-year resident of Columbia Falls and husband of Dorothy (McElwain) Barnaby for 66 years, passed away peacefully in Puyallup, Washington, on Friday, Jan. 23, 2015, "and is now with his Lord, Jesus Christ."

Ralph was born in Wibaux, Montana, on Oct. 4, 1917. He joined the U.S. Army in 1940 and was stationed at Pearl Harbor during the bombing on Dec. 7, 1941. After his military career he attended and graduated from Montana State Normal College (Western) in Dillon where he met and married Dorothy in 1948. Ralph moved to Columbia Falls in 1949, where he was a junior high math teacher and coach for 30-plus years. He also spent his summers working in Glacier National Park.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Dorothy; and nine



of their 10 children, Ralph Barnaby Jr. and Elana,

Linda Moldestad and Norman, Elaine Thompson and Nels Maki, David Barnaby and Barbara, Mary Driscoll and Mike, Laura Couty and Pete, Robert Barnaby and Jacey, Barbara Cozza and Sam, and Margaret Pfeifle and Scott; 25 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his infant son, Wayne Michael.

Ralph was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be truly missed by all.

A rosary will be said at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30, at St. Richard's Catholic Church. The funeral will also be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31, at St. Richard's.

Joseph W. 'Joe' Barnes, 39

Joseph W. "Joe" Barnes, 39, of Libby, died Sept. 9, 2015, due to injuries suffered in an auto-

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

18 Feb 2015

14 Aug 2015

Karel Ann Barrett, 61

Karel Ann Barrett, 61, passed away on Aug. 12, 2015, after a three-year battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her loving family.

Karel was born to Andy and Theresa (Dykhoff) Hursman in Great Falls.

Karel graduated from Great Falls High School in 1972. She married the love of her life, Ken Barrett, in 1975. Ken was in the U.S. Air Force and they moved to Tacoma, Washington. Their three boys were all born there. From 1983 to 1986 they were stationed in Guam.

They came back to the states and lived in Cabot, Arkansas, for seven years. While in Arkansas, Karel worked for a veterinary clinic. She always loved animals. Ken retired from the Air Force in 1992 and they moved to Kalispell. In 1994, Karel began working in home health care. Karel especially enjoyed working with one family she held dear to her heart. Karel retired in 2014 because of health reasons.

Karel was a wonderful gardener and loved to sew and special times with her boys and grandchildren. She did all kinds of canning and most recent-



ly she remodeled her whole house.

Karel was preceded in death by her father,

mother, step father, brother Randy, and nephew Brian Hall.

She is survived by her husband, Ken; sons, Travis and Leigha, David and Shawn and Nikki; grandchildren; Natalie Toetz, Trevor and Emma-lie Barrett, Mikaela and Jace Barrett; sister Kathy and Rick Skinner; brother Kelly and Julie Hursman; nephews, Shane and Amy Hall and Danny Gustafson and niece Alex Skinner with many great nieces and nephews; sister-in-law, Shellie Laroche, and brother-in-law, Terry Barrett.

Memorial Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, at Risen Christ Catholic Church in Kalispell

The family suggests in lieu of flowers donations to be given to Wings Cancer Foundation, or Home Options Hospice.

Johnson Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Karel's family.

Leland 'Bob' V. Barta, 86

Leland "Bob" V. Barta, 86, passed away peacefully on Feb. 14, 2015, of natural causes at Hidden Meadows in Columbia Falls.

He was born March 1, 1928, to Valerian and Francis Barta in Moore, Montana. He was the third of nine children. He attended school until the eighth grade at King Colony School near Moore.

He joined the Army Air Corps at the age of 16, and served four years during World War II.

He met his wife, Ila Slack, while attending a dance in Hobson, Montana, in 1949. They dated until Oct. 22, 1951, when they were married in Billings. They celebrated 61 years of marriage. To this union, three sons and a daughter were born, Steven, Donald, James and Laura.

They spent the first years of marriage working the harvest together from Oklahoma back to Montana.

In 1960, they moved to Columbia Falls and in 1963, he started working for Anaconda Aluminum Plant as a blacksmith for 30 years. That is where he earned the nickname "Black Bart."

He was such a hard-working man and took such good care of his family. He spent many hours welding in his shop at home. He could build or fix anything out of steel or wood and loved helping his children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors with projects. For a man who had barely finished the eighth grade, he was bursting with knowledge and talent.

He also enjoyed tools, guns, hunting, gardening, dancing at the Blue



Moon, and watching his grandchildren and great-grandchild-

dren play sports.

He had so many people who knew and loved him. You could not miss him wearing his coveralls, trucker hat and a big smile. He had his favorites who he would visit almost daily, the girls at Park Side Federal Credit Union, the crew at the Nite Owl and the A&W crew in the heights.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ila Barta; his parents, Valerian and Francis; his brothers, Don, Arnold and Dennis; and sisters, Beth, Jean and Shirley.

He is survived by four children, Steven and wife Merla Barta, Donald and wife Kim (Fleming) Barta, James and wife Faye Barta, and Laura and husband Shane Christian-son; his sisters, Patsy and husband Andy Zamelis of Washington, Beverly and husband Richard Moskowsky of California; 14 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind his best buddy, Oakley.

Services will be held 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Fellowship Church, 1025 Seventh Ave. W., in Columbia Falls. Graveside Military Honors to follow at Fairview Cemetery.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Bob's family.

Lawrence 'Larry' A. Barthel, 88

Lawrence "Larry" A. Barthel, 88, of Kalispell, passed away Sept. 25, 2015, at 12:05 am in Columbia Falls at the Montana Veterans Home.

Larry was a loving and caring father. He served in the Army in World War II as a private first class.

Larry is preceded by his father and mother, Arthur and Ruby Barthel/Fillmore and his grandson Andrew Michael Barthel, two baby brothers as well as two sisters. He is also survived by his sister, Joyce Kemp, and his sister-in-law Mary Lou Kern, both of Sioux Falls, South



Dakota. Larry is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Irene Barthel, as well as his five children, Cindy and Bruce Gilsdorf of Issaquah,

Washington, Ed Barthel of Everett, Washington, Doug Barthel of Lake Stevens, Marcy Barthel of Everett, Washington, Lynn and Brant Henshaw of Bellevue, Washington.

Larry is also survived by his grandchildren, Tyler and Evan, of Issaquah, Washington, Chris and Roger Barthel and Jenn Phillips of Lake Stevens, Dawson and William Henshaw of Bellevue, Washington, as well as three great-grandchildren, Gavin, Bailey and Riley.

A memorial service to celebrate Larry's life will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday Sept. 28, 2015, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell.

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

Harold Howard Battest, 87

Harold Howard Battest, 87, of Eureka, died in Kalispell Sept. 9, 2015.

Services are pending in

South Dakota.

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

Steven Ray Batten, 51

Steven Ray Batten, 51, died Saturday, May 16, 2015, at his Bigfork home.

Funeral services will be

held in Camas, Washington. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Clarice Mae (Barnes) Beck, 88

Clarice Mae (Barnes) Beck, 88, "flew away to home" on Dec. 27, 2015, with her "angelic wings creating the wind for us."

She was born Jan. 13, 1927, the daughter of Claude J. And Ella Mae (Kay) Barnes. She graduated from John Marshall High School in Richmond, Virginia.

She married Kenneth S. Beck Sr. on May 17, 1946. She was blessed with five children.

She especially enjoyed the many new friends, states, national parks and places her husband was transferred to in his Park Service career. Glacier National Park was her favorite spot.

She will be greatly missed by her family and many friends.

She is survived by her husband of 69 1/2 years, Kenneth S. Beck Sr.; her children, Kenneth Beck



Jr. and wife Deborah, Bonnie K. Lancaster and husband John, Thomas H. Beck and wife

Clarice, and Lorren J. Beck and fiancée Debra; as well as 13 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Claude and Ella Mae Burns; brothers, Claude J. Barnes Jr., and his wife Audrey, and James H. Barnes; and her son, William H. Beck.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Clarice's family.

4 Jan 2016 IPD

Julianne 'Julie' Kathleen Beck, 70

Julianne "Julie" Kathleen Beck, 70, loving, beautiful, tender hearted and faithful, peacefully passed away on March 29, 2015, with loving family by her side.

Julie was born on Dec. 1, 1944, in Los Angeles to John and Mercedes Davis. Julie was an only child. They lived in California until she was 3 and then moved to Hot Springs, South Dakota. There she attended school and graduated from Hot Spring High School in 1963. After graduation, Julie attended South Dakota State and National College of Business. Julie's parents were transferred from the Veterans Administration in Hot Springs to the General Services Administration in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Julie went to work at the North Dakota State Capital. There she met the love of her life, Myron Beck. They were married on Nov. 29, 1969, in Bismarck, and they recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. They were blessed with four children and 10 grandchildren.

Julie and Myron moved to Montana to begin their married life together, settling down in Columbia Falls. Julie worked for the school district as a teacher's aide, library aide and in the hot lunch program. Aside from working at the school, Julie was a wonderful mother and housewife. Julie was very active with the Kalispell Women of the Moose Chapter 1710. Julie went through the Chairs and College of Regent. Julie also received the honor of Coworker of the Year for the State of Montana in 2010. In addition, Julie belonged to the Senior



Center in Columbia Falls and her Red Hat group, "The Bold and Beautiful Babes."

Julie's grandchildren were her greatest joy. She loved spending time with them baking cookies and watching them play all of their sports — baseball, basketball, volleyball, football, lacrosse and soccer. Julie always had a smile and would make us laugh and fill our hearts with love and joy.

Julie was preceded in death by her parents, John and Mercedes Davis; and grandson, Jonathan Bertsch Ellingson.

Julie is survived by her husband, Myron Beck; and her children, daughter Jenine Bertsch, daughter Barbara and Michael Strouse, son John and Nicole Beck, and son Dwight and Michelle Beck; and her grandchildren, Alissa, Andrew, Lindsay, Alexandra, Tyler, Bryant, Cortlin, Kelsey and Hannah.

A visitation will be held for Julianne from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 5, at Columbia Mortuary, with rosary to begin at 7 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10 a.m. Monday, April 6, at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Columbia Falls. Burial will follow Monday's services at St. Richard's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted for the Kalispell Moose Lodge c/o The Building Fund.

"Your love will always be cherished."

Please visit www.columbiamortuary.com to leave condolences for the family.

Craig Donald Becke, 54

Craig Donald Becke passed away on April 10, 2015, from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident.

Craig was born in Everett, Washington, to Donald and Grace Becke on July 25, 1960.

At a very young age he started riding motorcycles and they were one of his greatest loves. He enjoyed hunting with his father and was a star football player in his high school years. Craig graduated from Billings West High in 1978. He loved the outdoors, camping and four wheeling, and, of course, riding his motorcycles.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald; and survived by his mother, Grace; his daughter, Alison Becke; his younger sister, Cheri MacRenato; his older sister, Laura Seelye; and their families. Craig had innumerable friends from his years of employment



at Plum Creek and the bonds created with his fellow bikers. He is also survived by many

aunts, uncles and cousins. A memorial to celebrate Craig's life will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21, at Fellowship Alliance Church. The family welcomes you to join for storytelling and a lunch in the gym after the service.

Craig was employed at Plum Creek and supported his mother and daughter. The family asks that in lieu of flowers a donation be made to help the family take care of Craig's final expenses at Park Side Credit Union c/o Dave Seelye, or a charity of your choice in Craig's memory.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Craig's family.

Columbia Falls motorcyclist dies in crash

The Daily Inter Lake

A 51-year-old man died Friday in a motorcycle accident on U.S. 2 west of Hungry Horse.

He has been identified as Craig Donald Becke of Columbia Falls, according to a news release from the Flathead County Sheriff's Office.

Becke was reportedly speeding on his motorcycle before losing control on a turn on Friday night. He was not wearing a helmet.

The Sheriff's Office said on Monday that it was unknown if alcohol was a factor. The incident is still under investigation.

In the early morning hours of June 12, 2015, Pierce Norman Jay Beach "was called home to fly with the angels." His grandfather Norman Beach and best friend Danny Trenk were waiting to meet him with open arms.

Pierce was born on March 17, 2000 — St. Patrick's Day. He was an angel walking among us here on earth. He had an enchanting smile that could light up the midnight sky. He had a musical, infectious laugh — oh, how we will miss it.

His big sister Alyssa was so proud. They always had a special bond. His sister Kylee was the apple of his eye. Pierce taught his brother Chase anything he could. And he and his brother Jade were into playing video games.

Pierce had a heart as big as the seas and solid gold. He loved the outdoors, dirt biking, four-wheeling, driving anything that had a motor and sledding. He was mechanically inclined and could fix anything with wheels and a motor. At 15, his favorite activity was hanging out with friends and his extended family. He had so much



love to give and so many loved him. "We love you to the moon and back, Pierce, and

miss you every minute of every day."

Pierce is survived by his parents, Robin Lee Fox Croskrey and Michael Martin Beach; grandparents, Bobbie K. Beach, and Cynthia and Colby Smith; siblings, Alyssa and Jade Beach and Chase and Kylee Snook; stepparents, Keith Croskrey and Stephanie Sager; and stepsiblings, Kyle and Kesley, and Vanessa and Nicholas.

"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."

To help with interment expenses or to send condolences, mail Robin, care of Tammy Winne, 14 Martha Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

A celebration of life and potluck will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at Emery Bay. A gathering will also be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday, June 28, at Big Sky Waterslides.

20 Jan 2015

Margaret Elizabeth Beckers, 93

Margaret Elizabeth Beckers died Sunday, Jan. 18, 2015, at Hansen Cottage on the campus of St. John's Lutheran Ministries in Billings. Her children were fortunate to spend the last day of her life with her.

"Margie" was born on July 28, 1921, the daughter of John Gilligan and Barbara Noehl of Brockton. A high school basketball player, she was also the valedictorian of her high school class. She studied at Northern Montana College in Havre and at Western Montana College in Dillon.

She loved teaching school, especially first grade, and she taught elementary school at rural schoolhouses in eastern Montana and in Thompson Falls and Hot Springs.

On Aug. 13, 1931, she married Hubert "Herb" Beckers of Bigfork. After her youngest child started school, she was a teacher in Miles City, where the family lived at the time. After moving to Billings in 1966, Margaret finished her bachelor's degree in elementary education at Eastern Montana College. She then taught primary grades in School District 2 in Billings until she retired. Herb and Margie built their retirement home in Kalispell, where she could see her beloved mountains from every window. After her husband's death in 2008, she moved to Mission Ridge to be near her children and their families.

Margaret was an accomplished classical pianist and she had a lovely soprano voice. She was a voracious reader. Her yard in Kalispell was beautiful; she was a gardener and she loved to grow gladiolas. Her pieces of crewel embroidery are exquisite and are



cherished by her children and grandchildren. She was an avid bridge player and devout

Catholic. Her life was rich and full.

Margaret is survived by three children, Betty and Kevin Strobel of Greeley, Colorado, Jim and Sue Beckers of Billings, and Mike and Roberta Beckers, also of Billings. She had seven grandchildren, Brooks and Angelica Johnson of Billings, Ryan and Amanda Strobel of Beaverton, Oregon, Katie and Nicanor Diaz Strobel of Brighton, Colorado, Amanda and Clint Snowden of Billings, Allison Beckers of Bozeman, and Gena Beckers and Matthew Beckers of Billings. She had six great-grandchildren, Valerie, Andrew, Aundrea and Trystan Johnson of Billings, Carter Sowden of Billings, and Rain Strobel of Beaverton.

Her husband, Herb Beckers, preceded her in death, as did her brothers, Alan, Lawrence, Paul and Floyd Gilligan, and sisters, Irma Sugget, and Helen and Dorothy Gilligan.

A funeral Mass for Margaret will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Billings. She will be buried next to her husband, Herb, and her sister, Helen, at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Alzheimer's Foundation, c/o Michelotti-Sawyers Mortuary, 1001 Alderson Ave., Billings, MT 59102.

Condolences may be made online at www.michelottisawyers.com.

2 Feb 2015

Ryder Wesley Mellem-Beach, 2

Ryder Wesley Mellem-Beach, 2, "earned his angel wings" on Thursday Jan. 29, 2015, due to a fall.

Ryder was born on Nov. 11, 2012, in Kalispell. He came into this world three months early and weighing only 2 pounds, 1 ounce. He fought a tremendous battle to survive; he spent the days in NICU and he grew into a healthy loving average 2-year-old boy.

Ryder loved his music, his toys and all the animals around him. His favorite was dancing with his momma. He was here a short time but had a huge impact on the lives of many.

Ryder is survived by his mom Melissa Grace Mellem, father Roland L. Beach Jr., and his buddy Trevin Eno!; his two



brothers, Kaiden and Gavin Mellem Beach; grandparents, Ancherie Mellem, Chris Reiciardie,

Diane and Larry Knutson, Skip and Shelby Beach; and lots of aunts, uncles and cousins.

"He is with his Papa Mark now."

A memorial celebration of Ryder will be held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday Feb. 4, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Come celebrate and rejoice his send off to the afterlife.

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

Elizabeth Ellen (Stockard) Beekman, 86

Elizabeth was an only child born to Rudy Dudley Stockard and Margaret Ellen (McCallie) Stockard in Whittier, California, in 1929. She was raised in Buena Park, California, and graduated from Fullerton High School at the age of 16, in 1945.

She met her future husband Richard while they both attended Fullerton Junior College (FJC). She graduated from FJC with an Associate of Arts degree in 1947 and went on to attend the University of California, Riverside, in the early 1960s.

After Richard served one year in the Army Air Corps, they were married in 1948. Moving to Palo Alto, California, Elizabeth worked as a secretary for the superintendent of schools, while Richard attended Stanford University, graduating in 1950. They moved back to southern California and Fullerton to start their family. Son Richard was born in Fullerton in 1951, daughter Peggy in Orange in 1953, and son Christopher in San Fernando in 1967.

While Richard worked as an electronics engineer for various companies, Elizabeth was a stay-at-home mom. She considered herself the CEO of their personal lives, running everything in an orderly and efficient manner. She often said Richard's job was to earn the money and hers was to save it. Presentation was important to her, whether it concerned the inside or outside of her home. She said her husband never knew what he was coming home to as she greatly



enjoyed making improvements by changing rooms, moving furniture or painting

walls. Her home was spotless and her garden immaculate.

She had an immense pride in her home and also loved to please her family by being the "tour director" of various fun activities and vacations. While living in Sherman Oaks, California, in the late 1950s, she became active in the Sherman Oaks Woman's Club and started the first Civil Defense program in the San Fernando Valley.

In 1971, with the two older children in college, Elizabeth and Richard moved to Lake Arrowhead, California, with their younger son Chris. There Elizabeth became active in the hospital auxiliary and served as a volunteer for 16 years. She also joined the Hilltoppers Garden Club and served for two years as president, and a member for six years.

Their love of travel was a cornerstone in their lives, traveling to different national parks with their children and even internationally to Europe, as well as Central America with their youngest child Chris after Richard retired. When Chris went to college, Richard and Elizabeth started traveling in their RV. They went all over the Lower 48 states, Canada and Mexico. Many of these

trips included their son Richard, grown with his own family and RV which offered them invaluable time with their granddaughter Katie. Elizabeth loved their adventures and took great joy when speaking of their long tradition of stopping at the end of the day to enjoy a Black Russian with her husband, often saying it was five o'clock somewhere!

In addition to their RV travels, they enjoyed traveling outside the country together by going to such places as Europe, Cancun and the Caribbean. They traveled to Australia for their 50th anniversary, which was a very special time for them.

The couple moved to Kalispell in 2003 to be near their daughter Peggy and her husband Mark Weyant, who live currently in Coram. Richard predeceased her in 2004, after celebrating their 56th wedding anniversary, and she devoted herself to her home, flowers and yard which drew praise from her neighbors and perfect strangers. She continued her travels in 2006 by going with her family to China which she described as the trip of a lifetime.

She was a member of the Red Hat Society of Kalispell and belonged to two separate chapters, Perhaps Sisters and the Klassie Lassies, serving several terms as queen. She moved to the Buffalo Hill Terrace in 2014 and quickly made friends with the residents and staff and joined in with all the activities.

She was known by all for her wonderful sense of humor.

She leaves her children, Richard, a retired Exxon ship captain, and his wife Donnieta of Corpus Christi, Texas; Peggy Weyant and her husband Mark, of Coram; and Chris, an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Colorado-Denver, and his wife Kathleen, an artist, of Bailey, Colorado; her grandchildren, Shannon Freiheit and her fiancée Ahmad Hussein of Kalispell, Katie and her husband Jason Cooke of Corpus Christi, Tina and her husband Rick Guthrie of Hampton, Virginia, Holly and her husband Marc Holmquist of Austin, Texas, and Greg and his wife Jessica Weyant of Lago Vista, Texas; along with great-grandchildren, Synthea, Melanie and Evelyn Freiheit of Kalispell, Elizabeth and her husband Duane of Abilene, Texas, Cathy Guthrie of Hampton, and Ada and Aspen Weyant of Lago Vista.

Elizabeth always gave her children and grandchildren all the love and guidance she could and loved having them all around.

In accordance with her wishes, Dixieland jazz was played at the memorial as her family and friends raised glasses of Black Russians to salute and celebrate her life. She was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

The family wanted to thank the Buffalo Hill Terrace staff for their loving care of our mother.

Richard G. Bedrin, 78

It was with great sorrow that we said goodbye to our father, grandfather, uncle, brother and friend, Richard G. Bedrin, on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015. There are no proper words to describe the great loss we feel.

Dick was a true hard worker who got the deepest satisfaction from a full day's labor. He expected others to hold to his same values and had a low tolerance for those who did not put their talents and ability to their full use. He did not have an "all or nothing" mentality, it was "give it your all, and give it one hundred percent of the time."

He was also extremely generous and would be the first to give his last penny to those in need or who asked for his assistance. This proved true even to his end when he was placing his goodwill before his own financial needs.

His grandchildren will cherish the memories of finding sweets in Grandpa's pockets, in his van and in the bags he brought out when visiting. They especially enjoyed the special trips to the store for Grandpa Dick's favorite treat, Mike & Ikes, which according to him were healthy because "They had real fruit juice added to them so it's like eating fruit."

Towards the last few



years of his life he struggled with dementia and we extend a heartfelt

"Thank you" for those who stayed by his side despite the difficulties, and we are so grateful for those faithful friends and loved ones.

What a blessing it was in the end when Dick returned to his childhood roots and embraced the Catholic faith. He prayed his rosary daily, striving to forgive others and be forgiven for his mistakes and also prayed to be reunited with his late wife Pauline. We truly witnessed the graces in his final weeks when we were once again able to witness the kind and gentle soul that dementia had often hidden away.

There will be a visitation held for Dick from 5 to 7 p.m. this evening, Nov. 13, with a rosary at 7 p.m. at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory, with burial to take place following the service at Spring Creek Cemetery.

Please visit www.jgfuneralhome.com to leave condolences for the Bedrin family.

David C. Benefield, 75

David C. Benefield, 75, of Libby, died Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, at Cabinet Peaks Medical Center in Libby.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 6, at Libby Christian Church, 100 Kootenai River Road, in

Libby. Interment will follow the service at 2 p.m. at the Tobacco Valley Cemetery in Eureka. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015 at Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Skylar Marcus Belstad, 23

Skylar Marcus Belstad, 23, passed away Dec. 11, 2015, unexpectedly.

He was born July 16, 1992, in Kalispell, to Melissa Fenger and Steve Belstad. He was the second born of five siblings.

Skylar lived in Kalispell for most of his life except for three years which he spent in New Town, North Dakota. During this time he had the opportunity to learn a new trade doing something he loved, got to spend time with family and make many new friends who have grown into family.

At an early age, Skylar developed a love for baseball; he was mentored by some amazing coaches in the valley and developed strong friendships with his teammates. He loved the outdoors and spent many weekends fishing and hunting with his Papa, Grandpa Mark and close friends. You could say the outdoors were Skylar's happy place. If Skylar wasn't out hunting or fishing, you would be sure to find him working on his truck or tearing something apart to see how it worked. He was a great mechanic and his dream was to fix up his 1973 Chevy three-quarter ton otherwise known as "his baby."

Skylar was currently working as a gunsmith/fabricator at McGowen Precision Barrels. He loved his job and the people he worked with. Guns were another passion of Skylar's and he was very proud of the work he did. While living in New Town, he was able to learn a lot about vehicles while working at Rensch Chevrolet. Also while in North Dakota he learned a lot about the ranch life and felt right at home while taking care of numerous chores and animals around the Belstad homestead.

Skylar was preceded in death by his grandfather, Jerry Belstad Sr., and cousin, Kyle Linrude.



Jerry was a very influential person in Skylar's life and he taught him many things. He

even gave him a favorite nickname "Rock" which stuck with Skylar throughout his whole life. "Skylar has also been reunited" with other numerous family members who have preceded him.

Skylar leaves behind his beautiful yellow lab Bertha who was his best friend and love of his life. He is survived by his parents, Melissa and Darrin Fenger and Steven Belstad, all of Kalispell; brothers, Steven Hanson, along with his sons Talan and Cole of Columbia Falls; and Douglas Belstad of Kalispell; sisters, Kelsey Belstad, along with her boyfriend, Kyle Howell, and their daughter Kynlee; Lexi Longtin, Amanda Fenger, Tia Fenger, and Talese Fenger, all of Kalispell; grandparents, Kenneth Perry of Dupuyer, Carleen and Mark Hutchings and Joyce Belstad, all of Kalispell; many aunts, uncles and cousins to include, Cristin and Nicholas Kynett and son Deegan of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Ashley Maloney of Abilene, Texas, Tanya Belstad and family of Kalispell, and Jerry Belstad Jr. and family of Kalispell. He is also survived by many great friends — too many to list.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19, at Canvas Church in Kalispell. In true Skylar fashion, feel free to wear your cowboy boots and flannel shirts to celebrate his life. Please join the family for a reception immediately following the memorial at the Rainbow Bar and Casino.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Skylar's family.

Frances Irene Bekkedahl, 84

Frances Irene Bekkedahl died peacefully in her home on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2015.

Frances was born March 16, 1930, in the Flathead Valley farmhouse of Thure David Emmanuel and Anna Amelia Holmquist. Growing up between the Stillwater and Whitefish rivers, Fran loved her parents' farm. Her 10 siblings provided constant companionship and lifelong friendship.

In order to realize her dream of a high school diploma, Fran moved into Kalispell, secured an apartment, and worked to pay her way through Flathead County High School, graduating in 1948. Thus was born the heart of an independent woman.

Fran grew up attending the Swedish Covenant Church on Fifth Avenue West and Center Street. During the Korean War, her future mother-in-law, Sarah Bekkedahl, requested letters of support for her son, Joe, who was serving overseas. Fran began writing to Joe and their courtship flourished over the course of the next few years.

After attending business college in Kalispell, Fran enlisted in the Air Force, serving as a WAF at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver.

During this period of time, Joe returned from Korea and was stationed in Texas. He went to visit his long-term pen pal and they married soon after, on March 14, 1952, in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Joe continued as a heavy equipment operator on many large-scale construction projects throughout the Northwest. Their five children were born in various cities during this time. No matter where the work took them, Frances made a loving home. Despite living in small trailers, Fran's big heart made them seem like a mansion.



worked part time as a school cafeteria cook and became known for her delicious cinnamon rolls.

Her days on the farm paid off as she continued her lifelong passion for gardening. Even after her family was

grown and gone, Fran maintained two large gardens and donated her surplus food and flowers to friends and charities.

In 1983, Fran lost her husband Joe to cancer; she never remarried, as he was the love of her life.

Many may remember her from her days of helping her son in his cafe in downtown Kalispell, Joe's Legacy. She worked in the kitchen and was the backbone of the operation.

She realized her dream of travel and visited her ancestral home of Sweden in the late 1980s with her daughter Linda. She enjoyed embroidering, sewing stuffed animals, caring for others, bingo, gardening, and long drives to see her friends and family. Fran was not afraid of a solo car trip across the Northwest.

Fran was preceded in death by nine of her 11 siblings, Ted, Ester, Julie, Walt, Alice, Helen, Joe, Eleanor and Robert; as well as her husband, Joe.

She is survived by her brother, Paul Holmquist; her five children, Roxana, Pam, Randy, Linda and Larry; her six grandchildren, Erik, Michael, Joseph, Jennifer, Brianna and Brooke; and one great-grandchild, Orion.

8 Feb 2015

The family returned to Kalispell in 1967 and built their house on family property near Ashley Creek. Frances was the foundation of the family. Throughout the '70s, Joe worked on the Alaskan Pipeline. She never missed a sports event, a musical performance or a church function. She

A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, at the First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell.

Fran always said that "flowers are for the living." If you wish to pay tribute to Fran's life, the family asks that you consider sending flowers to someone you love or contributing to the charity of your choice in the Flathead Valley.

James E. Bell Jr., 91

James E. Bell Jr. passed away peacefully on Nov. 8, 2015, at his Kalispell home, 18 days shy of his 92nd birthday. James, "Jim," "Demetrius Bellapolis," "Jim the Bell" was born in Whitefish, Nov. 26, 1923. He was deeply engrained in the Flathead Valley community beginning with delivering the Whitefish Tribune as a youngster and working in local lumber mills and Whitefish gas stations pumping gas.

At the outbreak of World War II, he voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army, and subsequently was moved to the Army Air Corps. During the majority of his active duty, he was stationed on Guam and served for a total of three years, 11 months and 11 days. While he never openly discussed his military experience, he was extremely proud to have had the opportunity to serve his country.

After he was honorably discharged from the military, he worked for the Great Northern Railroad, stationed out of Whitefish where he met many lifelong and dear friends. In his strong desire to "get an education," he moved on to attend the University of Montana and received a degree in accounting. Shortly after graduating, he secured a position with an oil and gas firm in Casper, Wyoming, where he met Catherine Agnes Carter, a feisty local girl that also shared Jim's deep commitment to the Catholic faith. Jim and Cathie were married on July 16, 1955, at Saint Anthony's Catholic Church in Casper. In 1956, the couple moved to Whitefish and started a



accounting and ultimately as a controller, he maintained a client base for his private practice.

His pride in his work and dedication to his clients framed his

persona. When asked what he would do, if money were not an issue, anything at all, he paused and replied, "Work, I suppose, I love my clients and I love what I do." He was one of the last accountants that made house calls to help clients with tax issues. His love and commitment to his profession earned him the 2006 America's Outstanding Older Workers Award for the State of Montana.

Dedicated to his community and charitable and fraternal causes, he was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, the Elks, the Eagles and Hoo-Hoo's, and contributed countless hours to Special Olympics, St. Matthew's Athletic Association and parish, and the Boy Scouts of America.

He was truly one of the Greatest Generation.

Jim is survived by his wife of 60 years, Cathie; his four children, Helen Bell-White, Patty Hartford, Sean Bell and Jennifer Marzolf; and seven grandchildren, Trevor White, Alex White, Olivia Hartford, Carter Bell, Marlie Bell, Quin Marzolf and Abbi Marzolf.

Marion Earl Bell, 77

Marion Earl Bell, 77, died Feb. 23, 2015, in Kalispell, due to complications of pulmonary fibrosis and cancer.

He was a retired elementary school teacher and barber.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy Fox Bell; and children, Steven Bell, Kenneth Bell and Rochelle

Billeter.

A celebration of life will be held at 3 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Cornerstone Community Church in Kalispell. He will be interred at the Citizens Cemetery in Flagstaff, Arizona. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Michael L. Belvel, 71

Michael L. Belvel, 71, of Bigfork, May 17, 2015, in Bigfork.

No services are being

held at this time.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

The family will be holding a memorial Mass and celebration of life mid-summer 2016; a public notice will be posted.

Contributions in his name can be made to the St. Matthew's Athletic Association and the Boy Scouts of America.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website, <http://www.buffalohillfh.com>, to leave notes of condolence for the family.

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

Jim worked for the J. Austin Miller accounting firm in Kalispell for a number of years and in 1969, received his Certification for Public Accounting from the University of Alabama. Returning to the valley, he began working for Canyon Logging and Ureco.

While Jim worked for other companies in

30 Aug 2015

Forrest George Benz, 86

Forrest George Benz, 86, of Kalispell, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2015.

Forrest was born in Hendricks, Minnesota, on March 25, 1929, to Arthur and Emma (Halseide) Benz.

Forrest served his country honorably in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He married Eleanor Clark on June 30, 1957, in St. Ignatius. For several years Forrest worked as a heavy equipment operator before making a career in small engine mechanics. He enjoyed being a Boy Scout leader for Troop 48 and square dancing.

He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Eleanor Benz; son, Edward Benz; daughters, Elaine and Dan Badley, Wanda and Randy Hinzman, and Ramona and David Binnewies; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and his sister, Hazel Dare, of Troy.

A visitation will be held from 9 to 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 31, at Buf-



falo Hill Funeral Home, with a 10 a.m. graveside committal at Glacier Memorial Gardens. An 11 a.m. celebration of life service will



be held at Epworth United Methodist Church in Kalispell, following the graveside. A luncheon will be held after the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Epworth United Methodist Church, 329 2nd Ave. E., Kalispell, MT 59901, or Montana Alzheimer's Association, 3010 11th Ave. North, Billings, MT 59101.

Friends and family 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.

23 Oct 2015

James Edward 'Hoot' Berta, 71

James Edward "Hoot" Berta, 71, of Columbia Falls was born Sept. 28, 1944.

Jim fought hard to stay with the ones he loved, but his body said "no more," and his journey ended here on earth on Oct. 19, 2015.

He was raised on the family ranch and at the age of 17 received permission from his dad to join the Army. He enlisted July 1962. He served in Vietnam as a helicopter crew chief and another seven years in the National Guard.

While serving in Vietnam he met his love of 50 years, Marie.

In 1965, Jim and Marie moved to Columbia Falls. Jim spent the majority of his life as a logger. Driving truck was what he loved to do. Later in life he purchased a semi and he and Marie drove over the road for several years until he retired.

He loved being surrounded by family and



friends. He loved to hunt, fish, camp and tell stories

... oh, the stories.

He is survived by his wife, Marie; children, Elizabeth and Greg Mutzenberger, Robert, and Denise Holm; and grandchildren, Ryan, Rylie, Ashton, KC, Montana and Hallie.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Patrick and Edith; son-in-law, Mackenzie "Mac" Holm; and numerous relatives and friends.

A graveside service with family is being planned for a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jim's name to the Veterans Food Bank.

8 Feb 2015

Richard Lawrence Berg, 78

Richard Lawrence Berg, 78, passed away Jan. 25, 2015, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

He is survived by his son, Richard Berg, of North Carolina; step-brother, David Bodendick, of Eureka; sister, Maxine Meyers, of Columbia Falls; granddaughters, Sofia and Kosta, of North Carolina; and uncle and aunt, Herb and Marie Clark, of Columbia Falls.

He was preceded in death by his father, Arthur Berg; mother, Lucille Bodendick; and daughters, Lisa and Amy Berg.

He was in the Army for some time, and also a car salesman who enjoyed wheeling and dealing. His hobbies were yard sales,



riding snow cats, four wheeling and helping a lot of people who were friends of Bill (AA).



He had a positive impact on many lives. He was an

awesome storyteller of the old and the new, and of course, the jokes. He lived a wonderful, full life and he will be missed greatly.

In lieu of flowers and cards, please make a donation to your favorite charity.

Services will be held at a later date this coming summer.

Jeff Berry, 55

Jeff Berry, 55, died Saturday, June 6, 2015, at his home in Marion.

Arrangments are pending with Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

31 Dec 2015

Donald A. Bennett, 80

Donald A. Bennett was born Nov. 24, 1935, in Depree, South Dakota, to Charles and Elizabeth (Shorty) Bennett. He went "home to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" on Dec. 21, 2015.

He was raised on a small ranch where his family made music the center of their life and home. There was always "pickin' and grinnin'." Their door was open to any and all with the coffee pot on and a game of cards a necessity. Don loved to tell jokes and see people laugh.

He married the love of his life, Joan Sprenger, on Nov. 24, 1956, for a journey together of 59 years, adding five children along the way — Jeffrey, Melody, Staci, Grady and Joshua. He and Joan worked his dad's ranch in South Dakota for four years, then headed to Canada to homestead, but the Lord had another plan. They settled in Seeley Lake, where he started working for the Forest Service, which led to 34 years of a life full of fun and adventures for him and his family. He retired in 1993.

After three months of



retirement, he began driving bus for Dale Duff, which led to 17 more years of an interesting

career in commercial driving, ending with driving for the Kalispell School District, which he truly loved.

He loved his Lord, his family, music and people and was much loved in return by all he knew. He worked his little 25-acre ranch north of Kalispell that brought him lots of joy. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Melody Rae. He leaves behind his wife Joan, sons Jeffrey, Grady, Joshua, daughter Staci and their families that include eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, at Easthaven Baptist Church near Kalispell. Memorials may be made to Gideons International or Easthaven Bapist Church.

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

Marcia Thomsen (Bennett), 69

Mrs. Marcia Thomsen (Bennett) passed away at Banner Boswell, Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona, on Dec. 8, 2014, at the age of 69 due to a serious fall that lead to severe head trauma.

Marcia was born on July 22, 1945, in New York to Henry and Matilda Bennett. A gifted artist and teacher, she graduated with her Bachelor in Education from Buffalo State University, then studied for a Masters of Literature at University of Syracuse.

She taught high school English in Newark, New Jersey, before John Denver's "Rocky Mountain High" convinced her to move west to Montana, in 1972, where she taught elementary school in Columbia Falls. Her interest in her students was sincere and compassionate. Through her work she was able to transform countless lives.

Marcia lived her life with strength, grace and kindness. She brought her love of art and literature to many; leading and attending painting classes, writing and reading poetry, motivating students and friends to believe that they are capable of anything — as she, herself, demonstrated. Marcia enriching many lives with her



beauty, intellect and compassion, she will be greatly missed by all.

Marcia had a

deep affection for family. She was a giving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend.

She is survived by her husband and love, Lyle Thomsen, of Bigfork, and Surprise, Arizona; her daughters, Emily Walter, Amanda and Matt Cornelius, Kirsten and Neil Patel and Amity Thomsen; her grandchildren, Guillermo, Matilda, Isabelle, Ella, David, Morgan and Mija; her brother Walter and Irene Veit; sister Vivian and Hank Mason; nieces, Trisha and Leslie; nephews, Eric and Brian, and many, many good friends in all corners of the country.

A small service was held December 12, 2014, at the Desert Palms Presbyterian Church in Sun City West, Arizona.

A celebration of life will be held 11 a.m. July 22 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls. Following the summer service, her remains will be spread along the Florida coast and the North Fork of the Flathead.

Peyton H. Bennett, 95

Peyton H. Bennett, 95, died March 28, 2015, of natural causes at Immanuel Lutheran Communities in Kalispell.

He was born August 6, 1919, in Deer Lodge to James V. and Isetta M. (Stetson) Bennett. In 1920 he moved with his family to Scobey where the family engaged in farming for the next 60 years.

In the depths of the "dirty thirties," his mother and her four children moved to Oregon to establish residency to enable Peyton to attend the University of Oregon tuition-free. There he also worked part time to help support the family. He graduated in 1941 with a degree in accounting, after which his mother and siblings returned to Montana.

Peyton was employed as a certified public accountant in Oregon, Washington and New York until the death of his father in 1955, after which he assumed management of the family farm until the early 1980s when it was sold.

In 1960, Peyton married Florence (Ryding) Sheron, the mother of two sons, John and Dennis "Bink," both of whom became part of his family. Peyton and Florence celebrated 46 years as a devoted team, enjoying the best of married life, before her death in 2006.

Peyton was an active member of the Episcopalian Church in Scobey, serving numerous terms as an elder and treasurer for the congregation. Later he became a member of the Scobey Lutheran Church. His commitment to being a Mason and Shriner provided the fraternity and foundation of improving character and



strengthening the community. Peyton completed the third and final degree to become a

Shriner.

After retiring from farming, Peyton and Florence traveled throughout the United States in their fifth wheeler, enjoying the historical sites and enjoying regional cuisine. At home or on the road, they always had time for their passion of playing bridge.

Peyton is survived by his brother Gordon and wife Norma Tirrell; sister Judith Eilertsen and husband Edwin of Minneapolis; nieces Kathy, Susan and Betsy Eilertsen, and niece Sarah Sullivan, nephew JV Bennett III, Bink and Mary Sheron, granddaughter Shannon Sheron of Seattle, Shawn Chouinard of Kalispell, and five great-grandchildren.

Peyton was preceded in death by his parents, brother James Bennett, stepson John Sheron, and granddaughter Sharen Sheron Walker.

Peyton loved life and life loved him back. He expressed gratitude every day for the many blessings, friends and family he enjoyed.

Interment will be in Scobey. A funeral service will be held in Scobey at a later date.

In lieu of flowers make a donation in Peyton's name to your favorite charity.

Arrangements have been made by Buffalo Funeral Home and Cremation of Kalispell. To send a note of condolence to the family, please go to www.buffalohillfh.com.

Forrest George Benz, 86

Forrest George Benz, 86, died Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2015.

A visitation will be from 9 to 9:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 31, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with a

10 a.m. graveside committal at Glacier Memorial Gardens. An 11 a.m. celebration of life will be at Epworth United Methodist Church in Kalispell following the graveside.

Richard Berg, 78

Richard Berg, 78, died Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015. No services are planned

at this time. Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

31 May 2015

Louis 'Louie' Bernard Jr., 69

Louis "Louie" Bernard Jr., passed away on May 17, 2015, of natural causes.

He was born Aug. 1, 1945, to Louis E. and Helen Bernard of Kalispell.

Every life tells a story, and Louie's was full of them. If Louie chose to excel in something, he did. He was head sawyer at three saw mills over the years and was known to be able to get the most board feet out of any log prior to computers. He also built homes, including the one he built himself and lived in for more than 30 years. He was living "off the grid" before it was popular to do so.

He could weld, do stonework, build furniture and tell a good story. He loved to race motorcycles, hunt, fish, be outdoors and read.



He had a special bond with his childhood friend Norm Root. Norm and his family were always there for him. We are also grateful to Winston Major for being there for Louie during the past year when his health was declining.

Louie is survived by his son, Kelly Bernard, and daughters, Karen Bernard Kleinschmidt and Carmin Bernard. He is also survived by his sisters, Helen Brundage and Cheryl Turley; nieces; nephews and grandchildren.

There are no services planned at this time.

17 May 2015

Brentley Curtis Bibb, infant

Brentley Curtis Bibb, born April 28, 2015, passed May 6, 2015, "to be with our Lord."

Although we never got to see the little man, he would have grown into a special man.

"The good Lord said, 'Hey, I need another



angel on my knee."

With our love, mother, Malinda Bibb, and family; and grandpar-

ents, Doug and Lois Bibb.

Lila (Nickerson) Billow, 81

Lila (Nickerson) Billow, 81, died July 21, 2015, at her home in the Eureka area.

Her husband, David Billow, and seven children

survive her. Private family services were held in her garden. Arrangements are by Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home.

25 Sep 2015 IPD

Betty Billuni, 93

Sarah Rebekka (Borst) Billuni-Conzelman passed away Sept. 21, 2015 in San Marcos, California.

She was born Aug. 10, 1922, in Chicago.

Betty, as she liked to be called, moved with her mother and sister to the Netherlands when she was 9 years old. She was educated in the rigorous Dutch school system and completed high school, becoming fluent in four languages as a result. Still in Amsterdam when World War II began, Betty was active in the Dutch Underground Movement, and was eventually interned as a civilian POW by the Germans.

In 1945, she became an exchanged POW and arrived in Marseilles, France, for repatriation to the United States. On board the Swedish vessel, SS Gripsholm, she met Simone "Sam" Billuni, a U.S. Army private who had been wounded and captured at Anzio, Italy, and also became an exchanged POW.

When they returned to the states, Betty and Sam were married June 26, 1945, in Michigan. They lived first near Chicago, where their son, Dennis, was born, July 1946, and then in Detroit, where their son, Rick, was born, April 1949. In 1952. The Billuni family moved to



El Centro, California, and their daughter, Kimberly, was born, December 1956.

Betty began her newspaper career at the Imperial Valley Press as a proofreader, and when the family moved to San Diego in the summer of 1962, she continued her career at the San Diego Independent newspaper and the San Diego Union-Tribune as proofreader and editor of the TV week magazine. She retired from the newspaper business in 1987.

She was preceded in death by Sam in 1988; by her second husband, Ivan Conzelman, in 1999, and by her sister, Gladys Holden, in 2014.

She is survived by sons, Dennis and Terrie Billuni, and Rick and Bonnie Billuni, and daughter Kim and Michael Clancy; seven grandchildren, Kristy and Helen, Kyle and Amanda, Jarrod, and Jerry and Ara Billuni, Kimberly and Tom Pratt, Ryan and Chantel Gilbert, and Jennifer Gilbert; and four great-grandchildren, Sierra and Cody Billuni, Tommy and Hutton Pratt, Andrea Anderson and family, and the Ruse family.

22 Jun 2015 IPD

Franklin Wayne Birky, 60

Franklin Wayne Birky, 60, passed away Saturday, June 20, 2015 in his Kalispell home after a six-year battle with cancer.

Frank was born Nov. 12, 1954, in Kalispell.

Frank is survived and loved by his wife, Myra Birky; sons, Bruce, Seth, Tristan and Adam Birky; his siblings, Dan Birky, Jane Stutzman, Donna Allen, Brian Birky, Linda Birky and Luke Birky; also many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Evelyn Birky.

Frank worked locally



as a logger for 43-plus years, many of which were with his father. He loved to

play softball, hike, fish and build with wood.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday June 24, at the Mountain View Mennonite Church in Creston.

Cards and condolences may be sent to the Frank Birky family at 705 Sawmill Lane, Kalispell MT 59901.

Duane A. Bitney, 86

Duane A. Bitney, 86, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015, at Heritage Place in Kalispell, surrounded by his family.

He was born Nov. 14, 1928, in Kalispell to Francis A. Bitney and Bessie Ormiston Bitney. Duane graduated from Flathead County High School in 1946.

In 1948 he married his high school sweetheart and pal Betty Widdowson. Together they had five children.

Duane worked several years at Bitney's Locker Plant and Chick Hatchery where he was an accomplished butcher. He then started Bitney's Furniture and Appliances. They also had the Boise Cascade Home business for many years. The appliance business and home business allowed Duane and Betty to travel all over the world.

Duane was a visionary and a doer. Over the years he began several housing developments including Mission Village, Country Village, Fairway Boulevard, Kalispell Athletic Club and Spa, and Village Greens Golf Course. He worked hard and played hard. He gave the city of Kalispell land to build the back 18 Championship Buffalo Hill Golf Course and also gave the land to the city for Edgerton Elementary School.

Duane loved his family, his dogs, all sports, flying and had his private pilot license. He was the starting quarterback for the Flathead Braves football team and starting guard for the basketball team. One of his highlights was golfing at St. Andrews in Scotland. He was an accomplished artist, doing art and molding with his friend



Ace Powell for several years. He was also a very talented wood worker. He could always be

heard happily whistling and was known as the whistling janitor at the furniture store.

His fondest memories were the times spent at the Flathead Lake home with many friends, family reunions and fishing. Everyone was welcome at the lake. They enjoyed many winters in Arizona.

He was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and served on many committees.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son Sid, grandson Joel, brother Francis, and sister Darlene.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, of 67 years; children and their spouses; Rod Bitney, daughter-in-law Dianne Bitney, Sandy and Larry Huescher, Cindy Bitney, and Bye and Kay Bitney; 13 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Joanna Bitney, Carlene Peters and Marie Peters; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, followed by a reception in the fellowship hall.

The family suggests any memorials be given to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Kids Sports and the Humane Society.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Duane's family. Please visit www.jgfuneralhome.com to leave condolences for the Bitney family.

Kalispell businessman Duane Bitney dies at 86

Longtime Kalispell businessman and real estate developer Duane A. Bitney died Tuesday at the age of 86.

Bitney's name is a landmark on Idaho Street at the Bitney's Furniture store, which he started with his wife Betty in the mid-1950s.

Bitney is also noted for developing important subdivisions in Kalispell such as Village Greens Golf Course, Mission Village, Country Village and Fairway Boulevard. He also gave the city of Kalispell land to build the back 18 Championship Buffalo Hill Golf Course and

donated the land for Edgerton Elementary School.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, of 67 years, and many other relatives.

A Kalispell native and Flathead High School graduate in 1946, Bitney was the starting quarterback for the Flathead

Braves football team and starting guard for the basketball team.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, followed by a reception in the fellowship hall.

A full obituary appears on Page A6 in today's paper.

Bob D. Bitz, 71

Bob D. Bitz, 71, of Kalispell, died in Kalispell on July 14, 2015.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Jean Bitz.

Services are pending. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory are entrusted with arrangements.

Benjamin Paul Blasingame, 97

Benjamin Paul Blasingame, 97, died Friday, Nov. 13, 2015, in Kalispell,

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

Gary Odell Blackman, 68

Gary Odell Blackman, 68, of Kalispell, died Feb. 28, 2015, in Kalispell.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

28 Mar 2015

Wanda Fay Blakeman, 80

Wanda Fay Blakeman, 80, passed away March 26, 2015, at her Hot Springs residence.

Wanda was born Feb. 9, 1935, in Buffalo, Wyoming. She grew up in the Fence Creek area of Wyoming.

On Oct. 6, 1951, Wanda married Herbert Blakeman at her parents' home in Sheridan County, Wyoming. They were married for 64 years before her passing.



After marriage, Wanda was a homemaker, raising her son Brad. She then start-

ed working as a ranch cook, drove trucks for many years, managed rest homes and finally became the owner/operator of the Running Iron Restaurant.

Wanda had been a

longtime member of the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church. She enjoyed needlepoint and quilting. She was an exceptional mother.

Wanda is survived by her husband, Herbert, of Hot Springs; son, Brad Blakeman; grandchildren, Barry LeBourdais of Kamloops, British Columbia, and Nirvana Blakeman of Calgary, Alberta; great-grandchildren, Wyatt, Morgan

and Levi LeBourdais, all of Kamloops; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 30, at the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church in Lakeside. Burial will follow at 3 p.m. at the Murray Memorial Cemetery in Lone Pine.

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

Clyde W. 'Bud' Block, 90

Clyde W. "Bud" Block, 90, passed away on Aug. 28, 2015, in Kalispell.

He was born Dec. 5, 1924, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Walter H. Block, and Ethel Block Blau. He attended school in Milwaukee and spent his summers during the Depression with his older brothers on Columbus Lake in northern Wisconsin.

They worked hard on the cabin and played hard at hunting and fishing. During his senior year he attended an apprentice school where he learned the basics of electronics and appliances. Then he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was on the LST Boat for almost four years.

A week after returning home from his Navy career, he moved to Montana in a 1934 REO Speed Wagon with his brother Dan and wife Gerane, who were newlyweds. His dad, Walter, had sold the cabin at Columbus Lake and bought 160 acres with a log home on Trailcreek, in the North Fork. Bud worked on the Jack McFarland Ranch where he met his lovely wife Zelma, who was also working there. Bud also worked for the Forest Service on the North Fork. He spent about 5 months in Butte working in the ore mines until he was injured in a cave in.

Bud and Zelma were married July 30, 1949. They spent their honeymoon on Thoma Lookout. They then built a log cabin on Trailcreek, where Zelma hand peeled every log. Bud went to work for Art Rasmussen at Kelly Main Street Furniture in 1950. Bud bought his business and appliance service in 1975 from Kelly's



and moved it into his own shop on Meridian Road. He semi-retired in 1985 and sold his business to his son Walter K. Block. He fully

retired in 2001.

Bud and Zelma moved to Flathead Lake where he spent many enjoyable hours in his boat fishing or out searching the mountains for that perfect buck. Bud was a devoted Christian husband, father, and grandfather. He and Zelma had three children, Carol O'Neil and husband John; Judy Weekly and husband Ed; Walter Block and wife Cindy. Bud has seven grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Bud has one brother, Daniel G. Block, and wife Gerane of Dillon; twin sister Ethel Ione Powell and husband Harold Bullion (deceased) John Powell (deceased) of Appleton, Wisconsin; brother Philip J. Block (deceased) and wife Bette of Hydeville, Vermont; sister Lylace L. Mani (deceased) and husband Harris W. Mani (deceased) of Tempe, Arizona.

Bud always ended his visits with "Keep smiling!"

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. today, Sept. 1, at Easthaven Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to Hospice or the North Fork Improvement Association.

Charlotte Blum, 79

Charlotte Blum, 79, passed away on Feb. 14, 2015, in Kalispell.

Charlotte was born on Feb. 15, 1935, in New Jersey to Charles and Mary Walker.

Charlotte resided in Somers, until four years ago when she moved into Prestige Assisted Living. There she had an open door policy and enjoyed when the residents and workers stopped in to chat. Her great joy came from seeing and playing with her three great-grandsons.

Charlotte worked as a bookkeeper for her entire life, first in New Jersey, and then in Kalispell for Stewart and Meredith Construction.

Charlotte sang for years with the Sweet Adelines in Kalispell and served as a past president. She also volunteered with hospice. She loved her ceramics, crocheting, fishing and card games. In her younger years, she and her husband Neil loved to go out dancing.

Charlotte is survived by her son, Bruce, and Robin,



Wheeler, of Long Grove, Illinois; daughter, Sue Wilson, of Kalispell; a sister, Miriam Kassner,

of Sebastian, Florida; grandchildren, Christina Mauroni, Andy and Rachel Wilson, Melanie and Adam Fritsch, Bryan Wheeler and Kevin Wheeler; and great-grandsons, Gavin and Mitchell Wilson, and Connor Fritsch.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Neil Blum; father, Charles Walker; mother, Mary Walker; and two brothers, John and William Walker.

There will be a celebration of Charlotte's life held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 27, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with burial in New Jersey.

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.

Richard James Blumer Sr., 73

Our beloved father and husband, Richard James Blumer Sr., passed away due to complications from esophageal cancer on Friday, Nov. 20, 2015, in Visalia, California. Richard was being comforted by his family at the time of his passing at the age of 73.

He was a kind, caring, and compassionate man who had a great sense of humor and could make people laugh. He was a master craftsman, electrician, and handyman who enjoyed helping others. Richard will be remembered for his kindness and generosity towards his family, friends, and animals.

He was born Sept. 21, 1942.

He was a member of the 1960 class of Flathead County High School in Kalispell. He enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1963 and served for 6 years before being given an honorable discharge. He went on to work as an electrician and helped to construct the Alaska Pipeline. Richard then spent his career working at Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope. Following his career on the North



Slope, he became a businessman before moving to California where he ran an asphalt facility.



Richard was a family man who enjoyed spending time with loved ones. He enjoyed working in his shop and being around his family and pets. Richard will be deeply missed by family, friends, and everyone who knew him.

He was preceded in his death by his parents, John and Francis Blumer of Kalispell, and his brothers, Jonathan, Clayton, and Ben.

He is survived by his sister, Blanche Garrett; brothers, Eldon, Larry, and Harold Blumer; his wife, Nanette; his children, Richard Blumer Jr. and Heather, Leilani Lamoreaux and Clint, Johnico Bashford-Blumer and Kary, and Roland Blumer and Cindy; and nine grandchildren.

No services are planned at this time.

Barbara S. Blumhagen, 87

Barbara S. Blumhagen, 87, of Kalispell, died in Kalispell Sept. 7, 2015.

She is survived by her three daughters, Linda Hogan, Vicci Keller and

Debra Franck.

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

Fred Michael 'Mick' Bock, 74

Fred Michael "Mick" Bock, 74, died in Rexford, on June 30, 2015.

A viewing will be 4 to 8 p.m. July 6 at the Eureka Funeral Home.

He was survived by his wife, Grace, daughters, Tammy Munis and Deanne Linn, and son, Vern Gregoroff.

Funeral service will

be held 11 a.m. July 7 at the Church of God with burial to follow at the Tobacco Valley Cemetery.

A luncheon will follow at the VFW from 1 to 3 p.m.

Local arrangements are by Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Kenneth Dennis Bohenek, 71

On Nov. 4, 2015, after a long and courageous battle, our loving father succumbed to complications from diabetes. "He slipped into the arms of our Lord to take him home" while surrounded by his children.



of heaven on earth. "Tinkering" in his shop, woodworking and repairing everything imaginable

Kenneth Dennis Bohenek was born to John J. and Mary D. Bohenek on April 14, 1944, in Queens, New York. Ken or "Kenny" as he was known to family and friends, was the second oldest of four children. They grew up in Floral Park, New York.

On June 13, 1965, Ken married Mary Lou Hofmann and from that marriage came three children, Kenneth M. Bohenek, Christine Bohenek (Robinson) and Christopher J. Bohenek. They lived for a brief time in Franklin Square, New York, then moved to Deer Park, New York.

Ken owned a plumbing business on Long Island, and then in 1976 made the bold decision to move his family west to Montana. He went on to have a long and successful career as owner of AAA Plumbing and Heating in Missoula from 1976 until his retirement in 2003.

Family was the centerpiece of Ken's life. One of the greatest accomplishments in his life was watching his children grow and go on to begin families of their own. He had close relations not only with his children but with their spouses, and soon he was surrounded with grandchildren whom he loved dearly.

In 2000, Dad married Cathy Steele and in 2004 sold his home in Missoula and moved permanently to his other home on Swan Lake. Dad cherished every moment living at the lake. It was his piece

was a favorite pastime and hobby. Everyone knew, if Ken couldn't fix it, throw it away. His children and grandchildren provided him endless woodworking projects, as well as many things to fix!

Dad's smile and the twinkle in his eye made a lasting impression on all those he met. He was quick-witted and loved a good joke; his laughter filling the room. Dad was strong, yet gentle and loving with the biggest of hearts. Everyone who met him loved him and he would do anything to help a friend, but family was his strongest of bonds. We are grateful for the lasting memories we have and the lessons dad taught us — to love unconditionally, give generously and live life fully.

He leaves behind a legacy of love. He is survived by his wife, Cathy; his sister, Mary, and her husband, Jim; his children, Ken M. Bohenek, Christine Robinson and Cal, and Chris Bohenek and Lynne. He is also survived by grandchildren whom he adored, Grace and Audrey Robinson, Sam and Will Bohenek and Emberleigh Graves.

A celebration of Ken's life will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 16, at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home in Missoula. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony.

The family would like to thank Dad's doctors and nurses in Kalispell who took such great care of him in his final years.