

Bruce Leon Babcock, 71

Bruce Leon Babcock, 71, passed away at his home surrounded by his family on Oct. 22, 2016, after a courageous 18-month battle with brain cancer.

Bruce was born on March 21, 1945, in Dillon to Bernard and Della Babcock. Bruce spent his early years in Plains. When he was 10 his family moved to Snohomish, Washington, where his father started a mink ranch. Bruce worked with his dad and brother on the ranch throughout his high school years and during his spare time he experimented with taxidermy.

In 1965 Bruce joined the Air Force where he held the esteemed position as an air traffic controller. He was stationed three years in Bangor, Maine, and when that base was closed he was transferred to Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane for the last six months of service. This was where Bruce met his future bride.

Bruce and Trisha were married on Nov. 1, 1969. During their first year of marriage Bruce worked on a mink ranch in Everett, Washington. After the rancher went out of business Bruce decided to pursue his passion to learn the art of taxidermy. He accepted an apprenticeship in Bellingham, Washington, where he worked for 18 months. Bruce wanted to return to Montana, so in 1972 the family moved to Kalispell where he started his taxidermy business. He and his wife spent the next 44 years working together, operating the business and raising their three children. Bruce was recognized for his talent with many awards at state and national taxidermy competitions. His greatest honors were winning Best of Show and Best of Category at national competitions. Bruce admired every animal, no matter the size, and saw taxidermy as a way to preserve the beautiful wildlife that God has



Foundation and Fish, Wildlife and Parks citizens advisory committee. He helped start the Montana Taxidermy Guild in the early '80s that later became Montana Taxidermist Association. He served as both president and treasurer over the years. He was also a life member of the National Rifle Association.

As an avid outdoorsman, Bruce cherished his adventures with family and friends. He loved hunting, fishing, camping and anything that took him to the mountains. He was known for his silly antics and practical jokes. Nobody was considered safe from them. Bruce was a captivating storyteller who loved sharing all the details of his grand adventures. "Safety meetings" with his friends were a Wednesday evening ritual at his shop where they shared hunting stories, talked politics and pulled pranks on one another.

Bruce was a very loving husband, father and grandfather. He cherished his wife and was forever proud of his children and grandchildren. His family was continually entertained with his fun antics, quick wit, and his puns never ceased to amaze them.

Bruce was preceded in death by his father and mother, Bernard and Della Babcock.

He is survived by his loving wife Trisha, and their three children and their spouses, Myra Ikeda (Eldon), and Rhonda Michaels (Dewey) of Kalispell, and Bernie Babcock (Angel), of Wasilla, Alaska; brother,

given to us.

Over the years Bruce was involved in many local organizations, including Flathead Wildlife, Rocky Mountain Elk

Howard Babcock (Dede) of Monroe, Washington; sister, Lynn Jacobsmeyer (Wayne) of Columbia Falls; seven grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial for Bruce's life is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 27, at Canvas Church, with a reception to follow. Pastor Kevin Geer will officiate the ceremony. To celebrate Bruce's passions, Seahawks or camouflage attire is welcomed.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to the Editha House, 336 East Willetta St., Phoenix, AZ 85504; or Barrow Neurological Institute, 350 W. Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013.

Jeffery Neil Badeker, 44

Jeffery Neil Badeker, 44, departed from this world on Aug. 30, 2016, after a courageous battle with colon cancer.

Jeff was born March 17, 1972, to Sandra Burks and Rick Badeker in Roseville, California, growing up in Manteca and Stockton, California, where he finished high school at Edison High in Stockton, then moving to Boise, Idaho, and settling in Whitefish.

Jeff was a very hard worker and was called by many a workaholic. He started out at a young age dishwashing, then landscaping and building trusses. He had worked for a couple different companies before finally deciding to start his own drywall business that would have him doing drywall for over 20 years.

He married Danielle Huebner Oct. 31, 2005. They shared a thirst for adventure and spent many years together working side by side doing drywall.

Jeff helped raise his stepson Jayden whom he was very proud of and, together with Dani, had a son Malaki who was indeed the light of his life. He also had three other children living out of state, Breanna Malory, Leah Badeker and Kenny Badeker and two granddaughters. Jeff truly loved the outdoors,



camping four-wheeling fishing, spending time with family and friends and also watching his younger sons' sporting events.

He had a great passion for rock music, having attended many concerts both locally and out of state. He never let his illness stop him from living life to the fullest. He knew his days were numbered but refused to count them!

He is survived by his parents Sandy Burks and Rick Badeker, his children Breanna, Leah, Jayden, Kenny and Malaki, and brothers Eric, Jeremy, Charlie and Andrew Badeker.

He was preceded in death by stepfathers Bruce Burke and Mike Thaute, and grandparents Lois and Richard Holsinger, and Helen and Jack French

A donation collection has been created with GoFundMe.com under Jeff Badeker.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11, at the VFW in Kalispell.

"It's not the years in your life that matter; but the life in your years." — Abe Lincoln

Adelaide Adessa Ascher Baer, 97

Adelaide Adessa Ascher Baer passed away on Oct. 13, 2016 in Bigfork.

For 97 years, "Gomma," lived the definitions of class and grace. She was a pillar of her family, the one who carried our history and validated our present. Her humor was infectious, her stories legendary, and she dished out love with boisterous abundance.

With our sorrow, comes peace that she is reunited once again with the love of her family, her husband Charles, and her two sons, Larry and Ron.

She is survived by her daughter Betsy (living in



the Chicago area), her daughter-in-law Shirley, her grandchildren (oldest to youngest) Sam, Carin,

Charlie, Amber, Michael and Janelle, and her great-grandchildren Lauren and Vaughan. A moment of silent prayer will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 27, at graveside at Bigfork Community Cemetery.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Betty C. Bailey, 83

Betty C. Bailey, 83, died Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016, at the Brendan House in Kalispell.

She is survived by her children, Patricia Beseler-Kjelstrup, Deborah

Germain, Steven Beseler and Brenda Butler-Murray.

There will be no services held at this time.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Eva Bair, 98

Funeral services for Eva Bair will be held at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday at St. Matthew's Catholic Parish.

Eva died on Sunday, June 5, 2016, in Missoula. Eva was 98 years old.

Eva was born in Sunburst on Sept. 8, 1917. She graduated from St. Matthew's High School in Kalispell, valedictorian of her class in 1935.

Eva married Lawrence Bair, and had four children, Laurie (Paul),

Jeanne (Robert), Michael, and Patrice (Dave). She retired from the Forest Service at the age of 62 and retired to Kalispell. She then entered the era of hiking in Glacier National Park and surrounding areas with a senior citizen program. Eva thought that she hiked every trail available in Glacier Park, and was a member of the 100 Miles Club for 20-plus years, logging above the required 100 miles of hiking with them for each year designated.



Eva retired from hiking when she was 90.

When Eva was not hiking, she volunteered at Kalispell

Regional Hospital, the food bank, her beloved parish of St. Matthew's and Brendan House. She moved to Missoula in 2010 to be near her daughter, Jeanne.

Eva is survived by her children and their spouses; eight grandchildren, Christie (Mike), Jessica, Ellen, John (Alix), Nicolas (Megan), Lydia (Jeff), Rebecca and Seth; and four great-grandchildren.

Following the funeral at St. Matthew's on Thursday, June 9, she will be buried at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to St. Matthew's Parish, 602 S. Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901.

Bill Baker, 82

Bill Baker, 82, of Kalispell, died Feb. 20, 2016, at his home in Kalispell.

A memorial service

will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory, with burial service to be private.

Ronald L. Baker, 76

Ronald L. Baker, 76, passed away on Friday, July 22, 2016, because of a heart attack.

Ronald was born in Livingston on Dec. 27, 1939, to Chet and Irene Ross Baker. He was raised in Bozeman through high school.

Ronald spent a term in the National Guard.

He spent most of his life working for a number of tire companies in Bozeman, California and Kalispell, and was a master of his trade.

He spent as much time outdoors as possible. He loved gardening, hunting, fishing, etc.

Ronald will be missed by his family and friends.

Ronald was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Baker, on May 21, 2015; parents, Chet and Irene Baker; his son, Duane Baker; and his sister, Dorothy Wahl.

Ronald is survived by two children, Dennis Baker and Ronda



Prusner of California; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; three brothers, Joe Baker of Three Forks, Tom Baker of Bozeman

and Ron's twin brother Donald Baker of Deer Lodge. His wife Mary has a number of relatives that were close to Ronald: stepchildren, daughter Wanda Ives, and son Terry and wife Lori Hendrickson and family from Three Forks; and stepgrandson, Joe Paddock, wife Tracy, and four children, Trynn, Mallory, Isaac and Shay, of Kalispell.

There was a graveside service with military honors held Aug. 8 at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

Harold Richard 'Dick' Baker, 89

Harold Richard "Dick" Baker, 89, died Monday Dec. 5, 2016, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

Dick was born Jan. 19, 1927 in Rouseville, Pennsylvania to Clarence and Lewella (Rogers) Baker.

Dick joined the Navy in 1943 and was stationed on the USS Hamilton DMS 18 (Destroyer Mine Sweeper) and was honorably discharged in 1946.

He then went to trade school for appliance repair in Washington state.

In 1965, Dick married Dorothy Smith, they were married for 42 years before her passing in 2007.

Dick worked for Bitney's Furniture for 25 years, and Smith's for 15 years. Dick enjoyed hunting, fishing and traveling.

Dick is preceded in death by his parents, wife Dorothy, two sisters, JoAnne and Susan, and



daughter, Sharee McClintock.

He is survived by his children Wanda (Norris) Milan of

Minden, Nevada; Terry Norris, Royal Norris and Wayne Norris, all of Kalispell; Alfred Norris of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Robin Sorbin (Norris) of McHenry, Mississippi, Jill (Baker) Namm of Encino, California, 14 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, and sister Barb Gillette of Hemet, California.

A celebration of life service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday Dec. 12, 2016, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

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

Audrey M. Baldwin, 83

Audrey M. Baldwin of Kalispell passed away on July 14, 2016, in Kalispell.

Audrey was born in Viroqua, Wisconsin, to Pearley and Alberta Sneath on July 2, 1933.

She married Thomas Baldwin on July 9, 1948, in Missouri. She worked as a waitress, cook, nanny, and was a foster parent. She was involved in civil defense and East Glacier Women's Auxiliary. She enjoyed embroidery and ceramics and loved children and dogs.

Audrey was preceded in death by her husband in 1999; her parents; sister Lorraine; infant son Thomas; son Michael; and grandsons Dustin and



Richard. Survivors include her children Audrey (Donald) Boisen, Gary (Paula) Baldwin, Kathryn Von Gunten, Dianne (Gilbert) Greyn, and Cheryle Caspary; stepdaughters Betty (Larry Elliott), and Patti Kendhammer; her siblings David Sneath, Robert Sneath, Linda Birnbaum, and Judie Sneath; as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Johnson-Gloschat Funeral

home with graveside rites at Glacier Memorial Gardens at 11 a.m. Friday, July 22, immediately followed by a celebration of life at the Gary Baldwin residence.

Memorials may be given to Muscular Dystrophy Association, The Humane Society, Parkinson's Disease Foundation, or charity of donor's choice.

The family would like to thank Dr. Burns as well as the Brendan House staff for such caring compassion in treating Audrey's Parkinson's disease. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the Baldwin family.

Daniel Baldwin, 63

Daniel Baldwin passed away March, 4, 2016, "into a much better place to soar with the best in a universe full of light and love."

He was our hero and the best role model to his three sons, Erik, Augustus and Chase Baldwin. He taught us the importance of giving life your all, and above all to be honest with yourself and everyone he met.

He had an avid love for and took many trips to the ocean on excursions. He was a world explorer who gained fame from his South Pacific expeditions as documented by National Geographic.

He made a career of building and repairing boats and binoculars in San Diego and most recently in Montana. He was a Scout master who led his sons into achieving Eagle Scouts.

"Dad you will be missed



more than words can express. We love you!"

Daniel lives on through his sons, Erik Baldwin

and wife Lauren and beautiful granddaughter Waverly of Oceanside, California; son, Augustus Baldwin, of Bozeman, sister Kelly and husband Tony Mendenall, and brother Patrick, all of San Diego, and sister Janice and husband Charles DeLight and family of Sacramento, California; and many nieces and nephews.

Daniel was preceded in death by his son Chase Baldwin, and parents Clarence and Ruth Baldwin.

"We love you Dad, forever."

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.

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.

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.

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



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

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

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

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.

Catherine Antoinette 'Toni' Balock, 86

Catherine Antoinette "Toni" Balock was born in Miles City on Nov. 4, 1929.

She passed away peacefully in the afternoon of Aug. 19, 2016, surrounded by three of her beloved children and supported by Frontier Hospice and the caring staff of Well-Life Assisted Living, Kalispell.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 26, at the Lake Funeral Home in Polson. Her ashes will be interred immediately following, overlooking Flathead Lake at the Polson Cemetery alongside that of her husband Luke and son Brian.

Toni attended Fratt Grade School in Billings and graduated from Billings Senior High in 1947. She married the handsome Luke Balock May 22, 1948, at St. Patrick's Church, Billings. Toni and Luke started their family life in Harlowton and Roundup, returning back to Billings in the early 1960s.

Toni gave life to six children. Her family was her vocation. She sacrificed and worked tirelessly at the domestic and foundational tasks of raising such a large family. Toni dearly loved her own brothers and sisters and instilled that same love of family in her children. She absolutely delighted in each one of her grand- and great-grandkids. She enjoyed camping and fishing trips with her brood, always nurturing a love and respect of the great outdoors.

Toni loved to do crossword puzzles, read and play bridge. She made sure that all of her children and grandchildren could win a game of cribbage by the time they were 8 years old. She took pride in her Irish heritage and comfort in her Catholic faith.



When Toni and Luke lived in Bozeman, she worked at Hillcrest Retirement Center and owned and

operated The Mode, a women's clothing store. In their later years Toni and Luke very much enjoyed living in Polson and Whitefish.

Toni was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Lucas L. Balock; her eldest son, Brian; her sisters, Virginia "Babe" Olson, Bonnie Goff and Patricia Clark; her brothers, John and Tom Brown; and her parents, Thomas and Eleanor Brown.

She is survived by her daughter Barbara Rose and her husband Arnie Ostrander of Paonia, Colorado; son Jim Balock and his wife Mary Ann of Houston; daughter Kathy Gearhart of Whitefish; son Rob Balock of Henderson, Nevada; daughter Nancy Mortier and her husband Michael of Newcastle, Washington; and her granddaughters, Calla and Ursula Ostrander; Lauren and Julia Mortier and Kate Gearhart; grandsons, Scott Gearhart and his wife Ali, and Tyler Gearhart and his wife Kate; and her great-grandchildren, Olivia and Henry and Fitz Gearhart.

In lieu of flowers, charitable donations can be made in her honor to the Polson Senior Center, 504 Third Ave E. Polson, MT 59860.

"May the road rise to meet you ... May the wind be always at your backs.

May the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rains fall upon your fields.

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of his hand." — Old Irish Verse

John Balsam, 63

Life lost one of its hardest working champions when John Balsam, age 63, privately passed during the early morning hours of July 2, 2016. His wife was at his side.

John was born and raised in Billings, the third son of Bobbe and Fred Balsam. John grew up fishing with his family and good friend, Pat, and playing baseball as a pitcher, from Little League through Legion Baseball. But the sport John grew to love and make a lifelong passion was golf. John began to understand just what heaven might be like whenever he played golf with his son, Joe, or with his brothers, Scott and Mike, or with his steadfast friends and Sigma Chi brothers, Steve, Dave and Tony.

While living in Billings, John attended Rimrock Elementary, Lewis and Clark Junior High and Billings Senior High. John played the clarinet in the marching band and during his junior year at a summer picnic with the band and majorettes, John hid a certain pair of shoes up a tree to catch the attention of his future sweetheart and eventual wife, Jerri Urbaska. They were both smitten at first sight!



John adored his family and worked equally hard to help them succeed. John always told

his children as they were growing up, "If you know math, you know life!" They took him for his word, and now his daughter, Jessica, is the global sustainability manager of Nike Retail Stores, and his son, Joe, is a CPA in Missoula. Near the end of his life, John tenderly whispered in Jerri's ear, "You have been the core of my love and you always will be."

Preceding John in death were his mother, Bobbe, and his brother, Chuck.

John is survived by his wife, Jerri, his daughter, Jessica, and his son, Joe, as well as his father, Fred Balsam; and his siblings, Scott (and wife Debbie); Mike (and wife Sharon), and his sister, Shellie Balsam. John is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of John's life will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 15, at the Village Greens Community Center, 195 West Nicklaus Drive in Kalispell. Another celebration will be held in Missoula at later date.

John attended the University of Montana in Missoula, earning an undergraduate degree in mathematics in 1976 and a master's degree in business administration in 1981. Throughout his career, John worked diligently to make sure others would succeed. John considered his work as not separate from the rest of his life, but rather, his work was an extension of his most basic self, which was love. John's professional positions extended across the state of Montana from Miles City to Helena, to Butte to Missoula, and finally ending in Kalispell as the director of the Small Business Development Center. John's work included business consulting and proposal development; technical writing of business plans, commercialization plans, research proposals, and award nominations; market research and commercialization planning on emerging technologies; and small business development. John regarded the people he met during his career not as business associates but as friends.

John's family wishes to sincerely thank the extraordinary medical personnel at Kalispell Regional Medical Healthcare Center who compassionately cared for John throughout his numerous medical treatments; the supportive caregivers at Home Options Hospice; John's remarkable colleagues in the Flathead Valley Community College Continuing Education Department; John and Jerri's amazing neighbors, Pam, Wayne and Kelly Bollinger; and all of John's relatives and friends who have thoughtfully cared for John during his two-year journey with cancer.

If you would like to honor John's life, a fund for John's extensive medical bills has been created by his friends Steve, Dave and Tony (through Steve Vielleux, P.O. Box 577, Fort Benton, MT 59442); or to the Flathead Cancer Aid Services, Inc., 2555 Dillon Road, Whitefish, MT 59937 or www.flatheadcanceraid.org.

Gary Albert Barber, 66

Gary Albert Barber passed away in Kalispell Aug. 1, 2016, at the age of 66.

Gary was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on Oct. 17, 1949. He graduated Lincoln High School in 1967 and attended the South Dakota School of Mines and Augustana College in Sioux Falls. He moved to Denver and then Montana and worked in trucking companies before buying Flathead Cartage in Kalispell.

Gary was proud of being able to process more bills of lading than anyone he worked with, as well as his ability to move large bulky objects, and he was especially proud of his photography.

His childhood was spent on Lake Big Stone in Minnesota, near his grandparents farm. He was born during pheasant season and his dad got his limit before taking his mom to the hospital. Hunting pheasant, deer and antelope with his dad, and friends was a constant until moved to Montana.

Gary retired and became an avid rafter and kayaker not only on the Flathead, but also on the Salmon and Snake rivers. After heart surgery he continued to float rivers and ski on Big Mountain. His constant companion was his dog Petey and taking walks with her was a daily event he cherished. Gary also enjoyed many years of playing in the Whitefish Pool League.

Gary was preceded in death by his mother



Ruth, and stepbrother David.

He is survived by his father Albert, stepmother

Phyllis of Sioux Falls, sister Pat of Huntsville, Alabama, stepsister Lori and husband Robert, sister-in-law Susan and husband Dan of Ronan, and aunts, Nancy Colman of Sioux Falls and Rita Carlson of California.

Gary was a good friend to many. He would not hesitate to lend a helping hand whenever he could. If a friend needed anything and Gary could help he would, it was as simple as that. He was a gentle soul who did no harm and was liked by all who met him. He loved Montana, his family, his friends and especially his dog Petey. Although compromised by health issues in his later years, he continuously inspired all around him by living his life to the fullest, by his example of living that every day was a gift and by teaching us to never take a single breath for granted. He will be missed!

A celebration of Gary's life will take place at 5 p.m. on Sept. 10 at the Whitefish Moose Lodge. The theme will be Thanksgiving dinner and smoked turkey will be provided so please bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish. Donations will be accepted to help with the cost of taking care of Petey.

Doris A. Bardell, 81

Doris A. Bardell, 81, died Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016, in Hot Springs.

Memorial services will be held at a later date in

Oklahoma.

Arrangements are under the direction of The Lakes Funeral Home and Crematory.

Wallace 'Jerry' Barlow, 84

Wallace "Jerry" Barlow, 84, died July 20, 2016, in Kalispell.

He is survived by his wife, Sally Barlow; daughters Teri Doyle and LeeAnn Rodriguez; and sons Gary Barlow, David

Barlow and James Barlow.

A celebration of life will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 23, at the family home.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Jerry Barlow, 84

Today, Jan. 1, would have been Jerry's 85th birthday. He was born Jan. 1, 1932, in Oakland, California, to Wanda and Wallace Barlow. However, he passed away on July 20, 2016, this past summer.

But we, his big and loving family, will be celebrating Jerry's birthday without him with traditional chili, beans and birthday cake. He is survived by three brothers, Ted and wife Loretta, Mike and wife Terry, and Steve and wife Tami; Jerry's wife, Sally, of 64 years, and five loving "children," Teri and husband Chris, Gary and wife Gaby, David, Lee Ann and husband Juan, and Jim. Those "children" were very productive, with 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Jerry knew all their names but not their birthdates.

During those 84 years he had a grand time, however, the best time was establishing his own business in the building trade as a dry-wall contractor with his sons. There are a lot of



beautiful walls and ceilings in Northern California and Northwestern Montana.

Jerry often

said we have lived in three of the most beautiful places ... Mount Shasta and Crescent City, California, and Kalispell.

He hunted and fished in all those places, taught by his grandma Suzie.

His last project dear to his heart was rebuilding a 1938 Ford pickup. He got parts from all over, one piece at a time and put it together and re-did it all several times. However, his respiratory health problems didn't allow him to finish that last project before July 20.

So today, on his birthday, his loving family is determined to finish it and we are certain he is "up there" watching and critiquing ever step of the way.

We love you and miss you, Jerry, to the moon and back.

Wanda J. Barnett, 66

Wanda J. Barnett, 66, died March 4, 2016, in Kalispell.

She is survived by her daughters, Janelle Bergeson and Jackie

Michkowski.

At her request, there will be no services.

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

Donald C. Banning, 73

Donald C. Banning, 73, of Troy, died Monday, Jan. 11, 2016, at Lake View Care Center in Bigfork.

Services will be at 1

p.m., today, Jan. 14, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Troy.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

Greg Bancroft, 71

Greg Bancroft, 71, of Somers, died Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at the HealthCenter in Kalispell.

He is survived by his wife, Sandy, and three children.

A celebration of life will be 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 27, at Buffalo Hill Golf Course.

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

Bob Barbee, 80

Bob Barbee passed away on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016, at home in Bozeman with his wife of 58 years, Carol, and his daughter Deb by his side. He was 80 years old.

Bob was born on Nov. 12, 1935, in Columbus, Ohio. He graduated from Colorado State University in 1958 and returned to earn a master's degree in natural resource management in 1968.

Throughout Bob's life and career he was devoted to his wife and three daughters. Together they shared adventures far and wide, climbing mountains and hiking thousands of miles in America's national parks and other great, breathtaking places.

Bob's career with the National Park Service spanned 42 years, taking his family from Rocky Mountain, Yosemite, Carlsbad Caverns, Grand Canyon, Point Reyes, Cape Lookout and Cape Hatteras National Seashore, San Francisco, Hawaii Volcanoes, Redwoods and Yellowstone National Park. After 12 eventful years in Yellowstone, Bob became regional director of the Alaskan parks, where he served until his retirement in 2000, capping a distinguished 42-year public service career. Bob and Carol settled in Bozeman to enjoy their retirement.

Bob was a passionate outdoorsman, an expert alpinist who summited all of Colorado's 14ers. He was also a marathon-level runner and a downhill and cross-country skier. A gifted photographer who studied and worked with Ansel Adams in Yosemite, he and his wife



Carol visited all seven continents while he photographed the world's great natural and

cultural areas.

Bob is survived by his wife, Carol, daughters, Deb Barbee (Mike Gerard) of Jackson, Wyoming, Heidi Barbee, (Norbert Samlowski) of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and Cindra Barbee (Mark Deleray) of Kalispell; seven grandchildren, Madison and Chase Gerard, Tyler, Sam and Hannah Samlowski and Anna and Kade Deleray. He also leaves behind their beloved dog, Koko.

If you would like to honor Bob, a fund has been set up with Yellowstone Forever (formerly Yellowstone Park Foundation). At the request of the family, the Yellowstone Forever organization is in the process of establishing a special project or scholarship fund in Bob's name. Contributions can be mailed to Yellowstone Forever, Barbee Memorial Project Fund, 222 E. Main Street, Bozeman, MT 59715. Yellowstone Forever is the primary partner organization of Yellowstone National Park and a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held in May in Yellowstone National Park. The date of this event will be announced later.

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

Patrick Barrera, 89

Patrick Barrera, 89, "went to be with the Lord" on Sept. 14, 2016, at The Springs in Whitefish after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Patrick was born in Mount Clemens, Michigan, on April 15, 1927. As an infant the family moved to Texas. At age 8 his father passed and the family moved to California.

Pat served in the Navy as well as the Reserves for seven years during World War II in the Pacific. In taking back the Philippines, Gen. Douglas McArthur made the sailors from Pat's ship, the USS Okala, temporary soldiers to help take back the islands. Because of that service, the USS Okala was allowed to be at Tokyo when the Japanese signed the surrender.

After the war, he returned and married his high school sweetheart, Jo Scott. They were married over 68 wonderful years.

Pat owned several businesses during his working years. His love was for the Lord and working in the church. He served as youth group leader and deacon moderator in the Baptist church in California, and also worked with hospice for five years in California. After moving to Montana they joined the



Foursquare Church, and he became an elder and started the

food bank. He enjoyed working at church camp for several years, but his passion was feeding the hungry.

Pat was known to be a very loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. He was a man who was always willing to give a helping hand. Whether moving, painting, building, doing yard work or any other need, he was always there to help.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Nancy Kay; son, Scott; niece, Jodie Gray; and sister, Clara Barrera.

He is survived by his wife, Jo; daughter, Rochelle and Paul Secret; niece, Georgia and John Romero; twin granddaughters, Dr. Jennifer and Dr. Aras Emdadi, and Dr. Jessica and Dr. Jason Duong; nieces, Diane and Gary Turner, Brianna and Ryan Romo, Kristin and Matthew Blaker, and great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1, at The Springs in Whitefish. A reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, please give to Frontier Hospice, 406-755-4971.

Elizabeth Jane 'Libby' Barrett, 76

Elizabeth Jane "Libby" Barrett, 76, died Monday, June 27, 2016, at her residence in Polson.

Private family services

will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of the Lake Funeral Home and Crematory.

Jack Charles Barrett was born in Stillwater, Oklahoma on July 3, 1940 to parents Woodrow and Arvilla Barrett.

Within a few years the family moved to Los Angeles, California, where a second son, Jerry Barrett, was born. From an early age Jack worked summers and weekends in the family plumbing business.

In 1958, he married his high school sweetheart, Judy Carol Beatty, with whom he had two sons, Jeffrey, born in 1960, and Robert, born in 1962. The family resided in Torrance, California, and Jack worked for a variety of plumbing companies until starting his own company, Barrett Plumbing in 1968. Jack and Judy divorced in 1974, but he stayed involved with his sons and focused on growing his plumbing business.

In 1980, his work took him to the house of a long-time customer, Laura Grace Barrett, who had divorced her first husband, a man whose last name, coincidentally, was also Barrett. Jack and Laura quickly formed a close relationship, traveled extensively (Tahiti, Mexico, Italy, Spain, China), and organized family events involving some or all of their children (Laura's five children are Stephanie, Bo, Michael, Kevin, and Gabriela). In 1984, Jack and Laura were married in a beautiful home ceremony, and resided in Palos Verdes, California for a number of years.

In 1982, while driving to a reunion event in Froid, Montana, where Laura was born, they diverted to the town of Bigfork because of its reputation for supporting visual and theatrical arts. Jack fell in love with the town immediately, and in 1983, Jack and Laura purchased the first of many properties in Bigfork, and moved there from California. Over 25 years they purchased and developed a lakefront property on Woods Bay, opened and ran Bridge



Street Gallery Restaurant (1984-2000), established a property development and remodeling

business, and most recently, opened Collage Gallery of Fine Art in Bigfork Village. For much of this time Jack had a well-earned reputation for eating, drinking, and tall tales. Always friendly, and usually loud, he was well known and well-liked by the Bigfork community.

Beginning in the late '90s, Jack and Laura began taking regular trips during the winter to cities in Mexico, which ultimately led them to purchase a home in Puerto Vallarta's Gringo Gulch area. Visits by friends and their children became a regular part of their winters in Mexico.

Jack suffered a severe head injury as a result of a fall in Bigfork in 2010. Although he recovered, and gave up alcohol, the injury had a long-term impact on Jack's health. This past October he was diagnosed with advanced liver cancer. Treatment for the cancer in Kalispell further weakened Jack, who traveled to Puerto Vallarta in December to convalesce. Two weeks ago Jack fell and suffered a severe break in his left shoulder. Following major surgery to repair the break, Jack's health quickly declined despite extensive medical and at-home nursing care.

On Sunday morning, Feb. 7, 2016, in his beloved Mexico home, and surrounded by his wife, his sons, Stephanie and Barbi Barrett, and his great friends/surrogate sons Kevin Gownley, and Jose Alfredo Moran, "he went to the Lord peacefully," and without pain.

The family plans on a celebration of life memorial service later this year in Montana, once Laura returns from Mexico, and Bigfork is again filled with springtime beauty and warmth.

Richard L. 'Dick' Barron, 78

Richard L. "Dick" Barron, 78, passed away in the presence of his loving family on April 16, 2016, due to complications following surgery.

Dick was born June 14, 1937 in Spokane, Washington, to Leonard W. and Betty C. Barron. Dick grew up in Spokane and graduated from Central Valley High School.

Upon graduation he enlisted in the Naval Reserve and served 10 years. During that time, he worked as a roofing general contractor.

In 1964 Dick met and married the "apple of his eye," Nancy C. Poston. Dick and Nancy just celebrated 52 years of marriage on April 11. They had five children, which they supported with love, time and attention to their different endeavors, interests and activities. In addition, Dick was involved with many organizations, including the Kalispell Youth Softball Association, 4-H, the Lion's Club and Jaycees. He also dedicated a number of years as the local and state chairman of Duck's Unlimited. Dick worked for the state of Montana for 26 years, retiring in 1998.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents, Len



and Betty Barron; in-laws Howard and Mabel Poston;

and his daughter, Theresa Kinniburgh. Dick is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughter, Paula DeWit; sons Bruce and Cindy and Mark and Cammi Barron; daughter, Andrea and Wai Choi Barron; eleven grandchildren, Kelsey and Kayla DeWit, Rachael and Randall Barron, Ryan, Janae and Luke Barron, Patrick, Paul and Peter Kinniburgh, and Keanu Ng; and one great-grandchild. He is also survived by brothers Lonnie and Steve Barron.

Services for Dick will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with the Reverend Art Crane officiating.

A visitation will be held on Thursday one hour prior to the service.

Memorials or donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Shriners Children's Hospital, or the charity of choice.

To send a note of condolence to the family please visit www.buffalohillfh.com.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Noel Bartlett, 82

Noel Bartlett, 82, passed away at his Lakeside residence on Jan. 19, 2016.

Noel was born Feb. 28, 1933, in Pocatello, Idaho. At a young age, the family moved to Northern California where he graduated from Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley, California.

Noel then enlisted in the U.S. Naval Air Corps in January 1951. He was honorably discharged in December 1955. Noel then went on to San Francisco State University where he earned his degree.

In 1953, he married Joan Bedecarrax in Green Brae, California. They moved to Denver where Noel worked for Hallmark Cards. His association with Hallmark led him to franchising Hatch's Card and Gift Shops in Montana and Wyoming. While living in Billings, Noel was awarded "Boss of the Year" by the American Business Women's Association for his encouragement of young people to further enrich their lives.

Noel was also a member of Rotary, the Montana Retail Association, and National and State Chambers of Commerce in Billings. Living in Lakeside, Noel was president of the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce for two years; the Montana Realtors Association;



and president of the Lakeside Sewer and Water District during the planning and operations for 10 years.



Noel enjoyed snowmobiling, fishing and boating.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leslie and Edna (Bickmore) Bartlett.

He is survived by his wife, Joan, of Lakeside; children, Debbie and Tom Davis of Spokane, Kathy Bergeron-Adams of Lakeside, and Sue and Dave Thornquist of Arvada, Colorado; sister, Judith Lewis, of Kenston, North Carolina; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A private burial will be held. A celebration of Noel's life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23, at the Lakeside Community Chapel.

The family requests memorial contributions be made to Home Options Hospice or to the Lakeside Community Chapel.

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.

Geraldine 'Pat' Barten, 83

Geraldine "Pat" Barten, 83, passed away Sunday, July 17, 2016, at the Heritage Place in Kalispell.

She was born Sept. 5, 1932, in Chicago to Hugh and Eleanor McNulty.

Her early years were spent there, when she met her husband Peter Barten and married Sept. 1, 1951.

They moved to Kalispell to enjoy retirement in 2000, loving the mountains.

Pat is survived by husband, Pete; children Dawn (Michael) Redmond, Joy Barten, David (Alice) Barten and Dean (Donna) Barten;



and nine grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Sarah McNulty, and grandson Tony Redmond.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

To send a note of condolence to the family, please visit www.buffalohillfh.com.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Arleta S. Barry, 67

Arleta S. Barry, 67, of Kalispell, died at home on Jan. 2, 2016.

She is survived by four

children.

No services are planned at this time.

Charles H. 'Chuck' Barton, 89

Charles H. "Chuck" Barton, 89, passed away in his sleep on June 14. He was at home in Bigfork.

He married Marlene on Dec. 21, 1951. They were married 64 ½ years.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Marlene, son David, grandson and namesake Charlie; his sister Wana Maurer and her children Jeff and Kathy Maurer and children Michelle and Kurt Olson and children Jason Maurer and Jennie Hayes and a son. All reside in the Portland, Oregon, area. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his first son, Ralph Barton, in 1995.

Chuck was born in 1927 in Harlem, Montana. He moved to Bigfork in 1942 with his parents, Ralph L. and Katherine Barton and sister Wana. He loved it here.

As a young man he worked many jobs, including the shipyards in the Seattle-Tacoma area. He joined the Navy in June of 1945 with hopes of becoming a pilot in the air corps. The war ended and he was honorably discharged in August of 1946.

He attended college at MSU in Bozeman. Then followed pipeline construction throughout the West. After marrying Marlene they followed the pipeline for a while before moving back to Bigfork to help run the family resort/cabin camp on Flathead Lake. He and a partner bought a truck and he hauled logs for several years before going



to work for Pacific for 27 years and also held a school bus contract for 45 years as well as holding a commercial pilot's license and logging

some 3,000 hours in single engine aircraft. Flying was truly one of the loves of his life. He was instrumental in creating the Ferndale airport and was the first pilot to land there. He was a longtime member of and retiree from the Bigfork Fire Department, as well as a member of the Masons and Shriners.

In lieu of flowers etc., memorials can go to the Bigfork Quick Response Unit.

The Barton family wishes to express its thanks to all friends and acquaintances for the kind words of condolence and especially the fine people of Bigfork/Ferndale.

There will be a memorial service/celebration of life at 2 p.m. July 16 at the Swan Chapel.

Beverly Jean Bateman, 68

Beverly Jean Bateman of Great Falls passed away Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016, in Kalispell.

A memorial service with reception to follow will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, at the West Side United Methodist Church in Great Falls.

Beverly was born on July 4, 1948, in Great Falls to John and Mabel Bateman. She attended schools in Great Falls, graduating from C.M. Russell High School in 1966.

She later graduated from Great Falls Commercial College and began her career in insurance. Beverly was employed with Rocky



Mountain Insurance for many years, and later transferred to Kalispell to work for the

Insurance Exchange. Her career spanned over 50 years.

Bev enjoyed traveling, baking, canning, sewing and lunching with the girls. She also was active in the foster parenting program.

Beverly is survived by two adopted daughters, Candis and Cierra; sister, Elaine (Gene) Meier; brother, Jack Bateman; and mother, Mabel Bateman.

Mary Lena Bauer, 99

Mary Lena Bauer, 99, "went home to her heavenly father" on March 29, 2016.

Mary was born to Beatrice (Salois) Jones and Moses Jones on Dec. 7, 1916, at Summit, Montana. She was raised around the East Glacier area until the age of 11, when her family moved to the Flathead.

Mary married her husband Frank M. Bauer on Dec. 24, 1935. They were then blessed with four daughters, whom they raised west of Kalispell at their homestead.

She loved to bake pies, especially huckleberry (best in the valley), and cookies for her grandchildren. She also loved gardening, picking huckleberries, playing cards, fishing and, most of all, spending time with her family. At the age of 76, she shot her last moose.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband



Frank M. Bauer, her nine brothers, her parents, and one grandchild.

She is survived by one sister, Emma Shero, of Kalispell; her four daughters, Delores "Lorrie" LaVanway and husband Carroll LaVanway of Kalispell, Frances "Frankie" Barr of Libby, Jackie Mattingly of Marion, and June Bauer of Kila; 13 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and 32 great-great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 16, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Friends and family are welcome to meet at Mary's home located at 628 Third Avenue West in Kalispell after the service.

Donna May Bayne, 79

Donna May Bayne, 79, died May 9, 2016, in Kalispell.

No services are

planned at this time. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Lois L. Beach, 92

Lois L. Beach, 92, died Aug. 27, 2016.

She is survived by her three children, Randy Beach, Jane Beranek and

Skip Beach.

No services are planned at this time. Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

Pauline Beck, 79

Pauline Beck, 79, died Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016, at the home of her daughter.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Darlene Beddoes, 79

Darlene Beddoes, 79, of Kalispell, died at home on Aug. 1, 2016.

No services are

planned at this time. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Arthur Scott Begay, 55

Arthur Scott "Art" Begay, 55, went to be with "his Lord and Savior" Christmas Eve, 2016, surrounded by his loving family.

Art was born in Rapid City, South Dakota, on April 17, 1961. He spent his early years in Rapid City and went to Central Indian Bible College where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Practical Theology.

There he also met the love of his life Raelene Gladeau. Art and Raelene had three beautiful children, Jolene Begay-McDonald, Jocelyn Begay-Holm and Josiah Begay. Later in life they adopted Tawny Begay and William Begay. Six years ago Art became the father of Skyden Begay. He was so proud of Skyden and wanted life's best for his young son.

For many years Art headed up an evangelistic ministry called "Warriors for Christ" and traveled wide ministering to Native venues as well as for Aglow ministries. He was an amazing preacher of God's word as well as a musician and Native Dancer. Jesus opened doors for Art to bring the gospel world wide.

In the late 1990s, Art worked with then-Mayor Gary Hall of Columbia Falls to put on a large Unity Conference in Kalispell bringing together local politicians and Blackfeet tribal leaders and Salish Kootenai leaders. Gifts were exchanged and forgiveness asked for past sins. It was a wonderful experience for all who attended and was followed the next day by the largest pow wow ever held in Kalispell at Flathead High School, led by Art. People still talk about that event.



Art had a huge heart for native people and ministered Jesus to thousands during his

years of ministry. 100 Huntly Street, Trinity Broadcasting Network, and Promise Keepers Million Man March in Washington, D.C. were a few of the platforms he was honored to use as he ministered.

Art fought his war with alcoholism and PTSD for many years. In 2015 he began the journey of renewed sobriety and inner healing. He had a wonderful support team through local churches, counseling and life-long friends.

During his last months on earth and the time spent in the hospital, Art marveled at how happy and fulfilled he was that his children and grandchildren were in his life again and his relationship with Jesus was so good. His grandchildren will miss their "best buddy" and always silly, true friend.

The family had a good laugh at the fact that Art made some grand entrances during his life and how appropriate it was that he left this life on Christmas Eve. The family knows a party was had in heaven as he was "welcomed home in his Father's arms."

A celebration of life will be held at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, at Hope Church, 436 Birch Grove Road, in Kalispell. Come prepared to add your favorite picture and or story to the family's memory book this Friday.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the "Begay Family," Box 567, Columbia Falls, 59912.

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 fam-

William "Bill" Joseph Beirne, Jr.

William "Bill" Joseph Beirne, Jr., 73, of Whitefish passed away Nov. 17, 2016.

Bill was born in Houston on Dec. 13, 1942 to William and Winifred Beirne.

A funeral mass was held Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016 at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Whitefish. Burial will take place at C.E. Conrad

Cemetery.

The family requests donations be made to the Northwest Montana Humane Society and to the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department. Friends are encouraged to visit our website at www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

William 'Bill' J. Beirne Jr., 73

William "Bill" J. Beirne Jr., son of William J. Beirne and Winifred Westhoff Beirne, died in Whitefish at age 73, following a long struggle with dementia.

A native Houstonian, Bill's discipline and perseverance led him to early honors including achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. He was a proud graduate of St. Thomas High School, where he became a National Merit finalist, and of Rice University, where he completed a five-year degree in chemical engineering.

Upon graduation, Bill joined Humble Oil (later Exxon and ExxonMobil) where he had a 40-year career in both domestic and international upstream operations. In the course of some dozen relocations to spots in and around the U.S. and the world, Bill had several interesting, and sometimes nerve wracking experiences, including working with a grandson of the King of Thailand, being kidnapped in Yemen, and surviving an emergency landing after a catastrophic equipment failure in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Bill was a loyal and tireless leader who, with his strength, calm demeanor and willingness to listen, earned the respect of his employees and peers across the globe.

Bill, a gentle man, was a lover of life. He enjoyed traveling across the seven continents, was an avid reader, and appreciated history, art and fine



wine. He was a loyal Houston Astros fan no matter the success of any given season.

But more

than travel or sports, Bill loved and appreciated his family, his many culturally diverse friends, his several four-legged companions, and the time he shared with all of them. His kindness and his wonderful, sly wit will be missed by many.

Bill is survived by his beloved wife of 27 years, Marina Bringhurst Beirne. He is also survived by daughters, Kathleen Beirne Guckenberger and Dianne Beirne Rose; sons, Michael Patrick Beirne and Todd H. Wright; five grandchildren; sister, Judy Glueck; and brothers, Jim Beirne and John Beirne.

A celebration of Bill's life will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 1 at the Whitefish Lake Golf Club.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to Humane Society of Northwest Montana, 100 Adopt a Pet Way, U.S. Hwy. 93, Kalispell, MT 59901; or Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department, 2236 U.S. 2, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Marina would like to thank Dr. Elizabeth White, Dr. Kurt Lindsay, Dr. Courtney Austin and Pat Zinke and her wonderful staff at Hidden Meadow Memory Care.

Kim C. Beitzl, 61

Kim C. Beitzl, 61, died on Friday, Oct. 21, 2016, at the Lake View Care Center in Bigfork.

No services will be

held at this time.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Catherine Agnes Carter Bell, 86

Catherine Agnes Carter Bell "joined her husband" of 60 years after a peaceful passing on May 18, 2016.

Cathie ("Katie" to all her friends at the dialysis center) was born on Nov. 30, 1929, in Casper, Wyoming, to Wilbur and Helen Stapleton Carter. She was a spirited young woman who loved wide open spaces, riding horses, shooting guns and sagebrush. She spent summers at the Taylor Ranch in Wyoming and loved her time there!

After graduating from Natrona County High School in Casper, she attended Casper College and went on to earn her bachelor's degree in theater and education at Denver University. She taught and lived in southern California for a time before returning to Casper.

It was in Casper that she met Jim at a picnic for the Antonias, a Catholic group for young adults. July 16, 1955, they married in Casper and moved to Whitefish, where Jim was born and raised. She was the choir director at St. Charles in Whitefish, and so began her long history of community service.

Jim and Cathie started their family in Whitefish, with Helen in 1958 and Patty in 1960. In September of 1965 they



moved to Kalispell, closer to Jim's employment and so Helen could attend St. Matthew's

Catholic grade school. The day after the family moved in, Sean joined the family and Jennifer followed in 1970. Other family members throughout the years varied, from cats to flying squirrels, chickens to mutts, even a ferret! Cathie loved animals.

Throughout the years she gave her time and talent not only to her family but extensively to the community. In the '70s she delivered Meals on Wheels and later served with Neighbors in Need. She was the head of Kalispell's chapter of the March of Dimes. She was a member of the Daughters of Isabella, the Council of Catholic Women, substitute taught at St. Matthew's School, was a Big Sister and served on the board of the Big Brothers and Sisters organization. In her spare time she worked for American Automobile Association, Valley Bank as a receptionist, and after years of volunteer involvement with Community Concert, Cathie was hired to increase membership and help bring world culture

to small towns across the Northwest. She was recognized many times over the years for her leadership and involvement in the organizations she cared so much about. Compassion and service to others was truly a labor of love for her.

Cathie was a wonderful, fun mom with a great sense of humor. Something heard often was ... "I guess we'll do Plan B." She was a great example of service, of hard work, trying new things and getting off the beaten path. She loved travel, and while she never made it off the continent, she saw much of the U.S. If she was driving, there were few, if any, points of interest that were passed by. She loved history, especially Native American history. She loved music, had a wonderful singing voice

and gave her children an appreciation for the arts.

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

The family will be holding a funeral Mass for Jim and Cathie at 3 p.m. July 8 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church.

Contributions can be made in her name to March of Dimes, Big Brothers and Sisters, St. Matthew's School or Feeding the Flathead.

To send a note of condolence to the family, please visit www.buffalo-hillfh.com.

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

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Jim Bell and Cathie Bell

Services for Jim Bell, 91, who died Nov. 8, and Cathie Bell, 86, who died May 18, will be held this week.

A rosary will be said at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 7, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church. A funer-

al Mass will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, July 8, at St. Matthew's. A graveside service will immediately follow Mass.

A reception will be held afterward at the Hilton Garden Inn in Kalispell.



Join us for a Celebration of Life for Jim & Cathie Bell

Rosary -
Thursday, July 7th - 7pm
Saint Matthews Catholic Church

Funeral Mass -
Friday, July 8th - 3pm
Saint Matthews Catholic Church

Reception to follow immediately
at Hilton Garden Inn. 4-8pm

Natasha 'Tasha' Victoria Belston, 9

On March 24, 2016, "we lost our warrior Natasha Victoria Belston as she left her cocoon and became a beautiful butterfly."

Born Christmas Day, 2006, Tasha suffered from Cockayne Syndrome, a genetic disorder that affected the neurological system. As she was the only child in Montana with CS, it was obvious that it was extremely rare.

With her life expectancy being only 4 to 7 years, she long outlived those expectations, as she lived 9 years 2 months and 28 days. She was a warrior.

She was truly a "Christmas miracle" who became an inspiration to thousands, young and old. Her spirit lives on in the countless family, friends and acquaintances for whom she changed their lives forever. The fight she endured was long and constant, yet she battled until the end. You would be hard pressed to find a stronger will and passion for life than in this little girl.

She loved balloons and



anything that had to do with the outdoors, even though she was allergic to the sun.

Tasha is survived by her parents, Reuben and Jennifer Belston; sister, Kaila Belston; maternal grandparents, Antony and Janice Sibert, and Glen and Vana Larcom; paternal grandparents, William and Diana Belston; Christopher and Kate Larcom and two children; Tyler and Nicole Belston and three children. There is a bank account open for the Belston family at Park Side Federal Union.

There will be a celebration of her life at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 17, at the fairgrounds Expo building; potluck of salads and desserts would be great as the main course will be provided. Please wear bright colored clothing as that was always a way to make Tasha smile!

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Tasha's family.

Ronald Gene Belt, 78

Ronald Belt, 78, of Mesquite, Nevada, passed away March 1, 2016.

Ronald was born March 10, 1937, in Denmark, Ohio, to Pete and Golda Casto Belt.

Ronald graduated from Mount Gilead High School in 1955 and then served in the Marine Corps for two years. He then returned to Ohio and married Connie Price on Sept. 1, 1961. They resided in Ohio where he was a fuel distributor and a farmer.

Ronald and Connie retired in 1999 and moved to Bigfork. It didn't matter where Ron was, as he didn't know a stranger and became friends with everyone. He was an avid hunter and fisherman throughout the U.S. and Canada. He liked to golf, shoot clay birds and spend time with his family, friends and his dogs.

Ronald is survived by his wife, Connie, of 54 years; his son Kipp Belt and Denise, granddaughters, Darcy and Kristen,



and great-granddaughters, Avery, Reese, Peyton and Rion, all of Montana; and sister, Marlene Rengert, of Texas.



Ronald was preceded in death by his parents, Pete and Golda Belt; brother, Jake Belt; mother-in-law, Lenah Price; and grandson, Dustin Drown.

The family would like to thank Mesa View Hospice of Mesquite for the love and care they gave to Ronald.

The family requests in lieu of flowers that donations be made in memory of Ronald Belt to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

The family invites you to leave a message or memory in their Guest Book at www.virginvalley-mortuary.com

Virgil E. Bench, 63

Virgil E. Bench was born Nov. 6, 1952, and passed away Jan. 11, 2016.

This past year marked an end of an era. What a coincidence that the most prominent building in town has fallen at the same time as our father. What better way to leave this world as the chief building official than to take the very building in which he spent so much time. For the past 30 years, Virgil was a resident of Whitefish and for the last 25, he was the chief building official of both Whitefish and Columbia Falls.

Virgil's dedication and loyalty to the community never faltered and in turn during his time of need, the community came together and made the impossible ... possible. The selfless sac-



rifices and generosity allowing our father to see his dream home before his death can never

be repaid. Cancer has taken his body but he is not gone.

He will be survived by his amazing, supportive and loving wife Rosalie; five children, Samantha, Logan, Cody, Justin and Megan; and nine grandchildren, Jasper, Alexandra, Maverick, Wesley, Sawyer, Ella, Hunter, Colter and Carson.

The family will be gathered from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, at the Kila School gym to openly share stories, laugh and cry.

Ronald Earl 'Ron' Benesh, 80

Ronald Earl "Ron" Benesh passed away unexpectedly on July 6, 2016, at his home in Kalispell.

Ronald was born in Billings Dec. 27, 1935. He graduated from Billings Senior High School and Montana State University.

He retired from Boeing in Seattle as an aerospace industrial engineer. Ron worked on several Boeing aerospace and military projects, including the Minuteman project in Montana and on defense projects including the AWACS aircraft. Ronald served eight years in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve.

He is survived by his sister, Muriel Mitchell,



of Billings; brother, Glenn Benesh, of Kalispell; and sister-in-law, Linda Benesh, of Pitman, New



Jersey; several nieces and neph-

ews; and his friend Maria.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Edmund and Margaret Benesh; brother, Dale Benesh; and Ron's wife, Maretta J. Benesh.

Cremation has taken place. Services will be held by the family at a later date.

Judith Ann Darling Benson, 65

Judith Ann Darling Benson, 65, of Whitefish, died peacefully in her home March 18, 2016.

Judy was born June 12, 1950, in Kalispell to Marvin "Pete" and Irene Darling. She attended all of her school years in Columbia Falls, graduating in 1968.

Judy went to college at St. Vincent Nursing School in Billings. Judy started her nursing career working for Dr. Bennett in Columbia Falls. She later moved to Billings, working for St. John's Lutheran Home for 27 years.

Judy married Steve Benson Sept. 18, 1987. They returned to Columbia Falls in 1999.

Judy is survived by her husband, Steve; her

brother, Chuck, and wife, Maryleigh, of Columbia Falls; her niece, Kara, and Bill, of Columbia Falls; nephew, Charlie, and Eve, of Bigfork; nephew, Evan, of Whitefish; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. She also leaves behind her beloved animals, Gus, Sam, Mack, Q, BJ, Goldie and Peewee.

Judy was preceded into death by her parents, Irene and Pete Darling.

A small graveside service will be held at 12:30 p.m. March 26 at Woodlawn Cemetery, with a celebration of life to follow from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Back Room of the Nite Owl Cafe.

In lieu of flowers, make donations to the Montana Hope Project.

Kimberly Beranek, 63

Kimberly Beranek, 63, died Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

She is survived by her husband Jim and children Jeff, John, Jenny and Jake.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, at Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish, Montana. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Timothy Berg, 70

Timothy Berg, 70, died Nov. 14, 2016, at his home in Kalispell.

Per his wishes, there

will be no services.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Joyce Bergen, 70

Joyce Bergen, 70, died May 27, 2016, in Bigfork. No services will be

held. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Robert 'Bob' Berquist, 52

Robert "Bob" Berquist, 52, died Thursday, July 14, 2016, in Kalispell. No services are

planned at this time.

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

Michael Charles Best, 76

Michael Charles Best, 76, formerly of Kalispell, died Friday, April 15, 2016, at his home in Nampa, Idaho.

Services are pending at

Zeyer Funeral Chapel in Nampa.

To leave condolences or for more information, please visit zeyerfuneral-chapel.com.

Nancy Dougherty Best, 85

Nancy Louise Dougherty was born in Groffdale, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on May 18, 1931, as the first child of Frank and Kathryn Ebersol Dougherty. Frank had an automotive repair shop in Lancaster. He later switched to industrial engineering design and obtained a few patents. He had grown up in Seattle and Alaska. Kathryn was a seamstress who sewed some of the historical costumes for the Lancaster mansion of James Buchanan, the last president before Lincoln. Kathryn had old roots in Lancaster County, with Nancy's great-grandmother having heard the cannons of Gettysburg from many miles away. Nancy had a younger brother, Terry, who was an Air Force pilot and served in Vietnam.

Nancy graduated from McCasky High School in Lancaster, Pa. in 1949. She then attended Oberlin College in Ohio, where she was in the Top Ten of the Freshman Class. The strong liberal arts environment at Oberlin deeply impressed her. The following summer she worked at a resort lodge in Maine, where she met Thomas Best, a student at the Episcopal Seminary in Philadelphia. They married and she transferred to Drexel, graduating summa cum laude with Bachelor of Arts in Home Economics and English degrees, and was a member of Phi Kappa Phi. Later in life, she earned a Master of Arts in Spanish degree from Millersville State College, Lancaster County, and a Ph.D. in Language Instruction degree from Pennsylvania State University.

Thomas was made the priest of the Episcopal Church in Gordon, Nebraska, and in 1958 became the priest of the newly built Episcopal Church in Kalispell. Her children Randolph and Kathryn were born in Nebraska, and John and James in Kalispell. In



the 1970s, Thomas left the Episcopal Church and they became divorced.

In Kalispell, Nancy taught English at the new junior high, took, over Mr. Hamilton's Spanish class at Flathead High School after he died, and taught Spanish at Flathead Valley Community College. Outside of Kalispell, she was professor of education at Central Connecticut State College and at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma; professor of English at Hannam University in South Korea; and taught second grade at a Christian school in Seattle.

She went on many evangelical trips to such places as Israel, Turkey, East Germany, Russia, China, India, Panama, Chile and South Africa. Regarding nature as a manifestation of God's greatness and goodness, she tried to picnic and hike every weekend in Glacier Park from late March to early November.

The last decade of her life, she worked at the Salvation Army Thrift Store in Kalispell. She looked forward to going to work and considered several of her co-workers as family.

Nancy belonged to Canvas Church and frequented Fresh Life Church. She was also an enthusiastic devotee of Bible Study Fellowship.

In November 2016 she discovered she had cancer. On Dec. 17 she flew to Dothan, Alabama, to stay at the home of her granddaughter Andrea Bergman. She died there Dec. 23, 2016.

She is survived by her brother, and all her children and grandchildren.

Suggested memorials would be to Wycliffe Bible Translators or Youth With A Mission.

Molly Belle (Iotte) Betson, 86

Molly Betson, "one of God's gentlest, kindest, most loving of living angels on earth has been called home to be with her Lord and Savior" on Feb. 8, 2016, in Kalispell.

As painful as it is to be without her, we take some solace in realizing that the relentless and inexorable fog of dementia (and its accompanying frustrations) has burned away in the light of a new morning's brilliant warmth. And the creeping tendrils of pain from the sarcoma that ultimately claimed her, no longer seek her out to torture her.

Molly was born Feb. 7, 1930, in Aberdeen, Washington, and was raised in Aberdeen and Forks, Washington. She attended grade school and graduated from high school in Forks.

In 1948, she married Don G. Betson in Forks. They were married 45 years, until his passing in 1993.

Molly spent many years working at the Evergreen Middle School, first in the kitchen as one of the "lunch ladies," and later as secretary in the main office.

Mom loved people and was accepted and held close by those same people nearly everywhere she went. Her church wrought special connections but none more so than her friendship with Betty Fountain who sort of "adopted" her after our father passed away. Thank you Betty for your love and care!



Larry Iotte; and son-in-law, Ray Miller.

Molly is survived by her son, Jim Betson, of Kalispell; and daughter, Randi Miller, of Kalispell; grandchildren, Tami Engler and husband Scot of Montgomery, Illinois, Carla Williams and husband Craig of Kalispell, and Cori Soucie and husband Trevor of Bozeman; great-grandchildren, Dylan, McKenna and Hadley Engler, Cole and Caylie Williams, Conner Thompson, and Gauge and Vivian Soucie; her brothers and sisters, Dave Iotte and wife DeeDee of Forks, and Betty Schenfeld and husband Fred of Eugene, Oregon; and many nieces, nephews, greatnieces and greatnephews.

Two years after our father passed away, Mom's favorite flower — the small, sweet wild violet — started appearing in the grass of her yard. They had not grown anywhere near there for the previous 30-plus years and she was convinced (and remained so for the rest of her life) that they were a gift of love from our deceased father. They have continued to thrive and reappear each early spring to scent the air of warm days with a perfume unmatched. If she was correct and the violets were a gift from Dad, it would not surprise us to see those perfect little purple flowers slow their march across the lawn and, in a few years, disappear completely. It would only be right!

There was also her square dance family with whom she spent many happy hours. Even after her ability to dance started to fail her, she still enjoyed going to the dances and to the camp outs the club would have. She never missed an event because she had two very special friends — Karen Lee and Roger Jones made sure their love and concern for Mom was never in doubt. They took her to every camp out, encouraged her to attend every dance, and were her angels in so many ways! Thank you both so much!

Molly also dearly loved her grandkids and great-grandkids, and her flowers.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Don G. Betson; parents, Lloyd and Cora Iotte; brothers, Jack Iotte and

Take a much deserved rest, Mom. Dance with Dad through fields of violets and know that we all love you and will miss you the rest of our days.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 12, at the Kalispell Church of the Nazarene, 1295 Whitefish Stage.

Mom's entire life was devoted to children — hers as well as others. So, for memorials, anything for children would be great; but most especially Shriners Hospitals for Children, for all the fine work they do!

Lorna M. Bibey, 61

Lorna M. Bibey, 61, died Thursday, March 24, 2016, at her home in Columbia Falls.

She is survived by her son, Carl Horn.

A funeral service will

be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 30, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell. A burial will immediately follow at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Donald Lee Bilbro, 60

Donald Lee Bilbro, 60, passed away April 2, 2016, in Moab, Utah, of congestive heart failure. He was born in Conrad to Walter D. and Bertha M. "Micki" (VandenBos) Bilbro on March 19, 1956, the first of five children. He graduated from Valier High School in 1974, married Debra Arnst and joined the Army. Their son David was born in 1975.

Don roughnecked in the oil fields for several years and also worked at carpentry and farming. He got into the bar business when he managed and then bought the Lucky Dollar Casino in Sweetgrass, and continued on with cooking and bartending after that.

The last few years Don enjoyed traveling around the country with his dog Marley, following the warm weather and seeing new places. He loved meeting new people, telling stories, and spending the summers in the Flathead Valley.

Don was preceded in death by his sister



Kathryn and her grandson Logan Arnst.

He is survived by his parents; his son David Bilbro Arnst and wife Teri, grand-



daughter Alex Arnst and Chris LaFrance and great-granddaughter Madilyne, all of Kalispell; sisters Barbara DeMangelaere, of Great Falls, Debra Johnson, of Arvada, Colorado, and Bonnie Buls and Dan McDowell, of Kalispell; and nine nieces and nephews. He leaves behind his dog Marley.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Walter Dee Bilbro, 83

Walter Dee Bilbro, 83, passed away at his home in Kalispell surrounded by his loved ones on July 3, 2016, after a brief battle with cancer.

He was born in Dupuyer on Dec. 4, 1932, to Everett and Orpha (Moore) Bilbro. He graduated from Valier High School in 1951 and quickly joined the Navy, proudly serving his country as a Seabee until 1955.

He married Bertha "Micki" VandenBos on Sept. 13, 1953. Walt's greatest loves were his wife, family and country.

Walt was a man of many talents. He had several different occupations, including farming, construction and heavy equipment operation before he went to work for the U.S. Postal Service in 1969. He retired as the Valier Postmaster in 1992.

Although he was retired, Walt stayed busy with various carpentry projects for friends and family, building their retirement home in Essex, as well as driving school bus, hauling firefighters and doing census work.

Walt enjoyed spending time with friends and family, wintering in Arizona and traveling to many national parks and fulfilling his lifelong dream of visiting Alaska. Besides his work ethic,



Walt was known for his sense of humor. He had a personality that filled the room and made everyone around him smile. Even in his last days



he brought smiles to the nurses and aides that cared for him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his stepmother Zelda, daughter Kathryn, son Don, two brothers and two sisters.

He is survived by his wife, Micki, of 62 years; brother John Bilbro, sister Lou Wall; daughters Bonnie Buls and her husband Dan McDowell, Barbara DeMangelaere and Debra Johnson; ten grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on July 23 at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home in Kalispell. There will also be a celebration of life held in Dupuyer on Sept. 3.

To send a note of condolence to the family, please visit www.buffalo-hillfh.com.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Robert 'Bob' Billings, 65

Robert "Bob" Billings, 65, died Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016, at his residence in Ronan.

Memorial services are

pending.

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

Lawrence Wayne Birky, 76

Lawrence Wayne Birky, 76, passed away on Thursday, Aug. 4, 2016, surrounded by his loving family at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He was born in Kalispell on Oct. 4, 1939, to Elmer Lee and Anna Mae Birky. He attended Cayuse Prairie School from first to eighth grade, Flathead High School for his freshman and sophomore years, Columbia Falls High School for his junior year, and Hesston College in Kansas for his senior year. He moved back to the Flathead Valley, where he made a living as a logger from 1958 until his retirement in 2007.

He enjoyed retirement, travelling in his motor home between Montana, Arizona and California. His hobbies and interests included hunting, fishing, cutting firewood, trapshooting and enjoying conversation over a meal with his family and friends.

He is preceded in death

by his father, Elmer; mother, Anna; older brother, Lyle; and wife of thirty-one years Kristina Sands.

He is survived by his wife of twenty-one years, Carol, son, Randy and wife Gaylene, grandson, Levi, and granddaughter, Paige, all of Kalispell; his stepson Greg Ahart and wife Mary of Sacramento, California; younger brothers, Dale and wife Betty, and Allen and wife Phyllis, of Prescott, Arizona; and many very special nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 9, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell, followed by graveside service at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell. A reception will be held immediately following at the Kalispell Elks Lodge at 1820 Highway 93 S.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Annie Marie Norheim Bishop, 90

Annie Marie Norheim Bishop, 90, passed away Friday, April 15, 2016, at the family home in Evergreen. Through her many roles from daughter to great-grandmother, Annie steadfastly practiced her core beliefs of unconditional love and acceptance and social justice through her constant loving presence and endless good humor.

Born in Harlem in 1925, Annie married Douglas Bishop in 1948. Together they raised seven children. In addition to being an irreplaceable mother, she also served as the Evergreen correspondent for the Daily Inter Lake, started a Cub Scout troop, taught swim lessons and Head Start children, served as Civil Defense coordinator during the height of the Cold War, marched for Native and women's rights and against the Vietnam War, milked a cow, raised a garden, fixed every cut with butterfly bandaids, was mother to the neighborhood kids and welcomed everyone. She also encouraged her children try everything: read, study music, math and the sciences, explore the world, march in the parade, participate in athletics, join 4-H, and dance.



"Mom" never let you leave her home without giving you something: ham, cream soda, bacon

pancakes ... or some gesture letting you know she loves you.

"Mom" was able to stay in her home because of the love and dedication of her daughter, Lorene. For that we will be forever thankful.

She was preceded in death by Doug in 1983 and her son Marty in 1988. She is survived by her sons, Ken Bishop of Fairbanks, Alaska; Ross and Rene Bishop and Jerry Bishop, of Kalispell; daughters Sheila and John Stillian of Spokane, Washington, Lorene Bishop and Tana and Bruce Corpron of Kalispell and many delightful grandchildren and great-grandchildren

—Because food and good company were the way Mom showed her love, we would like you to make donations to the food bank in lieu of flowers.

Everyone's invited to celebrate Annie's life at a summer BBQ (date to be determined) at the family home.

Robert E. Bixler, 91

Robert E. Bixler, 91, died April 18, 2016, at the Montana Veterans Home.

He is survived by his wife, Andrea "Lily" Turrentine-Bixler, of Eureka, and his son, Ricardo Bixler, of Maine.

No services are planned at this time.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

Betty Anne Bitney, 88

Betty Anne Bitney, 88, died Sept. 28, 2016, surrounded by her family in Kalispell.

She was born to Carl and Tina Smith Widdowson on May 7, 1928, and raised on the family farm. Betty attended Egan Grade School, a one-room schoolhouse, and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1946.

She married Duane Bitney, her high school sweetheart and best pal, in 1948. Betty and Duane were married 67 years, and together they raised five children, were successful in business, contributed much to their community, and were very active in the church.

Betty loved her family, loved to laugh, was creative, hardworking, and meticulously detailed in everything she did. She was devoted to her children, and her husband, and worked many long hours selflessly attending to the needs of her business household. She was an excellent cook, an expert seamstress and also enjoyed crocheting and knitting.

Betty worked at several businesses as a bookkeeper over the years, including Bitney's Furniture, which she and Duane owned. She was also involved in many youth activities, including Cub Scouts, Brownies, 4-H, Bible School, and Teen Town. She and Duane hosted the Kalispell Music Club in their home for many years. Betty was dedicated to her church, was involved in Church Circle, P.E.O. Chapter C, Bible Study Fellowship, and coordinated many family reunions at the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Betty was an excellent teacher who taught many of her kids and grandkids her homemaking and business skills.

The furniture and Boise Cascade Home businesses allowed Betty and Duane to travel extensively, and they took



many trips to various destinations around the world, often accompanied by their children,

friends and other relatives. Betty loved to play cards with friends, family and Duane, and was an accomplished bridge player. She enjoyed gardening, reading and poetry, of which she wrote many original poems. Betty's favorite place was the family lake home on Flathead Lake where she enjoyed many seasons with family and friends, watching her children growing up playing at the lake, then her grandchildren and finally her great-grandchildren. Everyone was welcomed at the lake. Betty was a generous host and always the first person to invite them into her home. Betty always made everyone feel welcome.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband Duane, sister Ruth, son Sid and grandson Joel.

She is survived by her children Rod, Cindy, Sandy, her husband Larry, Bye and wife Kay, whose families include 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Also surviving Betty are her sisters, Carlene Peters and Marie Peters, sister-in-law Joanna Bitney, and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 4, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, with a luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Donations in Betty's memory may be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 603 S. Main St., Kalispell, MT 59901; Kidsports, P.O. Box 1205, Kalispell, MT 59903; or the Flathead County Animal Shelter, 225 Cemetery Road, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Herbert Blakeman, 88

Herbert Blakeman, 88, of Hot Springs, died Dec. 31, 2016.

Herbert was born Oct. 11, 1928, in Moorcroft, Wyoming, to Walden and Isadora Blakeman.

Herb is survived by his son Brad Blakeman, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He was one of the last real chuck-wagon cowboys. He would tell stories of riding the range and sleeping under the stars.

He married the love of his life Wanda Finley

(1935-2015) on Oct. 16, 1951, from that moment on the two were inseparable. Whether it was driving truck, running one of Canada's largest cattle companies, logging, drilling oil, or their last endeavor, owning and running their own restaurant, The Running Iron in Hot Springs, for 20 years you would always find them together.

Services will be at 1 p.m. on Jan. 4, at the Apostolic Lutheran Church 215 Blacktail Rd. Lakeside.

Lawrence Jay 'Larry' Blekken, 59

After a short bout with cancer, Larry Jay Blekken passed away on Feb. 22, 2016, while at St. Pat's Hospital in Missoula.

Larry was born on July 21, 1956, in Charlevoix, Michigan, to Larry and Jenny Blekken, formerly of Seeley Lake.

He was raised in Alamogordo, New Mexico. After school he moved to Montana and lived the last 20-plus years in Marion.

Larry did small engine repair in the greater Marion/Kalispell area, including snowmobiles, boats, etc. He loved to



fish, hunt and watch car racing.

Larry is survived by his father, Lawrence J.

Blekken, of Marion; brothers, James "Jim" Blekken of Kalispell, and Scott Blekken and Denise of Missoula; and sisters, Melody (Blekken) Hart and Andy of Sacramento, California, and Kelly (Blekken) Lawhead and Don of Missoula; also seven nephews, one niece, four great-nephews and one great-niece.

Robert Alan Blickenstaff, 75

Robert Alan Blickenstaff died peacefully surrounded by his family on Dec. 31, 2016, in Barrington, Illinois.

Born in Virginia on March 29, 1941, he was a man of great integrity who always persevered to achieve the best in all that he did.

After graduation from The Hill School in Pennsylvania, he attended Princeton University where he received a degree in 1963 in chemical engineering and a commission in the U.S. Army as a 2nd lieutenant.

He continued his education earning a master's degree in chemical engineering from Northwestern University. Following graduation, he served one year in Vietnam, for which he was awarded the Bronze Star.

He joined the DuPont Company, where he worked for over 30 years in various positions, from research engineer in the Textile Fibers Department to general manager of DuPont Philippines to president of the joint venture DuPont Lanxide Composites. When he retired, he formed a consulting business that focused on leading organizations through challenges such as mergers and building projects.

Throughout his life, he was actively involved in his community. He served on the Parents Committee of the Tower Hill School in Wilmington, Delaware, (which his children attended) and on the Princeton Alumni Schools Committee, which interviews candidates for admission to the university. More recently, he applied his strategic planning skills to help



the Glacier Symphony and Chorale achieve its fundraising goals for its Silver Season Campaign. He also served on the board

of Kalispell Regional Hospital and on the Building Committee for the new City Hall in Whitefish.

Building and design were his avocations, and during his life he designed three homes for his family, including his dream home in the mountains of Montana where he and his wife retired. He loved hosting friends from across the country and sharing his love of nature with his grandchildren during "Gramp Camp" adventures.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Rebecca; his daughter, Leslie Blickenstaff, of Brookline, Massachusetts; his son, David Blickenstaff, daughter-in-law Jenny, grandson Henry, and granddaughter Kelsey, of Evanston, Illinois; and his sister, Joan Goldsmith, of Modesto, California.

The family suggests that contributions in his name be made to the Glacier Symphony and Chorale, P.O. Box 2491, Kalispell, MT 59903 (<http://www.gscmusic.org/donations-and-sustaining-support/>); or the Glacier National Park Conservancy, P.O. Box 2749, Columbia Falls, MT 59912 (<https://glacier.org/donate/>).

A celebration of his life will be held in Barrington, Illinois, in the spring.

Betty V. Snell Bjornrud, 93

Betty V. Snell Bjornrud, 93, passed away on May 18, 2016, at her home in Kalispell.

Betty was born Sept. 9, 1922, in Great Falls to Wilbur M. and Vivian (Edmister) Cavitt. She attended summer grade school at Grandview, south of the Sweet Grass Hills. She graduated from Galata High School in 1939.

She married James H. Snell in 1940, and they farmed in Devon, Montana, until moving to a farm in the Lake Blaine area. They had six children, James M. and wife Kim, Sue Donaldson, and Donna Gilbertson and husband Ted, who were all born in Shelby; Robert, John and wife Sharon, and Lois Hook, who were all born in Kalispell. Her children attended the Cayuse Prairie School, which sat in the corner of their farm. She was active in the PTA and spent many hours with other neighborhood mothers keeping the school clean and nice for the teachers and students. When ball games were played against other schools, she would load all the kids from Cayuse up in the back of a grain truck and head to either Mountain Brook, Lake Blaine or Creston schools, wherever the next game was being played.

Betty was a farm wife for 35 years, but worked at the Farmers Union

Exchange, and Cenex when her children were grown. She retired in 1986. She was married a second time to Victor Bjornrud, who passed away in 1999.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother Bill Cavitt, granddaughter Tiffany Snell, and sons-in-law Dr. Edwin Donaldson and Daryl Hook.

She is survived by her six children; sisters, Mildred Dobeas of Great Falls and Lucille Russell of Conrad, and sister-in-law Darlene Cavitt of Big Sandy; plus stepdaughter Kari and husband Bill Lincoln of Lakeside, Rita Webb of Columbia Falls, Gayle and husband Dr. Fred Stout of Missoula, and Shirley Chirgwen and husband John. She has 15 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

There will be a visitation from 3 to 7 p.m. today, May 22, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. A celebration of life service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, May 23, at Calvary Lutheran Church with a luncheon to follow. 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.

Gorden L. Blomquist, 74

Gorden L. Blomquist, 74, died Friday, Feb. 5, 2016, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

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

Steve Blouin, 54

Steve Blouin, 54, passed away Wednesday, March 30th, 2016.

Steve was born in New York City on May 29, 1961. He grew up in Rockland County, New York. He graduated from New York University Stern School of Business in 1983 and went on to work for Millennium Corporate Real Estate Company in New York City for several years before branching out and opening his own business in New Jersey.

In 1987, he married his wife, Margaret O'Rouke, and together they were blessed with five children while living in Rumson, New Jersey, before moving to Montana in 2010.

Steve loved God, his family and his dogs, in that order. He was a faithful consecrated member of the Holy Family Institute, a member of the Knights of Columbus and a parishioner at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Whitefish. His greatest joys were his family



and receiving Holy Communion.

Steve is predeceased by his father, Nelson Blouin.

Steve is survived by his wife Margaret; daughter Jessica Janise and son-in-law Ryan Janise, sons Sean Patrick, John and Daniel Blouin; grandsons Michael and Aaron Janise; his mother Mary Blouin; and his siblings Kirk, Brian and Debra.

There will be a vigil prayer service at 6 p.m. on Monday April 4, at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Whitefish. A funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 5, at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Whitefish.

Burial will follow at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

Austin Funeral home is caring for the Blouin family.

Harold E. Blumer, 80

Harold E. Blumer, 80, of Kalispell, passed away Sept. 14, 2016, at Well-Life Assisted Living in Kalispell.

Harold was born Nov. 20, 1935, in Wolf Point to John J. Blumer and Francis J. (Starr) Blumer. He had six brothers – Jonathon, Ben, Clayton, Eldon, Larry and Richard – and a sister, Blanche.

He married Claudia Sands on June 30, 1956, and they made their home on Scenic Drive in Kalispell. He was in the National Guard, served as a volunteer fireman in Evergreen, and was a mechanic for Flathead County. After retirement,



he helped Neighbors in Need, Veterans Pantry, belonged to

the Good Sam Club, and loved gardening.

Harold had coffee with many friends and family on a regular basis. If you needed help, just call Harold, and he would be right there!

He is survived by two brothers, Larry and Eldon, and his sister, Blanche (Blumer) Garrett.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 21, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Evergreen.

Tammey Jo (Stremel) Blinco , 56

Tammey Jo (Stremel) Blinco , 56, of Kalispell, passed away at home on August 16, 2016 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Tammey was born March 14, 1960 in Liberal, Kansas where she grew up and graduated from Liberal High School in 1979.

She was the secretary for Oh's Body Shop for many years. She married Bruce L. Blinco on July 7, 2007. She served on the Smith Valley School Board and worked endless hours at the school while her children were young and also worked at the Flathead County Fair every summer.

Tammey loved spending time with her family, gardening, sewing for her grandchildren, camping, loved animals, and collecting dolls.

Tammey was preceded

in death by her mother Mary Nix; grandmother Hallie Nix and grandfather Clarence Nix.

She is survived by her husband of nine years Bruce L. Blinco; children Leslie and husband Mat Driear, Carrie Stremel, Joseph and wife Cyndi Stremel, Susan and husband Craig Meyers; grandchildren Hunter Driear, Ayden Driear, Evan Driear, Luke Driear, Zachary Driear, Noah Driear, Cylus Stremel, Trystin Nelson, Berlynn Stremel, and Hallie Stremel.

Cremation has taken place and private services will be held.

Friends are encouraged to visit our website at www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolences for the family.

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

Janice Marie Day Block, 80

Janice Marie Day Block, 80, of Polson passed away on Monday, Sept. 5, 2016, at St. Patrick Hospital. She blessed us and so many with her gifts of time, teaching, service and her smile.

Janice was born on Jan. 14, 1936, in Minot, North Dakota, to Kathryn and Sherman Day. She was educated in Minot public schools, participating in many school activities, Rainbow and church. In 1958 she graduated from Minot State College with a degree in English education. That fall she began her teaching career in Great Falls.

On June 21, 1959, she married Jacob Block. Between 1959 and 1963 the couple lived in Great Falls, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Fargo, North Dakota. They returned to Great Falls where in 1964 Janice taught at East Junior High and later became a full-time mother. She was an active member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Redeemer Lutheran Church.

In 1979, she and her family moved to Missoula where she taught English at Target Range School. In 1994, she and Jake moved to Polson where the couple lived for 21 years and eventually retired. She was an active member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and the Polson community. For health reasons the couple moved to Missoula in 2015 where they lived at The Springs.

No matter where her home, Janice was engaged in her community and church. She was involved in PEO, the C.M. Russell Museum, Lutheran Social Services, and served her church in numerous roles including choir, education, administration and evangelism.

As a young lady, Janice was a gifted dancer and figure skater, participating in several recitals and ice follies. She was an avid baker and gardener, nurturing everything within reach. Janice enjoyed the arts and travel as well, and took a notable trip with



Jake, sister, Priscilla, and brother-in-law, Jerry, to Ireland, Scotland and England to explore her family heritage.

Janice was a loving wife, mother, sister, grandma, friend and neighbor. Her family and friends describe her well — selfless, kind, giving, strong enough to beat cancer, forever hopeful, servant, child of God.

She was intentional about giving her time, listening without distraction, bearing witness to each and every one. She was present.

Her smile brightened the room and became for us a life lesson. Through it we heard "Welcome!" "How are you, dear ones?" "It is so good to see you." "What's new in your world?"

Janice was preceded in death by her parents, Kathryn and Sherman Day, brother, Eddie, and many aunts and uncles.

Survivors include her husband, Jake Block of Missoula; two sons and their families, Jeffrey (Kristin) Block of Minneapolis, and Joel (Kim) Block of Missoula; seven grandchildren, Aron, Marit, Elsa, Siri, Logan, Tanner and Kai; sister Priscilla (Jerry) Wilson, Bismarck, North Dakota; nephew Bradley (Liz) Wilson and niece LeAnne (Gary) DeFrance and their families; and numerous in-laws.

We give thanks for the love and support of all caregivers, especially and most recently those serving at The Springs, Riverside Health Care Center, and St. Patrick Hospital.

We look forward to celebrating Janice's life at 11 a.m. on Oct. 29 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Polson with Pastor Paul Rowold officiating. A lunch reception will follow.

In honor of Janice's wishes, memorial gifts may be sent to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp or Lutheran Social Services

Russell Bogardus, 79

Russell Bogardus, 79, of Fortine, died Sept. 10, 2016, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula.

Arrangements are under the care of Cremation & Burial Society of the Rockies.

Bruce E. Boles, 55

Bruce E. Boles, 55, died March 9, 2016.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at North Valley Seventh Days

Adventist Church, 269 Second Ave., Columbia Falls.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Man killed in crash

Daily Inter Lake

A Kalispell man was killed in a vehicle crash Wednesday afternoon.

According to a press release from the Flathead County Sheriff's Office, Bruce Eugene Boles, 55, died after losing control of his vehicle on Farm to Market Road at around 2:30 p.m. The vehicle left the roadway and rolled. Boles was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected.

Investigators deter-

mined that Boles was one of two cars involved in a "mobile domestic violence event" when he lost control of the vehicle, according to the news release. The driver of a second vehicle was present at the scene but was not believed to have contributed to the crash.

The incident remains under investigation by the Montana Highway Patrol and the Sheriff's Office.

Anthony F. 'Tony' Bolken, 48

Anthony "Tony" Forest Bolken passed away at the age of 48 on Dec. 28, 2015, after a long battle with multiple sclerosis. He was surrounded by loved ones at his residence in Whitefish.

Tony was born in Springfield, Oregon, on Jan. 31, 1967. He received his education at Watford City High School in Watford City, North Dakota, and graduated in 1986.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 14 years, Annie Hedrick Bolken. Other survivors include his mother, Sue Bolken, of Whitefish; his siblings, Sue Ann Bolken and Paul Kjell Bolken, both of Whitefish, and Synnove Bolken Fitzpatrick, of Puyallup, Washington. Tony's stepsons include Robert W. Hedrick and family, of Independence, Missouri, as well as Bryan G. Hedrick and family, of Eudora, Kansas. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Alexius, Alexandria, Mikayla and Brantley Hedrick. Tony's extended family also includes several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Paul Bolken, who passed away in August of 2010.



Tony was a caring man with a good heart who loved helping other people. He

was a true gentleman who was respectful to everyone and thought the world of his wife, Annie.

Tony loved building things and was employed by High Country Builders. His talent in craftsmanship earned him several awards, particularly for his work constructing multi-million dollar houses. Tony was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed going camping, four-wheeling, fishing and hunting with Annie and their dogs. He also loved working up in the Sweetgrass Hills with his Uncle Chuck and Aunt Sally.

There will be a memorial service for Anthony at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 4, at Trinity Lutheran Church Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Trinity Lutheran Church at 400 West California Street, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the Bolken family.