

## Alan Dale Raddatz, 78

Alan was born to Kurt and Helen Raddatz on Jan. 21, 1938, in Dillon.

His life story began in the small railroad town of Lima, Montana. Life in Lima wasn't easy; however, that is what helped make him one "tough little bugger." He would steal cigarettes at the age of 4 and go behind the shed and smoke. It was a habit that stuck with him for many years. At the age of 11, he started hunting in order to help provide food for the family. At 16, he spent a summer in the Lima peaks tending to a flock of sheep. He loved the hills and said that he found himself that summer and decided to walk a different path in life.

He was a natural athlete. He played high school basketball and helped the team win many games. He graduated in May of 1958 and began working ranch hand jobs in Montana and construction work in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

He married his high school sweetheart, Doreen Lynn Harper, on July 14, 1959. He said that he loved the way the sun would shine on her red hair. They resided in Lima, and he drove a long haul truck from Montana to California. Daughters Jackie and Diane were born during this time.

Al was an equipment operator and helped with cleanup work after the big earthquake in 1959 near Hebgen Lake-Madison River. Running equipment was a seed planted for a God-given talent that would be birthed later on in his life. The family moved to Lakeview, Montana, in the middle of the Centennial Valley.

Life in Lakeview was fun but also tough. Jack rabbits were sometimes hunted at night so the pelts could be sold for money to buy food. In the winters the snow piled high, and they had to drive 50 miles down a one lane road, following



a jackrabbit in order to reach the nearest hospital for Sandra's birth. Al loved Sheep Mountain and 4x4ing up rough roads and trails, and often would terrify his family on the way to the top.

While living in Lakeview, Al worked for Wayne Montgomery as a ranch hand and equipment operator. A decision was made to build a chalet and ski run. Al began skiing down the hills of the cow pastures, which were full of cows and manure. This was another seed that was soon to be birthed. He eventually took ski lessons in Sun Valley, which became the foundation for his first ski-instructing job in Whitefish in 1967.

It was during that winter than Al began instructing on Big Mountain, now known as Whitefish Mountain Resort. Skiing became one of his main passions. He taught ladies' and men's day ski lessons, private lessons and junior racing. Many long lasting friendships were made while skiing down those beautiful snow-covered slopes. From building new ski runs in the summer to instructing in the winter he helped change the face of Big Mountain as we know it now. In 1996, he was nominated as one of the top ski instructors in the nation. He retired from ski instruction in the late 1990s, but continued to ski with friends and family.

In those summers, Al worked for the Forest Service piling brush and clearing land. He loved nature, even caring for the smallest of animals. One day he accidentally destroyed a rabbits' nest while piling brush. One baby survived, which he put in his T-shirt pocket and brought home to his daughter Sandy.

In the summer of 1972 Al decided to quit smoking. He shook the habit of smoking three packs a day, and he never strayed from the vision at hand. He was always so focused.

In March of 1973, he started a new adventure working for Chris Berg Inc., in Alaska. His jobs included all areas of the state, from the tip of the Aleutian Islands chain on Amchitka Island to the coast of the Bering Sea in Dillingham, to the Inside Passage of Sitka, the Resurrection Bay in Seward to the far north interior of Fairbanks. He also worked in Anchorage, helping remodel the airport. He loved going to the beaches and hiking the mountains. He loved the scenery and wildlife, but never understood how anyone could live with the elements or the darkness of winter. His adventure is what inspired his daughter Jackie to live in that beautiful land.

He worked from spring to fall in Alaska so he could ski instruct in the winters. In the late '80s he retired from Alaska and started his own business with the purchase of a D4D Cat. Clearing the land and building roads from the valley floors to the top of the mountains was the birthing of his successful business, Raddatz Custom Cat. Al's ability to see the vision not yet seen is what made his work so special.

Life took on a whole new meaning when he fell in love and married Laura in 1999. She was the woman who brought him peace and joy. They resided in Columbia Falls with his stepchildren Krista and Brandon. As a family they enjoyed skiing, riding horses and motorcycling.

Al was never one to sit still. He had always worked hard to make others' visions come to life. Eventually the time came for him to make his own dreams come true.

Together, he and Laura spent many years developing a raw piece of land into their own "Glacier National Park."

Al had a simple appreciation for the seasons. Each season gave its own passion. Spring brought the anticipation of green grass, wild flowers and the sound of the birds. Many summers brought the birth of foals. His love for those babies began to make one think, "Where is the logic in this? How many horses does one person need?" Fall brought the hard work of finishing projects before the onset of winter. Winter in his latter years changed. His love for skiing was becoming more difficult. His determination required placing oxygen tanks on his back, even after his doctor's strict "No!"

Al passed away on March 7, 2016, on the hills of Haskill Mountain doing what he loved most, running machines. He started his life at the bottom and kept climbing hills and following roads right into the next phase of life. He was a hard worker, strong provider and visionary. Using his God-given talents is what allowed him to bring beauty to the land. He was a loving husband, father and a good friend to all. You will be greatly missed. We love you!

He was preceded in death by daughter Diane, parents Kurt and Helen, and siblings Harold, Larry and Betty Lou.

He is survived by his wife Laura; children, Jackie and husband Jeff Risch, Sandy and husband Tim McCracken, Krista and husband Earl Sanders, and Brandon Colonna; six grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and sister Marilyn Stevens.

"Thus says the Lord, Stand in the roads! See! Ask for the old paths, where is the good way? Then walk there and you will find rest for your soul." Jeremiah 6:16

## Robert E. Rales, 88

Robert E. Rales went peacefully in his sleep, "in the arms of his Lord and Savior and is walking on streets of gold." "He was welcomed by his parents, brother, wife and grandsons" on Feb. 11, 2016, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

Robert "Bob" grew up at Ashley Lake and attended Mountain View School.

Bob hauled ties and firewood until he joined the Army from 1950 to 1952. He was a man of many trades. Although logging was his main passion, he was loved by many, from the school bus kids to his coffee buddies and nobody was a stranger. He was always tinkering with this or that, whatever, to make someone happy and was willing to help anyone in need.

He married the love of his life, Thelma



Lukenbill, in August of 1953, and was blessed with an instant family — Nora, Kenneth and Nancy. Then they were blessed with Robbie and Shelly.

Bob is survived by their children, Nora, Kenneth and Rosemary, Nancy, Robbie and John, and Shelly and Larry. He is also survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; his sister-in-law, Lena M. Rogers; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Bible Baptist Church, 64 Dove Lane, on LaSalle (Highway 2) in Evergreen.

## Emma Jean 'Rita' Ranes, 91

Emma Jean "Rita" Ranes, 91, "rode off into the sunset" on Sunday, May 22, 2016, after a long battle with COPD.

Rita was the youngest of seven children born to George and Eva Ruth of Loma. She grew up on the homestead ranch, graduated from Fort Benton High School and went on to teach in a one-room schoolhouse until she met Perry Ranes at a dance. They married in Big Sandy and settled for a few years in Great Falls until after the war. Their three children were born there. In 1952 they moved to Columbia Falls for work on the Hungry Horse Dam.

Rita had a variety of interesting jobs she thoroughly enjoyed. Among her favorites were telephone operator for the city of Columbia Falls, dispatcher for Columbia Falls Police Department and office manager for Montana Power. Most of all, she loved being a mother. She was happiest surrounded by her family. Rita was never afraid of a challenge. She was an avid card player, gardener and loved to read. She lost her hearing completely by age 70 but did not let that stop her from a few adventures despite her profound deafness. She also embraced tech-



nology after losing her hearing and mastered the computer as a way of staying in touch with her scattered family.

Rita was preceded in death by her husband, Perry L. Ranes.

Rita is survived by her children, Mary and Jim Ayers of Belgrade, Sherry and Ron Henderson of Soldotna, Alaska, and Perry and Peggi Ranes of Redmond, Washington; grandkids, David Francis, Kelli Chester, Heather Morgan, Megan Ranes, Eric Ranes, Perri Henderson, Tracy Clark and Jennifer Henderson; 11 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren; and her sister, Mary Ward of Portland.

We especially want to thank the loving staff at the Bee Hive in Columbia Falls. Mother made her home there for three years and really considered it home, the best compliment of all.

Any donations may be made to Flathead County Animal Shelter of Kalispell or Columbia Falls Ambulance Service.

At Rita's request no services are planned.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Rita's family.

## Dr. Wes W. Rashid, 72

Wes Rashid, 72, "went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," on Sept. 8, 2016.

Born in Burlington, Iowa, on Jan. 27, 1944, he was a good and kind man with a big, soft heart. He loved people and cared deeply for family and friends. He was a very accomplished man with a humble demeanor.

Wes received his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Degree from Illinois College of Podiatric Medicine in Chicago. He started Kalispell Foot & Ankle Clinic and practiced for 45 years. He was the first podiatrist in the State of Montana to have hospital surgical privileges and has been part of the surgical staffs at St. Luke's Hospital in Ronan, St. Joseph's Hospital in Polson, St. John's Hospital in Libby, North Valley Hospital in Whitefish, and Kalispell Regional Medical Center, and also served as president of International Region 7 of the American Podiatry Medical Association.

Patient care was always his top priority and often he would not charge patients for his treatment when he knew it was a hardship.

Wes was an accomplished marksman in a variety of shooting sports, from muzzle-loaders to long-distance cartridge to trap shooting. He had an incredible sense of humor and could be seen riding his cruzin' cooler, equipped



with a gun rack, between stations at the trap club.

He spent many years riding horses 18 to 20 miles into the Bob Marshall Wilderness with a close circle of friends to camp and hunt. He would attend horse and mule shows, where his wife competed, to make videos. He always had a bird dog and enjoyed hunting pheasant and upland game birds.

He is survived by his wife, Laura; his sisters, Claudette (Leroy) Rashid, Donna (Tom) Ritterbusch, and Sylvia (Walter) Curry; and his brother, Claude Rashid. He is preceded in death by his mother, Lucille Rashid.

Wes attended Family Life Christian Church and "had come to have a close personal relationship with the Lord." The day he passed away, his wife Laura asked him to show her a sign "that he was safe and sound in heaven." When he breathed his last breath the most unique and beautiful red sunset appeared in the sky.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Sept. 24 at Family Life Christian Church, 1075 Foy's Lake Road in Kalispell. Memorials may be made to Family Life Christian Church, P.O. Box 7965, Kalispell, Montana, 59904.

## Violet J. (Hone) Rask, 91

Violet J. Rask passed away Dec. 19, 2016, from complications after a fall and breaking her hip.

Vi was born March 8, 1925, in Brisbane, Australia, to Harry and Jessie (McLean) Hone, the fifth of six children.

Vi went to live with her Auntie Ollie Hone when she was 4 years old, attending school and spending winters in Townsville, Australia, where it was warmer. Summers were spent in Brisbane. She started school at 4 years old and graduated high school at 16. She went to work while attending additional classes. Vi enjoyed young life with a lifelong childhood friend, Helen (Little) Stevens.

Vi met a charming soldier, Norman Rask, who called on her every time his ship docked in Brisbane. They were married Aug. 31, 1945, at Baptist City Tabernacle Church in Brisbane. Vi lived in Brisbane while Norm finished his Army duty, where their first son, Lawrence was born.

When Norm was discharged and shipped back to the states, Vi and Larry spent one month on a war bride ship traveling back, docking off the coast of California. They settled in Marshall, Minnesota, where their next two sons were born, Paul and Thomas. Vi took care of the family and made lifelong friends.

Norm went to school, moving his family to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he began his career as a linotype operator for the local newspaper. This is where their daughter Debra was born. Two and a half years later they all moved to Denver where they spent the next 25 years.



Friendship House and the Kalispell Information Booth. She really enjoyed her time help-

ing the residents at the Friendship House.

When Norm passed in 1997, Vi moved back to Denver to where Paul, Maria and family live. She spent winters visiting Tom and Paulette in Texas, eventually moving to their home in 2011. Vi preferred the winters in Texas except for the rare snow storm. Her Australian blood loved the warm sun.

Early in 2016, Vi moved back to Denver, where she was closer to her final resting place near Norm.

Vi was preceded in death by her husband, Norman, of 51 years; an infant son, Robert; parents; sister, Gracie; and four brothers, Leslie, Harold, Jack and Frank Hone.

She is survived by her three sons and their wives, Larry and Fran Rask of Massachusetts, Paul and Maria Rask of Colorado, and Tom and Paulette Rask of Texas; and daughter, Debbie Hanson, of Montana; seven grandchildren, Darlene Langlois, Amanda Lefebvre (Geoff) Crystal Augusta (Jeff), Cristina Rask (Keith Drones), Krista Taylor (Bobby), Aaron Rask (Mary) and Nicolas Rask; and 12 great-grandchildren, and family members in Australia.

"Rest in your Father's arms."

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will take place in Denver in March.

In 1962 Vi started working part time with a girlfriend serving banquets at a country club. When all her children were in school, Vi started working at Sears in Northglenn Mall, then later moving to Westland Shopping Center where she retired in 1985.

Norm and Vi then moved to Kalispell where she volunteered at the Senior Center, the



## William 'Bill' Fergus Rauch Jr., 77

On the evening of March 6, 2016, with family and close friends present, William "Bill" Fergus Rauch Jr., 77, died peacefully after a long illness and a brief stay at Rocky Mountain Care Center in Helena.

Bill was born Oct. 9, 1938, in Elmhurst, Illinois, to William F. and Ruth E. (Pearson) Rauch. As the eldest son, Bill helped his dad with his younger brothers David and Randy, following the death of his mother from leukemia in 1954.

After graduating from York High School in Elmhurst, Bill attended Montana State College in Bozeman, participating in the ROTC program and graduating in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering. Upon graduation, he accepted his first job at Mountain Bell Telephone Company.

Bill married Ellen Braughton on Aug. 19, 1961, in her hometown of Big Timber. They moved to Alton, Illinois, and Bill served in the U.S. Army in St. Louis as a communications and logistics specialist supporting the war in Vietnam for several years.

After his discharge from active duty, Bill continued his career with Mountain Bell in Helena in 1963. Bill stayed with the telephone company in Helena for over 30 years, as the company itself moved through numerous name changes, with Bill eventually becoming network director of 14 states. During his time with the telephone company, he also earned a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Colorado.

He and Ellen welcomed their daughter, Shannon, into their family in 1967, followed by their son, Brian, in 1970.



recreating with a wide circle of friends for many years, a tradition that continued at the Flathead Lake house. Boating around Wild Horse Island on

Flathead Lake was always a must, searching the hills for bighorn sheep and the elusive wild horses or scanning the tops of scraggly trees for eagles and osprey. Rest and relaxation for Bill and his friends and family were always necessary after participating in one of his legendary home improvement projects.

During vacations from work and overseeing the family hay and horse ranch on Sierra Road in Helena, Bill also looked forward to trips into the Bob Marshall Wilderness with his hunting buddies, big game hunting in Alaska or deep-sea fishing off the coast of Washington, escaping to one of Montana's downhill ski slopes, or to snorkeling and scuba diving in Hawaii with his family. In retirement, he was always looking for a chance to get in a round of golf on the shores of Flathead Lake or in the Arizona desert. Bill dearly loved his four grandchildren, and took great pleasure in watching them grow into kind and generous young people.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, William and Ruth, and by his stepmothers, Helen and Evelyn.

He is survived by his wife, Ellen; brothers David and Randy; daughter, Shannon, and Mark Walker; and son, Brian, and Heidi; and grandchildren, Elijah and Brynn Walker, and Peyton and Ella Rauch.

After moving to Flathead Lake near Polson in the early 1990s, Bill was employed as a general manager with Mission Valley Power and as engineering manager at Flathead Electric Co-op before his retirement in 1997.

Following their retirement, Bill and Ellen became migratory snowbirds and established a second home in Casa Grande, Arizona.

Bill lived a full and active life and was proud of his avocation as an engineer, serving as secretary and as vice president of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). He obtained a pilot's license and used his flying skills to take his family on numerous adventures. Building a cabin at Canyon Ferry Lake allowed Bill and his family to enjoy fishing, boating, water skiing and

A memorial service will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 25, at Anderson Stevenson Wilke Funeral Home, 3750 N. Montana Avenue, Helena, with a reception following in the social center of the funeral home.

Memorials may be sent to Wild Horse Island State Park at Montana State Parks Foundation, 307 Spokane Avenue, Whitefish, MT 59937, or [www.montanastateparks-foundation.org](http://www.montanastateparks-foundation.org); the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation, P.O. Box 190688, Hungry Horse, MT 59919; or to the Montana State University College of Engineering, P.O. Box 173820, Bozeman, MT 59717-3820.

Please visit [www.aswfuneralhome.com](http://www.aswfuneralhome.com) to offer the family a condolence or to share a memory of Bill.

## John Jay Rauk, 67

John Jay Rauk, 67, passed away suddenly on Tuesday, July 12, 2016, while relaxing on his couch after a busy day of landscaping.

He had many job adventures over his 67 years, but was respected for his "tell-it-like-it-is" take on life. John had such diverse interests over the years, working for Ron Marlenee as a legislative aide in Washington, D.C., to being a dynamite expert in Glacier Park, and in Columbia Falls, working for Royal Logging. He is perhaps best known to the community as the "insurance guy."

John is survived by his wife, Debra Rauk, of Lakeside; mother, Meg Rauk, of Bigfork; daughter, Erika Rauk, of Big Sky; and son, Tanner Rauk, his wife Kelly and their children Stella and Augustus of Missoula; brother, James Rauk and wife Donna of Post Falls, Idaho; sister, Kristi Sandahl and husband John Wesley, their daughter Jessica Brown and family; and his mother-in-law, Leona Hileman, and her daughters Vicki and Kay Hileman, along with other family and friends.

John was born in Missoula, raised in Whitefish and Tucson, Arizona, moving with his family for his father's jobs as a university instructor. He first met his mother-in-law at the age of 7 after pulling flowers out of her front yard. Leona caught him red-handed and gave him the first of many scoldings over the years. After the flower episode, John's family moved to Tucson. His years there included many adventures with his younger sister, Kristi, and brother, Jim. With some trial and error, shed burning, broken furniture, and lots of bandages, he and his brother learned how to fix and weld any cheap weed-eater, lawnmower, and eventually all the vehicles they could get their hands on to convert into their adventure rigs or the gadget of their dreams.



lege holidays would travel to Mexico to tow the joyriding students off the beach, for a price of course. Eventually, he made his way back to Glacier National Park during his college summer breaks, as a trail crew leader. Many of the trails, bridges, and the techniques used in the park to blast snow off the trails were built, maintained, and developed by John during his years at the park.

John met Deb while both were working at Glacier Park. Deb was his "love at first sight" from across a volleyball net. John spiked the ball Deb's way, as often as possible. This chance meeting advanced into 38 years of love, all sorts of adventures, children, hard work, and being Mr. Fix It, "Tim the Tool-Man Taylor" style. John found adventures around every corner, which are now our laughter-filled campfire stories.

John found in retirement everything he had wished for and much more. He particularly enjoyed the valuable time he spent with his grandchildren, using the rider lawnmower to keep up with the kids on their electric four-wheelers, cuddles, storytelling, building toys and sand boxes, and all the little adventures. He was such a proud father and grandfather. John always said "his best accomplishment in life were his children." As husband, dad, grandpa, brother and friend, he will be missed beyond belief and loved fiercely.

For those wanting to celebrate his life, a memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 22, at the Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Later, John fixed up an old red Jeep, and on col-

To send a note of condolence to the family, please visit [www.buffalo-hillfh.com](http://www.buffalo-hillfh.com).

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

## Bradley Wayne Rauthe, 63

Bradley Wayne Rauthe, 63, passed away unexpectedly Friday Oct. 14, 2016, at his home in Kalispell.

He was born July 1, 1953, to Carl and Lillian Rauthe in Kalispell.

Brad attended school at Flathead High School. He went on to become a truck driver, doing most his driving hauling logs for various logging outfits. After that he drove truck hauling fuel for his father Carl. He finished out his working career working at the Candy Bar Ranch.

Brad enjoyed 43 years of marriage to his wife Susan. They had two children, Jason and Chad. Through many of those years the family enjoyed many trips hunting, camping and fishing. He was an avid outdoorsman who also enjoyed snowmobiling, golfing and ice fishing. Throughout his hunting career he was able to harvest a good many nice bucks. He also drove the cleanest pick up and truck in the valley during his years of truck driving.

He was many things to many people. Brad was an admired son, well loved husband, hard working father who helped as much as was possible for a long-hour log truck driver, loving brother, proud uncle, and



a grandpa who loved his grandchildren very much. He loved to entertain friends and family

at his 10 acres out by Glacier Airport.

Brad was preceded in death by paternal grandparents, and grandparents Harry and Mary Olson; parents, Carl and Lillian Rauthe; son, Jason Rauthe; brother, Bruce Rauthe; and brother-in-law, Wayne Riddle.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Rauthe; son Chad and wife Sandra Rauthe; sister Carla and husband Mike Clarke; daughter-in-law Trina Rauthe; grandchildren, Jaclyn, Hunter, Kyle, Brent, Brandon, Miranda and Gordon; many nieces and nephews, including Wade and Michelle; and many aunts and uncles.

In lieu of a funeral, there will be a memorial service held from 2 to 6 p.m. on Oct. 29 at the Eagles, located at 37 First St. West in Kalispell. The viewing will held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 21, and from 5 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 24 at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, send memorials to P.O. Box 5154, Kalispell, MT 59903.

## Joyce Ann Ray, 71

Joyce Ann Ray, beloved mother, wife, sister, grandmother and friend, lost her courageous battle with cancer on April 5, 2016. She passed away peacefully in Kalispell. The power of love from her family and friends, stronger than any chemotherapy drug, extended her life a year longer than expected.

Born October 10, 1944, in Napa, California, Joyce was the daughter and eldest child of the late Bill Kirkendall and Betty Blythe. Growing up, she attended school in Napa, but spent most of her childhood in Booneville, Arkansas, where she lived with her grandparents, Emmett and Ollie Blythe. Joyce graduated from Booneville High School in 1962.

After starting a family and moving to the Dallas/Fort Worth area, Joyce pursued a bachelor's degree in accounting, graduating from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1979. One of her proudest accomplishments, she achieved this while also working and raising four children. Joyce then began a career in banking, and worked in this field until she retired as vice president of Commercial Real Estate from Texas American Bank in Fort Worth.

Once retired, Joyce traveled extensively with her devoted and adoring husband, Travis Ray. Her



favorite trip was a back-packing adventure in Turkey. She and Travis also

spent considerable time at their second home at the foot of the Rocky Mountains in Northwest Montana. It was there she was introduced to sea kayaking, which quickly became a passion, leading to an epic two-week excursion along the Canadian Pacific Coast. Her other passions included riding horses, hiking, painting and reading, but said her greatest joy was her children, Mike Naranjo of Kalispell, Pam Rhea-Peters of Bowling Green, Kentucky, Paige Rhea-Money of Carlsbad, California, and Marcus Naranjo of Burleson, Texas.

Those now mourning include her husband and children; a brother, Gene Kirkendall, of Lakeport, California and his family; four grandchildren, Patric Peters and Rachel Peters of Bowling Green, and Harrison Money and Grace Money of Carlsbad; as well as many friends.

Joyce was preceded in death by her sister, Diane Kirkendall.

A memorial to celebrate her life will be held May 6, 2016, at St. Anthony's Episcopal Church in Alvarado, Texas.

## Vera 'Dodie' Aldine Davis Ream, 86

Vera "Dodie" Aldine Davis Ream, 86, formerly of Kalispell, passed away on Feb. 14, 2016, in Woodland, Washington. She was born Feb. 21, 1929, in Moorcroft, Wyoming.

Vera married the love of her life, Marlin R. Ream Jr., on Aug. 11, 1948, who passed away Sept. 23, 1999.

In 1959 Vera and Marlin moved to the "Last Frontier," Fairbanks, Alaska, where they homesteaded and raised their five children on Chena Hot Springs Road. Raising children is no easy task amidst the bear, moose, wolves and extreme weather.

Upon Marlin's retirement they became "snow birds," wintering in Arizona and traveling the United States.

In 2009 Vera moved to Woodland, where she lived with her daughter and near her son, surrounded by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren

— the delight of her last years.

Vera is survived by Michael and Shelly Carlson-Ream, John and Judy Ream, Kathy and John Anzalone, Susan Ream, and Robert Ream; 20 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Vera will be missed. Her loving presence will be with us all always.

There will be a graveside service held at 2 p.m. on July 30 at the Lone Pine Cemetery in Bigfork. Vera's ashes will be interred next to her husband.

## Sharon Lee Reetz, 72

Sharon Lee Reetz, 72, of Kila, passed away Saturday, Feb. 20, 2016 at her son's home after a valiant fight with cancer.

She was born Oct. 24, 1943 in Arlington, Washington, to Floyd and Irene (Byrd) Ward. Sharon grew up surrounded by a loving family in northwest Washington and attended Everett High School. Several years later, she attended the Everett Community College. While working as a sales representative for a dental supply company in Bellevue, Washington, Sharon met the love of her life, Jerry Reetz, and they were married in the late 1980's in Washington. Sharon retired in 1991 and moved to Kila. She really enjoyed reading and cooking and the compan-



ionship of her best friend and dog, Daisy.

Sharon was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry.

Survivors include her children Ken Miller (Ruth) of Libby, and Christina Duncan (James) of Texas; two sisters DeeAnne Williams and Ken of Washington and Helen Dilley of Washington; nine grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the care of Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home and Crematory of Libby. Online condolences and memories may be shared by visiting [www.schnackenbergfh.com](http://www.schnackenbergfh.com).



## Boyd Carlton Reeves, 77

Boyd Carlton Reeves of Bigfork "is in God's hand at rest" after a struggle with cancer ending May 12, 2016.

He was born in Dayton, Ohio, Jan. 24, 1939, to Ann and Ronald Reeves. Boyd spent his youth in Bellbrook, Ohio. His joys were hunting, fishing, running trap lines and playing basketball. He graduated from Denison University, Class of 1961, with a major in economics. Intramural basketball, Phi Delta Theta, and a lifelong love of golf begun at the Granville Golf Club were activities he enjoyed.

After college, Boyd graduated from Naval Officers Candidate School. He served aboard the USS Diachenko out of Long Beach, California, followed by a tour at the Amphibious School in Coronado, California, where he taught gunfire support to Vietnamese Naval Officers.



In 1965, his tour of duty complete, Boyd began a career in the aluminum industry in Los Angeles at Reynolds Metals Company. Subsequently he served as president of Vista Sales, an affiliate of Alpert & Alpert Iron and Metal, and finally as general manager of Vista Sales when it was sold.

A member of Lakeside Golf Club in Toluca Lake, Boyd loved participating in club activities, charity events and playing the game as he traveled. He was manager and coach for both sons' Little League teams. He supported many charities, including Las Floristas, the Volunteer League of the San Fernando Valley, the Music Center, the LA Zoo, and International Medical Corps.

In 2013, Boyd retired

with his wife to Bigfork. Returning to the small town atmosphere he loved so much, he continued his golf at Eagle Bend Golf Club and renewed his delight in fishing and hunting.

Boyd is survived by his wife of 53 years, Gail Trippe Reeves; his sons, Douglas Reeves (Marla Canter Reeves) and Brian Woodling Reeves (Elaine Fortes Reeves); and six grandchildren, Tara, Scarlet, Rhett, Nicholas, Gage and Ronin. He is also survived by his brother, Gary Reeves

(Jenny Weng Reeves).

He was pre-deceased by his parents and his brother Gregory Reeves.

A celebration of life service will be held at 10 a.m. on May 28 at Crossroads Christian Fellowship in Bigfork, with Pastor Randy Passons presiding, reception following.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the USO or Crossroads Christian Fellowship.

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

## Fern Louise Reid, 97

Fern Louise Reid died peacefully and went to be with her Lord and Savior on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016, at the age of 97. She was born in Oakland, California, to Samuel and Loretta Grace Goldspring on Nov. 30, 1918.

Fern graduated from University High School in Oakland and continued on to Merritt Business College. After graduating, she worked for two different loan companies until she married William "Bill" Lysle Reid on June 17, 1939. They had a son, William Lysle Reid II, on Nov. 14, 1942.

Fern's husband Bill felt the call to the ministry in 1944 and they moved to Redlands, California, where her husband got his degree at the University of Redlands. While at the university, Fern studied organ and became an accomplished musician, not only on the organ but was very talented on the piano as well which she had been playing since the age of 9. She became the organist for the States Street Christian Church and the First Presbyterian Church.

During this time, her second son, David Lawrence Reid, was born, but due to a birth defect he passed away a month later. After her husband graduated, they moved to Berkeley, California, where Bill completed his education at the Berkeley Baptist Divinity School.

Fern was a very active pastor's wife, assisting her husband by typing all his sermons and leading choirs at all their churches to playing the piano and organ. Together they founded the Pleasant Hill Community Baptist Church in Pleasant Hill, California. They then continued on to Issaquah, Seattle, Prosser and Pasco, Washington, where her husband pastored Baptist churches. They then moved to Kalispell



in 1970 to pastor the First Baptist Church. She also was an active member of the Montana Federation of Music Clubs for 31 years. After her husband retired, they continue to live in Kalispell where he died in 1986.

Fern worked for JCPenney for 14 years, winning many sales awards and was a supervisor selling Shaklee products for 31 years. She then was able to do some traveling, going to Thailand, India, Hong Kong and China with American Baptist Mission Society in 1988. She went on many tours with Montana Tour and Travel which she helped to organize.

Fern moved to McMinnville, Oregon, in 2001 to be near family. She became an active member of Bethel Baptist Church and organized a new chapter of the Red Hat Club.

Fern is survived by her son Bill, daughter-in-law Judy, grandchildren Ron Reid, Stephanie Wilder, Steve Reid and his wife Robin. Also surviving are her great-granddaughters, Brittany Trent, Courtney Reid, Melea and Abby Wilder, and twin great-grandsons Rylen and Daylen Bates. Fern is also survived by her sister Ruth Tosh, and many other nieces and nephews in California.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, at Baker Creek Community Church in McMinnville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Baker Creek Community Church. To leave online condolences, visit [www.macyandson.com](http://www.macyandson.com).

## Rodney Bruce Reid, 77

Rodney Bruce Reid, 77, passed away at his home in Columbia Falls on Tuesday, July 5, 2016. He was surrounded by his wife and family, and attended by Hospice. He fought a long battle with IPF, Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, for which there is no cure, treatment or known cause.

Rod and Sandy resided in Columbia Falls and wintered in Desert Center, California.

Rod was born in Baudette, Minnesota, on March 7, 1939, to Neva Mae Wagner and Frank O. Reid. They later moved to central Oregon, where he graduated from RUHS in 1958. There he met and later married his wife, Sandra Absher Reid, on Aug. 22, 1959. They were married just short of 57 years. They later moved to Eugene, Oregon, where Rod continued his education at the University of Oregon, graduating in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science in Math degree. While attending school, Rod worked many part-time jobs and they had their three children, Bruce Alan, Brenda Kay and Brad Alan.



tems in the industrial market. His expertise in industrial plastics made him a respected authority

on that subject, and he spoke at several seminars and was published in a Plastics magazine with national circulation.

About 15 years ago, Rod sold his business to his youngest son, Brad, and wife Wendy. With his mechanical engineering degree and new energy, Brad has grown the business to the size it is today and continued success, especially in waste-water management and the overseas market. Rod took great pride in being able to hand off a growing business to his son. In addition, he helped set up his daughter and son-in-law in a similar business in Enumclaw, Washington, which has enjoyed much success under their ownership.

Rod became an avid golfer but also found time for volunteer coaching in Little Grizzly Football and Little League Baseball in Missoula. The Reids bought at Meadowlake in Columbia Falls in 1989 as a "get-away" place, where the "avid golfer" made many friends and enjoyed the camaraderie of his golfing buddies. They later sold their home in Missoula and made Meadowlake their permanent home.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Derek Reid; his parents, Frank and Neva, and many aunts and uncles, and cousins.

After graduation from UO, he worked in the sales field for pulp and paper handling systems, managed an industrial parts store for Georgia Pacific, sold CAT engines and eventually ended up in Missoula as manager of a power transmission company. With these varied experiences, in 1976 he decided to pursue his lifelong dream of owning his own business. He established Diversified Plastics Inc. in Missoula. He traveled Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, pursuing sales in the logging, mining and lumber industry. He expanded into a building with manufacturing machines, a warehouse, and a few employees. After many changes, such as venturing into the field of food processing when the logging industry was weakening, and many years of travel all over the Northwest, including all the mills in the Flathead Valley, the business thrived and is celebrating its 40-year anniversary this month. Diversified presently employs about 50 people in Missoula and has sales worldwide. Rod held three patents for his innovative thinking in the field of engineering parts for sys-

Rod's survivors include his wife, Sandra; a brother Jack (Esther) Reid of Corvallis, Oregon; three children, Bruce (Dorothy) Reid of Lewistown, Brenda (Barry) Reid of Enumclaw, and Brad (Wendy) Reid of Missoula; six grandchildren and two great-grandsons, plus many, many close friends.

Cremation has taken place at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

Services are planned Aug. 19 in Missoula at The Crossroads Church. Separate small gatherings and celebrations in Columbia Falls and Desert Centers will take place as well.

Donations may be made to Friends of Hospice, 42 Bruyer Way, Kalispell, MT 59901.

## Mary Alice Reilly, 95

Mary Alice Reilly, 95, died Wednesday, April 13, 2016, in Whitefish.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Tesa Marie (Rhoads) Rein, 44

Tesa Marie (Rhoads) Rein, 44, "went to heaven" Nov. 12, 2016,

Tesa was born on Jan. 22, 1972, to Rod and Vicki Rhoads in Wolf Point; shortly after, they moved to Malta where she spent her grade school years. The family then moved to Kalispell where she graduated from Kalispell High.

In 1991 she stayed up west for the next six years working, going to school, having fun, and giving birth to her first son (Tyler) in 1993. Then in 1997 Tesa and Tyler moved to Laurel to be with family. There she received her certified nursing assistant certification and worked at nursing homes in Billings and Laurel, a job she dearly loved. She loved every patient like they were family. It was a perfect job for Tesa; she had such a big heart and tons of love to give.

In 2000 Tesa was blessed with her son Zachary. With two big boys now, times got tough but she never weakened. She always had time for the boys and nearly every weekend you could find them at the river fishing — a true passion of Tesa's that was passed down from her Grandma Nanny. A very familiar site to all that knew her was Tesa in a lawn chair, fishing pole and can of beer. This site also attracted an avid hunter and fisherman, Darin Rein; now every weekend was full of hunting or fishing. Shortly after, came boy number three, appropriately named Hunter. They were married in 2011 and that began her addiction to



camouflage. Pink camo became her new dress of choice. Tesa was always content with what

she had; she always put everyone else's needs and feelings before hers, always greeting you with a hug, big smile, and a hearty laugh.

About a year ago, Tesa was reacquainted with an old high school friend, Ed Stefanatz of Kalispell. It looked like they had everything in common. Ed loved the outdoors and enjoyed taking Tesa and the boys hunting. Tesa was really happy being back in Kalispell and that was where she was making her new home. We all love her and miss her very much.

Tesa is survived by her grandmother, Darlene "Nanny" Rhoads (Clayton); father, Rodney Rhoads (Linda); sister, Tacy Schuchard (Shane); brother, Tad; her sons Tyler and Hunter; and several nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and numerous friends. She was preceded in death by her grandfather Zeke Rhoads, grandparents Edna and Einar Kolden, and mother Vicki Rhoads.

Thank you to all our relatives and friends for your love and support.

A memorial fund for her son Hunter, who survived the accident, will be set up at Yellowstone Bank in Laurel.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at Smith Chapel at 315 E. 3rd, Laurel, Montana. A reception will follow.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

### Leo E. Renfrow

A celebration of life for Leo E. Renfrow, 93, who died Dec. 11 will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 25, at the

Marantette Park band shell in Columbia Falls, followed by a pie and ice cream social and live music.



## Donald Jordan Reynolds, 85

Don was born on Oct. 22, 1930, to Kenneth and Gladys Reynolds in Kalispell.

He passed away peacefully on June 3, 2016, in the Montana Veterans Home.

He was a lifelong resident of the Flathead Valley, attending Badrock Elementary School and graduating from Flathead County High School.

He married Charlotte Keim in 1952, and she survives him at the family home. They were blessed



with three children, Lynn (son) and Celie Reynolds of Spokane,

Gerene (daughter) and John Matson of Columbia Falls, and Sandy (daughter) and Steve Frintz of Austin, Texas. They also have six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Verna Mae Thomas, of Spearfish, South Dakota; and several

nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Lois Tidball and Bunny Stockland.

He proudly served in the Army and was a combat veteran of the Korean conflict, where he earned a Bronze Star.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman who made many trips into the Bob Marshall Wilderness and

was a member of the Back Country Horsemen. He also enjoyed traveling to Alaska with good friends to fish there.

He retired from Plum Creek Plywood after 25 years and enjoyed woodworking, golfing and many other outdoor activities during his retirement.

At his request, he will be cremated and there will no service.

## William James Reynolds, 86

William James Reynolds, 86, died Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2016, at his home in Kalispell.

No services are planned at this time. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Jacob C. Rhodes, 67

Jacob C. Rhodes, 67, died Monday, Dec. 5, 2016, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

He is survived by his daughters, Starla Kay

Rhodes and Christina Huschle.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell.

## Robert D. Rezendez, 71

Robert D. Rezendez, 71, died Dec. 6, 2016, at the HealthCenter Northwest in Kalispell.

He is survived by his longtime companion Gwendolyn, and daughter

Debbie.

There will be no services held.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

# 'It's what a buddy would want'



COLUMBIA FALLS senior Darien Matthews, left, and Flathead senior Arielle Peters ride on horseback Wednesday and lead a procession of students behind Flathead High School to Legends Stadium in honor of fellow student Zachary Rhoads, who was killed in a three-vehicle accident near Marion on Saturday. (Brenda Ahearn photos/Daily Inter Lake)

## Zachary Chase Rhoads, 16

Zach "left us to be with the Lord" on Nov. 12, 2016, near Kalispell.

He was born on Aug. 18, 2000, to Tesa (Rhoads) Rein in Billings. Zach spent the beginning of his life in Laurel. This is where he attended school until his sophomore year. Zach was a great student at the Laurel High School where he participated in track and field and football. Zach's sophomore year he moved to Kalispell with his mother and brothers. He attended Flathead High School where he also participated in track and field and football. In the short time Zach was in Kalispell he made a lot of friends. This just shows you what a truly great kid Zach was and will be missed by many and not forgotten.



Zach will be truly missed by all of his friends and family. He was becoming an exceptional young man "and left to be with the Lord" way too early in his life. He had an extremely good relationship with his brothers and left them with some great memories that they will never forget.

"Zach, we love you we miss you but we will never forget you. Forever 16! How cool is that!"

Zach is survived by his two brothers, Tyler and Hunter; great-grandmother, Darlene "Nanny" Rhoads (Clayton); grandfather, Rod Rhoads (Linda); aunt, Tacy Schuchard (Shane); uncle, Tad Rhoads; and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by great-grandfather Zeke Rhoads, and grandmother Vicki Rhoads.

Services will be held at 10 am, Saturday, Nov. 19, at Smith Chapel at 315 E. 3rd, Laurel, Montana. A reception will follow.

*Cont on next page*

# Classmates remember student killed in crash

By HILARY MATHESON  
Daily Inter Lake

Classmates gathered Wednesday with the robust energy of a truck rally to remember Zachary Rhoads, 16, a friend described as quiet, loyal and dependable.

More than 30 teens converged in the parking lot behind Flathead High School to memorialize Rhoads, a sophomore at the school. Rhoads died Saturday in a three-vehicle crash near the Ashley Lake neighborhood. The crash also claimed the lives of two others.

Rhoads was a member of the Flathead football team. He was involved in vo-ag, drove a pickup, had "an awesome beard," and "always had a story to tell," his friends remembered. He had aspirations of playing professional football or becoming a diesel



**STUDENTS GATHER** behind Flathead High School on Wednesday afternoon in Kalispell to honor the memory of fellow student Zachary Chase Rhoads.

mechanic.

Truman Timmons, a senior at Flathead, said Rhoads was one of the nicest and most genuine people he's met.

"He was one hell of a nice guy," Timmons said, adding that the pair were planning to ride bulls in a winter and summer rodeo series.

Rhoads had transferred to Flathead nearly a year ago after moving from Laurel. In that short time he had made many friends.

The truck rally, solely organized by the teens, was the best way "a bunch of rednecks and cowboys" knew how to say farewell to their

friend.

"It's what a buddy would want," said Jacob Zander, a senior at Flathead and teammate on the football team.

Many of the group agreed that Rhoads was someone who could be counted on or called day or night. Flathead senior Arielle Peters said she dated Rhoads at one time, and no matter what their relationship status was, remained extremely close friends.

"He always had your back," Peters said.

Before driving around the neighborhood in a procession of pickups, the teens formed a circle around one student who shared some words about Rhoads. The student kneeled for a blessing and encouraging the group to "give one heck of an amen."

Afterward, the group

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## STUDENT

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clad in cowboy hats and boots clamored into their

pickups. They revved their engines and lined up behind two horses ridden by Peters and Columbia Falls High School senior Darien Matthews and headed toward Legends Stadium.

"I wish he'd known how much everybody loved him," Zander said.

Flathead Assistant Principal Michele Paine said counselors were made available to students on Monday.

*Hilary Matheson is a reporter for The Daily Inter Lake. She may be reached at 758-4431 or hmatheson@dailyinterlake.com.*