

## Michelle Lee LaBere, 54

Michelle Lee LaBere was born Michelle Lee Brock on July 13, 1963, in Walnut Creek, California, and raised in Martinez, California.

She passed away at the age of 54 from a 15 month-battle with cancer on Oct. 26, 2017, at home with her husband Brad LaBere and her dog Sammy by her side, taking care of her to the end.

Michelle attended schools in Martinez. Michelle was a key punch operator when she meet Brad and they were together there for 10 years upon moving to Dixon. There she worked at the Dixon Melon in Dixon. They had a home built in 2006 in Kalispell and were married July 21, 2007. She worked house-keeping at Motel 6 and then got on with Walmart as an associate night stocker, and she loved her job and co-workers.

Michelle was talented in making unique wind chimes — she made sure everyone had one prior to her passing. She also enjoyed working in her garden and flowers, and canning. You would see



her on the back of their motorcycle riding around the valley or up to Glacier Park. They took the

motorcycle to California so she could ride, not knowing how long she had.

Michelle was preceded in death by her grandparents, and mother, Sharon, who fought cancer and died on Thanksgiving Day 2016.

Surviving her is her husband Brad, she also leaves behind her dog, Sammy, at their home in Kalispell; her father, Joseph Brock, of Kansas; sisters, Cindy Fryman of Kansas, and Vickie Brock of California; brothers, Rick and Joe Brock from California; and many nieces and nephews.

No services are planned at this time.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website, [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com), to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

4 Nov 2017

15 Nov 2017

## Osa LaCroix, 94

The world lost a sweet and gentle soul when Osa "went to heaven" on Nov. 14, 2017.

Born July 14, 1923, to Clarence and Tina Jones, Osa grew up on the family farm north of Havre where she helped with chores and rode her horse to school.

Osa married Bob LaCroix Feb. 12, 1943, in Columbia, South Carolina, a short time before he left for World War II service. They had x children and, while loved the outdoors gardening, her en was often filled



with the aroma of fresh-baked bread and cookies. She also helped Bob on the family farm by

driving the grain truck with her young children alongside her in the cab.

She was a lifelong member of the Havre Assembly of God Church until moving to Kalispell in 2006. She enjoyed her "retirement" and was known for racing up and down the halls — no walker for her!

Osa is survived by four of her children, Lois (Dave) Managhan of Kalispell, Eloise (Dan) Marx of Lake Oswego, Oregon, Gary (Carmen) LaCroix of Carrollton, Texas, and Brian (Aleksandra) LaCroix of Plano, Texas. She is also survived by sons-in-law, Dwight Galbraith and Cecil Durbin; 12 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Her husband Bob, and daughters Sharon Galbraith and Lorraine Durbin preceded her in death.

A viewing will be held

from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at Holland and Bonine Funeral Chapel in Havre, with graveside services at 1 p.m. at Highland Cemetery in Havre. A gathering for family and friends at the Assembly of God Church follows.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the church or charity of your choice.

Please visit Osa's online memorial page and leave a message of condolence for her family at [www.holland-bonine.com](http://www.holland-bonine.com).

## Bonnie Jean 'Jean' LaDow, 97

Bonnie Jean "Jean" LaDow died on Dec. 3, 2017, in Kalispell. She was 97 years old.

Born Bonnie Jean Burner in Sabetha, Kansas, on Jan. 3, 1920, she and her identical twin sister, Betty Jane, were the youngest children of Dr. Edwin Lee and Gladys Mae (Timberlake) Burner.

She attended Washburn College in Topeka, Kansas, where she joined the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. There she accepted a blind date with Jess LaDow, who was visiting campus with a friend. He soon proposed marriage, and in June 1939, restless with waiting for their planned fall wedding date, he sent her a train ticket to Montana where his family summered in cabins at Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park. At age 19, she left her twin and familiar life without hesitation, and eloped with Jess in Kalispell. They were happily married for nearly 75 years, spending almost every summer at the lake. She would dash to McDonald Falls to fish while her babies napped, hop on a wrangler's spare horse headed for Sperry Glacier, or scramble solo up a slope to a lookout cabin, just as readily as she baked apple pies so delicious that Jess once hid one from an unannounced, voracious guest.

She loved word games, puzzles, bridge, biographies, golf, handcrafts – she made dozens of quilts and afghans



over the years – and singing in the church choir. She often said, "Why not?!" and

with a rare combination of keen discernment, humor, empathy, and an irrepressible well-spring of positive energy – "The Original Silver Lining Department," as her son once called her – she inspired her three children, six grandchildren, extended family and friends.

She was predeceased by her husband Jess in 2014, her twin sister Jane (Burner) Weaver, her brother John Daniel Burner, and her sister Kathleen (Burner) Davis.

She leaves her daughter Janet LaDow Payne (J. Thomas Payne) of North Oaks, Minnesota; son David E. LaDow of Bellevue, Washington; daughter Mary Beth LaDow (Michael Pontrelli) of Winchester, Massachusetts; grandchildren, Michael Payne, Christopher Payne (Gulnara Payne), Eva LaDow (Michael Reese), Alice LaDow, Kate LaDow Alper and Samuel Alper; and great-granddaughters, Melinda and Aila Payne; and many nieces and nephews.

The family is grateful for the loving care Jean received from the staff at Buffalo Hill Terrace in Kalispell, and for the association of many dear friends throughout her life in Kansas, Montana and Arizona.

## Beverly R. Landes, 88

Beverly R. Landes, 88, passed away on Sept. 25, 2017, at home in Anchorage, Alaska.

Beverly was born in Polson on April 23, 1929. She joined her husband, Wesley K. Landes, in Anchorage in 1955.

Beverly and Wesley started their business, Airglass, Inc. in 1955, manufacturing Landes skis for airplanes and helicopters. They were very involved with their sons in skiing and racing at Alyeska. They established the 50-meter ski jump tower in honor of their son Jim at the Hilltop ski area in the Karl Eid ski jump complex.

Beverly was preceded in death by her husband, Wesley K. Landes; her son, Gary Landes; and her son, James, his wife Lourdes, and baby Nicole.

She is survived by her daughter-in-law, Sharon Landes; granddaughter Carissa Landes; sister-in-law, Phyllis Maxwell; niece, Elaine Hecker;

nephew, Tim Jensen; cousins; grand-nieces and -nephews; and many special friends.

A celebration of life will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at O'Malley's on the Green, 3651 O'Malley Road, Anchorage, Alaska.

Arrangements were entrusted to Kehl's Legacy Funeral Home in Anchorage.

2 Oct 2017

8 Dec 2017

## Robert Lanfear Jr., 70

Robert Lanfear Jr. "was sent to reside with our Lord" on Monday June 12, 2017.

Robert was born in Kalispell to June (Auclair) and Robert Lanfear Sr. on Aug. 4, 1946. He attended grade school in Kalispell and graduated from Flathead High School where he then moved on to serve in the National Guard.

He then pursued his passion in helping people and attended the Police Academy in Bozeman. In 1974 he proudly assumed a position in the Kalispell Police Department and remained in their service for 26 years. During those years of service his selfless dedication to help everyone earned him many friends, lasting community relationships and the ability to influ-



ence many lives. After retiring from the Kalispell Police Department he continued his relationship with the community by establishing Lanfear's Pro Painting. Lanfear's Pro Painting became a staple in the construction community which provided immaculate home finishes and honest business relationships.

Robert also had an incredible passion for family and the outdoors. His biggest joys in life were hunting and fishing with his family and friends. He was thought of and will

be remembered as a modern-day John Wayne. His sense of humor and laugh would warm even the coldest of days.

He is survived by his wife, Connie Bergmann; his kids, Jeremy Lanfear, Jeoff Lanfear, Stephanie Lanfear-Frost, and Gwendolyn Lanfear; seven grandchildren; his brothers and sisters, Gina Owen, Reggie Lanfear, Bobby Lanfear, Cindy Hoover, Cathy, Christie Youmans, Terry Hill, and Lisa Hill.

Robert was preceded in death by his mother June, sister Connie Lanfear, and brother Robin Hill.

Robert will be remembered by those that loved him at 1 p.m. on Friday June 23, at the Flathead County Fairgrounds Expo Building.

20 Jun 2017

## David John Landsberger, 59

David John Landsberger passed away May 12, 2017, at his daughter's home in Belgrade, after battling cancer.

David was born Feb. 3, 1958, to Leo and Ereth Marie Landsberger in Bismark, North Dakota. David, along with his parents and younger sisters, Debra and Renee, moved to Kalispell in July 1971.

David attended high school at Flathead High and worked for Royal Logging until it shut down. He was a youngster in the woods and was known for his hard work while there.

David met Audrey Glazier while attending high school, and married in 1976. They later divorced, but have three daughters and four grandchildren, Cindy Liebrecht and son Kaden

Liebrecht of Belgrade, Kelly Landsberger and daughter Samantha Thornburg of Kalispell, and Tracy Swope, husband Todd Swope and sons Brock and Brayden Swope of Columbia Falls.

David loved the outdoors, fishing whenever and wherever he could. He had a wonderful sense of humor and an adventurous spirit.

David was preceded in death by father Leo, mother Marie, and brother-in-law Ted Parod.

He is survived by his daughters and grandchildren, sisters Debbie Parod of Columbus, Montana, and Renee Burgess and husband Mike Burgess of Post Falls, Idaho, and many wonderful nieces and nephews.

A memorial is being planned for later this summer in Kalispell.

22 May 2017

## Eugene Edward Lanquist, 94

Eugene Edward Lanquist passed away on Dec. 31, 2016, at home in Kalispell.

He was born Sept. 21, 1922, to Carl and Gerta Swenson Lanquist in Santa Barbara, California. He was the seventh of nine children.

He served in the 4th Division of the Marines during World War II. He was in the Pacific, the Marshall Islands, Tinian, Saipan and Iwo Jima. He received the Purple Heart after being injured on Iwo Jima. He still had the shrapnel in his leg when he died. Doctors could not remove it without damaging too many muscles so they left it.

He was a master carpenter and cabinet maker with a 75-year membership in the Carpenters Union and also the Lumbermen and Millwright Union.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Elmer, Carl, Wilbur, Robert and Donald; and his sister, Helen Toppings. Gene was loved by his family, especially the children for his gentleness and he loved being a dad and grandpa.

He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Arvella; children, Rosanna and



Rick Jensen of Niota, Illinois, Mike and Sherry Burkhart of North Pole, Alaska,

Jim and Renee Burkhart of Spokane, and Bill and Whitney Burkhart of Kalispell; grandchildren, Chris and Amanda Burkhart, Heather and Ryan "Fred" Kopman, Nikki and Arturo Cervantes, Breanna Jensen Bedard, Rick and Kortney Jensen, Macayla Jensen, and Sabina and Alexander Burkhart; and stepgrandchildren, Colton Mosby and Norah Marler; three great-grandsons, Maddix Kopman, Brody and Landon Cervantes; his brother, Bert and Gladys Lanquist of Madras, Oregon; his sister, Susy Walston, of Bakersfield, California; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Per Gene's request, he was cremated and the family will have a service for him when they can get together.

His family wishes to thank Frontier Hospice for their help and support and also Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

Jan 26

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25 Jan 2017

## Joyce Lugene Lape, 83

Joyce Lugene Lape, 83, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017, in Henderson, Nevada, with family by her side.

Joyce was born in Oklahoma to Roy and Mae Cartright who moved to Ophir, California, where they raised their seven children whom she is survived by, Charles Cartright of Ophir, Roy Cartright of Sacramento, California, Roger Cartright of Sacramento, Fay Hayward of Auburn, California, Judy Price of Citrus Heights, California, and Max Cartright of Loomis, California.

Over her life, Joyce had nine children, Debra Sullivan of Salem, Oregon, Derek Ford of Kalispell, Sandra Ford of Auburn, Randy Ford of Kalispell, Linda David of Kalispell, Roger Ford of Weaverville, California, Nannette Avery of Kalispell, Dawn Hershey of Henderson, Nevada, and Michelle Brantingham of Yuba City, California.

During her time with us, Joyce lived her life to the fullest, traveling extensively living in California, England, Florida, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Nevada, and most importantly Montana where she met the love of her life, Laurel Lape, with whom she spent some of her happiest years, created some of her happiest memories, built her life, and with whom she is finally reunited with.

Throughout her life, she was also a known force to be reckoned with, running her own business, Lape's One Stop in Swan Lake, fight-



ing for the rights of women and children through her participation in many organizations

such as the National Organization of Women, which she helped grow by aiding in the founding of the Montana chapter in the 1970s. She was also one of the first women in Montana to run for public office on a platform of social reform and relief, and while she did not succeed in attaining office, she left behind cracks in a glass ceiling that had not yet been broken through. Throughout her life she was known for her immense strength of character, her great capacity for compassion, and her unmatched sense of self and her family.

She leaves behind her the proud legacy of her loving nine children, her 32 grandchildren, and her 28 great-grandchildren. She will be much missed by her family, all those who knew her, and by all those who benefited from the great work she undertook throughout her life. The world is a lesser place now that we have lost her, but it is a greater place for having had her in it.

To celebrate the life of Joyce Lugene Lape, her family will be hosting a small remembrance ceremony for her at 1 p.m. on Feb. 4 at Willow Beach, Arizona, and will host her actual memorial at the family cabin outside Swan Lake this July — final date to be announced.

12 Jan 2017

## Edward Leroy Lapp, 90

Edward Leroy Lapp, 90, of Kalispell, passed away May 24, 2017, in Kalispell.

He was born to Frank and Lena Lapp in 1927 in Kalispell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, John, Jay, George, Wayne, Clarence and Willard; and sisters, Esther Hogue, Anna Birky and Mary Esch; son, William Lapp; and first wife, Phyllis Combs Lapp.

He is survived by his wife, Helen; brother Floyd of Oregon; six children, Kenneth Lapp, Jerry Lapp, Theresa Barrett, Marolynne Lapp, Clayton Lapp and Melissa Blue; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Ed served in the Army during World War II. He owned and operated a welding shop and spent years logging in Kalispell until he and Phyllis moved to Haines, Alaska, where they purchased and ran the 33 Mile Café, and he pursued his dream of gold mining. He was actively gold mining until his health kept him from doing so. He loved travel-



ing to gem shows in the winter months to sell his treasures.

“His Cowboy Boots” — “Inside these boots you’ll find no gold. A Gentle cowboy, a golden soul. A man’s type man, as people say — But God’s his boss he

would relay.” — Written by Helen Lapp

There will be a visitation for Edward from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 30, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home with funeral services to be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 31, at The Mennonite Church on Mennonite Church Road, Kalispell. Burial will follow at 1 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery with honors performed by United Veterans of the Flathead. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

27 May 2017

## Rayna Marie (Ball) Larsen, 75

Rayna Marie (Ball) Larsen, 75, of Columbia Falls, passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017, after a long battle with cancer.

She was born to Irving and Myrna (Lewis) Ball on the family farm on March 15, 1941, in St. Ignatius where she graduated from St. Ignatius High School. Her continuing education was at Rocky Mountain College in Billings where she majored in elementary music, while there she met her future husband Otto. Also during her college years she went on a mission trip to Costa Rica through the United Methodist Church.

Rayna's first teaching position was at a Native American reservation in Eagle Butte, South Dakota; she also taught in Libby and in Michigan. During her 30-year temporary residence in Michigan she was very active in the Boy Scouts. She created a program called Jungle Book where the adult leaders went away for a weekend to live like an 8-year-old boy and learn how to teach crafts, songs and skits. She continued volunteering with Boy Scouts

long after her boys had gone on with their lives. Rayna was a successful Tupperware and Avon representative, as well as an expert in almost any type of crafts.

In her retirement years, she and Otto traveled extensively throughout the world on cruise ships, some of which completely circled the world and lasted over 180 days.

She was preceded in death by her husband Otto, her son Gerald, and her brother Lewis.

She is survived by her son Matthew and granddaughter Samantha of Columbia Falls; daughter-in-law Sharon and grandson Joshua of Ferndale, Michigan, a granddaughter Amber of Columbia Falls, and a grandson Robert of Washington, D.C.; a brother, Daryl, of Tacoma, Washington, and a brother, Keith, of Lolo. She leaves behind a host of beloved family and friends.

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Columbia Falls United Methodist Church, with Pastor Dawn Skerritt officiating. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

2 Feb 2017

26 Dec 2017

## Burnell C. Larson, 72

Burnell C. Larson was born March 10, 1945, and passed away in Mesa, Arizona, on June 28, 2017.

He was raised in Warren, Pennsylvania, by his parents George and Fran Larson. He graduated from Warren High School in 1963 and pursued a degree from Youngstown State University.

After working in Ohio he decided to move to Missoula where he met the love of his life, Marge Slama. From 1975 to 1976 Bernie worked from the Morrison Knutson Company in Zaire, Africa. He liked to tell stories of his adventures in Zaire.

Bernie and Marge enjoyed watching their children play sports in Missoula. They also enjoyed their time golfing at the Missoula County Club. Bernie was an avid Grizzly fan. Marge and he attend all home and many away games for the Grizzly football and various other men's and women's Grizzly athletic activities.

After retirement,

Marge and he built their retirement home on the Shore of Bitterroot Lake in Marion. Bernie was an avid golfer and met various new friends on the golf course in Kalispell. He also enjoyed fishing Bitterroot Lake in retirement.

After a few winters in Marion, Marge and Bernie decided to go south for the winter. This is when they found Mesa and bought a small place. He enjoyed Mesa, golfing and meeting new friends.

Bernie is survived by his wife Marge Larson of Marion; his sons Scott Larson of Banger Maine, and David Slama (Lisa) of Polson, and daughter Mary Rehm (Brent) of Helena; and grandchildren Brandon and Morgan Rehm of Helena, and Hudson and Haden Smith of Polson. He is also survived by many sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law and numerous nephews and nieces.

No memorial service will take place. Donations may be made to the Grizzly Athletic Association.

6 Jul 2017

## Duane Louise Dickinson Latham, 100

Duane Louise Dickinson Latham born in Kalispell on July 2, 1917 died at the age of 100 on Dec. 15, 2017 in Sedona, Arizona.

She grew up in Kalispell and was her class president in both her junior and senior years. She was a Cherry Blossom Princess in 1938 and one of her proudest accomplishments was the State of Montana Declamation winner.

She attended the University of Washington, majoring in drama and English literature. She met her future husband Howard Latham at the University of Washington in which they celebrated over 70 years of marriage. They were longtime residents



of Village of Oak Creek in Sedona. Duane spent her final years at the Sedona

Winds Assisted Living.

She is survived by two of her children, Vicki Huddleston and Steve Latham. Two sons, Gary Latham and Jeff Latham, pre-deceased her. She has seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren who will greatly miss this strong and lovely woman. Her ashes will be interred at the Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell in the family plot. Psalms 23.

## Al Lauckner, 73

Al Lauckner, 73, of Moses Lake, Washington, passed away Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017, at Deaconess Medical Center in Spokane with his family at his side.

Al was born in Fallon, Nevada, on May 7, 1943, to Herman and Alma Lauckner.

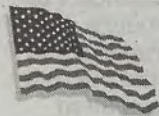
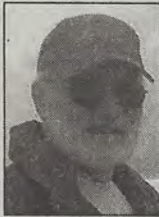
In 1955, the Lauckner family moved to Kalispell where he was a member of the Foy's Lake Mountaineers 4-H club and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1961.

Following graduation, Al joined the Army and served with the 101st Airborne Unit.

After leaving the Army, he moved to Kent, Washington, where he met and married his wife of 50 years, Phyllis Chittim. Al and Phyllis had a love for flying and purchased their own plane and built their home on a private airport. He continued to instruct and ferry planes in his spare time. People knew of his expertise in flying, and he was called upon to ferry many planes across the United States. The last plane he flew was the P51 Mustang.

In 1976, Phyllis and Al were blessed with their son, Kevin. Kevin and Al were very much alike, as they both had an insatiable thirst for learning.

In 1965, Al began his 35 yearlong employment with Rocket Research.



During his employment, he worked on the Mars Lander and many other space projects. He moved with the

company in 1979 to Moses Lake where he was the plant manager for many years.

Al's true love was his wife Phyllis, son Kevin and grandson Brenden, who survive him.

He is also survived by brothers: Larry (Elaine) Lauckner, of Seattle, and Jim (Rose) Lauckner, Glendive, Montana, sister-in-laws and brother-in-laws Billie and Gordon Herron, of Harrington, Washington, Anna and Steve Hill, of Issaquah, Washington, Mary and Stan Timperley, of Vancouver, Washington, and many nieces and nephews who loved their uncle Al very much.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Alma Lauckner and sister Ida (Lauckner) Blackwell.

A memorial service has been held and Kayser's Chapel of Memories is caring for the family. Please sign the online guestbook or leave a note for the family at [www.kayserschapel.com](http://www.kayserschapel.com)

## Gene Lauman, 77

Gene Lauman, 77, passed away in Kalispell Oct. 17, 2017, due to cancer.

Gene is survived by his son Scott V. Lauman, and three grandchildren, sister Darline Radabah, and niece Nickie Boykin, all of Kalispell, and also many beloved cousins and friends.

Cremation was held under the direction of Darlington Cremation

and Burial Services of Kalispell.

A memorial will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at Birch Grove Community Center, 594 Birch Grove Road, Kalispell. A potluck dinner will follow.

Flowers and donations may be sent to Darlington Cremation and Burial Services, 3408, U.S. Hwy. 2. E., Kalispell.

31 Oct 2017

## Mary "Lori" Delores (Bauer) LaVanway, 80

Mary "Lori" Delores (Bauer) LaVanway, 80, passed away on Feb. 8, 2017, at her home in Smith Valley with her husband Carroll by her side.

She was born Sept. 9, 1936, to Frank M. Bauer and Mary Lena (Jones) Bauer in Kalispell.

Lori was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and daughter. She loved fishing, hunting, and was an avid spectator of her grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's sports and events. The two things she enjoyed the most were her family and playing contract rummy. Oh how she loved to play that card game!

She was raised in the Flathead Valley over her lifetime of 80 years, she milked cows, bucked bales, rode horses, and was in 4-H and Saddle Club, just to mention a few things.

She went to grade school at Batavia and Boorman schools and two years in Bremerton, Washington, during World War II. She received her high school diploma from Flathead County High School in 1954.

Lori married the love of her life, Carroll Wesley LaVanway, on Nov. 6, 1956, at the Smith Valley Grange. They celebrated their 60th anniversary last November at the Moose Lodge in Evergreen.



Lori was preceded in death by her parents Frank and Mary Bauer, maternal grandparents Moses and Beatrice (Salois) Jones, paternal grandparents Fred

and Fanny (McFadden) Bauer, numerous aunts, uncles, one niece, and her favorite horse Ranger.

Lori is survived by her husband, Carroll; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Debra LaVanway, Melody and Norm Palin, and Kim and Tony Hagadone, all of Kalispell; 11 grandchildren, Carroll, Wesley, Carisa, Michael, Tali, Angie, Melissa, Brailey, Josie, Travis, and Kaitlin, along with their spouses, all living in the Flathead Valley; 25-plus great-grandchildren; three sisters, Frankie Bauer of Libby, Jackie Mattingly of Marion, and June Bauer of Kila; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

She is greatly missed, and we love you, Mom!

To send a note of condolence to the family, please visit [www.buffalohillfn.com](http://www.buffalohillfn.com). Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Mary Louise Monk Lavin, 100

Mary Lavin passed away in her own home on Jan. 19, 2017, surrounded by her loving family. She had recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

She was born on Dec. 7, 1916, in Kalispell and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1935.

She went to work as a telephone operator during the Great Depression. Thereafter, she was a receptionist and office manager for Swanberg and Fredrickson, MDs, as well as John Roche, DDS.

Mary married James Mendel Lavin in 1938, and they were married for 73 years. They had two children, Michael, who died in 1999, and Linda, who survives her. Mary and Jim spent over 30 years living in their home on Flathead Lake where they entertained nieces, nephews and friends who stopped by to enjoy the lake. Other than spending time with their family and friends, they loved visiting Glacier Park, spending time at their cabin on Bitterroot Lake and traveling through England. James died in 2011 at age 98.

Mary treasured her childhood days in Pleasant Valley, Montana, riding



horseback to the original Pleasant Valley School from which she graduated from eighth grade.

Mary was humble and often said she lived just an ordinary life. Her love of dog-toothed violets, her gentle hugs and her delight in the simple things in life will be missed by her family and friends who loved her deeply.

Besides her daughter, Linda, and her son-in-law Don, Mary is survived by her sister, Jeanne Linrude, and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

For the last few years, Mary was lovingly cared for in her own home by grandson, Stephen Lavin, and his wife, Amy, and their children, Michael and Cassidy. Their devotion to making her final years happy and comfortable will never be forgotten by Mary's family and friends.

A private family graveside service may be held at a later date.

Contributions in Mary's name may be made to the Montana Hope Project, P.O. Box 5927, Helena, MT 59604.

24 Jan 2017

15 Aug 2017



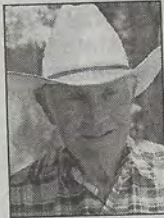
## Lloyd Edwin Lee, 83

Lloyd Edwin Lee passed away Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2017, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls, after a long battle with Parkinson's.

Lloyd's parents, Levi and Laura Lee, proudly welcomed him into the world Aug. 12, 1933, at their family home in Deer Park, Washington, where they would continue to raise their family until moving to the town of Algona, Washington. As the eldest of four children, Lloyd was a loyal and caring brother to his siblings, Ava, Don and Joni. He graduated from Auburn High School in Auburn, Washington, then married his high school sweetheart, Marilyn Elaine Damgaard, in 1953. Soon after, he enlisted in U.S. Army and served for four years during the Korean War.

Lloyd and Marilyn moved to Enumclaw, Washington, in 1964 where they purchased 10 acres and built their family home to raised their three children, Terri, Mike and Jim. Lloyd was a deacon at Country Bible Church in Enumclaw where he and Marilyn attended and actively served as youth ministers for several years, positively impacting the lives of youth in the community. Lloyd worked for Boeing for many years before beginning his career as a purchaser with the King County Parks Department. He later continued his career as a purchaser with S & S Campers after moving to Montana.

Lloyd fell in love with the slower, simpler Montana way of life and was able to purchase 39 acres in Kila with his wife, Marilyn, where



they began to build their new family home in 1978. His enthusiasm for Montana was contagious and within a few years,

all three of their children as well as Lloyd's parents had moved to live the Montana dream with them. Lloyd and Marilyn lived together in their Kila home, worshiping and serving at Easthaven Baptist Church and Kila Country Church until Marilyn's death in 2007. Lloyd then continued life in that home until health issues made it necessary for him to move closer to town and eventually to the Montana Veterans Home.

Lloyd was preceded in death by Marilyn, his wife of 54 years, his son Mike in 2014, and his parents, Levi and Laura Lee.

Lloyd is survived and lovingly remembered by his son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Tracy Lee; his daughter and son-in-law, Terri and Mike Bray; and daughter-in-law Jamie Grob. His 10 grandchildren and their spouses, who gave him 20 great-grandchildren, will always remember him as an excellent hunter, woodworker and patient teacher.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank you" to those at the Montana Veterans Home for all their love and dedication in caring for Lloyd during his stay there.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Tobi Mikkel Lehman, 41

Tobi Mikkel Lehman, 41, passed away during his sleep on March 9, 2017. He died accidentally from his seizure disorder.

Tobi was born July 24, 1975, in Billings to Richard A. and Dyanne J. Lehman. At 4 years old, he moved to Kalispell with his mother. He attended elementary school at St. Matthew's and Peterson School. Tobi went through junior high school and attended Flathead High School. He received his GED after leaving Flathead High School.

Tobi was known as a "social butterfly" during his school years and was very interested in art in any form. A work he did as a young teen was shown at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman. Tobi's greatest loves were art, collecting anything, animals and playing sports. He started skiing on Big Mountain very young and went on to be a fearless downhill skier and later a snowboarder. Tobi wrestled in his



younger years, played youth football and had the greatest love of playing baseball.

As soon as the snow melted in town, he was outside catching grounders and finding somewhere to play. He played on a 13-year-old All-Star Team, the championship American Legion Babe Ruth team that won state and went on to Regionals in 1990. Tobi spent a summer with his dad in Billings and played for the Billings Blues. Tobi played for the Kalispell Lakers in his last year. Tobi loved playing softball and played on numerous teams at the Conrad Complex. In his last years playing softball, he played with all his friends on the "Tie-Dye" team and had many fun and great games. In July of 1996, Tobi suffered a traumatic brain

injury and his and his mother's softball friends were very supportive during his recovery here and in Billings.

Tobi struggled for many years with alcoholism and had many good friends in and out of recovery. At the time of his death, he had been sober and straight for over three years. He was very straightforward about being in recovery. Tobi's attitude was that everyone needs to be responsible for his or her own recovery.

Tobi was preceded in death by many family members, his Aunt Sherry Halvorson, Uncle Jeffrey Halvorson, Grandpa "Indy" Halvorson, Gramma Lorna Halvorson, Grandpa Leonard Lueck, Gramma Ingebjorg Lueck, Grandpa Walter Lehman and Gramma Elizabeth Lehman.

Tobi is survived by his mother, Dyanne Lehman of Whitefish, and his father Richard Lehman of Red Lodge. He

is also survived by his son Johnathon Lehman of Lancaster, California, and his two younger half brothers, Jacob and Richard Lehman of Billings. Tobi is also survived by his loving partner, Beth Huston, of Kalispell. Tobi's Aunt Colleen Lehman of Santa Barbara, California, Aunt Gloria and Uncle Tim Robertus, along with Uncle Tim Lehman of Odessa, Texas, will especially miss him. He is survived on his mother's side by Great-aunt Agnes and Great-uncle Jim Nielsen and their three sons Curt, Christopher and Mikkel Nielsen of Missoula.

Tobi's celebration of life is from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, at the Pavilion at Woodland Park in Kalispell. There will be burgers, salad and soda. Refer questions to his mother, Dyanne Lehman, on Facebook. Come share pictures, videos and stories about Tobi with friends and family.

18 May 2017

## Jean Elizabeth Lehner, 90

Jean Elizabeth Lehner passed away on Oct. 17, 2017.

She was born on Nov. 8, 1926, in San Francisco.

She was preceded in death by her son, Michael Lehner; husband, William Lehner; and her parents, Herbert and Vivian Greiner.

She is survived by two sons, James, and wife Deanne; Gregory, and wife Karen; two granddaughters, Christina, and husband Mike; and Shannon, and husband, Scott; three great-granddaughters, Jaycie, Rosalie and Grace; and one great-grandson, William.

Jean loved nature and the outdoors, and enjoyed a wide variety of outdoor activities. Swimming, hiking, skiing, motorcycle riding and simply watching and admiring wildlife were some of her favor-



ites. Both she and her beloved husband "Willie" had hiked sever-

al wilderness areas, national parks, and even hiked the Grand Canyon twice. She loved all wildlife but her favorite, by far, were wolves.

Her life's career was focused on raising her family as a stay-at-home mom, but when it was time for sons to go to college, she got a job and helped put them through school. Jean had a very full life and will be missed by all who knew her.

Jean did not want a funeral but wanted to join her husband and have their ashes scattered "somewhere beautiful and in the wild."

24 Oct 2017

## Geraldine M. Lehr, 82

"Gerry-with-a-G" was how she introduced herself to new friends.

Born Geraldine May Milka to Edward and Anna (Kozurki) Milka, on May 12, 1934, a product of South Side, Chicago and proud of her Polish heritage. Her "heavenly birthday" was Feb. 7, 2017.

She was a devotee of musical theater, an avid fan of the Cubs and Bulls teams and never lost her distinctive, regional accent. Gerry was also at times sassy, stubborn, opinionated, generous, thoughtful and kind, she could be a devoted friend or perplexing enemy but never a wimpy Casper Milquetoast.

Some may be surprised to learn that along with being a certified optician and medical office manager she also attended the renowned Clown College in Sarasota, Florida. As "Jellybean" or "Peanuts" she was a natural comic with her friendly smile and love of children.

Her early years were spent in the Roman Catholic church and school. Shortly before moving to Montana she joined the Lutheran Church. In Bigfork she became active in the Bethany Lutheran choir along with myriad other activities there. As her spiritual journey shifted she joined the Community United Methodist Church. She would sit in the front row where she could take photos of the youngsters as they listened to the children's sermon each week, occasionally handing out small treats for their pockets.

True to her basic, fun-loving nature, Gerry was a charter member of the Bigfork Red Hat Mommas. Needing another place to display her collection of red and purple accessories she joined a



Red Hat group in Kalispell as well. She ushered for the Bigfork Summer Playhouse, joined the

Bingo Babes in Whitefish, produced arts and crafts projects, dabbled in ceramics and learned to crochet children's hats. Until her move to Rising Mountains Assisted Living she enjoyed her home and garden, having dinner with friends, reading and shopping.

She was preceded in death by her dear husband Harry and beloved cat, Tabby.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, May 11, at the Community United Methodist Church, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Gerry was grateful to the staff at both Rising Mountains and Lake View Care Center for their kindness and companionship.

Gerry has chosen to endow Community United Methodist Church, 750 Electric Avenue, Bigfork, MT 59911, Bethany Lutheran Church, 603 S. Main Street, Bigfork, MT 59911, The Humane Society, P.O. Box 221, Kalispell, MT 59903 and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Any other charitable cause you choose to help would honor her.

Condolences may be submitted on Gerry's webpage at [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com). Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

6 May 2017

## Pete Lemer, 75

Pete Lemer, 75, of Rexford, Montana, passed away of natural causes on April 5, 2017.

Pete was born to John and Dorothy Lemer of Drake, North Dakota, on Nov. 19, 1941. He traveled from Drake to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he participated in Golden Gloves boxing in 1964. At that time he was hired to spar with Charles L. "Sonny" Liston before the title fight with Cassius Clay. After that he headed west to work on the Trego portal and later the Libby Dam. Pete was an equipment operator and settled in Lincoln County. He



worked on the North Slope drilling oil in the winters. During the summer he and his wife Mona traveled around the lower states while Pete worked for a seismic company. Pete and Mona owned and operated the Eureka Tavern and Cafe. After retiring from the oil fields he continued to run the dump for many years and went on to retire from the county.

Pete was the youngest of 12 children. Preceding

him in death were his brothers Dennis, Mike, Johnny and Tony.

He is survived by his four sisters Dorothy, Margaret, Magdalena and Rosemary as well as his brothers Ed, Joe and Lawrence. Pete is also survived by his four children Paul, Leann, Ronnie, Danny and Pete's grandchildren Hayden, Kaylee, Jacquelyn, Emily, Matthew, Candice, Katrin, Courtney, Daryl, Brooke and Haylie. Pete and Mona were an instrumental part of Keith Lambertson's and Irvin Williamson's childhood lives. He will be greatly missed by his

family and friends.

Friends are encouraged to visit [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

15 Apr 2017

## Bert Lenon, 65

Bert Lenon, 65, passed away April 11, 2017, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.

Bert graduated from Flathead High School in 1969 then pursued a degree at the "School of Hard Knocks," majoring in speed, fun and rock 'n' roll. Cars and waterskiing were lifelong interests. He earned titles as a Montana State Go-Kart Champion and Montana State Barefoot Ski Champion. Always a thrill seeker, Bert had many adventures in Flathead County — its lakes, rivers, forests and, especially, its bars. Up to the end, he was shooting whistle pigs through the window of a pickup truck (Is that even legal?). His need for speed was often seen as



autocross racing.

Though born in Wisconsin, Bert was raised in Kalispell and lived his life as a true Montanan. Bert was a jack-of-all-trades — he ran his parents' business, worked in construction and sales, started an auto business and then settled into bartering as an occupation and pastime.

Bert was preceded in death by his parents, June and Frank Lenon, as well as his brother, Bill Lenon.

he flew through the backroads of Echo Lake, empty highways or parking lots doing

Bert is survived by his daughter, Melissa Lenon, and grandchildren, Cole and Jackie, who live in Santa Clara, California, and, his best friend, another brother, Gary Lapp.

A summertime burial service is to be announced.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

18 Apr 2017

## Frank Leon Levandowski, 72

Frank Leon Levandowski, 72, a generous, hardworking man who never met a stranger, died Jan. 13, 2017, surrounded by his family.

Frank was born June 13, 1944, to Frank Sr. and Dorothy Levandowski in Reading, Pennsylvania.

After graduating from Mount Penn High School in Pennsylvania, Frank served for five years in the Navy. His first duty station was in Kodiak, Alaska, where he had the opportunity to harvest a Kodiak brown bear. Following his time in Alaska, Frank was stationed in Japan.

After completing his military service, Frank moved to Gardiner, Montana, in 1968 where he met his wife of 48 years, Phyllis. They met in August of 1968 and were married on Dec. 21, 1968. They had two children, Dan and Lisa.

Frank worked in the Park Service for 25 years, beginning his career in Yellowstone National Park and retiring from Glacier National Park in 1993. In 1976, Frank pioneered the distribution of soft pretzels in Montana and soon became known as the "Pretzel Man" of Montana. The distribution of pretzels throughout Montana led to ownership of several food concession stands which he, along with his family, operated throughout Montana, Idaho and Washington. Frank was famous for his "uniform" of white short-sleeved shirts with red suspenders at the fairs he attended.

Throughout his life, Frank enjoyed the outdoors. He especially loved hunting and fishing with family and friends. Some of his most loved trips included fishing and goose hunting trips to Canada, elk hunting and pheasant hunting. Going on a trip with Frank was never boring and bound



to be an adventure. Frank always had a project in the works and for the last several years enjoyed renovating his farm house in Eastern Montana.

Frank was dearly loved by his family and friends. His larger than life personality, booming laugh and gift of gab will be greatly missed.

Frank was preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy, and father, Frank Sr.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; his brother, John (Paula) Levandowski, of Sinking Springs, Pennsylvania; and his sister, Linda Brossman, of Mohnton, Pennsylvania. He is also survived by his children and two grandchildren, Lisa Levandowski of Whitefish, and Dan (Heather) Levandowski of Great Falls and grandchildren Abigail and Caitlin Levandowski. In addition, he is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 27, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls with a reception to follow.

Memorials can be made to Pheasants Forever in honor of Frank.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for Frank's family.

21 Jan 2017

## Edward 'Eddie' M. Lewis, 72

A memorial ceremony for Edward "Eddie" M. Lewis will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 9, at the resting place of his beloved dog Yippy. Contact his brother, Everett Lewis, for directions. A gathering will follow at the Swan River Community Hall in Bigfork.

Eddie, 72, passed away March 13, 2017 surrounded by family at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Born April 6, 1944, in Dayton, Ohio, he was the son of the late Jesse Lewis of Ohio and Viola Stevens of West Liberty, Kentucky.

Eddie farmed in Shiloh, Ohio for many years before moving to Ferndale in 1974. He was a carpenter for several years, thereafter, and built many houses in the valley for resale. Eddie lived in the Flathead Valley, aside from about three years that he lived in the remote Alaskan wilderness near Sutton, where he dabbled in gold prospecting. He then returned to Montana in 1998, where he lived out the rest of his years in Kila.

Eddie chose to live a simple, quiet life in the woods "off the grid," inspired by his historical knowledge of mountain men and the writings of Henry David Thoreau. He spent much of his time in the outdoors, including wildlife watching, hiking, and hunting/shooting. He also spent time reading (often by candlelight) and listening to the radio (Coast to Coast AM and Paul Harvey were a couple of his favorite radio shows). Eddie enjoyed gun shows and collecting, with an enthusiasm for black powder firearms/muzzle-loaders. He also enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.



Eddie is survived in death by his brother Everett (Patty) Lewis of Bigfork; brothers

Hershel, Danny, and Mike Stevens, and sisters Mona Stamper, Joann Cox, Sue Fannin, and Betty Luke, all of West Liberty; niece Lorie (Gino) Lewis-Campise of Kalispell; nephew Chad (Lisa) Lewis and their children Ryan, Gavin, and Morgan of Monument, Colorado; cousins Tom Dyer of Moorcroft, Wyoming, Alora (Brailey) LaVanway of Kila, Mary Ann Dyer of Ashley Lake, and Jessie Zarnon and her daughter, Fiala, of Kalispell. Eddie is also survived by many other extended family members in Ohio, Kentucky, and other states.

Eddie was a happy-go-lucky guy, bringing his smile and laughter with him wherever he went. He was very knowledgeable, thoughtful, and good through and through — truly one of a kind.

Here are a couple of Henry David Thoreau quotes that describe Eddie and his life's intentions: "If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

We will miss you greatly, Eddie — "Good Day!"

25 Mar 2017

## Alfred 'Ike' Le Lillie, 80

Alfred "Ike" Lee Lillie was born Sept. 5, 1937 and passed away Dec. 8, 2017...

...That is all he wanted on his obituary but there is a lot more to his life!

Alfred "Ike" Lee Lillie was born Sept. 5, 1937 in Eureka. He has been a hard worker his whole life, starting at the early age of eight when he was raised by his Grandma in a logging camp. He also spent some of his childhood in Fortine, Trego, and Kalispell.

After his grandmother passed away he moved to Kalispell to live with his mother and step father, he then went to live with his aunt and uncle in Eureka, Bud and Margaret Titchbourne. There he became one of the family where Jim and Peggy welcomed their new brother.

In 1955 he enlisted in the Navy and was honorably discharged in 1959. As he served in the Navy he operated a beach landing boat transporting troops during the Korean conflict. The Navy ingrained the strong feeling of patriotism for Ike.

From there he moved back to Eureka where he met his wife to be, Carol Hall. They fell in love and were married on August 20, 1960. They moved to Kalispell and had three daughters: Corinne, Pam, and Brenda.

He worked various jobs throughout his adulthood, from digging ditches for McElroy and Wilken, cook (eventually owning his own cafe in Columbia Falls), oil field worker, long-haul semi truck driver, logging, road construction, working on the Libby Dam, co-owning a bronze foundry, and heavy equipment operator for Schilenger Construction, before he and his wife Carol started their own ceramic shop that is still in business today.

In the mid 90s he had his first health scare when he lost the



function of both kidneys. He had to undergo dialysis until he received a kidney transplant in 1997 from his youngest daughter.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Helen Kampfe and Alfred Lillie (who passed away

before his birth), his half brother Carl Kampfe, his oldest daughter Corinne Lillie, and his son-in-law Mark Sonju.

He is survived by his wife Carol Lille; his half brother John Kampfe and wife Hazel; his two daughters, Pamela Greskowiak and her husband Mark, and Brenda Sonju; adopted grandchildren April Lillie, Alexander Lillie and Andrew Lillie; his grandchildren Kayla Sonju, Ashley Sonju-Eaton, and Sheena Mallo, Sarah Kitzmiller, Lucinda Wallace, Kina Greskowiak; and great-grandchildren Alicia, Tanner, Katauna, Shaylee, Atalie, Kycin, Marlow, Holden, Malachi, Sylvia, Ethan and Sophie, and numerous aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews in Kalispell, Eureka, and Oregon.

Memorial service will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, 405 Liberty Street, Kalispell, at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29.

Reception to follow.

Ike was a fun-loving, kindhearted, and generous man who loved his family, fishing and chatting with friends over coffee. He will be missed

dearly by his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Veteran's Pantry or Wounded Warriors Project.

18 Dec 2017

Dec 17

## Daron Kenneth Lime, 66

Cabela's lost one of its most dedicated customers on Dec. 20, 2017, when Daron Kenneth Lime, bane to elk and trout everywhere, "went off on his next adventure to meet his Creator."

Former Marine, NRA instructor, fisherman, hunter, diver, golfer, horseman, boxing coach and master mechanic, Daron had a joke (usually inappropriate) for every occasion and never missed an opportunity to help those in need or tease a friend. "I told you my feet were killing me!" is what he hoped to have on his headstone (sorry, Daron!)

Daron was born Jan. 14, 1951, in Browning and graduated from Whitefish High School in 1969. He proudly served his country with the Marine Corps (and he would enthusiastically yell Semper Paratus to fellow Marines) before returning home to his beloved Montana to work as a heavy equipment mechanic.

An avid story teller, he loved nothing better than the days he spent with the boys in hunting camp, coffee breaks with "the best people in the world" at Bonneville Power where he worked for almost 20 years, swapping stories at various

gun shows, going out to Shakers with his kids for dinner and those rare occasions when the Washington Redskins actually won a game.

Because Daron had a heart the size of Montana, there wouldn't be room in the phone book to list all his interests and those he loved. However, he had three guiding passions — his five children who were the light of his life, his Native spiritual path, which he followed with dedication, and his sobriety (yes, he got to meet his Creator with 32 years sober.)

He is survived by his wife, Phebe (who proved an even worse housekeeper than he was); his children, Victor Lime (Polly), of Salem, Oregon, Mark Lime of Kalispell, Jenny Moberg of Olympia, Washington, Daron (Brittany) of Kalispell and Calvin (Kristen) Lime of Browning; nine grandchildren; his sisters, Eleanor Sam of Wapato, Washington, and Margaret Bearchild of Great Falls; brothers, Roger Boy of Missoula, Elias Lime of Bigfork, and Cecil Lime (Nancy) of Kodiak, Alaska; beloved nephews, nieces and enough friends to fill 50 football fields.

He was preceded in death by his parents,

Victor and Garnet Lime; two half brothers, Camilo and Adolfo Lime; his brothers-in-law, Johnny Sam and Lloyd Bearchild; and his grandson, Aidan Moberg. There will be an informal all day gathering to honor Daron on Dec. 28 at Old Eagle Shield in Browning, and the burial services will start around 10 a.m. on Dec. 29, also at

the Old Eagle Shield in Browning.

In lieu of flowers, his family asks that donations be made to the Native American Rights fund, and in his memory, people perform an unexpected and perhaps anonymous act of kindness, the kind Daron performed daily.

22 Dec 2017