

Catherine Babic, 73

Catherine Babic, 73, died Dec. 19, 2019. She is survived by her husband Walter and two sons Walter P. Babic and Christopher Babic.

A private family service will take place at a later date. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for her family.

James Vincent Baiar, 80

PAG
James Vincent Baiar passed away on May 1, 2019, at the age of 80 years.

Jim was born on Dec. 19, 1938, in Spokane to Vincent and Ann Baiar. He grew up in Spokane and graduated high school in 1956.

Some of his fondest memories were spending time farming in the Spokane Valley with his Italian grandfather. He was very proud of his Italian heritage.

After graduation, Jim enlisted in the Marine Reserves and attended the University of Idaho, graduating with a bachelor's degree in forestry management. He moved to Livingston, Montana, and started work with the U.S. Forest Service. He was transferred to the Flathead National Forest in 1967 and moved to Columbia Falls where he lived the rest of his life. He left the Forest Service after a few years and started his own business, Halfmoon Rifle Shop, where he manu-



P.M.C. 2019
factured rifle barrels. He passed on his skill and passion for the trade to his grandson, Michael.

Jim married Ginger on Feb. 14, 1988, and they spent 31 years together until his passing.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife, Ginger; his three sons, Jeff (Jody) of Columbia Falls, Tom of Durango, Colorado, and Ron (Patricia) of Pullman, Washington; grandchildren, Michael (Emily) of Columbia Falls, and Jessica (Kirby) Sharbono of Tacoma, Washington; two great-grandchildren, Madelyn and Ethan; brother, Don (Mary Ann) of Vancouver, Washington; and stepchildren, Jim (Nancy) Harry of Ellensburg, Washington, and Linda (Rob) VanHalder of Nampa, Idaho.

A burial ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. on May 11 at Woodlawn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Jim's name to the National Rifle Association.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for Jim's family.

Linda Daniels Bailey, 77

PAG 24 Feb 2019
Linda Daniels Bailey, 77, died at her home in Congress, Arizona, on Feb. 18, 2019.

She is survived by Chuck, her husband of 40 years, and four nieces and their families.

Linda was born April 12, 1941, to Carl and Valentine (Feirstein) Daniels.

She spent most of her life in Columbia Falls — working as a bartender and house painter. She loved her garden, to fish and her artwork. She has lived in Congress, Arizona, for the past 18 years.

Per her request, there will be no service.

Annette Elizabeth Bain-Wilson, 97

PA 5 5 Apr 2019



Annette left her earthly bonds on April 2, 2019, at HealthCenter Northwest.

She was welcomed to this earth by a midwife in her parents' log cabin in Proctor on July 29, 1921, to Robert Lee and Bessie Kay Walker. She was the youngest of three siblings. Annette attended a one-room grade school by horseback in Proctor and graduated from Flathead County High School with the class of 1940. During much of her time in high school she would stay in Kalispell with friends of the family while taking the bus back home to Proctor on the weekends. As part of a hardworking farm family, Annette, along with her two brothers Tom and Leon, lived through and experienced the Great Depression.

During her child and teen years Annette loved to fish Dayton Creek, help her grandmother cook and bake, and roam the hills of the Proctor Valley. Annette's work ethic began at the age of 8 when she worked for her uncle Charlie at Camp Tuffit and later on at Smith's Campground Resort.

On Sept. 25th, 1941, she married Richard V. Bain of Kalispell. They had six children over the course of the next 18 years and resided in Evergreen. Most of this time Annette was a homemaker, and she and Richard spent their free time dancing with friends, traveling and attending D.A.V. meetings, and spending quality time camping and fishing with family in the South Fork. She will always be remembered for her cooking and baking prowess. Annette and her kids won several ribbons at the annual

county fair. She was an excellent pie maker, and always had buckets of cookies on the kitchen counter awaiting the hands of her visiting grandkids! In 1965, Annette and Richard purchased and built a second home on Bitterroot Lake with the intention of making it a summer home. Richard passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 5, 1978, while hunting. In 1986, Annette married Bill Wilson and they enjoyed extensive travels throughout the country and abroad until his passing of cancer in 1996.

Annette worked as Richard's bookkeeper in the construction business, as an employee at the Cherry Warehouse, ran the local Popcorn Wagon, and worked a short stint as a baker at the B&B restaurant. She later was employed as the clerk at The Daily Inter Lake circulation department, as a district manager and eventually as the circulation manager. She retired in 1980, sold her home in Evergreen and moved to the lake full time.

Annette was active in 4-H, her kids' activities, and working and volunteering with the Disabled American

Veterans Auxiliary. She ran the weekly bingo parties at the Columbia Falls Veterans Home for over 40 years. In 2003, Annette was awarded the prestigious John E. Sloan memorial award in Helena for her distinguished service to veterans and their families. For over 20 years she held annual picnics at her lake home each summer honoring the veterans who resided at the Veterans Home. Annette was a matriarch in every sense of the word and held the respect of each of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Many special celebrations of her annual Thanksgiving and birthday get-togethers at the lake will be forever etched in all our memories. Continuous laughter and sharing the many stories of the past entertained us all! Annette will be sorely missed, however, she is now enjoying reuniting with all her loved ones who passed before her.

Annette is preceded in death by both parents, her brothers Tom and Leon Walker, both husbands, daughter-in-law Lori Bain and granddaughter Jessica Wolf.

She is survived by daughters Carolyn and husband Joe Messner, Richie Kay and husband Jerry Stone, Valerie and

husband Merritt Wolf; and sons Dennis Bain and wife Marilyn, Greg Bain and wife Clare LaMeres, and Jeff Bain and life partner Sandra Ravetto. She is also survived by 13 grand children and 30 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 11:30 a.m. on April 6 at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with a graveside service following at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. Visitation hours will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 5, and Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m. until time of service.

In lieu of flowers donations in Annette's memory may be made to the Columbia Falls Veterans Home or to the Disabled American Veterans.

Following graveside services, a reception will be held at the Country Inn & Suites at Glacier Park International Airport.

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

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

Carrie Ann Baker, 48

Carrie died peacefully at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center on Jan. 16, 2019, from complications stemming from an abdominal aortic aneurysm that occurred on Dec. 26, 2018.

Carrie was the third-born child of James Sylvan Baker and Ellen May (Caudill) Baker. She was born on Dec. 18, 1970. She was raised in Kalispell and attended local schools and Flathead High School.

Over the years she worked as a waitress, tended bar and did home health care for many years.

At the time of her death, she was a casino runner at the Homestead Cafe in Lakeside. She loved her job and, most of all, the people that she waited on; she considered them her friends.

She was blessed with two boys, Jordan John James Patterson and Jake Sylvan Baker. They were her world, and she loved and cherished them so much.

Later in her life she was blessed to meet her soulmate, Gordon "Gordy" Lobdell. He loved and cared for her unconditionally. I know he will miss her dearly.

Carrie loved her bulldog pups, Lucy, Gummer and their newest addition, Ivy Blu.

Carrie had a sensitive, loving and compassionate heart. She was a



spitfire and had a sense of humor like no other. She will truly be missed

by so many.

She is survived by her sons, Jordan Patterson, Jake Baker, and her unborn grandson due to be born in April, Dawson Gene Sylvan Baker; her beloved soulmate, Gordy Lobdell, his children and all his loving family; her brother, Sherman Baker, his wife Rae Marie, and their children; her sister, Tammy Koski, her husband Jeff, and their children; many loving aunts, uncles, cousins and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her dad, Jim Baker, in 2006, and her mom, Ellen Baker, in 1991.

Rest in peace, Carrie. I know that our loved ones, that have passed before us are there to welcome you home. You will never be forgotten and you will always be loved and missed by all.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at Johnson-Gloschat Mortuary on Main Street.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date when the weather is better.

James 'Jim' E. Baker, 78

James "Jim" E. Baker, 78, of Polson, passed away at Kalispell Regional Hospital in Kalispell on March 14, 2019.

Jim was born June 30, 1940 in Whitefish. His parents were James Allison and Helen Sagen. Jim attended school in Whitefish. After graduation from Whitefish High School, Jim went on to the University of Montana where he played for the Grizzly basketball team. He then finished his education and received his bachelor's degree in Napa Valley, California.

On April 25, 1982, Jim married the love of his life, Geri Salois, and spent his days with her traveling and living life to the fullest.

Jim spent the majority of his career working in the employment industry helping people gain independence. He taught science at the Browning Public Schools, and was an elected member of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council. Jim ended his career working for the AFL-CIO



Labor union. Jim was an avid fisherman and a sports enthusiast.

and loved to read and tell stories. He also enjoyed spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife Geri; his sons Michael Long of Sacramento, California, Kurt (Carolyn) Zuback of Browning; his daughter Karol (Karl) Zuback of Browning; his grandchildren Shantell (Gavin) Flammond of Billings, Cait Flammond of the Virgin Islands and Woody and Wacey Zuback of Browning; and his great-grandchildren Preston and Bailee Flammond of Billings, Nikiah and Greysen Kramer of Billings and Beatrix Zuback of Browning.

Services for Jim will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 2048 Conn Road, Columbia Falls.

Denise M (Charbonneau) Baltadonis, 87

Denise M (Charbonneau) Baltadonis, 87, passed away peacefully on Nov. 29 2019 from complications related to her long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Born in Cowansville, Quebec in 1932, Denise emigrated to the U.S. with her family as a teenager.



her husband, William, who passed in 2013, and her five siblings. She is survived by her daughter, Doreen (Baltadonis) Duquette and her husband, Mark of Tewksbury, Massachusetts, as well as her son Paul Froment and his wife Dianne of Bigfork; she also leaves three grandchildren: Connor, Emily and Stephen.

Funeral services and burial will be private. Donations in her name are welcome and should be directed to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org.

Arrangements by Dyer-Lake Funeral Home, North Attleboro, Massachusetts.

She lived in Pawtucket, Rhode Island and South Attleboro, Massachusetts for over 60 years and retired from Texas Instruments after decades of service. She is preceded by

Roger Louis Baker, 84

PAL 31 Mar 2019
On Wednesday, March 27, 2019, Roger Louis Baker went to be with his Lord and Savior at the age of 84.

Roger was born to Maurice and Erma (Davis) Baker on May 14, 1934, in Verdale, Minnesota. He grew up on the family farm there where he worked and played hard with his seven siblings. After high school graduation, he moved to Columbia Falls, and then to Whitefish. He spent 12 years working at the Columbia Falls Aluminum Plant.

In 1968 he and his wife Floy moved to Fairbanks, Alaska. He was a lifetime member of the Painters Union and he worked on the Alaska pipeline. He traveled the world while working for AIA. An avid outdoorsman, he loved hunting and fishing, with his sons and friends (especially with his friend Bud Willard). In 1980 Roger and Floy moved back to Montana where they presently lived.

Roger is survived by wife Floy, and four of five children from a previous marriage, sons Kenneth (Karen) and Clinton (Yiting) of Kalispell; son Ross of Fairbanks, Alaska; and daughter Deanne Krause



(Deryl) of Nenana, Alaska. He is also survived by three stepchildren, Christine

Tucker (Tom) of Kalispell; Steve Griffin (Vickey) of Polson; and Nyle Griffin of Plains. He is survived by siblings, DeeDee (LaDelle) Neal, (Chuck) Staples, of Minnesota; Mary Froechlich (Robert), of Champlain, Minnesota; James Baker (Sandy) of Deer Creek, Minnesota; and Lola Larson (Larry) of Vancouver, Washington; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by parents Maurice and Erma Baker, son Dean Baker, brothers John and Maurice (Maury) Baker, and sister Shirley Grewe.

Services will take place at 2 p.m. Monday, April 1, at Hillside Church in Whitefish. A reception will follow after services in the church basement.

Austin Funeral & Cremation Services of Whitefish is caring for the family.

Naomi Lee Balum, 82

Naomi Lee Balum, 82, died Sunday, April 28, 2019, at her friend's home. At her request there

will be no services. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Deborah J. Bancroft, 62

Deborah J. Bancroft, 62, died April 6, 2019, at the HealthCenter Northwest.

She is survived by her husband Duane Bancroft,

and daughters Brandy and Sidra Willard.

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

Joyce (Strassburg) Bansch, 82

PAL 26 July 2019
Joyce (Strassburg) Bansch left this earth May 17, 2019, while at a hospital in Indianapolis and surrounded by her family, Pam Dickenson (Jim) and Paula Bansch.

Joyce was born April 5, 1937, to Rudolph and Catherine (Lyford) Strassburg and lived in Kalispell until going to the University of Montana to pursue a career in nursing. While in Missoula she met her husband, John Bansch. Joyce spent the majority of her life in the Indianapolis area where she stretched her time

to include caring both for others as well as her family.

Joyce was a great cook, valued friend, practicing Christian and awesome gardener.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, as well as her Lyford cousins, Wilbur, Robert and Ronald, and is survived by her immediate family in Indianapolis, Jerry and Gail Lyford, and Lois Lyford of Kalispell, and nieces, nephews and cousins of Lyford, Dern and Strassburg lineage.

Anna Y. Balko, 98

Anna Y. Balko, 98, of Kalispell died June 14, 2019, in Kalispell.

Services have been held.

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

Janice Darlene Ballard, 71

Janice Darlene Ballard, 71, died Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, at her home in Kalispell.

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

Harold Nolan Barber, 89

P A 7 15 Aug 2019
Harold Nolan Barber, 89, died early Sunday afternoon, Aug. 25, 2019, at his home in Lewistown as a result of an accident.

He was born June 2, 1930, in Denton, the son of Nolan and Lela (Wise) Barber.

Harold worked for the United States National Forest Service. He also spent much of his time packing horses in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. He was an excellent hunting guide in the great states of Alaska and Montana and loved his time spent around horses and pack mules.

In the early '80s he was united in marriage to his stubborn, and hard-working other half, Naomi Summers, in Whitefish. Harold continued living the life of a typical Montanan with his wife and his granddaughter Skye in Lewistown. Harold liked to spend time fishing and hunting in the great Montana outdoors up until his death. He had many hobbies that included leather work, spending time with horses, feeding barn cats and cooling off with a refreshing red beer. His craftsmanship, and warm personality were reasons that Harold was such a joy to be around.

He was a member of the American Legion Club, the Moose lodge



and the American Quarter Horse Association.

He is survived by

his wife, Naomi of Lewistown; one brother, Larry Barber, of Denton; sons, Melvin of Billings, and David in Kentucky; stepsons, Larry Brown and Jack Brown, both of Billings, and Shannon (Leslie) Summers of Simi Valley, California, Joe Summers of Bigfork, and Nick (Cindy) Stalenski of Boise, Idaho; as well as his many grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his son Tom Barber.

A celebration of his life for Harold N. Barber will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday Aug. 30, at the Moose lodge. As per the request of his family, cremation has taken place.

The Cloyd Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Friends are asked to make memorials to SAVES Inc., the Central Montana Food Bank, or the charity of their choice and they may be left with the Cloyd Funeral Home. Condolences for the family may be posted online at www.cloydfuneral-home.com

MaDonna Jean Barber, 80

P A 4 7 Feb 2019
MaDonna Jean Barber, 80, of Yellow Bay on Flathead Lake, passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019, at the Montana Veterans Home Special Care Unit.

MaDonna was born in Wolf Point, the seventh child of Harold and Grace Ella Stinger, on Sept. 13, 1938. She went to school at Whitefish. She married Dale Oliver Barber on March 8, 1958, in Spokane. She was very self-sufficient and an early entrepreneur. She graduated from the School of Cosmetology and worked as a hairstylist in Whitefish for many years. She enjoyed her time with the Montana Highway Department where she worked both in the office and out in the field. She enjoyed an early retirement and wintered in Parker, Arizona, and the summers on Yellow Bay.

She loved to read, dance, play cribbage, pegs, the washer game and just about any game with a little competition. Her love of knitting and sewing blessed many family members with gifts of love in the form of sweaters, vests, and warm comforting blankets. She adored the outdoors and spent many days and nights camping, fishing and hunting with her beloved husband and family. She taught her boys the value of a great work ethic and how to enjoy life to the fullest.

MaDonna was preceded in death by her husband Dale, parents Harold and Grace Ella



(Brown) Stinger, brother Dale, sisters Ella Louise (Chet), Doris

Emma (Lloyd), Carolyn Esther, Joanne, and Cheryl Grace; niece Tina, and nephews Jay, Rick, Lyndon, Roy and Mitch.

MaDonna is survived by her sons, Kevin (Eve) Barber, Neal Barber, and Ron (Amanda) Barber; sisters, Marcia (Jim) Hunnewell and Carla Corbally; grandchildren, DeNeal (Todd) Fann, Dacy (Jake) Williams, Brie Anne Barber and Dale Oliver Joseph Barber; great-grandchildren, Hunter and Hallie Fann, and Noxyn, Seeley and Elisha Williams; and her cherished nieces, nephews and friends.

The family wishes to extend our sincere thanks to Linda Hubble Schmidt for your love and companionship, the amazing team serving in the Special Care Unit of the Montana Veterans Home, and the compassionate Frontier Hospice team.

A celebration of life reception will be held for family and friends from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Back Room in Columbia Falls.

In lieu of flowers, we would be honored for any donations to the Montana Veterans Home Activities Programs that serve the residents' outdoor field trips and events, 400 Veterans Drive, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Robert 'Butch' Barber, 76

P.A. 16 Dec 2019
Robert "Butch" Barber was born on Aug. 31, 1943, in Fairview, Alberta, to Bob and Caroline Barber. He passed away on Dec. 12, 2019, at the age of 76.

As a boy growing up in Canada, he loved sports, playing baseball and hockey. He went on to become a professional hockey player in the winter, and rodeoed in the summer during his time away from the game. He came to Montana at an early age and fell in love with the Flathead Valley, working at Bob and Amanda Nordtome's ranch south of Kalispell. After his hockey career, for which he was inducted into the Alberta Hockey Hall of Fame, he settled in the valley and raised his family. Summers were spent on Flathead Lake, driving his beloved 1973 Sidewinder jet boat and dragging his friends and family behind it.

He was a jack of all trades, first building homes and later starting his own trucking company. He was good with his hands, and could fix nearly anything that was broken. He enjoyed spending time at his shop, where he seemed



to always have company and where happy hour started early. He was a great storyteller and had a one-liner for just about any occasion.

He is survived by his wife Judy of 50 years; his sister, Carole (Doug) Silverberg; his daughters, Debbie (Wayne) Fletcher, Kim (Chad) Thomas; and his son, Rob (Patti Jo) Barber.

He loved spending time with his grandchildren, Sydney, Payton, Katie, Greyson, Taylor, Alec and Ava, who all lovingly called him "Butchie." He also loved his nephews, Doug, Kyle and Scott Silverberg.

He will be missed, but would want everyone to celebrate his life, not mourn his passing. A memorial service will be held at 1pm on Saturday, Dec. 21 at Snowline Acres, 150 Snowline Lane, Kalispell, Montana. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Lakeside QRU or the American Diabetes Association.

Constance S. Barletta, 94

Constance S. Barletta, 94, died Saturday, Aug. 31, 2019, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

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

Marc W. Barnhart, 51

Marc W. Barnhart, 51, of Kalispell, died Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019, at his home.

No services are being planned at this time.

Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory.

Edward Barnhill Jr., 65

Edward Barnhill Jr., 65, of Whitefish, died April 2, 2019, at North Valley Hospital.

A memorial service will be held 10 a.m. Saturday, April 13, at the

Four Square Church in Whitefish.

Austin Funeral and Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for the family.

Phyllis J. Bardwell, 89

Phyllis J. Bardwell, 89, died on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at her home in Kalispell. Phyllis was born on Dec. 7, 1929 in Belt.

Services are currently pending at this time. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Alice (Dennee) Barten, 59 Katie McKenna Dennee Barten, 31

PAG 10 July 2019

Alice (Dennee) Barten, 59, and her daughter, Katie McKenna Dennee Barten, 31, passed away suddenly in Kalispell on July 4, 2019. Loved ones have been remembering their special bond in life and now in eternity.

Alice Barten was born in Wausau, Wisconsin, to Lawrence A. Dennee and Marie (Schanfeous) Dennee, the second youngest of eight children. She attended St. John's Catholic School and graduated from Edgar High School. She later attended and graduated from Flathead Valley Community College.

She met the love of her life, David, the one and only time that either of them went to the disco, and it was love at first sight; they were married a short two weeks later. Their early marriage was joyfully spent in a small primitive cabin in the North Fork and they later moved to the Lake Blaine area. They were blessed with three children, Dohasan, Logan and Katie Barten and had just celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary.

Alice worked nights at Cayuse Prairie School during her college semesters, and was later employed at Big Mountain Resort, the Flathead Curriculum Cooperative, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flathead County, and most recently, Windmill Storage & Business Park.

Alice most enjoyed any time spent with her family. She truly relished every minute with her children and grandchildren, and was always happy when family visited. She loved crafting, reading, huckleberry picking, shooting and hiking in Glacier National Park. She was always quick to volunteer in the community and spent many hours in service to Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Creston Auction on behalf of the Creston



Fire Department.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her sisters Carol Davidsen and Annette Dennee.

Katie was born in Kalispell, the youngest of three children. She spent her early years at Cayuse Prairie School and graduated as valedictorian from Flathead High School. She spent her college years working at Costco while attending the University of Montana in Missoula and later transferred to the Kalispell Costco, where she was employed at the time of her death.

Katie considered her mom one of her best friends and they often enjoyed cooking, crafting and nearly any kind of outdoor activity they could find to try in Northwest Montana. Katie also enjoyed snowboarding, hiking, kayaking and spending time with her brothers, friends, and extended family. Always up for a challenge, she relished learning to hunt with her dad and brothers, learn-

ing gardening, canning and quilting from family and neighbors, and she often found happiness in painting and any other kind of artwork. One of her greatest joys was in her fur babies, Rowdy, Ozzie, and the family dog, Dylan.

Katie was preceded in death by her grandparents, Pete and Patricia Barten, and Lawrence and Marie Dennee.

Alice and Katie, now together forever, are survived by their beloved husband and father, David, in the family home, and by Dohasan of Denver, and Logan and his wife, Jenny, and their children Aiden, Keiren, Eaven, Enda, Aerna and Eiona, all of Kalispell. They are also survived by Alice's sisters, Catherine Concotelli, Ellen Dennee, Irene Nowak and Arlene Biesiada, and brother Robert Dennee; as well as David's siblings, Dean and Donna Barten, Dawn

and Mike Redmond, Joyce Barten, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

There will be a celebration of life service at 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, at Canvas Church with a potluck gathering following at the family home. A MealTrain has been organized by friends of the family to provide meals and companionship for Dave in the coming days. More information is available at <https://www.mealtrain.com>

In lieu of flowers, the Barten family would encourage you to please contribute to Mothers Against Drunk Driving; <https://www.madd.org>

Friends and family are encouraged to visit www.darlingtonfunerals.com to leave memories, condolences and tributes for the family. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for Alice and Katie.

Amy Basham, 49

Amy Basham passed away at the Kalispell Regional Medical Center one year ago today, on July 4, 2018. She was surrounded by her three children.

Amy was born Amy Colleen Beebe at the Balboa Navy Hospital in San Diego on May 21, 1969, to Gary and Cheryl. She was followed 14 months later by her sister, Wendy.

Amy attended school in East Wenatchee and Cashmere, Washington, before the family moved to Ketchikan, Alaska, in July 1982. She attended Shoenbar Junior High, Ketchikan High School, and graduated, ahead of schedule, from Revilla High School in 1987. She met her future husband, Rendell Floyd, in Ketchikan and they moved to his hometown of Coram, Montana, in late 1988. The couple raised their three children in Coram.

Amy worked at the Montana State Veterans Home for exactly 24 years. She reluctantly retired from her position as ward clerk on June 27, just one week before she passed. She left behind countless friends from her time there. Gayle, Kim, Lynette, Meg, "the Bonnies," Alice, Jeanne, and Kathy just to name a few — they were family to her, they all leaned on one another — they were so supportive, especially after her cancer diagnosis. Her dear friend, Gayle, was like a sister to Amy; they could often be found mapping out their garage sale routes — especially on their birthday weekend in May, which was a tradition for them.

Amy was an avid crafter; handmade cards were her passion. She joined Stampin' Up! to receive a discount on her paper crafting supplies and convinced her sister to join as well so they would be able to attend events together. And they did. For the last five years of Amy's life, they attended as



JoAnn's along the way (coupons in hand, of course)! She loved road trips, camping at KOAs, trips to Juneau to visit her sister, her sisters' visits to Montana, and crafting with her sister.

She was extremely proud of her three kids, and she absolutely adored her little grandson, Keian. Sadly, Amy missed the birth of her newest grandson, Lincoln on June 17, 2019, as well as her son Ryan's wedding to Brynn in February — but, we know she was there, and always will be.

Amy will be dearly missed by her husband, Harry Basham, her children Ryan Floyd (Brynn), Heather Floyd (Levi), and Kaitlyn Floyd, her grandsons Keian and Lincoln, her father, Gary Beebe (Linda), her mother, Cheryl Dunning (Earl), her stepdad, Fred Gronlund (Lynn), her sister, Wendy Beebe-Chavolla (Gustavo), nephews Stephen Hansen and Roland Peterson, nieces Amanda Beebe-Bay (Travis) and Samantha Greene, grandniece, Victoria, as well as extended family. Amy is also survived by countless friends both old and new whom she loved dearly and whose friendship she cherished. Condolences can be sent to her children c/o Heather Floyd, P.O. Box 331 Coram, Montana 59913; or to her sister, Wendy Beebe at P.O. Box 34512, Juneau, Alaska 99803.

Ronald 'Ron' Bates, 79

Ronald "Ron" Bates, 79, of Columbia Falls, died at Bee Hive Homes on August 2, 2019. Ron is survived by his son Shawn Bates. No ser-

vices are scheduled at this time. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for Ron's family.

Dona Fae Battaglia, 88

Dona Fae Battaglia, 88, of Whitefish, died at North Valley Hospital on July 7, 2019. Dona is survived by her son Virgil Weitzel and daughter

Lori Booth. No services are scheduled. Austin Funeral and Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for Dona's family.

Duane Allen Battes, 77

P 194

6 Feb 2019

Duane was 77 years young when he passed away, after a hard-fought battle with cancer, on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2019, at 3 p.m. He passed away peacefully at home in Kalispell surrounded by his family.



his four daughters (the 4 Ts): Tina and Nick Venturini (Matthew and Kayla Venturini); great granddaughter Kinley, Tabitha, Mario



Duane was born in Williston, North Dakota, on July 1, 1941.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lillian and Mathias Battes; uncle, Ole and Gertrude Kelson; and father-in-law, Claude Rhodes and his wife Virginia Battes.

After graduating high school, Duane entered the Navy and was assigned to the USS Washburn. He served from 1959-1961. Duane worked on both the Libby and Hungry Horse Dams and Stoltze Lumber Yard.

He married Virginia Rhodes on Dec. 31, 1965. They were married for 42 years. They have four daughters, welcomed 10 grandchildren, gained two granddaughters in-law, and one great-granddaughter, plus he enjoyed the announcement of a great-grandson due in May.

Duane is survived by

and Jessica Venturini, Mallare: Tammy and Dan Curtin (Lacie-Jo, David); Tanya and Eric Lindsey (Bryce); Trisha and Raymond Connors (Bailey, Shaelin and Keegan), mother-in-law Stella Rhodes, and numerous other relatives on Virginia's side.

Duane was a beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather and his name is carried by two grandsons and one great-grandson.

Duane was an avid woodworker; he was always making wood projects. He made items to pass down to his family.

Our favorite memories are his stories that would make you laugh until you cried. He enjoyed shooting guns with his family,

going fishing, cracking jokes and initiating everyone to a good day's work of chopping wood. He was one of the most loving and kind-hearted men in the world who emphasized the importance of family and showed you could overcome any obstacles in life.

A celebration of life will be held from noon to 5 p.m. June 30 at Lawrence Park at 1105 North Main Street in Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to any VA charity. Duane believed in the good work that the VA does for all its members.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website, www.buffalohillfh.com, to leave notes of condolence

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

Margarette Elaine Bauer, 58

PAT

July 20 19

Margarette Elaine Bauer, known to friends and family as Maggie, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, June 30, 2019.

Maggie was born in Billings and was a long-time resident of Bigfork.

In life, Maggie led with love and empathy — especially for the neglected, lost, less fortunate, and the underdog. She was a free spirit with a wonderful sense of humor, an always reli-



able friend, and most loving daughter, sister, niece, mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her daughter Billiejo and son-in-law Jeremy Olson of Belgrade, son Lincoln Bauer of Bigfork, grandchildren Ashton, Kyler, Cailyn, Ryas and Sawyer Olson of Belgrade, as

well as many extended family members, human friends, and furry friends whom she loved dearly.

Maggie was 58 years old but forever young at heart.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. July 27 at the Swan River Community Hall.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Abbie Shelter for women and children (www.abbieshelter.org).

Elmo Baughman, 88

P.A. 15 Dec 2019

Elmo Baughman passed away Dec. 4, 2019, at his home in Kalispell.

Elmo was born Sept. 15, 1931, and spent his early life in Edinburg, Illinois. He attended schools there and enlisted in the U.S. Army on his 17th birthday. Most of a four-year stint was spent in Japan and Korea, part of the 7th Calvary Regiment of the U.S. Army. He received the Combat Infantry badge, the Korean Service Medal (five battle stars), and the Presidential Unit Citation. As staff sergeant, at his discharge in 1952, Elmo made his home in Detroit and was employed by Ford.

He met his wife Joyce Rogers, in Michigan, and married in Florida where they lived for 56 years, before moving to Kalispell 11 years ago. They enjoyed nearly 66 years of marriage.

Children include Shelley (deceased, 1968), with survivors Jeffrey (wife, Sharon),



Brenda, and Curtis (wife, Laura). Grandchildren include Mandi Oliphant, Tiffany Pass, Ashley

Bruce, Jordan Dominguez, Christopher Baughman, Justin Baughman, Caitlyn Sharp and Cody Hicks.

Elmo was employed by the Continental Can Co. in Tampa, Florida, for 32 years in the Quality Control Department. They traveled throughout U.S. and Canada during retirement. After moving to Kalispell, he served as a "Walmart Greeter" until earlier this year.

Elmo was a member of The Church At Creston - Lutheran. He met his Lord on Dec. 4. Everyone is welcome to celebrate his life at a time to be announced at a later date.

Manfred Bay, 68

Manfred Bay, 68, of Kalispell died on Feb. 6, 2019.

He is survived by his wife Anne Bay.

No services are scheduled at this time.

Austin Funeral and Cremation Services is caring for the family.

Bruce Donald Bardwell, 57

P.A. 20 Sept 2019

Bruce Donald Bardwell, 57, passed way in his home on Sept. 14, 2019, after a yearlong battle with multiple myeloma (cancer of the spine).

Bruce was born Feb. 2, 1962, in Kalispell to Donald and Norma (Florence Mohn) Bardwell. Bruce

later in 1978 moved to Lakeside, Oregon, with his family. Bruce later returned to Kalispell and lived with

his aunts Caroline to finish high school and graduate with his class in June 1981.

Bruce worked in various businesses in Kalispell, including Hennessey's Steak House/Outlaw Inn for 13 years, and several years at the Gold Nugget.

Bruce loved working in his yard and the flower beds. He always had such a beautiful yard. As much as he enjoyed his flowers, it was second only to his love for his dogs he had over the



years. During his illness, cousin Laura and her husband David, and friends

Jennifer "Jen" and her husband Matt extended special care and compassion to Bruce. The family is indebted to them.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents, sister Francis, grandparents, and many aunts and uncles.

Bruce is survived by his son Jeff Lathrom and wife Dana, their daughters, twins Brenwyn, Eowyn, and

Evelyn "Evie" of Palmer, Alaska, two older brothers David, Allen and wife Cindy, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Graveside services are planned for 11 a.m. Sept. 28 at Glacier Memorial Gardens and are open to all friends and family.

Ronald Stephen Bealer, 61

Ronald Stephen Bealer, 61, of Kalispell, died Monday, Sept. 23, 2019, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 5, at Fairbridge Inn (the old Outlaw Inn) 1701 U.S. 93 S., Kalispell.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

Carollee Bennett, 80

Carollee Bennett, 80, died Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at Lake View Care Center in Bigfork.

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

Kathy Lynn Bennett, 63

Kathy Lynn Bennett, 63, died Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019 at her home in Kalispell. Buffalo

Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

William Frank Bennett, 80

William Frank Bennett, 80, died Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019, at The HealthCenter. Services

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

Dorothy Jatich Beres, 90

Dorothy Jatich Beres, 90, died Dec. 18, 2019 at Wel Life in Kalispell. Services are currently

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

John Henry Benningfield, 79

John Henry Benningfield, 79, died peacefully at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell on Dec. 22, 2019 at 10:45 a.m.

Born Aug. 23, 1940 in Rock Island, Illinois, he was the third child of Henry B. Benningfield and Laveta A. Benningfield (Hootmar).

He was a longtime member of the Worldwide Church of God since 1970 and later Living Church

of God and United Church of God, An International Association. Moving back to Whitefish from the White Mountains of New Mexico in 2014, he was a retired machinist and teacher.

Preceding him in death are his older brother, Bascom F., and his oldest sister, Alta May. He had a brother, Frank, whose whereabouts are unknown. His youngest surviving brother, Tuck,

ALC 29 Dec 2019
resides in Florida.

His oldest son John Jr. preceded him in death in 2013. There remain three surviving children, James Alan, Candace Elizabeth AbdElHamed (husband Nour AbdElHamed) and Andrew Scott, and their mother, Barbara N. Bitner.

He had three grandchildren, Zachary Robert Watson, Drew Eugene Watson and Rebecca, and five great grandchild-

dren thus far, including Adelyn Ruth Watson and Xavier Ray Watson. A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020 at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Burial will take place in his family burial plot, in Albright Cemetery in Kokomo, Indiana. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

Dave Berger, 78

Dave Berger passed away at age 78 on April 13, 2019, in Kalispell. He was born Sept. 25, 1940 in Minneapolis to Kermit and Esther Berger (now both deceased).

Dave was married to Deanne Berger.

He is survived by his son, Dustinn Berger, and



ALC 24 Apr 2019
daughters, Kim Berger-Morgan and husband Alvin Morgan, Kari Berger and

husband Anthony Fisher, Amy Tredway and hus-

band Wesley Tredway, and Aaryn Galloway and husband Andrew Galloway. Also, he is survived by three sisters, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Dave was a general contractor for Pacific Homes and Land. He enjoyed hunting, car races and

his grandchildren.

Friends and family are welcome to attend the funeral service on at 1 p.m. Friday, April 26, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell. In lieu of flowers, please donate in Dave's name to the Alzheimer's Association.

Harvey Arnold Benzien, 81

Harvey Arnold Benzien, 81, of Columbia Falls, died July 30, 2019, at home.

He is survived by his wife Lorraine Benzien, and daughters Tammy

Benzien and Shelly Bollman.

No services are scheduled at this time.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Lynne Beauclair, 64

PA5 25 June 2019

Lynette Marie Beauclair, a longtime resident of the Flathead Valley, passed away Feb. 25, 2019, enveloped by the enduring love of her family. Knowing the grace and dignity with which she lived her life, it was not surprising to see this continue in full expression following her stage 4 cancer diagnosis approximately a year prior.

Lynne's lively spirit brought boundless compassion and genuine love into this world. Each encounter she had was infused with her desire to make authentic connection with every person she met. She walked through this world with an openness to all of life that created experiences and encounters that reflected her inquisitive, adventure-seeking nature.

Gratitude guided her journey through life, making even the smallest of details a delight. She was buoyant in a way that lifted us all. Lynne loved the world around her with a passion that left all nurtured in her path. She fed the birds, watered the earth, and tended her garden with an indelible commitment to its beauty and worth.

Lynne was born June 30, 1954, in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, and grew up in Moyie Springs, Idaho, later moving to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where she graduated from high school. She continued her education at the University of Colorado, Greeley, where she obtained her Master of Speech-Language Pathology degree. She began her career in Florida, establishing a successful private practice clinic, which also set the foundation for a



lifetime of mentorship for new graduates. Florida brought many important life chang-

es, the best of which was giving birth to her only daughter, Brooke, and meeting her husband, David.

Lynne's love of the ocean and exploration of its deep mysteries lead her on countless diving adventures where she captured its beauty and complexity through underwater photography. But it was her lifetime love of the mountains that called her and her new family back to the Northwest in 1993.

She continued her career at Kalispell Regional Medical Center for the next 25 years, touching the lives of her patients, co-workers and students, and retiring in 2018. To this day, countless students continue to benefit from her legacy as a speech-language pathologist. She brought her unique blend of knowledge, compassion, and humor to each patient encounter so that people left her care feeling supported and empowered to continue on their healing journey.

Lynne's adventurous spirit shined in her many passions that extended beyond her career into the community and the international world. She was a hiker, a traveler and a gardener. She found her way back to the water she loved, kayaking the many lakes and rivers around her. There was never a shortage of canned goods she gathered and prepared

from her garden. And at the end of her very full days, there could always be found a book in her hands, for Lynne was a seeker and literature was her love.

In the last years of her life, Lynne's deep joy lay in her grandchildren who had the short, brief gift of getting to know their Mimi. She laughed and held and taught them with unabashed joy. Love flowed out of her and while her physical self has left us, her love remains.

Lynne is survived by David Gray, her devoted husband of 30 adventure-some years; her daughter Brooke (White) (husband Aaron Ober), children Beau and Quinn; stepdaughter Michele (husband Mark Petersen), and grandchildren Logan and Darcy; stepdaughter Angela (husband Michael Artuso), and grandson Jack. She is also survived by her sister Cheryl Brock, brother Tom Beauclair, and brother Michael Billingsly. The Beauclair family is large with many aunts, uncles, and cousins throughout the United States.

A celebration of life

will be held on her birthday, June 30, at the Blaine Creek Grill in Kalispell from 2 to 5 p.m. All who knew her and loved her are welcome to attend.

"You have left us a beautiful, forever legacy in the ways you loved and lived and cared for us in your unique Lynne Beauclair way. You have left us missing you in all the tangible ways you moved through our lives. But Lynne, your light continues to shine so brightly."

Bradley Dean Becker, 29

Bradley Dean Becker, 29, of Kalispell, passed away Jan. 30, 2019, near Marion.

Brad was born and raised in Lewistown, Montana, before moving to Kalispell. Brad was in love with the mountains, lakes and rivers. He loved the outdoors in general as he learned from his dad. His friends and family were very important to him and he loved with his whole heart! He was a hard-working man who was known to work all day and then attend the gym!

He graduated from Fergus High in 2008 and worked various jobs in the construction industry. At the time of his death he was self employed with his own business, All Weather Roofing. He



belonged to many health clubs and gyms. He loved to ski, hike, fish, and camp. He

also loved music and animals.

Brad was preceded in death by his father, Larry Becker; grandma, Marlene Rindal; grandpa, Gerald and grandma,

PAG 17 Feb 2019
Elaine Becker, and uncle, Mick Becker.

Brad is survived by his daughter, Kaylani Becker; mother, Deborah Becker, and her boyfriend, Gary Irish; brother, Mark Becker, and wife Kendra; grandpa, Don Rindal; uncle, Steve Becker, and his wife Joanie; uncle, Chris Rindal, and his wife Jennifer; aunt, Shelly Eastman, and her husband Robert; aunt, Verna Fisher; Gerald his

beloved dog; and many cousins and friends.

A celebration of Brad's life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23, at Canvas Church, Kalispell. Pastor Kevin Geer will officiate.

Memorial contributions can be made to Search and Rescue.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for Brad and his family.

Ronald Arthur Becker, 81

Ronald Arthur Becker, 81, passed away at his home on Nov. 9, 2019.

Ronald was born to parents Arthur W. Becker and Elaine Becker on Oct. 29, 1938, in Santa Monica, California. His youth was spent in California.

After graduation from high school, he joined the Air Force, which took him to Havre. This is where he met his wife, Dorie. They married in 1960, and had five children. He spent most of his career as a baker, and lived his married life here in Columbia Falls. Ron loved to travel. The most important part of his life was his family. He loved to visit them and



PAG 13 Nov 2019
to be visited by his kids and grandkids. He will be dearly missed.



Ron is survived by his wife, Dorie and five children, Rhonda (Terry), Ray (Geneva), Renée (Mike), Rusty (Kelly), and Ron (Cheryl); as



well as many grandchild-

dren, and great-grandchildren, and his three sisters, Janet, Sharon and Darlene.

Funeral services for Ron will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls.

Klara Elgestad Coffey Bedard

PA9 27 Nov 2019 Whitefish Pilot

Klara Elgestad Coffey Bedard, 94, of Lewistown passed away early Friday morning, Nov. 22, 2019 at her home, where she wanted to be, of natural causes.

Although her presence will leave an emptiness for all those who loved her as well as those that knew her, she was ready to join all her loved ones in heaven. Be prepared she is bringing her cards and will be ready to deal.

Kay was born Jan. 4, 1925 to Gustav and Esther (Skoe) Elgestad in the Madoc community. She graduated from Scobey High School and after one



year of business college she went to work for Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington.

While in Spokane she was also the office Manager at Cummins Diesel

In 1952 she married Robert (Pete) Coffey in Wolf Point, he was the owner of KVCK Radio. Together they raised four children John, Cathryn, Patricia and Robert Jr. Pete passed away much too soon in 1972. In 1975 Kay moved to Whitefish Lake where the family has spent many summers. In 1988 she married Robert (Bob) Bedard. They spent much of their time traveling, visiting 49 countries and spending many winters in Hawaii.

Bob died in 2004 at

which time Kay moved to Lewistown to be near family. Moving to Lewistown brought back many of her favorite pastimes. She could be found playing cards and bingo at the Senior Center as well as gathering with her many friends playing that mean game of pinochle. One of her favorite places was sitting on her deck in the sunshine among the birds and flowers. On occasion you would see her at a Redbirds or Fergus Eagles game.

She was a member of St. Leo's Catholic Church and the Senior Citizens

Club.

She is survived by her four children, John Coffey of Kalispell, Montana, Cathy Coffey Bartel of Lewistown, Montana, Patricia Coffey of Boise, Idaho, and Robert Coffey, Jr. of Pullman, Washington; one sister Ellen Fossen of Flaxville, Montana; four grandchildren Monica Clinton, Willis Coffey, Kaine Coffey and Alex Whitsell; two great grandsons Jacob and Luke Clinton and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her two husbands she was preceded in death by her

parents, two brothers and four sisters.

Celebration of Life for Klara Bedard will be Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019 at 11 a.m. in the Cloyd Chapel, cremation has taken place as per her wishes. The Cloyd Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Friends are asked to make memorials to Hospice of Central Montana or the charity of their choice and they may be left with the Cloyd Funeral Home. Condolences for the family may be posted online at www.cloydfuneralhome.com.

Benny Bee Sr., 75

PA 5 13 Oct 2019

Benny Bee Sr., beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, 75, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019, surrounded by his family.

Benny was born on July 30, 1944 in Glasgow. He was raised in Wolf Point, Montana by his mother Marie Battani and grandparents Rose and Ben Battani, whose influence and love molded the family man he was to become. Benny discovered his calling at an early age, earning his first job in radio while in high school as a disc jockey. From there, his obsession with the ability to communicate, entertain and influence through broadcasting evolved. Benny was given the opportunity to learn all facets of the business, becoming a quick study as both a DJ as well as an advertising sales executive at KVCK in Wolf Point. As his skill set grew, new opportunities lured him to larger markets including Missoula, Billings, Bozeman and Salt Lake City. His journey in radio reached a major milestone with the purchase of his first station, KJJR, in 1978. With the help of the Small Business Administration, he secured the first loan issued in the United



States to own station ownership. The purchase of KJJR ultimately led to the addition of several other stations allowing Benny to introduce new formats reflective of the Flathead Valley's growth and thirst for variety. Today, Bee Broadcasting includes a broad spectrum of listener tastes including cornerstones KJJR, B98 and The Bear; as well as KSAM-Sports and Outlaw Country.

Benny's favorite place to be was at home surrounded by his wife Lucy, his children, and his myriad of grandchildren that gave him such joy. He adored them and would do anything for them. He also loved his radio family as well.

Benny was preceded in death by his previous wife, Coco.

He is survived by his wife, Lucy, of 22 years, his children Benny Jr., Dennis and Cassie, stepchildren Holly Sutton (Patrick), Kate Mercer, Joe Glickman III, and Hillary Hendrickson (Chris), aunt Barbara Schaeffer (Jim), cousins Marie Fleming (John)

and Jill Keating; and Greg and nephew, Mari and Toby Simensen, as well as 14 grandchildren, Nicholette Bee, Logan Bee, Molly Bee, Samantha Bee, Ava Bee, Lauren Bee, Kaden Bee, Isabella Weida, Ezra Weida, Sophie Sutton, Carter Sutton, Walker Sutton, Matthew Sowl and Alexandra Sowl. He will be greatly missed by his pencil-chewing golden retriever, Nash.

Benny will be best remembered for his generous spirit, sense of humor, perseverance and his commitment to championing the underdog.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17, at

Fresh Life Church in Kalispell (116 1st Avenue East) with a reception following.

The family would like to thank the compassionate and dedicated staff at Brendan House for all their support.

Memorials may be made to Brendan House or ALERT at <https://www.krh.org/foundation/> make a donation or 406-751-6930.

Online memories and condolences may be shared with the family on Benny's memorial webpage at www.austinfh.com. Austin Funeral and Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for Benny's family.

BEE BROADCASTING Radio station founder Benny Bee Sr. dies at 75

By LYNNETTE HINTZE
Daily Inter Lake

11 02 2019

Bee Broadcasting founder and owner Benny Bee Sr. died Tuesday at age 75.

The longtime broadcaster got his start in the radio business as a high school student in Wolf Point, quickly developing an affinity for on-air broadcasting, and particularly play-by-play sports.



BEE SR.

During a 2000 interview with Daily Inter Lake reporter Jackie Adams, Bee said the play-by-play sports announcing was the best part of the job.

"I love to go up and hang out with the DJs," he also told the Inter Lake in that interview. At the time he was a popular presence on a morning talk show.

Before building his career in the Flathead Valley, Bee worked

See BEE, A6

BEE

from A1

in the radio business in Missoula, Billings, Butte, Salt Lake City and Bozeman prior to landing in Whitefish in 1978.

He took the plunge into station ownership when the radio license became available in Whitefish. As it happened, the U.S. Small Business Administration for the first time in its history was permitted to underwrite loans for radio stations — and Bee's KJJR got the first such loan in the country, according to Inter Lake archives.

KJJR-AM went on the air on Valentine's Day in

1979 as an "oldies-based" station offering a blend of country, rock and current music. With just 1,000 watts of power, Bee told the Inter Lake "people were lucky to hear us south of Kalispell."

But by 1983 the station's power was boosted to 10,000 watts and could be heard as far away as Missoula.

"I loved the guy. He was a good friend and a mentor," said John Michaels, who has spent his entire adult life at Bee Broadcasting, starting at age 19 in November 1980.

Michaels, who is program and operations director for The Bear (KDBR) and Outlaw Country (KHINK) and operations director for KJJR and KSAM, said the

most important thing he learned from Bee about the radio business was "to do it right, have passion for it, be local and be professional."

Michaels recalled his start in the business when he was doing "color" commentary for the Whitefish Bulldog games alongside Bee's play-by-play reporting.

"He was the play-by-play guy," he recalled. Then, during the fourth quarter of a Bulldog game, Bee turned over the recording equipment to Michaels and said: "OK, it's all yours."

It was a sink or swim moment for Michaels, but Bee obviously saw the young broadcaster's potential.

"He could be tough, he

'He could be tough, he could be gentle. He was always there for me.'

JOHN MICHAELS

Bee Broadcasting

could be gentle," Michaels said. "He was always there for me."

Bee added B98, featuring classic rock, in 1984 after buying the former Bigfork radio station out of bankruptcy. B98 became the No. 1 station in listener ratings in Flathead County.

The Bear, a country music station, came on-line in 1993. Today,

Bee Broadcasting and Rose Communications dominate Northwest Montana, with seven radio stations and a combined market share of more than 73%, according to Bee Broadcasting's website.

By the early 1990s Bee Broadcasting had outgrown its Whitefish headquarters and relocated to U.S. 2 in Evergreen.

Michaels said Bee used his radio stations as a platform to raise millions of dollars through the years for charitable organizations ranging from Wings Cancer Support to St. Jude's children's hospital and Toys for Tots.

He recalled one particular radiothon for a young girl with a rare cancer that turned into a two-day fundraiser of extraordinary proportions.

"It just went crazy," Michaels said. "After two days over \$250,000 was raised. The family still uses the money for people who need help."

News Editor Lynnette Hintze may be reached at 758-4421 or lhintze@dailyinterlake.com.

Ann L. Belen, 85

Ann L. Belen, 85, of Polson, died Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019, at Community Medical Center in Missoula. Memorial services are

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

Kenneth Bell, 68

Kenneth Bell, 68, of Columbia Falls, died Sunday, July 21, 2019, at his home in Columbia Falls.

Private family services will be held. Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

Raymond 'Jayson' Bell, 43

page 12 May 2019

Raymond "Jayson" Bell was born Dec. 15, 1975, and went to run his hounds in heaven the morning of May 4, 2019.

He was born to Pattye and Allen Judd. He was an only child but had four amazing cousins that all acted like brothers and sisters to him, aunts and uncles who were like parents to him, along with many cousins in Colorado. His parents brought him up to be a respectable, caring and loving man.

In February 1996 he was blessed with a son Devin. Four years later he met his soul mate and married Jacqie on June 19, 2004. In March of 2005 he was given the scare of his life with the birth of his daughter Jerricqa. In October of 2008 his last angel was born, Gabriel.

Over the course of his

life he worked many jobs, from concrete at Sandon Construction, running equipment for many companies, bartending at his parents' bar, the Kickin Horse Saloon, and even waiting tables at Finnegan's growing up. He, overall, was a jack-of-all-trades.

In 2015, Jayson became a proud grandfather to Cooper and Cami. In 2016, along came Jaycie. 2018 came Damon.

His loves of life were

family first, but he loved running his hounds with his friends. A cold glass of beer and a pinch of Copenhagen made him happy, too.

He was always there to lend a helping hand to either friends, family or strangers.

There to meet him in heaven are his nanny Gwen and Poppa John, grammy Dee Pourroy and Phil Judd; and many of his hound friends, Will Collins, Royce Page and

his ol' fishing buddy Red Kline.

He was loved by all and will be missed greatly.

Can you hear the hounds at your tree, you're home now.

A celebration of life will be held at noon Saturday, May 18, at the Kickin Horse. Bring a dish and stories for us; and, in lieu of floral arrangements, potted flowers for his garden.

Jerome Belstad II, 57

Jerome Belstad II, 57, died in Kalispell on April 19, 2019. Jerome was born on Jan. 2, 1962 in Great Falls to Jerome Belstad I and Joyce

Cartwright. Services are pending at this time. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Donald C. Benefield, 77

Donald C. Benefield, 77, died Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, at his home in Libby.

Survivors include his children, Sheri Edwards of Libby, Dawn Braaten of Plains, Michele Benefield-Kessel of

Libby; Scott Benefield of Cheney, Washington, and Donald Benefield of Libby.

Services will be at 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 12, at the Libby Christian Church.

Sally Kay Bertelsen, 51

Sally Kay Bertelsen, 51, died of a pulmonary embolism June 18, 2019, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Sally Kay was the daughter of Shirley Bertelsen, Columbia Falls, and was preceded in death by her father, Philip Bertelsen. In addition to her mother, she is survived by her longtime friend Roy Jarvis; her sister Jan Bertelsen-James (David) and niece Jayde; brother Tom Bertelsen (Jayne) and nephew Philip, and niece Taylor. Also surviving her is her aunt, Kay Morton Ellerhoff (Tom). Another aunt, Patricia Morton



P.A.
Hibbard, predeceased her.

Sally was active in Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

where she was baptized, confirmed, and married Paul Charbonneau. The relationship later ended in divorce. She attended Sunday School, Bible School, Luther League, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, and served on the Church Council. Sally graduated from Columbia Falls High School; highlights of her high school years included partici-

30 Aug 2019
pating in the Close-Up Program in Washington, D.C., and serving as a page in the Montana Senate.

Sally attended the University of Montana and received her sociology degree in 1994. She was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority and was honored with the UM President's Award. Sally's God-directed social work career spanned 24 years. Her enthusiasm for helping people and making them feel at ease made her invaluable. She forged strong relationships with numerous agencies that assisted her patients and clients. Her most signifi-

cant work was managing the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program for the Flathead County Health Department. After her death Sally was a tissue and cornea donor.

Her life will be celebrated at 4 p.m. Aug. 27 at Darlington Cremation and Burial Service, 3408 U.S. Hwy. 2 East, Kalispell. A reception will be held at 115 West Monture Ridge in Silverbrook Estates (Hwy. 93).

Memorials can be made to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 2770, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Lon Matthew Bessey, 50

Lon Matthew Bessey, 50, died Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019, at his home in Kalispell.

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

Randy Best, 63

Randy Best, 63, passed away on Feb. 12, 2019, in Kalispell.

He was born Dec. 20, 1956.

He was a loving son, brother, uncle and great-uncle.

He enjoyed playing chess, designing web



P.A.
pages, learning languages, and hiking in Glacier National Park.

He was preceded in death by his mother,

20 Feb 2019
Nancy Best.

He is survived by his parents, Tom and Marion Best; and siblings, Kathy, John, and Jayne; as well as his nephew, Mik Thomas; and nieces, Andrea Bergman, Cassidy, Althea and Alicia Best.

A special thank you goes to the staff at the Blue and White Motel and Ric Ellingson for their kindness and caring towards Randy, who were also very much his family. He will be dearly missed by his friends and family.

Thelma Virginia Bickle, 97

Thelma Virginia Bickle, 97, of Hot Springs, Arkansas, passed away Jan. 28, 2019, in a local rehabilitation center.

Virginia was born in 1921 in Roosevelt County near Poplar, Montana. She attended the Baptist church.

Virginia was preceded in death by her par-

P.A.
ents, Herman and Laura (Whitney) Druessedow; her husband, Harry Bickle Sr.; her daughter, Laura Bickle; three sisters and two brothers.

Survivors include her son, Harry Bickle Jr. (Imogene) of Wake Village, Texas; daughters, Rita Penny (David) of Hot Springs, Linda Hornbruch

31 Jan 2019
(Scott) of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas; grandchildren, Laramie Reese (Wesley), Brandon Jingle, Brenna Gregor (Josh), Katelynn Penny, Matthew Bickle, Nathan Bickle (Jennifer), Sarah Geary (David), and Lisa Cammack; 13 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and cous-

ins.

A celebration of life will be held 2 p.m. Tuesday at Caruth-Hale Funeral Home Chapel in Hot Springs, Arkansas, with the Rev. Bernard Russert officiating.

Burial will be in Kalispell at a later date.

Guests may register at www.caruth-hale.com.

Aud Waage-Biederstedt, 82

PAG 5 5 Feb 2019
Aud Waage-Biederstedt, 82, of Fresno, Texas, passed away on Jan. 28, 2019, in Texas.

Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. on Sat. Feb 9, at Greenwood Cemetery in Franklin, Texas. There will be no visitation. Memorials are suggested to the family for later designation.

Craig Funeral Home of Minden, Nebraska, is in charge of the arrangements.

Aud was born in Bergen, Norway, on Aug. 17, 1936. The daughter of Ole and Dordy Waage, Aud arrived with her parents to the United States shortly after the end of World War II. After arriving at Ellis Island the family lived in Minnesota and Iowa before settling in Sisseton, South Dakota, where she met and married Jerry Biederstedt. Aud moved with Jerry more times than can be mentioned as he progressed in his FBI career. Along the way she had two children, Richard and Julie (Conroy). During the transition times moving from one city to another, Aud, always devoted to her family and parents, spent several summers

in Franklin, Nebraska, helping her folks run the Lincoln Hotel, with kids in tow.

The family eventually took roots in Kalispell, where they spent most of their lives. It was Kalispell that reminded Aud of her native Norway, and she developed strong friendships and a love of antiques while living in the Flathead Valley. Desire to be near her grandchildren eventually lured Aud to Texas. Her strong desire for life kept her going as she struggled with various health issues. Although she eventually lost the fight, as we all will, she fought the good fight and will be remembered for her devotion to family, fierce protection of those she loved, and an incredibly generous spirit.

She is survived by her brother John, children Richard and Julie, and her grandchildren, Sean and Sarah Conroy. Her survivors look forward to the day they'll all be able to watch her and Jerry dance together again.

Tributes of memory can be shared with the family at www.craigfunerals.com

Kelly (Hoeldt) Bigoness, 55

Kelly (Hoeldt) Bigoness, 55, of Kalispell and Ronan, died Oct. 15, 2019.

She is survived by her husband James, mother Marlys Hoeldt, children Robyn, Marlys, Russess

and Jesse; and step children James, Brad, Martin and Angie.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Ronan VFW.

Newell Lynn Binde, 62

Newell Lynn Binde, 62, died Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

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

Carol Binette, 83

PAG 6 3 Mar 2019
Carol Binette passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019, at her home in Aurora, Colorado. She was just four days from her 84th birthday.

Born in Glasgow, Montana, on Feb. 24, 1935, she was the third of six children of Herbert Edward Carden and Opal Baker Carden. The family homesteaded from Tennessee in the early 1920s. They tried their hand at dry land winter wheat farming north of Glasgow. Carol graduated from Glasgow High School and shortly thereafter married Andrew Binette.

Carol was a very committed mother of four children. She worked diligently to instill in her children a respect for diversity, feminism and education. She was a lifelong Democrat and a proponent of organic foods long before the phrase was popularized. Carol was ahead of her time in her thinking. She had a sharp eye for fashion.

At age 50, having raised her children, Carol moved with her husband to Kalispell. There she pursued her passions of reading, education, hiking and skiing. She availed herself of courses at Flathead Valley Community College, hiked extensively in Glacier National Park with her hiking group, and frequently skied in Whitefish. She became

a very accomplished skier, was extraordinarily well-read, and took dozens of classes at the college. She happily never took algebra.

In her later years she suffered a stroke which severely limited her mobility but not her mind. This setback required a move to Aurora to be near the assistance of her daughters and sister. Carol was scrappy! Despite her mobility issues she worked very hard to remain active and engaged in her community and to continue her personal education through books.

Carol is survived by her husband Andrew Binette, her children Alan Binette, M.D. (Susan), Steven Binette, M.D. (Mimi), Linda Brown (Gerald), and Susan Binette, and her sister Sandra Carden. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Oliver Binette, Vienna Brown, Phillip Brown (Lauren), Mariah Blair and Olivia Blair, along with one great-grandchild, Javier Olea Brown.

Carol will be greatly missed and forever remembered as a loving mother with an indomitable spirit.

A private family celebration of life is planned.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations may be made to the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

Mary Ann Binns, 65

Mary Ann Binns, 65, of Columbia Falls, died Saturday, June 22, 2019, at the Brendan House in Kalispell.

Arrangements are being made at this time.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is handling arrangements.

Irene Bjelland, 90

PAP 28 Apr 2019



On Wednesday, April 24, 2019, Irene Bjelland, our loving mother, grandmother, great- and great-great-grandmother and aunt, passed over to be with her Lord and Savior. She was a resident at Heritage Place at the time.

Irene was born Nov. 8, 1928, on a farm outside Douglas, North Dakota, to Carl Cap Jensen and Carrie Nelsen Knutson. She was the youngest of seven brothers and two sisters, who all preceded her in death.

Mom graduated from beauty school in early 1943. She met Alf Bjelland

and they were married June 1946. They had three children, David, Norman and

Cecelia. They worked a farm in Douglas until they made a move to Kalispell in 1966.

She was a cook at Kila School for 32 years. She had so many (over 100) cookbooks that she would sit and look at trying to find to new recipes to fix for all the kids she loved being around.

Her main love was Jesus Christ and she was

a faithful member of the New Life Center Church for many years. Besides her cookbooks and cooking she loved to crochet and made many beautiful things.

Irene was preceded in death by her husband Alf, her parents, siblings and daughter-in-law Jolene Bjelland, formerly of Kalispell.

She is survived by her children, David (Laura) Bjelland, Norman Bjelland of Kalispell, and Cecelia (Dan) Lane of Elizabethtown, Kentucky; seven grandchildren, Leif, Alf and Jason Bjelland, Sherri Martinez, Danny and Mark Lane,

and Tonya Lowe, 17 great-grandkids and five great-great-grandkids. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

There will be a viewing from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell, followed by a graveside ceremony at Glacier Memorial Gardens at 1 p.m., with Pastor Howard presiding. There will be a luncheon following at the New Life Center, 221 S. Main St. Kalispell.

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

Laurie Ann (Wallace) Blake, 64

PAL 3 Nov 2019



Laurie Ann (Wallace) Blake, 64, passed away at Kalispell Regional Medical Center on Oct. 21, 2019, surrounded by her family after a long battle with COPD. Laurie was fortunate to have her health care needs taken care of at her home by her daughter Julie Blake.

Laurie was preceded in death by her parents, Harold "Buck" Wallace and Nora Mae Wallace, her brother, Bob Wallace, and infant son Robert.

Laurie is survived by her children, Marcus and Bri Wallace, Buck and Alexis

Wallace, JohnMichael and Stacy Wallace, all of Kalispell, Luke and Daisy Blake of Indiana and Julie Blake of

Whitefish; her siblings, Gary and Rachel Wallace of Arizona,

Cheryll Wallace of Texas, Jerry Wallace of Kalispell, Michael Wallace of Kalispell, Kathleen and Jesse Chasteen of Kalispell,

David Wallace of Wyoming, Deborah and Jerry Spiller of Texas, Terry and Claude Athy of Kalispell, and Christopher and Heidi Wallace of Kila; and by many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Laurie was born in

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Nov. 21, 1954. Laurie enjoyed decorating and was always ready to stop at a yard sale or antique shop. Her family considered her the "glue" of the family. Laurie was a beloved, sister, mother, aunt, grandmother and will be deeply missed by her family.

Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

David T. Blaney, 66

David T. Blaney, 66, of Marion died Aug., 6, 2019 in Marion.

Arrangements are

pending.

Darlington Cremation and Burial is caring for the family.

Jennifer E. 'Jen' Blauvelt, 68

PAG 31 Jan 2019
Jennifer E. "Jen" Blauvelt, 68, of Kalispell, died peacefully, surrounded by family after a courageous battle with cancer, on Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019.

Jen was born in Montclair, New Jersey, on Dec. 23, 1950, to the late Edward Irving Edwards III and his wife Dorothy (nee Kugel). She resided in Jefferson Township New Jersey, before moving to Kalispell to be closer to her grandchildren.

Jen spent 40 years in the medical field as an orthopedic medical assistant and later as an administrative assistant. She enjoyed the ocean, spending time with family (especially the grandkids), and volunteering for both the VFW (lifetime member of the Ladies Auxiliary) and Moose Lodge 1710 in Kalispell.

Jen was always doing for others and will be remembered by her family and many friends as a loving and caring person that would do anything she could to help.

She was the beloved wife of Chris Blauvelt of Kalispell, and Mom to Zoey (her dog); former wife of James Kramer of Virginia Beach, Virginia; loving mother of Eric Kramer of Virginia Beach, Tom Kramer of Mays Landing, New Jersey, Kelly Thompson and husband Eric of Kalispell, Koren Blauvelt



and fiance Mike of Wharton, New Jersey, Lauren Blauvelt of Newton, New

Jersey, and Chris Blauvelt Jr. of Newton, New Jersey; grandmother to Hunter and Chase Thompson; sister to Sue Meyers of New Hope, Pennsylvania, and Pam McGlashen of West Milford, New Jersey.

She is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Jen was preceded in death by her sister Aleen Dmuchowski, and brother-in-law Frank Dmuchowski, formerly of Germantown, Maryland, and Jim McGlashen, formerly of West Milford.

Our family would like to thank the doctors and nurses of the Kalispell Regional Medical Center for the compassion and care they gave to our mom.

Services will be held at 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1, at Darlington Cremation and Burial Service, 3408 U.S. Hwy. 2 E., Kalispell. A reception will follow at 6:30 p.m. at Moose Lodge, 1922 U.S. Hwy. 2, Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in her name to Flathead Shrine Club, P.O. Box 762, Kalispell, MT 59903.

Willetta Anna Boehm, 86

PAG 13 Mar 2019
Willetta Anna Boehm, 86, of Kalispell, passed away on Wednesday, March 6, 2019, at BeeHive Homes in Kalispell.

She was born and raised in Richardton, North Dakota. Willie graduated in 1951 from Dickinson High School, Dickinson, North Dakota. She went to school as well for telephone operator schooling, and cake decorating at Flathead Valley Community College. Joseph Boehm, who was serving in the U.S Army while he was on leave in North Dakota, asked Willetta to marry him.

They were married on Aug. 28, 1951, in Tacoma, Washington. After Joe's discharge, they returned to North Dakota to work on the family farm. In the mid-1950s Joe and Willie moved to Montana. She worked as the Marion postmaster for 24 years and owned and operated Marion General Store with Joe for 12 years. Prior to this they operated a service station. She was a member of National League of Postmasters and a 4-H leader.

Willie was preceded in death by her husband Joseph E. Boehm,



daughter LaDonna Hodge, and grandson Patrick Hodge.

She is survived by her children, Debra Engelhard (Dennis), Gregory Boehm (Christine), Delane Steiner (Charles), Michele Glazier (Harold), and Dan Hodge (Argelia); and grandchildren, Andrea, Lisa, Ethan, Casey, Chanz, Paige, Quinn, Jonathan and Cody; as well as 14 great-grandchildren.

Her life will be celebrated at a funeral service at noon on Friday, March 15, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalispell. A visitation will begin one hour prior to the service. Interment will be at Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Pastor Mark Cutler will officiate.

Memorial contributions are encouraged in her name to the Montana Alzheimer's Association, or memorial of your choice.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for Willetta and her family.