

Frances 'Frannie' Lula Uken, 78

Frances "Frannie" Lula Uken of Columbia Falls passed away Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019, at the age of 78 due to complications from Parkinson's disease. She left this life gently and gracefully.

Frannie was born April 21, 1941, to Frances and Lula Shreve in Kellogg, Idaho. Frannie was the oldest of five children and grew up taking care of and herding her siblings as older sisters are apt to do. Frannie graduated from Kellogg High School in 1959 and started her nurses training at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula. During this time Frannie met her first husband Dave Sime and had two boys, Davie and Darin. Frannie then met her second husband, Paul Uken. Frannie, Paul, Davie and Darin then made their home in Plains in 1975.

Frannie always had



a loving, adventurous, spirit in all parts of life. She loved hiking, camping, traveling, hobo camping and cooking, chopping wood, planting gardens in even the hardest of clay soil, repairing vehicles, putting on the roof and various tasks at the Plains house, picking berries, hunting, canning and making butter.

As an accomplished musician, she played with local bands and sang for weddings, music festivals and local venues in the lower Clark Fork Valley. Her love of music extended to her two sons. Davie was an accomplished banjo player and Darin loved to play the drums. Frannie wore many hats over the years. Frannie most enjoyed being at the schools in Columbia Falls

interacting with the students in the lunchroom line, and finishing up her working career at Glacier National Park at the Lil' Red School House in Apgar telling the tourists how to respect and revere the park and Montana.

Frannie felt her main purpose in life was to be a mother and give her children the tools they needed to be strong in life. She tragically lost both of her sons long before they could have families of their own. However, her stoicism, positive attitude, and belief in her God carried her through many painful times. Frannie was a caring, kind soul who saw the positive in people she met and did her best to help anyone in need. She always had a smile and had a knack with helping people feel good about themselves and finding the positives in life.

Frannie was preceded

in death by her parents, Francis and Lula Shreve; brother, Darrell Shreve; sister, Joni Lindsey; and her two sons, Davie and Darin Sime.

She is survived by her husband, Paul Uken; brother, Duane Shreve; sister, Penny Haakenson (Richard); and cherished nieces and nephews.

There will be a celebration of life for Frannie's friends at the Montana Logging Association Office (MLA), located at 2224 Hwy. 35 Kalispell, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2.

Donations instead of flowers are requested and can be sent to support Log Jam at P.O. Box 3193, Kalispell, Montana 59903.

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.

Dennis L. Updegraff

A memorial service with military honors for Dennis L. Updegraff, 69, who died Aug. 26, 2018, will be held at 2 p.m. June 6 at Bible Baptist Church in Kalispell.

A private burial with placement of marker will take place afterward at the Butterfly Wall at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Bonnie May Ulrich, 97

A happy family is but an earlier heaven. The mountains followed their mirror twins along the Montana landscape, one cutting across the blue of the sky and the other that of Flathead Lake. The thick tree line at their base was the only demarcation. It quietly told the secret of where sediment ended and the clear waters of the lake began. God had always been a master painter, and the land of her birth was no exception. It was a sight that often made Bonnie May Ulrich's breath catch in her throat. Breath-



day since her birth on March 21, 1922. Kalispell had borne her, raised her up through mud pies and scraped knees, taught her about majesty and wonder, instilled in her pride of place and encouraged her military service, and eventually helped her heart pair its journey to that of William Ulrich. If family is one of nature's masterpieces, then nature had perfected

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 taking was not just a sentiment, but a truth she had lived every its artistry when their children came along. It certainly couldn't make the clay painted landscapes of the Badlands, the gleaming peaks of the shining mountains, or the winding way of Going-to-the-Sun any better. The gifts Montana had given Bonnie, the life she had lived, the wonders she had known, were as close to perfection as anything could be. She had spent every day knowing the splendor in the grass and the glory in the flower.

On June 2, 2019, Bonnie went to spend a perpetual spring afternoon in

paradise with her husband William. Her children Duwayne Ulrich, Vicki Gervais (Steve), Kay Erickson (Dean); siblings Faye Gilmore and Jean Patton (Glen); five grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews; and her spiritual family at Bethlehem Lutheran remain to remember her, to embrace this earlier heaven, and marvel in the brilliance of nature's masterpieces. With the help of her family, Bonnie will return to Big Sky Country and find her own Last Best Place.

Rita Kathleen Greenup (Ostby) Ulrich, 72

Rita Kathleen Greenup (Ostby) Ulrich, 72, passed away peacefully in her sleep of natural causes on Aug. 19, 2019, in Cody, Wyoming. Rita's death was an unexpected shock to family and friends, who enjoyed her vibrant, engaging personality to the very end.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Cody United Methodist Church (1405 Beck Ave., Cody).

Rita was born on Sept. 10, 1946, in Great Falls. She graduated from the University of Montana (Missoula) in 1969 with a degree in education, and put her schooling to good use in years to follow as an elementary school teacher in the Montana towns of Clancy, Sidney and Lakeside. Her love for children, bubbly personality, and inquiring mind made her a favorite with her students. Even after retirement, she continued to evoke big, happy smiles from her grandchildren and the children of friends.



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 The lives of many were touched by this happy and giving woman, including parishioners of several United Methodist congregations where her late husband the Rev. John Ulrich served as pastor. Her generosity to charities and individuals was abundant, and reached far beyond her religious faith. She possessed a cheerful and upbeat view of life, which she intensely loved and enjoyed.

Rita was a self-described "free spirit" with a passion for baking sweets, making meals for her family, playing bongo drums, and listening to her hero and favorite musician Neil Diamond. Her collection of Neil Diamond songs and memorabilia is impressive. She loved pets, and took her sweet dog Heidi on walks every day. Gwen (Cabin Cat) will also miss pleasant times with Rita

on her porch and foot of the bed.

Like many, Rita valued family ties above all else, and she was a "people person" with many special friendships. After her husband's death in 2015, she moved to Cody to be close to her daughter Greta and mother Ruby.

She was preceded in death by her father Hugh (Pete) Greenup, and second husband of 25 years, the Rev. John Ulrich.

Rita is survived by her mother Ruby Birrer (Greenup) Sheppard of Cody (94 years of age, nicknamed "Bear"); younger siblings, Kathryn (Bud) Beebe of Fair Oaks, California, and Hugh Greenup of Philipsburg, Montana; children, Grant (Jeannie) Ostby of Cut Bank; Greta (Chuck) Adams of Cody, and Luke (Marissa) Ostby of Clancy, Montana; grandchildren Brandon Ostby, Sloane Ostby and London Ostby; and first husband Neal (Sandie) Ostby of Clancy. Rita is also survived by abundant extended family, includ-

ing close cousins Connie Mecham of Missoula and Rita Annabelle Gergurich of Polson.

Donations on Rita's behalf can be made to the United Methodist Church in Cody or a charity of your choice.

Ashes will be interred at Riverside Cemetery in Cody by family at a later date.