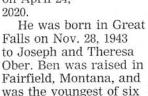
Benno Michael Ober, 76

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Benno Michael Ober, age 76.



children.



Ben graduated Fairfield High School in 1962 and was a lifetime Fairfield Eagle fan. He left quite a legacy in Fairfield, once letting chickens into the schoolhouse among other high school pranks. He graduated Northern Montana College in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in education. After college graduation he married the love of his life, Mayme Martin, and they were happily married for 52 years. Shortly after their wedding, he was drafted by the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He proudly served as a point man and didn't lose any soldiers from his unit. He continued to keep in contact with some of his unit throughout his life, always receiving phone calls from them at Christmas.

Upon returning from Vietnam, Ben and Mayme moved to Shelby where he was a beloved math teacher at Shelby Middle School for 31 years. He was known for playing many practical jokes, keeping the staff and his students on their toes. He loved teaching students and would often reminisce about all of his teaching years. All-class reunions were some of his favorite times where he could see his former students and teachers and remember the "good ole days."





Ben served his community for 14 years on the Shelby City Council and 18 years as a Toole County commissioner. When he wasn't teaching and serving the community, he spent time painting in the evenings and on weekends. After retiring, he relocated to Rollins, Montana, spending his extra time working on his property, including planting a peach tree and fixing the fence along their property line. He enjoyed talking to his morning coffee crew and loved watching the New York Yankees. In the summertime, he looked forward to taking his grandchildren, Payton and Bennett, to "Grandpa Camp" where he would spend many hours at the fair with them and they would go swimming together in Flathead Lake.

As a man of great faith, Ben was a devout Catholic who never missed Mass. He will be greatly missed by many.

He is survived by his wife, Mayme; daughter Kasi (Brian) Miller; grandchildren Payton and Bennett Miller; sister Mary (Ober) Holwagner and brother Leonard (Judy) Ober.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Joseph, John and Hubert Ober and numerous nieces and nephews

Although we would have loved to celebrate Ben's life with many family and friends, we are unable to have a traditional service due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A traditional Catholic Mass will be held with immediate family members on Tuesday, April 28.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or a charity of your choice. Friends are encouraged to visit www. buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolences for the family.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

#### Marion O'Connell, 79

Marion O'Connell, 79 years young, passed away suddenly at home on Aug. 26, 2020.

She was born Sept. 5, 1940, to Glenn and Dorothy Manning in Kalispell. She was a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother and one hell of a friend. She left a legacy of the heart and soul of a family.

She is survived by her husband Dennis, her sister Jo Ann Olliphant, sister-in-law Candy Richter and her children Randy (Sandy), Debi Davis (Marvin) and Shawn (Shelley), eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren and two nieces whom she loved dearly. Her love for community and life was abundant in how she lived her life. Marion was involved in numerous community activities, whether she was serving on the election board, being a 4-H leader or a member of the Hodgson Homemakers. She believed in activities for the youth and community involvement.

She married her high school sweetheart where they spent the next 60 years enjoying the farm life together. Life was simple and not always easy but together they were a team through it all. Denny was once asked how a marriage of 60 years lasted? His reply was "we were an even split - 60/40 every other week"! Denny jokes that her cooking was somewhat suspect in the beginning even though she was raised in a restaurant. She conquered this just as she did with everything she set her mind to. Her pies were legendary and she willingly shared them.

Family meant every-



thing and her family always came first. Her great love of horses had Randy,

Debi and Shawn riding before they could walk. This continued each summer with a family pack trip into the mountains. These were treasured times with lifelong memories. She had a unique way with horses and this talent was shared with her comrades on the drill team, The Trailblazers, which brought her great joy. Her last ride was a few week ago with her granddaughter and great-granddaughter that she was determined to make happen. She was in the height of her glory when she was on the back of a horse.

Marion was always up for an adventure. When she had the chance to travel to Egypt and Portugal with her sister Jo, she didn't hesitate. It was the highlight of her retirement. She didn't know the meaning of the word "no" - and when things needed done, she was always there. No matter if it was raking, baling hay or driving grain truck, she was there and dinner was always on the table for the whole crew.

There will be an outdoor celebration of life Saturday, Aug. 29, at the O'Connell Family Farm. The farm is located at 2727 Lower Valley Road at noon. Please join us as we honor Marion and share the many memories. Lunch will be served.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family. Kathleen O'Farrell, 66

Kathleen O'Farrell passed away May 7, 2020, at her home. surrounded by her family.

Kathy was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Dr. Richard and Merylann Best. At a young age, her family moved to Butte where she was raised along with her three sisters. Kathy graduated from Butte High School and married her high school sweetheart David O'Farrell in 1972.

Kathy and David moved to the Flathead Valley in 1980 where they raised their four children, while learning the art of being orchardists. Kathy loved to look down over their family orchard and watch the sunset over Flathead Lake.

Kathy had a tremendously kind and generous heart. She loved to craft and make beautiful keepsakes for her friends and family. Her other great

12 May 2020 passion was sharing her love for apples that she and David grew together. She always made sure that every customer had the perfect variety of apple selected.

Kathy loved nothing more than to spoil and spend time with her grandchildren and great-grandbaby. They were the light of her life. They all loved their Granny O's hugs and never left without a newly completed craft project.

Kathy is survived by her parents Richard and Merylann Best; husband David O'Farrell; children Nathaniel (Jolean) O'Farrell, Jeremy (Jitka) O'Farrell, Miriam (Scott Jorgenson) O'Farrell, and Jacob (Carey) O'Farrell; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild; sisters Kimberly Cooney, Cynthia O'Dell and Christine Markland; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Private family graveside services will be held at Bigfork Community Cemetery.

# Colleen M. O'Neill, 69

Colleen M. O'Neill, 69, died on Friday, March 6, 2020 at her home in Bigfork.

Family services are

being planned and will be held in Chicago.

**Darlington Cremation** and Burial Service is caring for the family.

Robert 'Rob' O'Neil, 49 R6 5 Nov Joses

Robert "Rob" O'Neil. 49, of Whitefish, died unexpectedly Nov. 8, 2020, of cardiac arrest. His doctor, Dr. Todd Bergland, and his wife, nurse Glenna, were with Rob and Christy when he collapsed and they did everything possible to save him as did the staff at North Valley Hospital.

Rob leaves behind his loving wife, Christy Gladieux O'Neil, and his son, Mason, 11.

Rob was the son of Marcia O'Neil, of Topsham, Maine, and the late Bob O'Neil.

He is also survived by his sister, Holly O'Neil

Turley. and her husband. Keith, of Five Islands. Maine, his in-laws. Erma

and Gary Gladieux, of Columbia Falls, and his brother-in-law, Darren Gladieux and his wife, Tara of Dallas, Georgia. He also leaves behind three adoring nephews, who grew up skiing with him, and three beautiful nieces of Dallas, Georgia.

Rob was a graduate of Wellesley High School, Wellesley, Massachusetts,

Class of 1989, and Colby College, Waterville, Maine, Class of 1993. He came to Whitefish in the fall of 1993 with college friends, several of whom still reside in Whitefish.

Rob was a very hard worker. He worked various jobs at Big Mountain. worked at the Great Northern Bar and Grill and also groomed trails for the Glacier Nordic Club. For the past 20 years Rob owned and operated O'Neil Painting.

Rob loved his wife Christy with all his heart and cherished every day they had together. Rob was very proud of his

dear son, Mason. He was Mason's best friend. His passion for skiing in the mountains with his friends and especially with Christy and Mason brought him great joy. He also enjoyed hiking, biking, running, playing basketball, music, his dogs, current events, reading, and Boston sports. We will all miss him terribly. His death leaves a huge void in our lives and his passing reminds us that every day truly is a gift. Rob led a life of kindness and gratitude.

# Bill Odegaard, 81

Service. Bill was a member of Trinity Methodist

to Peter

of Clovis, New Mexico,

Bill Odegaard, 81,

Gilhart

his wife, Mary Evelyn Survivors include Church in Clovis.

Nikolaison at Buffalo ters, Pauline "Polly" Odegaard; three sis-Lucy Gau of Fargo, Rasmussen

Odegaard.

Elizabeth Odegaard and Mae

Sagely May He married Mary Evelyn

7, 1965, in Fort Sumner,

New Mexico. Bill served Shop in Clovis. In 1972, he opened Bill's Auto in the U.S. Navy from 1955 to 1959. He went to work at J&R Body

Odegaard officiating. Billy Odegaard, Matthew Rikky Wayne Odegaard, Trevor passed away Saturday, July 11, 2020 at his home. Odegaard, Austin Adam, and all of his grandsons Bill was born Oct. 16, A graveside service was Cemetery, Hollene, New Funeral Home in Clovis. 1938, in Egeland, North held July 14 at Hollene held July 13 at Muffley served as pallbearers. Tim Lee, Dusty Bass, Mexico, with Chuck Owen, Dusty James A visitation was

10 grandchildren, Wayne Roger (Paula) Odegaard; Odegaard of Clovis, and Tennessee, Charolette of Charleston, Illinois, (Johanna) Plummer Johnny Wayne (PJ) of Hendersonville, Wes) Davis of

Nikolaison and Anna Mae

and Robert Odegaard;

hree sisters, Luella

Schaefer, Florence

Odegaard of Clovis; nine

of Altamont, Illinois.

and Matthew Rikky

Odegaard; a granddaugh

ter, Rikki Ann Brazell

and his first wife, Wanda

Adams, Christian Adams, Samuel James Bass, Eva

Coffey, Austin (Alyssa)

Carley Coffey, Dylan

great-grandchildren,

survivors in the Flatheac Novella Odegaard. Other

Valley include Amy

Odegaard and daugh-ter Sophia, and cousin Clayton Odegaard and

Jaxon Delaney; and great-

great-grandchild; Axel

Reid, Jonathon Reed, and

Marie Plummer, Jersey

Odegaard, of Levonia, Kristy Cattrell (Jason Davis) of Charleston, Charleston, Illinois, Billy Wayne (Amy)

Michigan, Zabrina Cattrell of Clovis, Cambry Odegaard (Dusty Bass), of Clovis, Dusty James Amber (Trevor) Owen Illinois, and Pat Odegaard North Dakota, and Doris Johnson of Cando, North Dakota; three daughters, Hill Terrace in Kalispell Clovis, Barbara (Jerry) Walker of Charleston, Marie (Bob) Black of

Brad Cravin) of Clovis; four sons, Lyle Cattrell Cattrell (Renee Kerz)

4435, www.muffleyfuneral-

home.com

Odegaard, Don Odegaard

Al Odegaard, Everett

(Michala) Odegaard of

Clovis, Rusti Cattrell

"Dutch" Odegaard,

Funeral Home, 575-762 Arrangements were

entrusted to Muffley

ents, Peter and Mae Odegaard; five brothers,

in death by his par-

He was preceded

Adams.

Bud Odegaard, Howard

son and daughter Russell

and Marie.

David Allan Ogden 20 May 2020

David Allan Ogden passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 14, 2020, in Bigfork.

He was born Feb. 28, 1945 in St. Louis, Missouri. His parents were Eleanor and Phillip Ogden. He grew up in East Saint Louis, Illinois and attended The Principia through high school. He continued his education at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana, which his father also attended. However, he moved to Los Angeles graduating from California State University, Los Angeles.

He married Patti in August of 1966 and continued his studies. He went to law school at UCLA before passing the bar and becoming a lawyer — ultimately the Lincoln Lawyer.

He worked in the Los Angeles City Attorney's office then for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. He went into private practice for the rest of his career where he specialized in criminal law but also helped many clients in all areas of the law. Not focusing on one particular courthouse, he drove to many courthouses representing clients all around Southern California. One of those clients became his driver, driving him to courthouse after courthouse. This life experience was shared with author Michael Connelly at a Los Angeles Dodgers game who used it as the basis of the bestselling

book "The Lincoln Lawyer," which later became a movie.

lived on Point Dume in Malibu, California for 35 years until David's retirement in 2010 when they moved full-time to their home in Bigfork on the Swan River.

They

As a lifelong Christian Scientist, he was most recently a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Kalispell. He was also a Trustee Emeritus of Berkeley Hall School in Los Angeles.

He was always active in the community. In addition to church, he was former president of the Malibu Bar Association, a singer in the Santa Monica Oceanaires, a men's a cappella chorus. He was also a 32nd degree Mason. In Montana, he was a former board member of the Flathead Valley Live on Stage musical nonprofit organization.

He is survived by wife Patti Ogden of Bigfork; sons Jonathan and Matthew; daughterin-law Alicia; grandson, Asher (Jonathan); granddaughters, Autumn (Matthew) and Callie (Matthew); stepbrother Darwin Cuddeback and his wife Somsri; and so many friends and colleagues.

No services are planned at this time.



Jerome P. Okonski, 73 2A6 31 may 2020

trained managers and

workers in advanced

Jerry Okonski passed away unexpectedly at home on May 14, 2020.

married to Mary Ann for 52 years and together they have three daughters -Kendra, Kristina and Janina. Jerry's life was full of adventure, entrepreneurship, change and many projects. He was beloved by many people and will be sorely missed. His deep Christian faith guided him through life and was humbly expressed

Jerry was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1946 to Harry and Mary Okonski. As a young man, Jerry earned the Eagle Scout rank in Boy Scouts of America, and in 1964 he graduated from St. Rita High School. Inspired by a trip to Montana when he was 15, he decided to attend the University of Montana and graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry. Jerry married Mary Ann in June 1968, and later that year he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He and Mary Ann were assigned to Fort Richardson Army base in Anchorage. Alaska, where he worked on engineering projects and computers. After an honorable discharge, Jerry graduated from University of British Columbia with a Master of Science in Forest Engineering in 1975.

skyline harvesting techniques, workplace safety and environmental management. He also worked on a variety of engineering projects in He was Chile, Argentina, Peru and Ecuador. Between 2002 and 2007, Jerry and Mary Ann founded and operated a skyline logging operation in Virginia. In 2008, they moved to the Flathead Valley and started Great Northern Land Services. Up to the day he died. Jerry loved working daily in his practice of "artisan forestry," collaborating with the forest industry and private landowners to improve their forests while reducing the risk of catastrophic wildthrough love for others. fires. His skills in personal communication, collaboration and precision logging proved invaluable in this community. At the time of his death, Jerry was the longest-serving

> Logging Association. Jerry was preceded in death by both of his parents. He is survived by his wife Mary Ann; his daughters and sonsin-law Kendra (Julian); Kristina (Jesse); and Janina (Brian); his granddaughters Kyah; Anya; and Molly; his aunt Sadie; his siblings Kathy; John; Mark; Mary Kay; Janet; and Jean; and their spouses, as well as numerous cousins, nieces

member of the Montana

and nephews.

The family wishes to thank the Evergreen Fire Department, Creston Volunteer Fire Department, dear family friend Dr. John Christensen, Lee and Amber Darlington, Montana Log Jam and all of those who have reached out and helped during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Jerry's name to Montana Log Jam at P.O. Box 3193, Kalispell, MT 59903. A celebration of Jerry's life is forthcoming later in the summer.

In 1975, Jerry and Mary Ann moved to Libby, where he worked at St. Regis Paper Company. His independent spirit and entrepreneurial nature led him to start his own skyline logging company in 1980. He and his employees developed innovative timber harvesting techniques that are highly regarded in the natural resource community. He branched out with a logging business in Canada. After being sought for his expertise in Chile's nascent forest industry, Jerry, Mary Ann and their daughters moved there in 1993. Over more than 10 years, Jerry



Elaine Redalen Olson, 85

Elaine Redalen Olson passed away Oct. 12, 2020, at the age of 85 in Kalispell after living an active life dedicated to family, community service, education, and treasure hunting.

Elaine was born on Sept. 21, 1935, in Lanesboro, Minnesota, and was one of six siblings growing up in that small town. A baton-twirling majorette who was also the valedictorian of her high school class, Elaine would later attend Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, She graduated first in her class and earned a degree in education with a minor in religion. She taught the fifth grade for 11 years before starting a family in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with her husband Steve.

Blessed with good genes, Elaine never looked her age and she knew it. Steve didn't know he was five years her junior until after he had proposed to her. Sometimes this prolific age-based fibbing came



her. The admission process to the hospital's delivery room for Elaine's

first born was momentarily held up with confusion caused by having multiple medical records on file, all with different ages.

After moving from South Dakota to Kalispell in 1978, Elaine discovered her entrepreneurial knack for bargain hunting. She loved the adrenal rush that came with discovering hidden treasures from families who were downsizing, moving out of town or just de-cluttering. For 27 years, she maintained a booth at South Side Consignment and spent untold hours scouting the countryside to supply it. The associations and friendships she made in this venture and her knowledge in these matters was very dear to her.

For 30 years Elaine

7 180ct 2025 back to bite was passionate about helping women advance through education and held all the leadership chairs in her P.E.O. chapter (Philanthropic Educational

Organization.) Elaine also spent 15 years working the food bank at Calvary Lutheran Church.

Her hobbies included playing in three different bridge groups. She went on unforgettable espionage adventures as a prolific reader of spy novels. One day up at Big Mountain Ski Resort in Whitefish, at the age of 40, she leaned into Steve while sitting near the fire at a resort lounge and said, "What are we doing? Why are we not up on the slopes with our boys?" She convinced Steve to sign up for alpine ski lessons and would become an avid skier for the next 30 years. She also loved to fish and was very competitive in her attempt to catch the biggest, first, or most fish in a given day.

Elaine would not let aggression stand. She was Kalispell, Montana 59901.

known for jumping to the defense of friends and family and was deeply loyal to the many people she cared about. Steve would often express his joy of knowing that home would always be a pleasant and warm place to return to at the end of the day. Elaine doted on her two boys and created a wonderfully comfortable environment to grow up

Elaine is survived by her husband Steve, and her son Bryce.

She joins her son Mark and sisters Beverly and Jacqueline in heaven. There will be a celebration of Elaine's life in the summer of 2021 when it is safe to congregate in the ruggedly beautiful mountain town of Kalispell that this special lady from the plains loved dearly.

Memorial donations may be made in Elaine's memory to the Flathead Valley Community College's Foundation for General Scholarship Fund at 777 Grandview Drive,

## Mary M. Olson, 96

Mary M. Olson, 96, died on June 3, 2020, at Wel-Life in Kalispell. Services are pending.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

# Marilyn 'Mickie' Omyer, 77

Marilyn "Mickie" Omyer, 77, of Kalispell, died Thursday, Aug. 6,

She is survived by her daughter, Hollie McAdams.

A private service will be held at a later date.

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

## Cinda Lynn Ondaro, 76

Cinda Lynn Ondaro, 76, of Bigfork, died on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Arrangements are pending.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

## Chong C. Orndorff, 77

Chong C. Orndorff, 77, died Aug. 29, 2020, at her home in Columbia Falls.

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

## Brenda A. Osborne, 75

Brenda A. Osborne, 75, died July 18, 2020, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

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

Betty Louise (Hovey) Ott, 92

Betty Hovey Ott, 92, of Columbia Falls, passed away on Dec. 26, 2020, at Kalispell Healthcare Center from complications following a heart stint surgery.

Betty was born in Bemidji, Minnesota, to Milton and Laura Hovey on Jan. 22, 1928., Betty worked as a telephone operator in Salt Lake City during World War Ilbefore returning to Bemidji to continue working for "Ma."

Betty met Floyd Ott upon his return from the South Pacific War arena. They were married on June 17, 1946. They were married for 70 years just before Floyd passed away on Oct. 15, 2016.

Betty was a member of Whitefish Women of the Moose. She loved playing bingo, camping and fishing, but most of all playing cards with her family.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents. two brothers, three sisters, and her husband Floyd.

Betty had three children, Keith of Columbia Falls, Carol of Columbia

Falls, and Art (Vickie) of Columbia Falls; five grandchildren, Jerry Ren (Michael)

of Kalispell, Glenn (Sandy) of Columbia Falls, Angela (Vern) of Columbia Falls, Michael (Amber) of Florida, and Edward (Ginger) of New York; nine great- grandchildren, Nick, Josh, Kyler, Lexi, RJ, Katara, Josh, James and Jason; three great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She has one sister, Pat (Fred) living in Arizona.

A memorial service and reception will be held at the Whitefish Moose Lodge, 230 10th St., Whitefish, Jan. 9 at 1p.m. Burial will be private for her family Jan. 22 at 1 p.m.

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.

# Irene Janette Olt, 89

Irene Janette Olt, 89, died Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, at Mountain View Manor in Eureka.

Arrangements are

pending. Schnackenberg Funeral Home in Eureka is handling arrangements.

Dennis 'Denny' Owens, 88

Dennis "Denny"
Owens, 88, passed away
peacefully at home on
Oct. 14, 2020. He will
always be remembered
as a loving husband,
father, grandfather and
great-grandfather with a
twinkle in his eye.

Denny was born in Libby Aug. 7, 1932, to James and Rachel Owens. His father passed away at a very young age and Rachel moved the family to Kalispell. Denny joined the U.S. Air Force in 1950. While stationed in Texas he met the love of his life, Arline. They married in New Braunfels, Texas, March 6, 1954. He rose to the highest enlisted rank of chief master



sergeant (E9) and retired from the Air Force in 1972,

after 22 years of honorable service.

After retiring from the military, he and Arline moved their family to Kalispell. Denny owned and operated Glacier Hearing Aid from 1975 to 1985. He enjoyed his retirement with Arline, spending time between their homes on McGregor Lake and winters in Yuma, Arizona.

Denny was an avid fisherman and hunter. He loved the outdoors, tinkering in his shop, playing cards, shooting pool, and helping his family and neighbors. He was known for always having just the right tool in his shop to help anyone in need.

Denny was preceded in death by his parents, James and Rachel, brothers Patrick and Gaylon "Lum," sisters Lynda and Dorothy, and son Brandan in 2007.

Denny is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Arline; and his children, Scott Owens (Donna), Randal Owens (Peggy), and Kelly (Tony) Hines. Dennis is also survived by nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren; his sister, Shirley Druesdow; and his brother, Michael Hoover (Cindy); as well as numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

Due to the current pandemic, a private family graveside service will be held at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the ALERT Foundation or charity of your choice.

Messages of condolence may be shared with the family at www.lakefuneralhomeandcremation.com. Arrangements are under the care of The Lake Funeral Home.