

## Sandra LuAnn (Née Cain, Tepfer) Aalderks, 58

Our amazing mom, daughter, wife, sister, and friend, Sandra LuAnn Aalderks, 58, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023, surrounded by her family.



She was born Aug. 22, 1965, in Willmar, Minnesota, just up the road from her hometown, Danube. She grew up on her family farm, which was in the family for three generations, with her parents, Kathy and Ardell; her brother, David; her sister, Debbie; and later on baby sister, Angie.

She, her siblings, cousins, and neighborhood kids spent their childhood exploring the farm's grove and machine sheds, and helping Dad out in the fields. She learned the art of cooking comfort food for a crowd from her mother, aunts and grandmas; she learned hard work from her dad, raising pigs for 4H and threshing every harvest season. She was raised going to church and had a strong, lifelong faith. Her parents showed her that God and family are the most important things in life.

She attended Danube High School, where she gained another sister, Monique, an exchange student from the Netherlands, and dated her sweetheart Jon Aalderks, who would become her husband 35 years later. She attended South Dakota State for two years before giving birth to her first child, Katie Jo, and finished her education at St. Cloud State with a degree in psychology.

Sandy met Jimmy Cain and moved to his home state, Montana, where they married and made Whitefish their home. They welcomed three more children; Ian, Brennen, and Lauren.

As a young mom, she was very active in the church. She was the

organizer of every wedding or event that needed her talents, always looking to bless others. She loved being busy with her kids and all of their activities, and believed there was always room for one more at the dinner table. She welcomed any kids into her home who needed a meal, a bed for the night, or a hug. There were countless kids who referred to her as "Mom" whom she loved and supported no matter what. She and Jim felt blessed to adopt Daniel as a teenager and complete their family of seven.

She was a passionate educator, first as an aide in Muldown's special education preschool and later at Glacier Gateway Elementary as a speech-language pathologist. She inspired everyone around her by going back to school at 46 for her master's degree at the University of Montana. She treasured all of the kids whom she was able to help and the many coworkers who became friends over the years.

She loved learning, being curious, and teaching others. She had a gentle way of explaining something until you "got it." She was always able to see things from others' point-of-view and meet people where they were. Her love was boundless and she had friends of all ages and from all walks of life. She never ran out of patience, put others first, always gave people grace and second chances, and could find the positive in any situation.

She credited her faith for all the strength she had, not only in her fight against cancer but in all areas of life. She believed Jesus was the answer and trusted that

all things would work out according to God's plan. She loved with her whole heart and her smile could stop you in your tracks. She would do anything for anyone, even a stranger, and actively anticipated the needs of others.

She loved Montana from the moment she moved here. Whether taking long hikes in Glacier Park, going on church backpacking trips in the Bob Marshall, exploring every lake and river, or driving across the state on her "scenic" drives, she was always up for an adventure. As her kids grew, if she ever had free time, you would find her cooking, baking, gardening, sewing, or lending an ear to a friend. Throughout her life, she maintained her close connection to Minnesota, driving cross-country many times each year for family events and staying close with her childhood and college friends. Her roots were in Minnesota and it was important to her to pass that along to her children.

After they each had all of their kids, high school sweethearts Sandy and Jon reconnected and married in 2018. They loved working together, sharing their mutual appreciation of problem solving and working with their hands. Her favorite way to spend a weekend was working on a project with her soulmate and then having the whole family over for her famous homemade pizza.

They were overjoyed when they became grandparents and loved having the girls over to watch movies, bake cookies, garden, work in the shop and cuddle. The highlight of her life was spending time with her grandkids, and getting together with her ever-expanding family for dinners, birthdays, and holidays.

She fought courageously against pancreatic cancer for two and a half years, but after a long fight God called her home. She remained positive with every new complication, and always said that God had a plan for her life and that somehow her cancer would bless other people. Her strength, faith and the way she loved others was an inspiration for all of us.

She is survived by her husband, Jon; children, Katherine (Brandon), Ian (Amber), Daniel (McKayle), Brennen, and Lauren; stepchildren, Dustin and Samantha (Reid); granddaughters, Karsyn, Charlie, Andi, Braeya, and baby on the way; mother, Kathleen Tepfer; siblings, David, Monique, Debra, and Angela; and numerous in-laws, aunts, uncles, cousins, and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ardell Tepfer; and stepson, Ryan Aalderks.

Sandy believed in an ever-expanding definition of family, and there are so many who were blessed to know and love her.

We invite everyone to join us to celebrate Sandy's life and legacy. We will have a visitation from 4 - 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21, at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Whitefish; and a funeral at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 22, at Christ Lutheran Church in Whitefish.

In lieu of flowers, if you would like to make a donation to the family, they will distribute funds between Glacier Gateway, St. Peter Lutheran Church, PanCan, and a college fund for Sandy's grandkids.

Condolences for the family may be submitted on Sandy's webpage tribute at [www.AustinFH.com](http://www.AustinFH.com).

## Norman Robert Ackley, 88

Norman Robert Ackley, 88, of Inverness, Florida passed away on Jan. 6, 2023.

He was born on July 26, 1934, in Netcong, New Jersey to Russell and Beatrice Ackley.

He graduated with honors from Netcong, New Jersey in 1952.

Norman always wanted to go west and that he did after graduation.

He ended up in Montana where he met his first wife, Clara Toren. They were married for 23 years and had four daughters: Violet Henderson (Button Nose), Donna Duffy (Tiger), Shirley Lukenbill (Bird) and Rhonda Ackley (Bug).

In 1979 he married Toots Panique to whom he was married to for 22 years before her death in 2001. He became stepfather to John Panique, Yvonne Meyer, Donna Sue Barkley and Barb Clairmont.

In 2001 he married Glenda Chateauvert. He then became stepfather to Jean Charisse Chateauvert.

Norman worked at the Anaconda Aluminum Plant starting in 1978 until his retirement in 1999.

He was an avid fisherman and could be found at any time on the shores of the many lakes in Montana in the summer and sitting on



an upside down 5 gallon bucket ice fishing in the winter.

After he retired

he was able to pursue his love of woodworking and shared many of his beautiful pieces with family and friends.

Norm was preceded in death by his parents; brother Russ Ackley; brother Wick Ackley; sister Jean Niper; his first wife, Clara; and second wife, Toots.

He is survived by his wife Glenda and his stepdaughter Jean Charisse Chateauvert of Florida; his four daughters: Violet (Gale) Henderson, Donna Duffy (Kevin), Shirley (Pat) Lukenbill and Rhonda Ackley all of Kalispell; brothers Gary Ackley of New Jersey and Ron Ackley of Florida; stepchildren John (Trish) Panique, Yvonne (Dan) Meyer, Donna Sue (Jim) Barkley and Barb (Dan) Clairmont, all of Montana; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Graveside service will be held on July 22, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens with a reception immediately following at the VFW in Kalispell.

## Fred Adkins, 79

With great sadness, we announce the passing of our beloved Ernest Frederick Adkins Jr. on June 15, 2023.

He passed away from a spontaneous intracranial hemorrhage after a seven-year battle with a-fib/congestive heart failure in Kalispell, surrounded by family and friends.

He was a kind-hearted and loving person who touched the lives of everyone he met and will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

He was born Jan. 14, 1944, and raised in Livingston. After graduating from Park County High in 1962, he began a lifelong career in the railroad and retired from BNSF Railway in 2004.

He was a proud member of the AFL/CIO union and was a vocal supporter of unions. He served in the Army National Guard from 1966-1971.

In 1970, Fred and his wife, the former Mary Carlisle, moved to Kalispell, where they raised their three sons.

Fred and Mary were divorced in 1992. He was also married to Julie Joseph from 1995 to 2011.

He spent winters in



Kona, Hawaii, and summers in Kalispell, for the past decade.

He had many interests and hobbies. He enjoyed being outside, especially in

the Pacific Northwest and spent many hours pursuing this passion.

He was an avid jogger, runner, hiker and cyclist. He enjoyed camping, kayaking and spending time in Glacier National Park.

In his retirement, he enjoyed discovering his artistic talents in pottery, watercolors, painting, and photography. He loved spending time with his family and countless friends.

Whether traveling to new places or simply spending winters in Hawaii or summers in Montana, he took great pride in his "aloha" spirit, newly-discovered

vegan lifestyle, and his family. Especially his children's and grandchildren's accomplishments.

He will be remembered for his kind and accepting spirit, infectious laugh, quirky sense of humor, artistic flair and ability to make friends and connect with people.

He was a true inspiration to all who knew him, and his memory will live on in the hearts of those he touched.

He is survived by his three sons, Greg (and Lori) Adkins, of Kalispell; Kurt (and Katy) Adkins, of Kalispell; and Brad, of Portland, Oregon. He had three grandchildren, Zac (and Dusty), and great-granddaughter Leslie of Kalispell; Brock (and his fiance Natalie) of Bloomfield, Connecticut; and Mac (who will be attending the University of Arizona this fall). He is also survived by his sister, Nancy Adkins of Livingston; as well as relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Rose Adkins; his

only brother, Ernie; his older sister, Florence; and countless aunts, uncles, and extended family.

Please join us in celebrating Fred's life at 3 p.m. on July 21, at the Village Greens Community Center, 195 Nicklaus Avenue, Kalispell.

His family will later spread his ashes in Glacier National Park and in Kona, Hawaii, his two favorite places in the world.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Northwest Rails to Trails, a group he has volunteered for since the 80s, P.O. Box 1103, Kalispell, MT 59903. Or The Donkey Mill Art Center, a place he spent time perfecting his ceramic talent, 78-6670 Mamalahoa Hwy, Holualoa, Hawaii 96725.

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

## Dona Aemissegger, 71

After a heroic struggle with brain cancer, Dona Aemissegger died peacefully in her home on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023.

Dona was born on Jan. 17, 1951, in Kalispell. Dona is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 56 years, Nick Aemissegger; her son, Nick Aemissegger, Jr. and his wife Jacqué; two grandchildren, Alyxus Friesen and her husband Nick, and Nick Aemissegger III and his fiancé Analise; three beautiful great-grandchildren, Blaire, Quinn, and Kit Friesen; three brothers, Danny, Ronnie and Joe Swartzenberger; three sisters, Dana Toren, Debbie Cox, and Lori Barrett; and countless nieces, nephews, cousins, and other family members and friends who were very dear to Dona.

Preceding her in death was her beloved daughter, Jamie Aemissegger, her father, John Swartzenberger, her mother Isabelle Meyer, her brothers, Dale, Jimmy and Butch Swartzenberger, and her sister, Barb Flemming.

Dona's life was marked by a passionate love of family, a selfless care of



others, and a limitless supply of grit and determination. When she was only 10 years old, she and her twin sister, Dana, helped care for their 9 siblings upon their father's death. Dona worked summers at the Cherry Warehouse before meeting Nick, the love of her life, when she was 15. They got married a year later and were finished having children at age 18.

Dona's determination and Nick's entrepreneurial spirit proved to be an unstoppable force. They owned and managed several successful businesses over the years, including Wine and Waves, Nature's Dream, Mountain Video, Evergreen Storage and LaSalle Mini Mall. Dona and Nick were also awarded the bid for Evergreen's first contract Post Office, which Dona also managed for several years.

Dona was known for opening her home to others. Over the years she had scores of friends and family members find

solace in the warmth and security of her loving hospitality. Many people lived with Dona and Nick for months and some even years. Whether short-term or long, those who stayed left feeling like they were adopted into Dona's perpetually expanding extended family.

But the joy of Dona's life was unquestionably her children, grandchildren, and (especially) her great-grandchildren, who affectionately referred to her as "G.G." G.G. was fond of working "the littles" into fits of unbridled laughter and screams of joy as she chased them around the house yelling, "I'm going to get you!" Countless hours were spent playing hide-and-seek, getting big pushes on the swings, and "helping" G.G. cook in the kitchen. G.G. was always there for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved and protected them with the same limitless determination that marked her entire life.

In her final months, Dona used every ounce of her declining strength to teach Nick how to fend for himself in her

absence. In turn, Nick used his newfound skills to attend to Dona's every need with amazing love, tenderness and compassion.

The family would like to acknowledge Dana Toren, Dona's twin sister, for her amazing love and support during the final months of Dona's life. Dana fixed meals for the entire family (including Nick, Jacqué, Art and Tana) virtually every night after learning of her sister's brain tumor. Her love, devotion and determination was matched only by her twin sister, who would have happily done the same thing for her.

In 1 Thessalonians 3, the Bible includes a prayer for the Lord to "make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else." Dona exemplified the love of the Lord in her life. We are all better for experiencing it with her.

The family is honoring Dona's wishes for a small, private ceremony. The family also encourages a donation to a worthy charity in lieu of sending flowers or gifts.

### Ronald Albiston, 82

Ronald William Albiston, "Elk" or "Griz" as he was commonly known by his friends, began life on a cold January day in 1941 in Idaho, and left it on Nov. 11, 2023, in Kalispell. He was the son of George and Fern (Johnson) Albiston. He was joined shortly afterwards by a little sister named Glenna Jo.

Ron's early days were in Idaho, later in Montana and Oregon. His father George joined the Army so his son wouldn't have to become a miner and owe his soul to the Anaconda company store. After George's stint in the military, he trained to be what was known as a "saw doctor" or saw filer. He taught Ron this trade, and he in turn passed his knowledge onto his two sons. Ron followed this line of work most of his life. It took him from Conda to Browning, Lincoln, Hamilton, and Helena,



Montana; and to North Powder, Oregon.

He did some ranching, had a small farm of his own, tended bar for a bit, owned a snowmobile and chainsaw shop, all

on the side. Eventually he went on the road selling equipment and servicing accounts for a saw shop in Missoula. He was inducted into the Sawfiler's Hall of Fame on June 11, 2011.

He had an active "other" life throughout the years as well. He served as a volunteer fireman, drove an ambulance for the town of Lincoln, played football in high school, and basketball in high school

and beyond, and on town leagues up into his 30's. He belonged to the Jaycee's, and Elks Clubs. He was the 4 H president of Lewis & Clark Assn for several years while his boys were growing up.

He raced snowmobiles, fished in bass tournaments, bowled league, square danced, and played a bad game of golf, according to those who played with him. He was credited with having saved at least three lives in his lifetime. The first time was when he saved a child from drowning in Gibbs, Idaho, when he was just a youngster, twice more after he was grown.

Ron was in the National Guards for eight years, joining while still in high school. He acquired, while in bootcamp his one and only tattoo paid for by a guy he had loaned money to. This was the only way he had a getting his money

repaid. The tattoo eventually faded into an illegible blob.

He married a former high school classmate, Bonnie Tiffany. They had two sons, Wade and Rand. They enjoyed raising their boys, camping, hunting and fishing, and being involved in their 4 H projects. They eventually parted ways, and he spent a number of years as a bachelor. When he was 60 years old he managed to run into another former FCHS classmate, Sharon Connelly, and they teamed up for the remainder of the ride. They retired from their respective careers together, did a little snow-birding, and then settled down back in Kalispell.

He was lucky enough to be able to reconnect with some old and long time friends there, and they were there for him throughout the times his health failed and to the end of his time

here on earth. Ron was a born again Christian and just five days before his death God told him he could come home. He accepted the invitation and fell asleep in his Savior's arms.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his sister; his grandson, Ryan Albiston; his great grandson, Gunner Boisse; and his step-grandson, Travis Herring.

He is survived by his former wife Bonnie; his son, Wade (Brenda) and their daughter Andrea (Adam) Rainer and their two children; his son, Rand (Gina), their two sons Sam and Isaac; daughter, Randilynn (Shawn) Boisse and their six sons; daughter, Cori (Jared) Doty and their son and three daughters; and daughter, Kristi (Don) Hague and their daughter Lexie. Also surviving him are his wife, Sharon; step-daughter, Ginger (Steve)

Kauffman; step-daughter, Holly (James) Martin; step-daughter, Penny (Scott) King and her daughter and twin step-daughters; and step-daughter, Shawnee Adams (Jason Crider) and her son and daughter, with her five children including twins.

So the count is six kids; 11 grandchildren, two deceased; and 19 great-grands, with 1 deceased. He has numerous nieces and nephews, and dozens of cousins who will miss him as well.

Ron was a super sized guy with a super sized heart for those he knew and loved. He enjoyed being in the middle of whatever was happening, yet didn't feel at ease being the center of attention.

We will have a gathering to remember him next spring when our friends and family can all gather after the winter snow has gone.

## Keith Lee Allred, 88

Keith Lee Allred was born on June 16, 1934 to his loving parents, Clifton and Bernice Allred, in Ronan.

Growing up, Keith loved to play basketball, go hunting and take trips to the lake to swim with his family. After high school, Keith earned an associate's degree and later, a bachelor's degree, master's degree and education specialist degree, all of which he used in a lifelong career as an educator, principal, coach, superintendent and director of human resources.

He married his sweetheart and love of his life, Myrtle Clawson, on June 1, 1955, after winning her over at a couple local dances. Together, Keith and Myrtle had six children: Trudy, Cindy (Bruce) Groesbeck, Scott (LaReen) Allred, Les (Karen) Allred, Tonya (Charlie) Haddon and KC (Susan) Allred. They now share 18 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren.

Throughout his life, Keith was fiercely dedicated to loving and caring for his family. They were his true treasures on earth. He also loved his Savior, Jesus Christ, and his Heavenly Father, and lived and served as a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



throughout his life.

Keith had a joyful heavenly reunion when he passed on May 7, 2023 with his parents, siblings (C Boyd Allred, Eva

Allred, Neal Allred), dear friends and family, and his precious daughter Trudy who each preceded him in death. He is loved and missed by his caring wife of 68 years; sisters, Eunice Cahoon and Lynne Lippy; children, grandchildren and countless others whose lives were touched by his kindness and who hope to carry on his legacy of love until we meet again.

We would love to have you join us as we celebrate his life. Funeral services will be held Saturday, May 13, at 11 a.m., at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 57 East Porter Way, Stansbury Park, Utah. Interment in Stansbury Park Cemetery, 130 Brigham Road, Stansbury Park, Utah.

## Cherie Ann Fey Anderson, 86



Cherie Ann Fey Anderson first illuminated our world on June 8, 1936. Father, Joe A. Fey, and mother, Leona Kirkendall Fey, bundled her up and settled her right in on the family cattle and sheep ranch at the base of West Butte in the Sweet Grass Hills of north-central Montana.

From the beginning, theirs was a multigenerational household shared with Joe's parents, John and Rosa, who had homesteaded the place.

Cherie spent much of her early childhood roaming the treed areas near the ranch house with her imaginary friends. Then, almost five years later, her beloved sister, Vicki Lynn, joined the family, giving rise to their extraordinary bond and friendship which endures beyond their physical time together on this earth.

Cherie attended the local country school through second grade until the Feys bought a house in Shelby. She excelled scholastically, graduating valedictorian of her class at Shelby High School.

Her path led her to Missoula where she joined the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and secured many lifetime sisters/friends. She met the love of her life, Robert G. Anderson, in January of her junior year. They were married the following July. Cherie returned to Missoula that fall to

complete her B.A. in education and graduate early. She taught second grade at Paxson school until daughter, Lisa, was born and Bob graduated from UM law school.

The next stop was Billings and an exciting and rare opportunity to teach in an experimental third grade classroom at Eastern Montana college. As Cherie was an innovative and devoted teacher, as well as a life-long student, she was thrilled to be chosen for that position and made the most of what she'd learned from it in her future teaching endeavors.

In June of 1964, right in the heart of the great flood, Cherie, Bob and Lisa moved to Shelby and son, Joe, completed the family that fall. During all her children's formative years, Cherie cared

for them at home, teaching them to read and play the piano before they were old enough to go off to school. She never missed an opportunity to be involved in any of her kids' activities or events. She was always our most enthusiastic cheerleader. A quiet, under-the-radar community leader, Cherie's role in Jayceens and Soroptimist International instigated and aided some creative opportunities for the Shelby community and its youth. She returned to teaching elementary school in Shelby for several years as she and Bob became empty nesters.

In 1987, Bob was diagnosed with leukemia and decided to retire. He and Cherie moved to Eagle Bend Golf Course in Bigfork where they made many new friends and enjoyed old friends from the "east side" who had made similar moves. Cherie remained happily in Bigfork for 10 years after Bob passed. In 2001 she moved to a townhouse right across the way from her grandchildren, Alex, Andie and RJ in Kalispell. Cherie became well-known by her grandkids and all their friends as "Grandie" - an endearing moniker which we will retire in her honor.

Once again, not an opportunity to be a part of her family's busy life escaped her. She never missed a single thing in which her grandkids participated, and her cheerleading skills never had a chance to get rusty. The births of her two great-grandchildren brought Grandie more joy than she could contain, and she would exclaim over and over how grateful she was for her life and everyone who was part of it.

Cherie's gifts of a sense of humor and elegance was evident in her very aura. Her love of books was legendary. She created a beautiful, loving home where all were comfortable and where she was able to rest until her last breath on April 26, the anniversary of Bob's birthday.

Cherie is predeceased by her parents and husband, Bob.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Lisa and Tim Schnee; son, Joe Anderson; granddaughters, Alex (Daniel Horowitz) and Andie (Giuseppe) LoPresti; and grandson, RJ (Mallory) Schnee. Cherie's great-grandchildren - Clarke Jean Schnee and Julian Robert LoPresti - brought her the utmost joy and much hope for the future.

Cherie is also survived by her cherished sister, Vicki Fey Schulz; and her dear sisters-in-law, Jeanne (Bob) Delp and Shirley Sarraf. She was a beloved aunt of Derek Schulz, Katie Schulz, Chris Delp, Jennifer Delp Forsyth, Kemia Sarraf and Kiana Sarraf Joersz.

On Cherie's behalf, her family would like to convey their sincere gratitude and appreciation for the loving care she received from Dr. Aaron Alme and staff, Dr. Jeffrey Eshleman and staff, Dr. Kay Hansen and staff, Dr. Peter Wagner and staff and Logan Health Hospice. Our deepest appreciation extends to Epaga Home Care whose compassionate caregivers were essential to Mom and our entire family as we traversed uncharted territory. Additionally, we are so grateful for all the family members and lovingly loyal friends who made Mom's life so fulfilling.

Cherie felt strongly about supporting many causes, but she especially championed children and education. Please make any contributions you would like to The Flathead Food Bank, Intermountain Children's Home, or Flathead Valley Community College.

Celebrate Cherie's beautiful life with us at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7 at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Following the service, we will continue to share our memories at a "garden party" reception hosted at Buffalo Hill Golf Course. Wear purple if Cherie's spirit so inspires you!

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

## Kraig Anderson, 62

Kraig Allen Anderson, 62, of Kalispell, passed away on Nov. 7, 2023. Born on Sept. 27, 1961, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Kraig grew up residing on both the East and West coasts before finally settling in Kalispell where he worked as a master stone fabricator, creating works that will endure for generations.

Kind and generous, Kraig was a wonderful cook who most enjoyed barbecuing for his adopted family.

Reserved by nature, preferring to live in a rural setting among laid-back friends and neighbors who shared similar



lifestyles and interests.

Kraig is survived by his mother, Margot Fessel of Issaquah,

Washington; his son, Michael Anderson of Kalispell; his three sisters: Kristina Halvorsen and Lisa Anderson of Sacramento, California, and Julie Orta of Kirkland, Washington. He also leaves behind three young granddaughters.

Barbie Henze, Kraig's partner of 35 years, preceded him in death by eight months.

## Lawrence (Larry) Dean Anderson Jr., 47

Lawrence (Larry) Dean Anderson Jr. passed into eternity on Feb. 7, 2023 at the age of 47.

Larry, who was currently living in Gibbonsville, Idaho was born on March 22, 1975 in Whitefish, to Lawrence Dean Anderson Sr. and Jera



Renee Mason. A carpenter and hunting guide by trade, Larry loved everything outdoors. On May 11, 1998, Larry welcomed to the world his beloved son, Bryer Dean Anderson. He met his wife, Jamie, in 2002, and the couple married on Jan. 29, 2005. Together, they raised Bryer and many hounds.

Larry was an avid outdoorsman and hunting and fishing filled most of his time both professionally as a licensed Montana Guide and recreationally as well. He loved everything from bugling bulls in September to his pack of hounds roaring on a bear tree in July, and everything in between. Larry was well known nationally as a breeder and trainer of Bluetick Hounds that he hunted black bear, bobcat, and mountain lion with. When he met his wife Jamie in 2002, they spent their lives together hunting and enjoying the

outdoors. They devoted most of their time to raising and training their Bluetick hounds.

It was a true labor of love for them. Larry and Jamie moved to Gibbonsville, ID in 2020. He fell in love with the area and everything it had to offer. Larry was an amazing human to all who had the privilege of knowing him. He truly never met a stranger. Best said by one of his friends, "If you met Larry once, you knew him forever. That's just the kind of guy he was."

Larry is survived by his wife Jamie (Roberts) Anderson from Kalispell, and residing in Gibbonsville, Idaho and son Bryer Anderson of Dillon. Sisters Tarsha (Anderson) Wohlschlegel, Misty Anderson, Kimisha (Schwegel) Proulx and brother Jeramie Schwegel, all of Kalispell. Numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews that he adored as well.

He is preceded in death by his father, Lawrence Dean Anderson Sr., Mother Jera R Schwegel and Stepfather Kim D. Schwegel.

In honor of Larry: He would have wanted to continue to preserve and protect the Houndsman heritage and way of life. Take a kid (or someone new and interested) hunting; Answer questions, share our sport and your experiences as they are our future.



## Virginia "Ginny" Anderson, 92

Virginia "Ginny" Anderson, 92 of Somers, passed on to be with the lord on June 5, 2023. The last 11 years she spent in Washington, to be close to her grandson.

She was born Oct. 24, 1930, to George and Marry Ann "Mata" Puent in La Crosse, Wisconsin. She was their only daughter along with nine brothers.

She attended parochial schools, elementary and high school, both in La Crosse. She was an honor graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas high school. It was there she met Royden E. Anderson on May 28, 1948. They married at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Kalispell, on May 28, 1951. She had two daughters, Dianne Marie and Nancy Noreen.

She worked in the office of auto light factory in La Crosse. She also worked in the office of Montgomery Ward in Kalispell. Then in banking at the state bank of Somers, 1958 through 1965, which is now the Valley Bank of Kalispell.

She was the Flathead County chief deputy assessor, then later ran for the office and was elected as assessor of Flathead County in 1974. She was also a notary public since 1953, Somers public schools secretary and district clerk.

She was the assistant office manager, becoming office manager and payroll clerk at the



Somers railroad tie treating plant, from where she retired.

She loved banking, large game hunting, traveling and her church. She was a lifelong Catholic and loved doing the lay ministry duties in church during the Holy Mass.

She also belonged to Saint Ann's women's altar society and held all the offices from time to time.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Eddie; and eight of her nine brothers.

She is survived by brother, Greg Puent of Wisconsin; Mary Pat Brown in Deer Lodge; Dianne Van Auken (Dick) of Fairfield; and Nancy Boylan (Frank) of Whitefish.

She had five grandchildren; Michelle Hauer, Michael Van Auken, Mary Jean Mauzy, Jennifer Bruyer and Christopher Bruyer.

She is also survived by eight great-grandchildren, one great-granddaughter. As well as many nieces and nephews, in Montana and Wisconsin.

Virginia's service will take place at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 23, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

## Agnes Rustuen Armstrong, 101

Agnes Rustuen Armstrong, 101, was born on Sept. 26, 1921 and died March 10, 2023.

Agnes was a long-time resident of Kalispell and Flathead Lake, the granddaughter and great-granddaughter of a Flathead County farm family. She was born in Grass Range, Montana to Arthur Rustuen and Hazle Harrod Rustuen. Agnes grew up on her father's ranch near Grass Range and attended Chippewa School, a one-room school house a few miles from the ranch. As a working ranch, there was much to do, including tending the herd of sheep her father added to the cattle that was the original focus of the ranch. She graduated from Fergus County High School, including one year at Roosevelt High school in Seattle.

With the onset of World War II, Agnes was employed by the US Gypsum plant near Lewistown, Montana and attended USO social events. At one of those USO dances at the Civic Center, she met Richard Mack Armstrong (Mack), who was assigned to the



Army Air Corps base in Great Falls. He had been assigned quartermaster duties at the Lewistown airbase before his assignment to England where he served the remainder

of the war. They corresponded through the war and reunited when Mack was discharged from the Army.

Agnes and Mack built their first house in Lewistown, one of the first in many years after the depression years of the 1930s utilizing the GI Bill Mack earned from his army service. Their life-journey then took them to raising a young family, residing at a Montana Power substation in Lewistown, and eventually relocating to be near Agnes' family in Kalispell. There they built another house, eventually develop-

ing their property on Flathead Lake. She lived there until her death, having lost her life partner many years prior, but sharing "The Lake" with her family and friends.

Agnes worked in retail stores in Kalispell while raising five children, all of whom currently survive her: Gay Yvette (Armstrong) Nardi, Lois Armstrong, Rose (Armstrong) Lono, Richard (Dick) Armstrong and Donald (Don) Armstrong; also her sister Rita Feyk. Agnes is also survived by 10 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, 13 great-great-grandchildren and their spouses.

Stores at which she worked included Gambles, Diana Shop, Buttrey's and K-Mart. She occupied her time sewing much of her three daughters' clothing and working in her garden and yard. Notably, the raspberry patch which originated from her mother's garden on the ranch is still prolific and has a number of patches in Montana, Washington, Oregon and California

from starts taken from her garden by family and friends. One of her favorite presents from family was a pile of manure for her garden, a picture of her standing atop it wearing her cowboy boots and Oshkosh overalls still exists. It has been noted that she was an example to other women of positive strength, ahead of her time.

Agnes, Mack and family were active in the First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell and the Dayton Presbyterian Church for many years, as well as the Women of Rollins club. She had strong opinions about local and national politics and wrote very lucid letters to the editor of the local newspaper.

A celebration of her life well lived and interment with Mack at the Conrad Cemetery in Kalispell will be scheduled this summer, as she would have preferred no one on the roads at this time of year.

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

## William G. (Bill) Armstrong, 89

Early on the morning of Feb. 19, William G. (Bill) Armstrong, 89, passed away surrounded by his loving family at this Tamarack Lane home. He was born Oct. 14, 1933 to George and Charlotte Armstrong in Cass Lake, Minn. Bill graduated from Cass Lake High School in May 1952.

On June 26, 1952, Bill and Mary Ann Glawe were married at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cass Lake.

Bill's early working years were spent mastering the logging and construction trades. With Montana calling their names, Mary and Bill moved their little family, Diane (3) and David (6 months) to Columbia Falls in 1955. Royal Logging hired Bill for their North Fork operations as a heavy equipment operator. In 1960, Bradley was born and the Armstrong family was now complete.

During the years that followed, Bill worked for Plum Creek and the Anaconda Aluminum Co. "Not one to just sit

around doing nothing" Bill always found a second job to keep him busy.

Over the years he drove truck for the propane company, remodeled and built homes and kitchen cabinets for friends and neighbors.

Always active in the community and Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Bill coached Little League Baseball, served in the US Army Reserves and was the custodian for Our Savior's for 10 years.

Bill took to the skies in 1979 when he got his private pilot's license. He spent many hours at the Ferndale airport with his longtime friend, Bob Colby. Bill's hanger was his home away from home — full of hours repairing this Cessna and chatting with whomever might drop by.

1995 Mary and Bill began to build their retirement home on Tamarack Lane. After



completing their "dream home" they spent time camping, fishing and taking several road trips to visit friends and family.

After recovering from his 2009 heart attack, Bill signed up as a substitute driver for the Daily Interlake and returned to his job at the Church. Sadly, Bill was diagnosed with cancer in 2016. Being one to never give up, he endured surgeries, chemo, radiation, and immunotherapy without complaining and without losing his smile and witty sense of humor. This stage 4 cancer went into remission!

Early in 2022, our beloved husband, "daddy", grandpa and great grandpa was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. Despite several hospital stays and lots of modern medicine, Bill's 89 years of love, serving others, and hard work drew to a close. Under the loving care of Logan Hospice, Bill finished his earthly journey. Rest in peace, thy good and faithful servant.

He was preceded

in death by his parents, brother Wylie Armstrong, sister Rose Ferdinand, son David Armstrong and nieces and nephews. Bill is survived by his wife Mary at the family home, daughter Diane (Allen) Lalum; son Bradley (Karla) Armstrong; five grandchildren- William (Amy Lalum) of Lake Stevens, Wash.; Nathan (Dao Vu) Lalum of Otsego, Minn.; Joshua Armstrong of Kalispell; Gabriel Armstrong of Columbia Falls and Sarah (Louis) Hylton of Kalispell and one great-grandson, Wyatt Vu Lalum of Otsego, Minn.

The memorial service will be March 4, 2023 11 a.m., at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Columbia Falls, with lunch to follow in the fellowship hall. Inurnment will be held on later date at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Memorials may be given to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Flathead County Animal Shelter or charity of your choice.

## Kathleen "Kathy-Red" A. Aspevig, 74

Kathleen "Kathy-Red" A. Aspevig, 74, of Hungry Horse, passed away May 31, 2023. She was born March 15, 1949, in Havre, to the late Walter Welsh and Doris Fern Welsh (Wilson).

Kathy was a spit fire with a spicy tongue. She grew up in Hingham where her family farmed. Professionally, Kathy was a hairdresser in her earlier years and more recently owned a weed spraying business called Valley Weed Management.

Kathy married Mark Aspevig in 1968, they divorced in 1981. She enjoyed taking care of the weeds, but also gardening her flowers, plants and vegetables. Holidays were important to her and her family. She will be especially remembered for her homemade Christmas



candy during the holidays. Kathy was an avid reader and enjoyed reading

the newspaper.

Kathy is survived by nephew, Scott Larson (Randi); niece, Shari Richter (Dennis); great-nieces, Katelynn and Shariden; great-nephews, Zachary, Matthew, Tyler, and Kyle; life-long friends, Doc, Debbie, and Bonnie. In addition to her parents, Kathy is preceded in death by sisters, Judy and Shelley.

Services will be held privately at the convenience of the family. To send online condolences visit [www.columbiamortuary.com](http://www.columbiamortuary.com).

## Howard Austin, 91

Howard Austin, 91, died June 19, at his home in Cedar City, Utah. He was born in Kalispell on Aug. 22, 1931, to Raymond and Hilda Austin.

His parents taught and exemplified the value and responsibility of a life of service and care for his fellow man. He never forgot those ideals and lived a lasting love for others, the farm and the communities in which he lived.

He was recognized by his infectious smile, endless enthusiasm and sense of humor. He frequently quoted "you only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."

Despite dealing with asthma all his life, he lived a full and rewarding life. He loved the challenge of mountain climbing and summited 14 peaks in Glacier Park.

He was also an avid race walker, setting records in Montana and national competitions. He refereed basketball



games for 15 years.

He married Barbara McCulloch and they became parents

of four sons: Joel, Hugh, Ralph and Clifford. Their home was established at Lake Blaine.

A degree in business administration from MSU began 53 years in his lifelong profession. Conrad National Bank of Kalispell employed him as manager of the installment loan department.

During the 1960s and early 1970s, he served as executive of the Bank of Columbia Falls. He was named Boss of the Year, received the Jaycees Distinguished Service Award, and served as president of the Chamber of Commerce during those years.

He established his own business, Financial

Services, in Kalispell. Ten years later he sold the business and became a business development officer for Whitefish Credit Union. If there was a community project, Howard was probably involved!

He has served in many practices, among them, the Whitefish Annual Fundraiser for Children's Medical Needs, and was King Ullr of Whitefish Carnival.

He conducted seminars in finance for 13 area schools from Kalispell to Noxon. He volunteered for KIWANIS Flag Project and helped place flags on holidays throughout the years. He served on the Credit Union Community Pride Scholarship Programs and the Board of Friendship House.

He married Mary Clarke in 1993. They made their home in Whitefish until he retired to Cedar City, Utah. At the time of retirement,

Howard was the No. 2 SBA Lenders for Montana and was on the advisory board for the state of Montana. He was an active member of Christ the King Catholic Church of Cedar City, and was president of the Parish council.

He is survived by his wife, Mary of Cedar City; his sons, Joel (Susan), Ralph (Kerrie), and Clifford; as well as his sister, Donna Tietema of Kalispell. He also leaves nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and a host of family and friends who will miss this great man, and his "furry" family, Lily, Gator and Bandit.

Condolences may be sent online to [affordablefuneralservices.com](http://affordablefuneralservices.com) or a charity or your choice. A funeral mass is scheduled for 11 a.m. on July 27, at Christ the King Catholic Church, 690 Cove Drive, Cedar City, Utah.

## Laird S. Ayers, 61

Laird S. Ayers, 61, passed away on July 27, 2023. He was born in Billings, making him a fourth generation Montanan, and lived in the Flathead Valley for most of his life.

Several years ago, he took Jesus Christ to be his personal Lord and Savior, inheriting the right to enter the kingdom of heaven to live with his Lord eternally.

He loved Montana and all the outdoor life and opportunities it afforded. His great smile and ability to laugh at life, and his intense work ethic, mainly in his construction business, led him to be acquainted with so many people.

He and his wife Paula led a fairly private and personal ordeal with his cancer for over five

years, and he tried his very best to battle it with dignity, strength, bravery and determination to beat the rotten disease. He leaves behind so many cherished family members and friends. He will be sorely missed.

A graveside memorial will take place at 10:50 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2, at Fairview Cemetery, 1205 Fairview Cemetery Road, Columbia Falls, followed by an informal potluck from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Central Bible Church, 902 First Ave. E., Kalispell.

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