

## Carla Jeanne Herrmann, 74

Carla Jeanne Herrmann, 74, passed away at her home in Whitefish on Sept. 1, 2023. She was born on June 3, 1949 in San Bernardino, CA to Carl and Phyllis (Bratsman) Clegg.



Carla received her bachelor's degree in business administration. Carla worked for the marketing/sales departments at the Whitefish Pilot, North Valley Hospital and Mars Corp.

Carla's passion in life was to help people, some of her community activities included volun-

teering for the North Valley Hospital, Whitefish Theater Company, and Whitefish Performing Arts. She enjoyed playing pickleball, being a grandmother to Olivia and Owen, time with her family and friends as well as hiking, cooking, baking, painting and weightlifting.

Carla was a beautiful soul, helping people to the very end. Carla will be

remembered and hold a special place in so many hearts. Her life and legacy touched everyone in her path. She was a mother, wife, grandmother, sister, daughter, aunt, friend; she was confident, wise, strong, kind, caring, loving, inquisitive, a bit of a sweets connoisseur and she would hate me for saying this, but a true penny pincher!!

She was preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Phyllis; and sister, Melissa.

She is survived by her husband of 23 years

Lonnie Herrmann of Whitefish; son, Jake (wife Jennifer) Young of Arvada, CO; and grandchildren, Olivia Murphy and Owen Lucas.

Thank you for everything, your memory will live on forever in our hearts and minds. A celebration of Carla's life will be chosen at a later date.

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 caring for the family.

## John Highfill, 66

John Michael Highfill Sr., a beloved father, outdoor sports enthusiast and small business owner in Whitefish, died March 20, 2023. He was 66 and spent his final days accompanied by his two children and several close friends at Logan Health Medical Center.

One of four siblings, John was born in Alameda, California to Thompson and Jean (Lavery) Highfill on June 11, 1956. In 1966, the family moved to Grass Valley, California, a town in the foothills, just outside of Lake Tahoe, where John spent his childhood embracing the outdoors. An avid snow skier and water skier, he

spent many summers camping and boating at nearby lakes but was especially fond of Bullards Bar Reservoir.

John graduated in 1975 from Nevada Union High School in Grass Valley and went to work as an apprentice for Young's Interior Flooring, a local installation business. John eventually went out on his own and started Highfill Flooring. In addition to his successful flooring business, John was a well-known bartender at The Live Wire and McGee's Bar in Nevada City.



John met Carrie Wood (Highfill) in 1988 and the couple married in October 1990. They had two beautiful children together, Kelsey Alyse Highfill in 1991 and John Michael Highfill Jr. in 1993. The couple divorced several years later but remained great friends.

In 2001, John moved to Whitefish, where he made many lifelong friends. He enjoyed skiing, fly fishing, river rafting and long tours across the northwest on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

John was a loving and outgoing person, always making friends and eager to lend a helping hand to those around him. Over the last decade of his life,

John trained and mentored his son in the flooring business, and recently took a two-week vacation to visit his daughter, Kelsey in Mexico, where she resides.

John was preceded in death by his sister, Brooks Ann Antonoff. He is survived by his two children, John Michael Highfill Jr. and Kelsey Alyse Highfill; his two nieces, Christine Caria, and Elizabeth Bennett; and his two brothers, Tom Highfill and Bob Highfill.

The celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 10, at the Stillwater Bar north of Whitefish.

## Robert Higson, 95

Robert "Bob" Francis Higson, 95, a lifelong resident of Columbia Falls passed away at 95 years on Feb. 4, 2023, at The Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

He was born in Columbia Falls on Dec. 13, 1927, to Mae Frances Greve and Cornelius Monroe Grayson. He was raised by his mother and adoptive father Harry Higson. Bob had three siblings that preceded him in death, Chuck Higson, John Higson and Liz Higson-Ramey. Their family home was on the ground where Glacier Bank now stands.

Bob was a CFHS graduate of 1946. His 1944 CF Wildcat football team won the right to play Ft. Benton for the state championship game. Due to war they were not able to travel and play the game. In lieu of playing they were each given silver footballs which Bob always held dear.

He joined the Army in 1946 and served proudly in the cleanup of Pearl Harbor and in Korea and Japan. Upon honorable discharge he returned to Montana to work on construction of Hungry Horse Dam. He later worked at Columbia Falls Aluminum for 37 years. He was a member



of the iron workers union.

Bob was an avid fisherman, holding the state record for smallmouth bass for 13 years. He

also enjoyed traveling and bowling. He would talk fondly of trips he made with his bowling friends. He was an avid CF Wildcat and Montana Grizzly fan to his core.

On Sept. 3, 1997, he married Patricia Kelley Blades. Bob did not have children of his own but treated Patricia's children as his own.

Survivors include his wife Patricia Higson; stepchildren, Marcia Shortell, Bruce and Cindy Dubois and Rick and Rita Blades. Also, nieces and nephews on the Higson side of his family.

At Bob's request there will not be a memorial or graveside service. He will be buried at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for Bob's family.

## Gerald Hays Hill, 86

Gerald "Jerry" Hays Hill, 86, a beloved grandfather, passed away on Sept. 14, 2023. He leaves behind a legacy of unique interests and a lifetime of experiences.

He was born on Jan. 29, 1937, in Cody, Wyoming. The son of Edward and Louise Hill. He grew up in the picturesque landscapes of Wyoming, where he developed a strong work ethic and a passion for the natural beauty that surrounded him.

He attended Montana State College, where he pursued his higher education. It was during his time there that he met his wife, Eloise. Their college romance blossomed into a lifelong partnership filled with love, laughter, and shared adventures.

After completing his education, he embarked on a successful career as an automotive mechanic. He dedicated his professional life to this field, earning the respect of his colleagues for his professionalism, integrity, and willingness to lend a helping hand.

In addition to his career, he had a unique passion for firearms, particularly Smith and Wesson revolvers. He was an avid gun collector and a member of the Smith and Wesson Collectors Association. His knowledge and enthusiasm for firearms were well-known among fellow collectors. He also dedicated his time to volunteer work at the Les Bauska Gun Range, where he shared his expertise and love for firearms with others. His commitment to this cause demonstrated his desire to make a positive impact in his community.

He was also actively



involved in various organizations, including the NW Montana Arms Collectors

Association, the Shriners, and the Freemasons. His commitment to these groups demonstrated his dedication to community service and his desire to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

He was a complex individual, and his relationships with his family were as unique as he was.

He is survived by his daughters, Annette (Joel) Kushner, Jennifer Jeffrey, Sharon Gwyn, and Ramona (Mona) (Steven) Guy.

He was a grandfather to Stephanie Wood, Graham Kushner, Harrison Kushner, Anna Zoeller, James Jeffrey, Brooke Jeffrey, Ruby Guy, Eugene Guy, and Violet Guy; his great-grandchildren include Izaiah Erickson, Madysen Wood, Luca Zoeller, Kaliber Osterello, Octavia Jeffrey and Haven Turner.

Family is having a private burial. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to be made in Jerry's name to a charity of your choice.

Gerald "Jerry" Hays Hill will be remembered in his own unique way, and his legacy will live on.

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.

## Margaret Ann Hilley, 91

Margaret Ann Hilley, 91, was born June 16, 1932, in Anaconda, Montana. She was raised on a cattle ranch in Geysler in the foothills of the Highwood Mountains, where she fostered an appreciation for the outdoors, adoration for animals, and developed the work ethic and toughness of a hearty ranch hand. The youngest of three, with two older brothers, she learned to be strong-willed and self-sufficient at an early age.



recently attended the 122nd Brawl of Wild, where she passionately cheered

the Griz onto victory. Her 91 years weren't without trials and tribulations but she navigated them gracefully, leaning on her devout Irish Catholic faith. She was tough as nails but as sweet as they come.

She attended boarding school at the Ursuline Academy in Great Falls, and later went to the Columbus School of Nursing where she met her husband, Benjamin Ward Hilley. Ben and Margaret were married in 1954 and had four children, Therese, Bob, Tom, and Janet. While Ben attended Law School at the University of Montana in Missoula, Margaret pursued what would become a lifelong path of nurturing others, working nights as a nurse. They moved back to Great Falls where she became a full-time mother, as well as devoting her time to the community, working Red Cross Blood Drives, serving in her local junior league, and teaching science lessons to local elementary schools.

She made everyone around her feel like family-her generosity and hospitality were unmatched. Margaret's Echo Lake home was a constant source of laughter, love, endless good food and joy. She hosted her family and friends, offering a place of comfort along with her unconditional affection, all with a sparkle in her smiling, emerald eyes. There wasn't a woman who loved harder.

When their four kids reached adulthood, Margaret and Ben moved to Echo Lake in the 1980's, following their offspring to the Flathead Valley. Margaret became 'Nana' as she entered her years as a grandmother-her most cherished of duties. She traveled near and far to cheer on her grandkids in all of their endeavors. A lover of athletics, she invested in Grizzly football season tickets. She braved the Montana elements for decades, from 90 degree heat waves to sub zero blizzards, outlasting even the most devoted fans. She most

Loved ones left behind to carry on her legacy include, children, Therese and Joe Bowen, Bob and Kellie Hilley, Tom Hilley, Janet Hilley and Olen Walch; grandchildren, Meghan and Dylan Frazer, Tyler Bowen and Annie Bader, Sarah and Ryan Yanuss, Hannah and Nick Lewis, Carly and Joe Wolstein, Jessica and Dan Mahoney, Jordan Fowler, Trey and Mercedes Hilley, and William Walch; great-grandchildren, Luke, Brennan, and Kira Frazer, Holland and Quinn Yanuss, Lincoln and Nolan Lewis, Mira Fowler and Briar Mahoney, and baby girl Wolstein due in May.

A mass to honor Margaret will be held at 11 a.m. on Dec. 27, at St. John Paul Catholic Church in Bigfork.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the charity of your choice.

## Rosemary Aker Hillstead, 89

Rosemary Aker Hillstead, 89, passed away peacefully at her home in Sun Lakes, Arizona, on Nov. 16, 2023, with her husband, Joel Hillstead, at her side.

She was born on June 3, 1934, to Forest and Ethel Aker in Kalispell. She attended elementary school in Kalispell and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1952. She loved school and participated in numerous school activities with her many friends and who she maintained those friendships throughout her life.

Upon graduating from high school, she attended the University of Montana in Missoula, majoring in elementary education. She worked the summers at the family business, Akers Grocery in downtown Kalispell. She drove the delivery truck and her brother Charles, took the groceries to the door.

She married Joel Dean Hillstead on Sept. 25, 1955, in Kalispell, and together they returned to the university to complete their education. Upon graduating from college with a degree in elementary education, she began her teaching career which she had a passion for. Joel's job required many moves for the family throughout the West, living in seven different states and 32 homes. She never had a problem getting a teaching job during that time and all her school principals appreciated her hard work and love for the children.

Rosemary and Joel returned to Kalispell in 1976, to start a family business of their own alongside brother-in-law and sister, Luther and Jean French. Rosemary changed her career path at that time from teaching, to running the office for Hillstead's Department Store.

She was a convert to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Upon retirement from their business, they



served a church mission in Cape Town, South Africa, which

Rosemary truly loved. It is was such a great experience that they decided to serve a second mission in Las Vegas.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Joel; daughter, Vicki Kay (Brad) Walterskirchen of Kalispell; Joel Bryan (Joan) Hillstead of Panama City Beach, Florida; and Forest Cole (Cathy) Hillstead of Salt Lake City; her beloved 13 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren, with one more on the way.

She was very close to her grandchildren and felt blessed that they all lived nearby in their childhood so that she could attend all the activities and performances. She always bragged about how seven of the 13 grandkids all graduated from Flathead High School as she did.

She is also survived by her brother, Charles (Edwina) Aker of Polson; and sister, Katy (Bob) Sommons of Zionsville, Pennsylvania; brothers-in-law, Bill Hillstead of Olympia, Washington; and Luther French of Salt Lake City, along with numerous nieces and nephews of whom she loved dearly.

Rosemary will always be remembered by the way she lived her life, as being a very kind, gentle and friendly individual to all she met and touched, as well as a loving and devoted spouse, mother and grandmother.

A celebration of Rosemary's life will take place this summer in Kalispell.

## Richard L. "Dick" Hillstrom, 84

Richard L. "Dick" Hillstrom was born April 23, 1938 on a farm near Lyons, Nebraska to Ruth Sears Hillstrom and Roy Hillstrom. He was raised in eastern Nebraska, graduating from Lyons High School in 1956.

He headed west and never looked back. He worked for the Forest Service to pay for tuition to the University of Montana in Missoula,



he started in the logging

majoring in forestry. Dick joined the Army in the late 1950s and served proudly in the 82nd Airborne Division. Upon his honorable discharge,

business.

He married Mary Jacobson on July 2, 1966 in Missoula. Shortly thereafter, they bought their place north and west of Whitefish where he passed on Sept. 29, 2022.

Dick was in the logging business for many years and ran cattle on his place. He enjoyed both businesses and still ran a few cows on the

day of his death.

He leaves behind his wife Mary of Whitefish; two sisters Zelta Preston (Randall) of Apple Valley, Minnesota and Vendla Block of Fergus Falls, Minnesota; and many other beloved family and friends.

Dick was a special and beloved man. Per his wishes, his body was cremated and no public services were held.

## Barbara Hinsz, 82

Barbara Jean Hinsz of Columbia Falls crossed over March 20, 2023. She was born Dec. 27, 1940 in Akeley, Minn., to the late Wayne LeRoy Mathews and Myrtle Edna Perleberg (Batteen).

Barbara was a kind, generous, and nurturing matriarch. She worked and retired from the Montana State Veterans Home as an accountant. Some things she enjoyed were traveling, gardening, bowling, crosswords, puzzles, and camping. Barbara loved Elvis and would play him on the car stereo and especially during the Christmas holiday. At all the family gatherings at "the folks," Barb made her peanut brittle, relish trays, and cookies, which were followed by games and fun.

Barbara is survived by her husband of 65 years, Ellan "Al" Hinsz; son, Brian D. Hinsz; granddaughter, Bryanne Hinsz; great-grandson,



Bryson Brittsan; sister, Florence Burkhardt; and brother, Rick Perleberg. In addition to her parents,

Barbara is preceded in death by step-father, Albert Perleberg; and brother, Wayne "Butch" Mathews, Jr.

A celebration of Barbara Jean Hinsz's 82 years of life will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, March 27 at Columbia Mortuary, 1010 4th Avenue West, Columbia Falls, MT 59912. Family and friends may begin to visit on Monday starting at 10 a.m. Interment to follow at Woodlawn Cemetery, 2200 9th Street West, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

To send online condolences, please visit [www.columbiamortuary.com](http://www.columbiamortuary.com).

## Per Arne Hjulstad, 83

Per Arne Hjulstad, 83 of Columbia Falls, passed away on Sept. 10, 2023, at his home.

His family hails from Trondheim, Norway. Due to the German invasion in April, 1940, his family fled the city just before his birth, so he was born in Leinstrand, Norway, on April 25, 1940. The family later returned to Trondheim, where Per grew up.

He often said he learned to ski before he walked. He immigrated to the USA with his parents in 1956, and settled on a farm near Havre, Montana. He attended school in Box Elder from 1957 - 1959 when he graduated. During that time, he played basketball and track for the Bears.

He returned to his Norwegian homeland in 1959, and came back to the United States one year later. He attended the University of Montana, got his B.S. in 1960 and 1961. His parents told him he was having too much fun in school, so he joined the U.S. Army in 1961, completed basic training at Fort Ord, and then shipped to Ulm, Germany where he was a Quartermaster Supply Specialist with the Dependent Education Group and a member of his unit's Pistol Team.

He returned to the USA in 1964, was honorably discharged, and took the Great Northern Empire Builder back to Havre. He noted he traveled three times on, "That marvelous source of transportation across the USA from New York."

Upon returning to Montana, he obtained his citizenship. He attended Northern Montana College from 1965 to 1967,



was always nervous and wanted to inspire respect from the beginning. He was notorious among students for cracking his wooden pointer across the desk of sleepy kids, yet everyone recognized the kind, fun man he truly was. The kids also loved his accent, and chuckled during his lectures on Ivan the III (which sounded like Ivan da Turd). He inspired many kids to become teachers themselves. He remained a Columbia Falls teacher and coach until his retirement in 1999.

He was always a hard worker. In addition to teaching school, he worked for Anaconda Aluminum Company during the summer breaks in 1969, 1970, and 1971. In 1975, he began working during the summer at Glacier National Park, and he worked there until 2011. He was proud of those 36 years with the Park Service.

He married Rita Anders Konopatzke in 1973; they divorced in 1981.

He married Michele Barrett Pepper in 1983, and raised her two children, Mark and Monica. He wasn't particularly handy in the house, but he was good with car maintenance and tried (and failed) to impart that wisdom to Mark. The

track, and high school track. To quote Per, he "Loved it."

His tradition was to wear black on the first day of the school year. He

play pinochle when they were short a couple for a pinochle party, that was 34 years ago, and there were countless games of Olds versus Youngs ever since.

For 13 years during their marriage, he and Michele hosted Super Bowl parties for their teacher friends that were so fun and popular, the Hungry Horse News unexpectedly showed up at one to tell the story. Michele turned them away, what was she thinking.

He enjoyed beer, and brewed his own for many years. He was a wonderful grandfather to his two grandchildren, Jacob and Joshua. They adored him, and he them, and they had countless adventures together, tubing, camping, boating, snow and water skiing, rafting, biking, and sledding. He was an amateur photographer, and his family and Facebook friends are blessed with his many photos of beautiful Montana scenery and wildlife.

He will be missed by his wife, Michele; stepson, Mark Pepper of Columbia Falls; stepdaughter, Monica and her husband Joe Young of Boise, Idaho; grandson, Joshua Young of Boise; three great-grandchildren, Laydn, Colt, and Nala, of Horseshoe Bend, Idaho; sister and brother-in-law, Kari and Jim Ray of Irrigon, Oregon; nieces, Jamie and Shelly; and many cousins and relatives in Norway.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Arvid and Elsa Hjulstad of Box Elder, Montana; grandson, Jacob Young of Boise; and nephews Steve and Mike.

where he worked for the hot lunch program and as a Resident Assistant while obtaining his BS (Broadfield Major in S.S.). He was proud that working combined with the GI Bill and his good grades kept him debt free. He received the Good Citizen Award at Northern in 1967.

In January of 1968, after having graduated, he worked in the Glasgow School District teaching history and government in the high school. He was hired in the Columbia Falls school district in the fall of 1968, to teach social studies in the junior high. He also coached junior high basketball, junior high

stories of Mark's many car misadventures entertained Per into his final days.

Per and Michele were happily married for 40 years. They spent their free time golfing, camping, fishing, boating, and traveling all over Montana and surrounding states. He appreciated the local communities and their history wherever he went. He said he would quit golfing the year his son-in-law, Joe Young, beat him, both could be competitive.

His competitive nature really shone when playing cards, he and Michele taught their daughter Monica and to-be son-in-law Joe Young, to

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 18, at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls, followed by an onsite luncheon. Family and friends may begin to visit on Monday starting at 10 a.m.

He was a long-time supporter and fan of the Columbia Falls Wildcats. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in his honor to the "Wildcat Athletic Endowment" at PO Box 1259, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Takk for gode minner, Per. Du vil bli savnet. Thanks for the good memories, Per. You will be missed.

## Hugh Hockaday, 80

Hugh W. Hockaday, 80, passed away at his home in Lakeside with his family at his side after a lengthy illness on Nov. 8, 2023.

He was born in 1943 in Missouri to parents, Hugh and Ethel Hockaday. His father worked as a commercial artist for Scruggs Vanderhorten and Barney department store in St. Louis, but in 1946 they made the decision to move and live full time at the family ranch in Lakeside, to assist Hugh's grandparents Weight and Marguerite Hockaday. He grew up on the family cherry farm and attended grade school in Rollins and High School at Flathead High in Kalispell.

He had a natural gift for archery and traveled to various shoots around the state and northwest. He retired many of the traveling trophies, shooting a recurve bow. He remained a state champion for many years, semi-retiring from the circuit after the birth of his children.

He was also a talented craftsman, building log homes, and crib docks around Flathead Lake. He took great pride in his work and anything he built you could count on being the best quality and being able to withstand the storms.

He was an avid hunter and loved to hunt elk. He was happiest when searching for them and when he was out gather-



ing firewood. A good day for him was one spent in the forests.

Whether it be hunting for huckleberries, scouting out the best places to find elk, or getting a truckload of firewood, as long as he was out in the woods, he was happy.

Hugh married Jacqueline in 1967 and they had two children together, Hugh Jr. and Kimberly. They would later divorce and in 2002 he married his long time love Rebecca.

Together they continued to live on the family ranch and run the cherry orchard during the summers. He especially loved taking her to the Bigfork Playhouse and dinner in Lakeside on the weekends.

He loved being a grandparent and was even more delighted when he got to spend time with his great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca; son, Hugh; daughter, Kimberly; grandchildren, Alexis, Bradley, and Austin; and great-grandchildren, Delta, Luke, Bear, Nova, and Egan. He is also survived by his constant companion and guard dog, Yogi.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.



## Deloris Marie Hofeldt, 95

Deloris Marie Hofeldt, 95, of Kalispell, formerly Chinook, peacefully went to be with Jesus, her Lord and Savior, on April 4, 2023 at her home at Buffalo Hill Terrace.

Deloris Willard was born on Nov. 26, 1927, in Rolette County, North Dakota to Harold and Palma (Tweet) Willard. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church. Her parents farmed near Rolette, N.D. until the Depression when they moved to Lanton, Missouri. Around 1937 they returned to North Dakota and settled in Rugby.

During high school Deloris contracted tuberculosis. She spent nine months in recovery at San Haven Sanatorium in Dunseith, N.D. She graduated from Rugby High School in 1947. While traveling by train she met Lawrence Hofeldt, a rancher from Montana. They married in 1948 and raised six children in the Bears Paw Mountains near Chinook.

Deloris moved to Kalispell with son Greg in about 1975 to pursue life on her own. She worked at a women's clothing store, was an active member at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and enjoyed traveling all over the U.S. with her sister, Helen and to Norway and Germany with her children. Among her many skills were gardening, sewing, needlework and various crafts. She enjoyed swimming exercise classes at the



Summit. In her later years she became a master jigsaw puzzle maker. She cherished visits with

the many family members saying with pride, "See what I started."

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by former husband, Lawrence; sister, Helen Belland; brother, Donald ("Sonny"); son, Gregory; grandson, Noah; and son-in-law, Don Gerten. She will be missed by children, Barbara Gerten (MN), Pamela (Dale) Boespflug, Bruce (Patricia), Dwight (Carol) (TX) and Carolyn (Stephen) Babcock; special friend Rito Cervantes; 19 grandchildren, Candace, Matthew, Sarah, Abigail, Elizabeth, Jillian, Jeffrey, Jennifer, Christy, TaraBeth, Timothy, Amber, Natalie, Nathan, Joshua, Ejlil, Katherine, Amanda, Emily; and 36 great-grandchildren.

There will be a visitation on Friday, April 14, 6-7 p.m. at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 15, at 11 a.m. at Buffalo Hill Terrace Chapel, 40 Claremont Street, Kalispell; followed immediately by a luncheon. Burial will take place at 1:30 p.m. at Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

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

## Clell Hoffman, 86

Clell Hoffman, 86, passed away on Nov. 27, 2023. He was born on Oct. 18, 1937, in Hutchinson, Kansas to Doyle and Etha Hoffman.

He lived a remarkable life that touched the hearts and influenced many, beginning with his family, his friends, his students and his employees, who will forever cherish his memory.

For 27 years, he called Ashley Lake and Kalispell, his home, preceded by his cherished time in La Verne, California.

He exemplified dedication and compassion in several areas of his life including his career in education. He had an unwavering commitment to ensuring every student was equipped for success in college and career.

He is survived by his sister, Jacquie; his children, Kimberly, Tracie, and Clell; along with his son-in-laws, Alan and Rick; daughter-in-law, Sabina; grandchildren, Trent, Sara, Kyle,



Dominic, Anna, Michael, Emily, Zella, Celia, Ali and Zachary; and

great-grandchildren, Kaelyn, Oliver, Lucas, Henry, Nadir, Soraya and Iman.

A burial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7, at the Fairview Cemetery. Family and friends are welcome. Additionally, a church service and celebration will be held at Ashley Lake next summer. For further details, kindly reach out to the family directly.

In remembrance of Clell's life, contributions can be made to Prostate Cancer Research. 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.

## Janis Hoffman, 72

Janis Hoffman, 72, stepped into the presence of her Saviour Feb. 25, 2023, after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer.



Janis Valri Keeney Hoffman, born in 1950 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to Walter and Miriam Keeney, was the oldest of three children. She graduated from Manheim Township High School in 1968 and went on to Indiana University of Pennsylvania and graduated as a home economics major in 1972. She met the love of her life, Sam Hoffman, the summer of 1969 and they married in 1972. In 1974 they moved to Kalispell. Eric was born in June of 1975; Greg arrived in September 1976.

She was a dental assistant for 16 years for Dr. Denny Schultz. In 1998 she began as church secretary at Bethel Baptist Church, continuing there until her death. She taught Sunday School there for 43 years and served as a pianist for many years. She greatly loved teaching children about the Bible.

Janis taught piano to many students, mostly beginners. She served as secretary of the Kalispell Area Music Teachers Association for many years. She taught at Junior Music Academy,

a music school for young students, for 11 years. She also enjoyed hiking and backpacking in Montana. Many Glacier was her favorite area.

Janis is survived by Sam; their two sons, Eric (Christie) and Greg (Heidi); and 10 grandchildren, Caleb, Joseph, Samuel, Elizabeth, Lily and Lydia, near Salt Lake City, and Anna, Alli, Jacob and Owen, near Tucson, Arizona. She loved spending time with each of them, reading, going to lunch, watching movies and teaching them piano. She is also survived by her father, Walter Keeney, 95; her sister Nancy Swingler ("C"); her brother Mike (Kathy); and two nieces, Jenna Ginder and Lindsay Oehme and their families.

She loved Lake Blaine Baptist Bible Camp and did much to assist in keeping the camp running smoothly. She requested that in lieu of flowers memorial gifts be given to LBBBC through their website.

A memorial service will be held at Bethel Baptist Church, in Kalispell, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 18.

## Roger Alan Hoffman, 75

Roger Alan Hoffman, 75, passed away on Nov. 3, 2023, in Surprise, Arizona. He was born on March 19, 1948, in Austin, Minnesota.



He is survived by his wife, DeeAnn; daughter, Kim (Scott) Holst; sisters, Janet (Tom) Lenocho and Lori (Mike) Golly; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and many very special nieces, nephews, other



relatives, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Ruth Hoffman; his sister, Carol Scott and previous companion, Sue

Caugh.

He proudly served in the Air Force for four years, including his service in the Vietnam War.

A military service will be held at a later date and be laid to rest in the Flathead Valley of Montana.

Roger's memory will forever live on in the hearts of his loved ones. May he rest in peace.

## Bruce Allen Hogan, 76

Bruce Allen Hogan, 76, lost his battle with CLL (Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia) on March 8, 2023. Judy, Greg and Renee were at his side.

Bruce was born March 20, 1946 in Glenwood Springs, Colo., to Francis and Florence Hogan.

He grew up in Kevin, Montana and graduated High School from Sunburst in 1964.

Bruce was awarded seven full-ride athletic scholarships upon graduation. He chose Montana State University.

Bruce cherished the group of players from the Hall of Fame class of 1964-65. They were very close and have remained close friends. They call themselves the Decrepit Bobcats and get together every four years for a reunion. This group of men are very proud of the fact they never lost to the Grizzlies.

Bruce met Judy Rowe her first week of school at Montana State in 1966, and as they say, the rest is history. Bruce and Judy were married Aug. 12, 1967. In April 1969 they were blessed with their son Greg. In July of 1970 they were blessed again. Renee was born and the family was complete.

Bruce taught school and coached for nine years. He then switched careers and became



a construction products sales rep. The family was moved several times

with company transfers.

Bruce and Judy moved back home to Montana, and settled in Kalispell after they both retired.

Bruce loved all sports. His favorite pastime was golf. He was a member of Whitefish Lake Golf Club. He was thrilled to have made two holes-in-one during his years of golf.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents, Francis and Florence Hogan. In-laws, Grandma Beatrice Curry, mother and father-in-law Lyle and Aileen Rowe.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Judy, son Greg (Cyndi) and their sons Taylor and Lyle, Daughter Renee (Kyle) Smock, their daughter Kaitlyn and son Sean.

No services will be held per Bruce's request.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the charity of your choice. 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 caring for the family.



Jennifer Ione Hogan, 51, passed away unexpectedly on June 6, 2023, at her family home, "Bony Fingers Ranch" in Polson.

Born Aug. 10, 1971, in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Ray and Shirley Hogan, Jennifer was the youngest of five siblings - Dan, Maureen, Jeff, Mark and Tammy. They moved to Hungry Horse, in September 1973 where she began school at Hungry Horse Elementary. They moved to Polson where she completed primary and secondary and graduated from Polson High School in 1990. She then went on to college at The University of Montana in Missoula and then briefly lived in Seattle, Washington where she completed pharmacy tech school and worked as a pharmacy tech before moving back to her family home in Polson to care for her aging parents. She met her husband Vernon Davis in 2003 in Spokane, Washington and they welcomed their only son Wyatt Davis, the pride and joy of their life, in 2011.

In her younger years Jennifer enjoyed camping, hiking, and spending most of her time outdoors. She spent several summers working as a server in Glacier Park. She had a passion for helping others and it was apparent not only in her unyielding effort caring for her parents up to their passing, but in her final career as a paraprofessional at Cherry Valley Elementary School, where the students adored their "Ms. Jen."

She will be remembered for being a fiercely devoted mom to Wyatt. Not a day went by that she was not posting pictures of him, speaking of his band and sports accomplishments and his honor roll accolades. Jennifer was so often referred to as "the sweetest and kindest person I know." We will forever be gifted with our memories of her love and kindness ... in addition to the funny cat memes and reels she circulated daily.

Jennifer is survived by husband Vernon Davis, son Wyatt Davis and cat Bella Rose. Forever remembered by sister Tammy Puglia and brother Mark Hogan, nine nieces and nephews, 16 great nieces and nephews and four great greats, who she adored and made sure they knew it as often as she had the opportunity. On Vernon's side, Wyatt's grandmother Arline Davis, and Vernon's siblings Valerie, Vincent, Victor and Veronica, 14 nieces and nephews and 20 greats.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ray and Shirley Hogan, siblings Dan Hogan, Maureen Martin, Jeff Hogan, cat Mr. Fuzzy and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Jennifer will be cremated. Services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 17 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1202 4th Avenue East, Polson, MT 59860

Special acknowledgement to Jed and Cindi Petersen and their children Carden, Gannen and Bransen, dear friends to Jennifer, Wyatt, and Vern.

## Don Alan Hollis, 67

Don Alan "Butch" Hollis passed away from complications of organ failure on Sunday, April 23, 2023, at Logan Health Medical Center in Kalispell.



Salem, New Jersey, on Dec. 11, 1955, and was raised in Pennsville, New Jersey, before his parents moved the family to Columbia Falls where he met his wife, Cindy (Riley) Hollis of nearly 50 years and was married on May 2, 1974.

Butch graduated from Columbia Falls High School in 1973 and attended some classes at Flathead Valley Community College. Butch enlisted in the Army in 1974 where he was active duty for four

years. While in the Army, Butch was awarded the Army Sharpshooter Badge for his shooting excellence.

Once honorably discharged from the Army, he moved his family back to the Flathead Valley where he began his 25-year career at Plum Creek, followed by 15 years working for the United States Postal Service where he retired in 2020.

Butch, better known to his great-grandchildren as "Pop," loved spending time with his family and especially his great-grandchildren. He also loved hunting with his two boys, camping with his family and car rides in the mountains around the valley and Glacier National Park. Butch

loved to cook and would only grill on charcoal. In his later years, his favorite activity was sitting on his deck in the summer evenings with the hummingbirds and his wife.

Don is also survived by his two brothers, John "Skip" Hollis and Kenny Hollis; his grandchildren, Celina McDaniel, Olivia Purvis, and Charlotte Hollis; and his great-grandchildren, Ivry, Machias, and Ever Lily McDaniel.

He is preceded in his death by his father, John Hollis; and sister, Mary Lee Watson.

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 caring for the family.

## Rhonda Kaye (Herzog) Hoon, 58

Rhonda Kaye (Herzog) Hoon, 58, of Columbia Falls, passed away surrounded by her loving family on Tuesday, June 20, in Kalispell, after a courageous battle with her health.



Being a mother and grandmother was her greatest joy. Rhonda is also a respected and skilled office manager and bookkeeper.

She selflessly devoted her talents to her family's entrepreneurial pursuits. She was instrumental in the successes of both her brother and son's businesses, as well as being influential in many other people's individual entrepreneurial endeavors.

She was always willing to lean into the difficult situations that came with working in family-owned businesses. Not to mention the natural strain of operating a business.

Her willingness to lean into those difficult

situations allowed for all of us to chuckle at her "bull in a China hutch mentality."

She made sure you knew where she stood and this was especially true if it came to her protecting someone, or something, she deeply cared for.

As a writer I lead with this description about business, not because business was more important to her than family, but because it is the only true way in a short story to help paint a picture of who she was when it came to her true passion in life, which was family.

She was tenacious with her love for family. She was described by one of her sons the other day as selfishly selfless. I, as her other son writing

this, felt it was a perfect description to share wrapped up in two words what described our mom.

She loved family so deeply that even if you may not agree with her stance on a particular topic, there was no arguing the point that the only reason she was anchored so strongly in her opinion was the fact that she loved so strongly. She wanted things to turn out so well for the particular situation, she was not going to move from her stance.

I believe this example of her love was depicted in her final days on this earth. Even when God came calling, she battled for 10 days to stay with her family on comfort care.

Even though she had been extremely nutritionally malnourished from cancer, and was also fighting off pneumonia from just a week prior, it

was very evident in her demeanor in her final days that no matter what she may be enduring because of her illness, she wanted to squeeze every second out of this life to be with her family.

Mom from the bottom of your three children's hearts, your six grandchildren, all your family, and all your friends out there, just know we are better off because of you. We are grateful for you and are thankful of you.

So as this life ends and your next journey begins, we want to say, "To da loo, I love you," "See you later alligator, after awhile crocodile."

A celebration of her life will be held at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28, at Darlington Funeral Home, 3408 U.S. 2 East in Kalispell.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for the family.

## Norma June Hornbacher, 82

On Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, Norma June Hornbacher passed away after a brief illness, she was 82. Many of her dearest friends and family visited her on her final day, and her beloved daughter Stephanie and her sister Lois were by her side when she peacefully slipped away.

Norma was a friend to all those lucky enough to know her, the most caring and loving mother and grandma, and a treasured sister, aunt, and friend.

She was born June 4, 1941, at Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis, the fourth of Carl and Esther Bergstrom's 10 children. Like her siblings, she worked long days on the family farm. Her goofy humor, love for singing made-up songs, and zest for life helped make

weeding the fields pass more quickly.

A variety of escapades kept her on the edge of trouble and to her final days she loved a good pun, goofy turn of phrase, and a hearty laugh.

We'll always remember some of her most famous phrases; "neither here nor there," "just a lick and a promise," "by hook or by crook," "hustle my bustle," "you lie like a rug," "you get what you get and you don't throw a fit," "garsh-all-hemlock," and countless others. These "abnormalisms," the color purple, colorful pins, and heart-shaped rocks are just a few things that make up the essence of our dear Norma.

She attended a one-room elementary school in the Minneapolis area and then graduated from Osseo High School in 1959. She didn't follow her dad's pronouncement that she should become a missionary, but instead became a bit of an adventurer, going to North Park College in Chicago for two years, moving to southern California for a year, and attending the University of Minnesota, living with her sister Joyce.

After a short stint in Illinois working at a children's home, she moved to the Bay Area to live with sister Arlene, where she heard Martin Luther King Jr. speak in San Francisco and worked at a bookstore across from the Berkeley campus. Back in the Midwest during the Vietnam War-era teacher shortage,



she was hired as a teacher at a country school in Mt. Morris, Michigan.

One day while picking up some library books in Flint to bring back to her classroom, she encountered a good-looking stranger. He ambled over, picked up one of her books and said "Hmm, Cowboy Songs for Kids, that's right up my alley." After that, as she said, the rest was history and she married her Chuckie baby, Charles Hornbacher, on June 21, 1969. Daughter Stephanie Rae — the true light of her life — was born in June, 1970.

Not long after Stephanie's birth, Chuck saw a photo of Montana and decided to move his family to Columbia Falls, sight unseen, no jobs, no place to live, towing a small U-Haul with all their worldly possessions and a canoe on top. Chuck, a gifted jack-of-all-trades, built them a nice home on Elk Park Road with a big garden, a variety of cats and dogs that Norma mostly tolerated, and surrounded by neighbors who became lifelong friends.

When Stephanie attended Deer Park School, Norma served on its school board. She also participated in charity drives, sold produce at the farmers' market, joined local ladies' clubs, was a 4-H leader, and organized an annual fundraising talent show. For several years, she and Chuck made and sold wooden toys and ornaments at craft fairs. She also served as an usher at community concerts and sold tickets at sporting events in Columbia Falls for many years.

She grew up in the Covenant Church and attended First Baptist Church in Columbia Falls throughout her life. Her Christian faith and church family were so important to her. She loved gospel music, hymns, and daily devotionals. Her family is so grateful that her loving church friends were always there for her. Thank you to pastors Buchanan and Dobson for truly caring about Norma.

In the '70s, she began her long career in the Columbia Falls Public

Schools as a paraeducator for all grades. Generations of students remember her fondly.

In the '80s she started working summers as a visitor use assistant in Glacier National Park and she was the friendliest attendant at the west entrance gate for many years. In Glacier she found friends who liked to recreate every weekend with her. With the Mountain Mamas and others, Norma had probably hiked every trail in Glacier National Park and cross country skied countless miles, although she couldn't have told you where the trail was or how long it was, she just remembered the stories told along the way. She was so proud to share the beauty of Glacier with family and friends who visited Montana.

She found her greatest joy connecting with friends and family. She remembered the birthdays of all her loved ones and kept every letter they sent, she clipped newspaper articles about people she knew, stayed in touch with her siblings through weekly phone calls, and loved to take photos so she could share stacks of snapshots with anyone she could convince to look through them.

She famously wrote everything on her wall calendar, from the day's weather to the hike she did, so she could always remember the who and the what of her daily life. Although she couldn't figure out how to operate an alarm clock to save her life, she was sharp as a tack, especially about spelling, grammar, and language. She loved playing Scrabble, played Rummikub and watched Wheel of Fortune nightly with Chuck, and completed daily crossword puzzles. Playing all those games was her way to have fun, connect with other people, and keep that quick wit active.

Her youthful spirit and spunk made her the perfect grandma and favorite playmate to Madison, her only grandchild and pride and joy. They spent hours playing make believe and other games when Madison was young. Just like she had for daughter Stephanie, Norma attended all of Madison's performances and sports events while she was able. Norma was so proud of both her daughter and granddaughter and loved

to brag about Stephanie and Madison's beauty, smarts, and accomplishments.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Chuck; and siblings, Arlene Cogburn, Bill Bergstrom, Carl Bergstrom, Carolyn Sosnoski, Joyce Bergstrom, and Sandy Sanchez.

Her family left behind will miss her deeply. They include daughter, Stephanie Gordon; granddaughter, Madison Rose Gordon and son-in-law, Steven Gordon; sisters, Lois (Lance) Schelvan and Adele (Jeff) Light; brother, Jim (Diane) Bergstrom; sisters-in-law, Grace Bergstrom and Julianne Bergstrom; brothers-in-law, Don Sosnoski and Joe Sanchez; and her many beloved nieces and nephews.

A very special thanks to the loving caregivers and staff at Beehive Assisted Living in Columbia Falls and Norma's long-time physician Dr. Jay Erickson. Dr. Mitch Marzo was a wonderful support to Norma during several recent hospital stays. Several friends provided such loving care to Norma in her last years of life including Barb and Dave, Carmen, Cheryl, Darleen, Marie, Jean, Sara, Susan; and her sister, Lois; and brother-in-law, Lance, Carmen and sister, Lois, were especially special caregivers to both Norma and Chuck. Dear friends supported Stephanie as she cared for her parents, a special thank you to Carrie, Darcie, Jamie, Jessica, Jolene, Leana, Quinn, Shelly and their families; and countless others who provided emotional support throughout this difficult journey.

If you would like to honor Norma's memory, support your local public school or Glacier National Park in her memory, or sing loudly to a gospel song. A song especially meaningful to Norma and Stephanie is "I'll Fly Away." The roll has been called up yonder for Norma and she's rejoicing with her family in heaven.

Funeral care provided by Austin Funeral and Cremation Services. Memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Dec. 11, at the First Baptist Church in Columbia Falls. To send online condolences, please visit [www.austinh.com](http://www.austinh.com).

### Regina 'Reggie' Houston, 78

Regina "Reggie" Houston passed away in the morning of Saturday, Jan. 14. She was born and raised here in Kalispell. Other than the year she lived in Spokane to attend Kinman Business School she lived her entire life in Kalispell, Bigfork and Somers. She is preceded in death by her husband Mike; her parents Mel and Hilda Strand; and her brother Terry Strand. She is survived by her daughter Laralee Atchley; her stepson Tod Houston; and adopted son Cory Houston. She



also has several grandchildren.

Reggie was very active and involved with the Moose Lodge and VFW. She was an amazing pianist. From her days playing in country bands when she was young to playing for many years at Tybuckers in Somers and most recently at Mavericks in Lakeside.

She enjoyed sewing and monogramming. She was an avid bowler for many years as well. She will be missed by everyone who knew her and loved her. Per her request there will not be a funeral service but the family may have a celebration of her life at a later date.

### Arlene A. Howke, 88

Arlene A. Howke, 88, passed away at Logan Health Whitefish on Oct. 2, 2023.

Arlene was born on Jan. 20, 1935 to the late Henry and Martha (Bury) Pettit in Billings.

In Arlene's early years of life her first job was at a dairy making butter, ice cream and popsicles. She later worked at a saw mill and home maker. In her adult years she had an interest in sewing and became a seamstress, including making



costumes for the Kings and Queens for Whitefish Winter Carnival.

Arlene was known for baking her homemade buns from scratch, making the family meals for the holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas. She enjoyed golfing, bowling, and was an avid gamer, was a member of the women's

bowling association, a member of the Whitefish Boat Club and also a member of the NRA, taught classes and was a good marksman in her day. She loved hummingbirds and orchids.

Arlene was preceded in death by her parents, her husband's Jack Frey and Dale "Punk" Howke Jr., one sibling Dale "Skip" Pettit. She is survived by her children Bruce A Frey, Keith J Frey (Min Qin), Raymond H. Frey, Janeen A. McGarry,

Peggy A. Borntrager (Paul), David C. Howke, 18 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services for Arlene will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. To send online condolences to the family please visit [www.austinfh.com](http://www.austinfh.com). Austin Funeral and Cremation Services is caring for the family.





## Ronald G. Hoye, 87

Ronald G. Hoye "Ron" passed away Wednesday, March 15 while in the presence of friends and family after reaching the old age of 87. Ron was born Feb. 13, 1936 in Froid, Montana to parents Alfred and Vivian Hoye and is survived by his grandchildren, Serena, Jonathan, Jeaneen; daughter-in-law, Helen; and siblings, Art, Susan and Adrian.

After serving our country in the Air Force, he was fortunate to meet his perfect partner, marrying Anita Sheets in 1959 and



deputy district governor and more; board member for Rails to Trails, Pee Wee Baseball coach for 15 years, board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters

having son Shawnn. Ron enjoyed public service; Sunriser Lions Club for 52 years, stepping up as president, zone chairman,

for 13 years, Elks Club, and board member of Central School Museum.

Ron's favorite hobbies include bicycling, wood-working and photography which he passed onto Serena. He touched the hearts of many and will be missed dearly.

His funeral service will be held at Epworth Methodist Church Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m. with food and graveside following.

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

## Elton Ross Hoyt, 84

Elton Ross Hoyt, 84, passed away on Jan. 23, 2023, at St. Luke Community Hospital in Ronan. He was born on June 21, 1938, in Polson to E. Edward and A. Blanch (Howell) Hoyt.

He graduated from Polson High School in 1957. He was in the National Guard for 7.5 years. He married Darline Joyce in 1966 and they raised 2 sons, Chris and Tom. Chris was born in October 1967 and Tom was adopted in 1974. In 2013, they adopted their daughter Tammy.



contractor and backhoe operator. He retired and spent his time wood-working. Ross had two passions: one of which was making sure we had a fire hall and in 1980, he and a lot of volunteers built the Big Arm Fire Hall. Ross volunteered for 20 years. He also helped to renovate the Big Arm School to use as a community center. He was preceded in

Ross was a rancher, self-employed building

death by his son Chris in 2009. He is survived by his wife Darline; son Tom (Angel); daughter Tammy (Reidy); three grandsons; two great-granddaughters and an aunt Jessie Wienderlich of Valier, Montana.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring. Memories and condolences may be sent to the family at [www.lakefuneralhomeandcremation.com](http://www.lakefuneralhomeandcremation.com).

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

## Judith Anna Huber-Cogswell, 76

Judith "Judy" Anna Huber-Cogswell, 76, passed away on Oct. 14, 2023. Her loving husband Jerry was holding her hand. She was the daughter of Alfred Emanuel Descutner and Velma Howell Russell.



Her childhood in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania was difficult in poverty in coal-mining country. The skinny child was called "shrimp boat," by her peers. She and her older sister Linda would gather ribbons at the local cemetery from discarded flowers to turn into doll clothes.

In 1984, she met Jerry Cogswell at the Hospital Hill Half Marathon in Kansas City. A week later, Jerry took her to the Tulsa ballet. He introduced her to his friend, the Prima Ballerina. Well, who wouldn't be impressed? She saw the demo.

In 1985 they moved to Hawaii. Judy was one of the fastest runners in Hawaii. In November, 1986, she finished the Honolulu Marathon in a field of 20 thousand runners as the ninth overall woman in 2:58. In April, 1987, she set a womens' course record of 2:59 in

the Maui Marathon, some of it over uneven sugar cane fields. Judy and Jerry married in 1987. The novel running wedding made the evening TV news. They enjoyed 22 years of running in Hawaii together. Travels to Japan and London were side trips. They shared a common identity as vegetarians and animal rights advocates.

Her greatest joy in life was her great daves. She had eleven of them over the years. Most of them were rescues.

When she retired in Montana in 2006, she joined quilters in Eureka and Kalispell. Her Etsy store reviews for the quality of her mini-quilts were gratifying.

She is survived by two sons, John Huber and Michael Huber; and her siblings, Carol Cowden, Linda Tilton and Harry Descutner.

No services are planned. Memorials may be given to The Tobacco Valley Animal Shelter in Eureka, Montana.

## Donald Huggins

Don Huggins passed away peacefully with family by his side on the afternoon of Friday, March 10, 2023. He was 87 years old. He lived a great and impactful life centered on providing for his family, making his wife happy, and spending free time involved in sports.

Born in Havre, his parents, William and Ellen raised their family (including a brother and two sisters) in Ferndale and Kalispell. This is where Don attended grade school and high school, developing his caring and fun-loving personality. Shaped by his surroundings he grew up appreciating the Flathead Valley and the simple things in life, focusing on family, friends, hard work, and enjoying life.

After high school Don enrolled at the University of Montana, pledging the Sigma Chi fraternity. After a year of attending the university, he enlisted in the Army, becoming a member of the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. He valued his time in the Army and Army Reserves and took great pride in his military service to his country.

While Don was in the Army Reserves, he moved back to Montana and worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad out of Missoula. During a visit with family back in Kalispell he met the love of his life Marlene Bjork. Just a year after asking her to dance at the Skylark Lounge, they were married in late November



1956 on Swan Lake.

As they started their family Don's work took them away

from Montana, moving to Denver, Pocatello, and Spokane. In 1964 they made it back to Montana, settling in Missoula to raise their children.

While the kids were growing up in Missoula Don was a self-employed business owner in the automobile leasing, sales and rentals industry, providing the family with a very comfortable lifestyle. In addition to his primary business, he started the North West Travel Agency in Missoula. This allowed him and Marlene the opportunity to travel around the world, fulfilling their desire to experience new places and build memories together. As a proud Irishman, one of his favorite memories was traveling to Ireland where he was able to visit his namesake village Hugginstown located between Kilkenny and Waterford. His involvement in the travel industry allowed Don to serve on the Johnson Bell Field Airport Board, when the renovation and expansion of the Terminal Building (1977-1979) took place, which has been recently replaced.

When Don wasn't working, he spent many weeknights and weekends fishing, playing sports, and supporting Grizzly athletics. He loved fishing Rock Creek and the Blackfoot

river, with his favorite fishing spot being the North Fork of the Flathead River near Polebridge. He competed in basketball playing in the Missoula men's league, was an avid golfer and member of the Missoula Country Club. He gave many volunteer hours to the University of Montana Athletic Department officiating track and raising money through the "Century Club" (now known as the Grizzly Scholarship Association — GSA), becoming the organization's president in 1971 and '72. When his boys reached high school at Hellgate, he turned his attention to following them around the state, watching and providing support as they competed in football, basketball and track. He never missed a game.

Once the kids were out of high school, Don turned his attention to the next challenge and series of adventures. Moving away from Montana, he spent the next twenty-four years establishing and selling several businesses and homes in Maui, Palm Springs, Portland and Phoenix. While he owned his business in Portland, Don was able to display his keen sense of humor, punning his staff in an iconic stunt that was featured in the first Johnny Knoxville movie "Jack Ass: The Movie." He retired in 2007.

Early in retirement Don and Marlene spent their winters in Chandler, Arizona, and summers at their cabin on Flathead Lake, golfing and spending time with

family and friends. After a couple of years of back and forth, they decided to move back to Montana permanently, building a home in Turah where they could spend more time enjoying the state they loved.

Don is survived by his wife, Marlene; sister Sharon Nyquist of Anchorage, Alaska; sons Jay of Missoula; Jerry (Tracy) of Littleton, Colorado; and Jim (Marla) of Arlee.

Don's seven grandchildren and three bonus grandchildren include Ashley (Cody) Ball of Kalispell, Kelsey Huggins of Bozeman; Erin (Calvin) Hoard of Munith, Michigan; Megan Huggins of Denver, Colorado; Lauren Huggins of Fresno, California; Cade and Kendall Huggins of Santa Rosa Valley, California; Ashley (Jake) Hastings of Windsor, Colorado; Tim (Sidney) DeWalt of Folsom, California; and Jace DeWalt of Missoula. He also had four great-grandchildren, Liam and Logan Ball, and Chloe and Wesley Hoard.

If you feel inclined, in remembrance of Don, please make donations to the Grizzly Scholarship Association (GSA), or a charity of your choice. The Grizzly Scholarship Association is the primary fundraising organization for Grizzly athletics.

In accordance to Don's wishes, no service to celebrate his life will be held. Instead, the family will gather at several of his favorite places in Montana to spread his ashes.

## Ronald Hutzenbiler, 74

Ronald L. Hutzenbiler of Kalispell, formerly of Laurel, passed away peacefully in his sleep the morning of March 29, 2023. He was born in Billings on August 21, 1948, to his father Carl John Hutzenbiler and his mother Elizabeth Hinkle Hutzenbiler.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Voni; his son, Clint (Tracey) and daughter, Rhonda (Jason); his grandchildren, Beth (Alejandro), Nick, Dylan and Grant; and his great-grandchildren Cambrya, Santiago, Everleigh and Nova.

He served in the



Army National Guard and retired from the

BNSF Railway after 30 years. As a child of the 60s he had an affinity for fast cars, loud motorcycles and music. He was a multi-hobbyist, an excellent storyteller and never met a person he didn't like. He loved fishing, hunting and his greatest love was his family.

So, this isn't goodbye, it's just, "see you later."

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.