

Cory Nadvornick, 45

Cory Nadvornick, of Kalispell, 45, died June 5, 2023, in Billings. He was surrounded by his family after a lengthy battle with alcoholism. Cory was born Jan. 26, 1978, in Billings. He was adopted by Pamela and Robert Nadvornick as a young baby.

Cory was preceded in death by his mother, Pamela Nadvornick. He is survived by his father, Robert; his sister, Andrea Samuel; his niece, Abby Samuel, of Bozeman; and his grandmother, Blanche Garrett, of Kalispell; along with aunts, uncles, numerous



cousins and many good friends.

Cory grew up and was raised in Kalispell.

He attended school in Kalispell, graduating from Flathead High School in 1996. Cory went on to attend Microsoft Certification School to be an IT tech. He resided in Butte at the time of his death.

A private family memorial will be held at a later date.

Lois Barbara Nathe-Hammett, 91

The forever 18-year-old spirit of Lois Barbara Nathe-Hammett exited her exhausted 91-year-old body, at home as she wished, on the morning of Nov. 14, 2023. If it is possible to "Give it Hell" in Heaven, Lois is undoubtedly leading the charge, and we pity any in the spirit world who think they can stop her freshly turbocharged soul.

Born in Balsam Lake, Wisconsin, in 1931, Lois and her family moved to Sauk Center, Minnesota, when she was in seventh grade. She graduated from Sauk Center High School in 1949, and shortly thereafter the family left Sauk Center to make a new life in Montana. Lois didn't realize it at the time, but she had landed in a place big enough and wild enough to quench her enormous thirst for fun and adventure.

Lois married John Hammett in St. Matthew's Catholic Church in 1954, and they enjoyed nearly 70 years together raising six children and living life at warp speed. Lois was ferociously social, and her parties were legendary, particularly her Christmas Eve Midnight Mass "brunches," where she served mountains of hot dishes, cinnamon rolls, gigantic plates of Christmas cookies,

and fruit of every kind. All this was washed down with coffee and more than a few Harvey Wallbangers and other Christmas "spirits." The parish priest and parish nuns were always honorary guests, and an invite to one of Lois's brunches was considered a high honor.

Lois was created for motherhood, and she was an elite practitioner of the craft. She was working as a telephone operator in Kalispell when she found out she was pregnant with the first of her six children. As soon as she got the news, she jumped up from her switchboard and walked out the door. Immediately after quitting, she beelined it to Kelly Main Street Furniture and bought a rocking chair (creaky rockers being a must) in anticipation of future nights soothing her babies to sleep.

An expert cook and baker, Lois specialized in the comfort foods of the '60s and '70s, and constantly challenged herself with new recipes over the years. She was fearless when faced with a cooking challenge. If she was rendering bear fat provided by the family hunters, or cooking seven-course meals on an old-fashioned wood stove at some secluded backwoods cabin, Lois never

hesitated; she attacked and conquered.

Lois was a woman of action and only moved forward, always in high gear. She was a human perpetual motion machine. Whether it was cleaning her home, cooking meals, hiking in the mountains, downhill or cross-country skiing, bicycling, camping, playing cards with her girlfriends, or entertaining party guests, she played hard, worked harder, and was most alive in the center of swirling commotion; she simply never wanted to miss anything.

Lois had incredible energy and an unyielding personality. She never sugar coated anything and shot straight from the hip, but she also had a tender side and was one of the warmest people on earth. There were no strangers in Lois's world, only new friends. When she met someone, the first thing she would do was flash her brilliant smile, her eyes would twinkle, and she would place a hand softly on her new friend's forearm or shoulder. At this point, now completely entranced, her friend would share their deepest joys and sorrows with her. These meetings would end as often with a shared cry as with a hearty laugh. Human connection and deep empathy were possibly

her greatest gifts, and if you ever saw Lois during one of these interactions, you were awed; watching the hand of God working through her.

Lois's husband John wanted everyone to know that she loved her home of 60 years, all her neighbors, St. Matthew's School and being a room mother when her children attended the school, Mass with her church family, spending time at the old schoolhouse cabin in Essex and visits from her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends.

Lois leaves behind her husband of 69 years, John; sons Jeffery, Michael, Richard, and Matthew (Stephanie); daughters Jane (Rod) and Lisa (Brian); 12 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as her lifelong motto, "Give it Hell while you can!" which she managed to accomplish every day for 91 years.

Mass of Christian burial will be held on Dec. 1 (Lois's birthday!), at 11 a.m. (rosary at 10 a.m.) at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, donations in the name of Lois Hammett can be made to St. Matthew's School or any children's charity.

Howard Negri, 61

Howard "Herd Bull" T Negri, 61, a loving husband, father, and friend, passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 4, 2023.

Howard was born in Washington state to Donald and Beverly Negri. Moving to Montana in the late 1980s where he became a father to a beautiful baby girl, his pride and joy.

Howard worked in the grocery business and for the railroad when he was younger. Always a handyman, these skills ultimately led him to his career in the construction industry. He worked on dozens of homes around the valley while owning Herd Bull Construction. His most precious project was his personally designed and built dream home in the woods of Montana.

When Howard wasn't working, he would be tinkering with things around the house, helping others, or enjoying his firepit. He became the go-to guy for everything and everyone. Howard was also known for being quite the jokester. He would mess with friends by always leaving a little reminder that he was there, whether they found it right away or years down the road. His friends could tell stories for days of all the crazy stuff they did.

Howard was also known for his immense



love of the outdoors and being an avid bowhunter. He would take a full month

off each fall, going to hunting camp with his buddies and searching for the biggest bull out there. He loved being there bugling and playing with the elk.

Quite frankly Howard excelled in everything he put his mind to: skiing, baseball, weight lifting, golf, fishing, archery, and anything outdoors or that involved competition. Whatever he did, he did it well. He definitely lived life to the fullest in the time that he had.

Howard's last and final helping hand was to be an organ donor, helping four individuals. He truly was a lifesaver and our hero. He will be deeply missed.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sisters, Nancy and Teresa. He is survived by his loving wife Debbie; daughter Angelica and fiancé Bert; dog Elway; stepchildren Trevor, and Roxy (Chevy); grandson Brooks; and siblings Jim, Joan, and Don.

There will be a celebration of life for Howard announced later this spring.

Jerry Neilson, 88

Jerry L. Neilson, 88, of Bigfork, passed away on Dec. 27 in San Antonio, Texas.

Jerry was born on May 28, 1934, to A.L. "Ace" and Carrie Neilson, in Wolf Creek, Montana. He graduated from Montana State University with an engineering degree. A resident of Altus, Oklahoma for 36 years, Jerry was a successful business owner and community leader, having devoted his time and efforts to several public economic development initiatives. An aviation and technical school enthusiast, Jerry was a private pilot and ardent supporter of the Altus Air Force Base community and the Southwest Technology



Center. Jerry and wife Shirley (deceased) and their four sons, Rick

(deceased), Jeff, Dane and Van were members of the Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Altus.

Jerry is survived by his wife Susan; his sister Nona Anderson; sons Jeff, Dane & Van; daughters-in-law Deb and Becky; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Family memorial services will be held this Spring in Bigfork.

Anna Marie Nelson, 91

On the morning of Oct. 27, 2023, in Polson, Montana, following an unseasonably early snowfall, the skies cleared and the sun came out, this was the day our mother Anna Marie Nelson, was called to heaven.



of a family member or illness.

She loved to garden and relished the annual

seed catalogs planning carefully for each coming season. Although she canned fruits and vegetables every fall, the flower garden was her favorite. She had a green thumb, and the beauty of her garden was radiant.

When John retired, they enjoyed traveling in their RV to many locations, often spending winters in Arizona. Sometimes meeting up with other family there.

She loved life. She was our best friend, strongest supporter, and visited each one of her children by phone and in person many times throughout the year. And when she could no longer travel, we came to her. Because she was our heart and soul. She was love and happiness in its purest form. She was our mother, and we will miss her forever.

She is preceded in death by husband, John; daughter, Susan Marie; and a grand-daughter, Crystal Rashid.

She is survived by children, Chris Nelson, Sandra Nelson, Teresa Houseal (John), Belinda Rich (Jack), Jim Nelson, and John Nelson Jr.; 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was a lifelong member of the Catholic Church. Funeral services for Anna will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11, at the St. Ignatius Mission Catholic Church.

Anna Marie Babela was born on Feb. 28, 1932, to Stephen and Mary Babela, of Cleveland Ohio. She was an only child raised by strict, loving, Czechoslovakian parents who were steeped in tradition. As a result, her education in English began, without apology, on her first day of school. Though this was a challenging time, she blossomed, learning quickly, and making friends easily.

Her memories of her youth included living through daily news of WWII and food rationing, a stressful time when her father was extradited to Canada to complete his citizenship, and a mother who was the type of gal who had no use for frivolous things. But Anna knew she was loved and always had a great love and respect for her parents.

After graduating high school, Anna took her first job in a book binding company and later a ball bearings manufacturing company where she answered phones. It was on a weekend getaway to Virginia Beach with a girlfriend, Anna met a sailor on leave from the Navy. John Nelson would be her life-long love of 67 years. This was a whirl-wind romance, and John was charming, turning the tables on her so that she

would be the one to ask. "He went Sadie Hawkins on me, she laughed." John and Anna were married on April 27, 1956. They had seven children, the first four were born in Cleveland, Ohio, then in 1962 they moved to Montana, and the later three were born in Whitefish.

Her days of being an only child were over, John himself, being one of 15 children, found them at large family gatherings where laughter and music were an integral part. Anna embraced marriage and motherhood. She and John moved five times, and in each location, she joined homemaker's clubs, met neighbors, and made friends. The homemakers' clubs were important to Anna, not only for sewing and socializing, but they also provided help for neighbors in difficult times whether it was preparing for a new baby, loss

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to your favorite charity or church organization. Messages of condolences may be shared with the family online at www.lakefuneralhomeandcremation.com.

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

Brad Nelson, 75

Brad Nelson of Bigfork passed away at Logan Health Medical Center in Kalispell on Friday, May 26 surrounded by his loving family. He courageously fought esophageal cancer for over a year and battled until the end.

Brad was born in Wolf Point to Ervin "ET" and Audrey Nelson. He was raised in Missoula, Frenchtown and Gildford and made lifetime friends in each location. Brad participated in athletics at Gildford High School and graduated in 1965.

After graduation, he attended Northern Montana College for a year and eventually enlisted in the Navy. Brad served on a destroyer, the USS Carpenter, during the Vietnam War. The ship was also involved in retrieving astronauts after early Apollo space shots. Brad was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1970 and additionally served a year in the Montana Army National Guard in 1985.

Following his term of duty, Brad returned to Northern Montana College where he also played baseball for the Northern Lights. While attending college, Brad initiated his 25 year, USPS career at the Havre



Post Office. Brad enjoyed living in Havre and played fastpitch softball all over the region. At a softball game, his long hair earned him

the affectionate nickname "Sally".

In 1976, Brad was selected to be the postmaster in Dupuyer. During his time in Dupuyer, he met the love of his life, Marj Carlson. Brad and Marj met while skiing at Teton Pass near Choteau and were married in July of 1976.

Brad also served as the postmaster in Big Sandy and Cut Bank, and he finished his USPS career in the Billings Post Office as an Exam Administrator for the state of Montana. Brad retired to Bigfork in 1995 and loved the community. Always looking to help, he served as a volunteer firefighter for the Bigfork Fire Department, Rotary, Montana Postmaster's Association, cleared snow and mowed countless yards.

Brad could often be

found at Eagle Bend Golf Course, either golfing or working. He worked as a pinsetter at Eagle Bend and was an assistant coach for the Bigfork High School golf team for nearly 20 years. Sharing his love of golf and helping kids provided Brad a lot of joy.

Brad's biggest love was his family. Together, he and Marj enjoyed following their children's sports activities and interests and later in life they traveled the world. Brad and Marj visited every continent except for Antarctica. In March of 2023, they enjoyed a World War II tour in Europe with their traveling partners, the Webbs.

Marj and Brad purchased a second home in Green Valley, Arizona and enjoyed spending the past three winters there. In February, Brad joined Desert Hills Lutheran Church in Green Valley.

Brad loved all sports, especially golf. He had a competitive spirit and enjoyed horseshoes, bowling and playing bridge. Brad was quick with a laugh, had a very easy-going demeanor, and brought the fun to any gathering. He loved and was loved dearly by numerous people.

Brad is survived by his wife of almost 47 years, Marj; son, Dan (Kasumi) of Portland, Ore.; son, Andy (Heidi) of Columbia Falls; and daughter, Jocelyn Gerbozy (Jason) of Kalispell. Brad's nine grandchildren include Adam, Audrey and Grahme Nelson, Quintin and Ella Gerbozy, and Malainy, Clara, Hudson, and Corbin Patton. Brad is also survived by his brother, Ron of Kailua Kona, Hawaii; sister, Carla (Bob) Clevenger of Green River, Wyo.; aunt, Jordis (Lee) Foster of Seattle; several nieces and nephews; and his sidekick, Murray.

Brad's celebration of life will be on Sunday, June 11 at 10:30 a.m. with brunch to follow at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, 550 Lutheran Camp Rd. Lakeside. Following brunch, a reception at 2 p.m. will be held at the Harbor Village Boat House at Eagle Bend, 371 Eagle Bend Drive, Bigfork.

In lieu of flowers and those wishing to honor Brad, the family requests donations be directed to a golf scholarship that is being established through Bigfork High School, VFW or Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp.

John Chrysostom Nelson, 89



Polson - John Chrysostom Nelson passed away on Feb. 7, 2023, at the age of 89. John was born on Dec. 2, 1933. He was one of 15 children born to Hiram and Barbara Nelson of Boyd, Wisconsin. John left school after the eighth grade to take

whatever work was available which included time at a bakery, working in a dairy, and putting up hay. John joined the Navy in 1951 and served until 1955 and served with his brother Loy on the USS Tidewater.

He met and married Anna Babela in 1956. John and Anna had seven children. The family lived in Cleveland, Ohio then moved to Olney, Montana in 1962 where John took a job as a sawyer and would later work at the American Timber Mill. John built a new home in Olney, but soon another opportunity for steady work took him to Whitefish, Montana where he took a job for the Burlington Northern

Railroad as brakeman. This would be John's 35-year career.

John's true passion was farming. He and Anna purchased an unfinished home on 80 acres near Whitefish in 1970 and John dedicated all his free time to completing the house and farming the land. Later he would purchase the adjoining property and build his second home by hand.

He was a self-made man, a great reader of all types of books, but preferred history and biographies. John enjoyed the art of beekeeping and pursued this talent in both Cleveland and Montana. He owned a log truck business for a few

years and employed two sons-in-law with work. In his mid-50s he taught himself how to play guitar. Many of his brothers and sisters were musically inclined and get-togethers always included music. John also began the many hours of training that would qualify him for his pilot's license. He owned partnership in a small engine plane for several years and enjoyed flying on blue sky days.

When John retired from the railroad, he and Anna took time to travel to many destinations in their RV often spending the winters in Arizona. They sold the Whitefish property and purchased a home in Polson, Montana. But the farmer within

would not be silent. Soon they listed the property and purchased a farm at Ell Gap where John could once again farm. When this became too much, they sold the farm and purchased their forever home in Polson looking over the lake and stunning mountains.

John was loved by many, and he will be greatly missed by his family and friends and remembered for his integrity, honesty, generosity, and kindness. Love you, Dad.

John is preceded in death by his daughter, Susan Marie and a granddaughter, Crystal Rashid. He is survived by his wife, Anna Nelson and children Chris Nelson,

Sandra Tenas, Teresa Houseal (John), Belinda Rich (Jack), Jim Nelson, and John Nelson Jr, 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

John was a lifelong member of the Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers please consider donating to your favorite charity or church organization. Services are planned for spring. Memories and condolences may be sent to the family at www.lakefuneralhomeandcremation.com.

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

Marilyn Nelson, 76

Marilyn Ruby June Nelson, 76, of Kalispell, in the late morning of July 19, 2023, peacefully passed away in her sleep as the clouds lifted and God ushered her to heaven on the wings of angels.



quality of Marilyn's was her powerful, gracious, and enduring relationship with

The day prior she spent her time laughing and relaxing with her family, eating delicious food and reveling in the pristine weather of Boise, Idaho, a small leap from where she lived in Middleton, Idaho.

Throughout that day, Marilyn rejoiced, "Look at how beautiful this is," while gesturing to the world around her. "We are all so lucky — the whole nation is lucky, but especially us."

She was born in Whitefish, on Feb. 14, 1947, to Pat and Ruby Patton.

the Lord.

Through all the precious moments, and painful losses, Marilyn's love for the Lord never faltered, only strengthened, as though life's full spectrum — celebrations, grief and everything in between — were a forge that honed her faith.

She did not subscribe to any specific denomination or church, preferring instead to study her Bible and listen to sermons over the radio in the comfort of her home. She celebrated God every day, as He was truly at the forefront of her life.

She married Dallas Nelson in Whitefish on Nov. 5, 1972, and the two of them raised a wonderful family on a beautiful farm in Kalispell.

When Dallas passed away in October of 2010, Marilyn kept the farm in working order, taking care of the cows and shoveling snow off the roof during the notorious Montana winters.

As anyone who knew her will tell you, it was very easy to forget Marilyn's age, even in her older years. She spent much of her time outside, working in her garden or relaxing with her furry companions at her side.

In 2022, Marilyn moved to Middleton, with her daughter, Allie, son-in-law, Kevin, and grandson, Kevin Jr.

While she cherished all the animals in her life, it was her relationships with people and her spirituality that set her apart from the crowd. She always found something to love in everyone she met.

She was a real people-person, but above all she was a woman of God. It can be said with unwavering truth that the most remarkable

One would be hard-pressed to find someone who delighted in Jesus more than Marilyn, and it was because of this gift from God that she was able to see and appreciate beauty in the world during times where others may struggle to do the same. Her rock-solid faith allowed her to know that in times of chaos and uncertainty, God does reign.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Pat and Ruby Patton; her brother, Bob Patton; her husband, Dallas Nelson; her daughter, Sarah Nelson; her daughter, Dawn Nelson Grant; and her son, Dallas Raymond Nelson.

She is survived by her son, John Nelson; her daughter, Allie Sturgess; and her son-in-law, Kevin Sturgess. Her granddaughters, Tara Fitzgerald, Malia and Rhiannon Sturgess; Abby and Victoria Grant; and her grandson Kevin Sturgess Jr.

There will be a graveside service at 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 1, at Glacier Memorial Gardens. A reception will follow upstairs at Brannigans.

Marie and Harold Newlin, 95

Marie J. Newlin 95, of Kalispell, formerly of Lewistown, died Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at her home in Kalispell of natural causes. Marie was a loving wife to Darlis "Harold" Newlin, who preceded her in death in 2020 at the age of 94, and she was a devoted mother to their three children Gary, Janice and Larry.

Marie was born on Aug. 22, 1927 in Gilt Edge, the daughter of Frank and Katherine (Tognascioli) Vogl. She attended a one-room school in Gilt Edge through eighth grade and then graduated from Fergus High School in Lewistown. Harold was born in Coffee Creek the son of Darlis and Esther (Owens) Newlin on Nov. 4, 1925. He attended school in Denton where he graduated from Denton High School.

Following high school graduation Harold served in the U.S. Army Air Corp serving during World War II in the Pacific Theater. This changed to the U.S. Air Force during his service and he was discharged in 1948. He returned to Lewistown where Marie was working and they were united in marriage on April 28, 1949 in Lewistown.

In 1953 Marie and Harold began a 14-year odyssey, in which they moved throughout the country, almost yearly, as Harold worked as an electrician on major constructions jobs. After these travels, they moved back to their beloved Montana, settling permanently in Kalispell in 1967.



years. Marie and Harold devoted considerable time and energy to the Kalispell Eagles Club. Their many

years of service resulted in multiple awards as Eagle of the Year, lady Eagle of the Year, and Mr. and Mrs. Eagle of the Year. Moreover, Harold served as president and Marie as Auxiliary president of the Kalispell Eagles, with Marie also serving as the Montana State Eagles Auxiliary President. Harold was a charter member of the Kalispell Bald Eagles charitable organization and was an Eagles member for over 75 years.

He donated his income from recycling aluminum cans to charities supported by the Eagles. Every trip to visit mom and dad included at least one outing to the Eagles to "sign the book," volunteer to serve a meal, collect used aluminum cans, hear a band, have a drink, or shoot some pool. Marie and Harold were also longtime active members of the Kalispell American Legion.

They are survived by their children, Gary (Carol) Newlin of Kenmore, Wash., Janice (Gary) Mitchell and Larry (Anita) Newlin all of Kalispell; grandchildren, Lisa, Jason and Marc; great-granddaughter, Amia.

Marie then worked for many years at Landry Oil Company and City Service in Kalispell. She also pursued her love of crocheting, gardening, canning and cooking. Harold continued working in construction until his retirement in 1990 and enjoyed fishing, coin collecting and recycling aluminum cans in his free time. Harold was a proud member throughout his adult life, remaining an active IBEW member for 65

They were preceded in death by their parents, one grandson and several siblings.

Graveside memorial services for Harold and Marie Newlin will be Thursday, June 8 at 11 a.m. in Central Montana Memorial Gardens of Lewistown. Cremation has taken place. The Cloyd Funeral Home is assisting the family. Condolences for the family may be posted online at www.cloydfuneral-home.com.

Jerry Wayne Nezat, 88

Jerry Wayne Nezat, 88, born in Port Arthur, Texas, 88 years young has commenced his journey to the afterlife on July 30, 2023, in Somers. The rogue disease cancer snuck up on him and took him all too quickly from his family and friends.

He was the son of Alexis Nezat of Port Barre, Louisiana, and Lillie Gill of Deridder, Louisiana.

He will be welcomed into the afterlife by his sister, Janet Carolyn English; children, Polly Katherine Parks Nezat and Zane Lowrance Nezat; and previous wives, Shirley Parks, Dixie Jo An Kenny and Patricia Merlow.

He is survived by his children, Oral Leon Patterson Jr., Aurel Wayne Nezat and Mara Angela Guiffrida; grandchildren, Russell Hasting, Oral Leon Patterson III, Kenney Patterson, Lavitia Rose Salois, Talisha Rachelle Pelton, Lacey Shirelle Crawford, Forest Lee Parks, Jason Jackson, Nathan Tillary and Jonathon Cox; honorary grandchildren, Lemina-Rei Schuyler, Alecia Kvapil, Xander Williams and Lillia Meli Carline; great-grandchildren, Emily Hasting and



Sutton Patterson.

He spent most of his career as a contractor, but his passion was inventing. He was a master wood-

en toy maker, chess champion and a gold medalist in college gymnastics. He was also a Rosacruzian, who was a beloved member of Shining Mountains Church. In the Air Force he was a radar operator.

He was kindhearted, generous and a hero who's work will be continuing on and saving lives and helping humanity for many generations to come. He was love incarnate and his friends and family will celebrate his life.

Jerry's memorial service will be at 10 a.m. on Aug. 5, at Johnson and Gloschat Funeral Home, 525 S Main St., Kalispell. Following the memorial service, a potluck will be held at Shining Mountains Church, 475 Eighth Ave. EN, Kalispell.

Milton Nickel 86

Milton Lawrence Nickel, 86, of Polson, passed away on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, in Polson.

Milton was born on Nov. 1, 1936, in Fresno, California, to Homer G. and Edith Shaw Nickel. His family moved to San Angelo when he was in eighth grade. He attended San Angelo High School and graduated in 1954. He played guard on the Varsity basketball team for all three years of high school. Milton played basketball for San Angelo Junior College Rams from 1955 until 1957. He was the co-captain of the team that won the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas in 1957. The team had a record of 31-2 that season. He was very proud of this accomplishment.

After college Milton taught distributive edu-



cation at Midland High School for 4 years. In 1960, he opened a used car business "buy here pay here" where he worked part time. He married Marsha C. Hawkins in 1957 and they had three children, Nancy N. Howell, Larry E. Nickel, and David M. Nickel. He was awarded a new car franchise in 1962 for the Chrysler lines of cars and trucks.

He moved to Kalispell in 1987 where he eventually opened eight used car lot locations throughout Western Montana as well as married his second wife Rebecca D. Keller.

Whenever he visited San Angelo, he enjoyed getting together with the

"Lunch Bunch" Mondays thru Fridays.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brother Robert A. Nickel and daughter Nancy N. Howell.

Milton is survived by his wife, Rebecca; son Larry Nickel and wife Annette, son David Nickel and wife Kristine Monk; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

A funeral service were held at 10 a.m. Friday, July 21, 2023, at Harper Funeral Home Chapel with a burial to follow at Fairmount Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Scottish Rite for Children.

Family and friends can send condolences and sign the online register book at www.harper-funeralhome.com

Judith Nicodemus



Judith Nicodemus was born Oct. 16, 1939,

to Harold and Margaret Seckel of Bucyrus, Ohio. She moved to California as a junior in high school and married Richard Gipe Hobbs at the age of 19. They had three children together named Kelley, Kathy and Brian.

Richard and Judy were divorced in 1968 and Judy married William Nicodemus in 1969. The new family moved to Scottsdale, Arizona where

all the kids grew up. Judy and William Nicodemus divorced in 1976 and she married Myron Staab in 1988. The two were still together at the time of her passing on Jan. 20, 2023. Judy and Myron purchased property in Whitefish, Montana in the early 1980s and lived in Whitefish from 1984 to 1988 before returning to Arizona. Judy was a bright light who loved

to cook, ride horses and spend time with her family and friends.

She is survived by her husband Myron, daughters Kelley Burley, Kathy Smith, son Brian Nicodemus and grandson Austin Burley. A small service is planned to celebrate her life on Feb. 24 in Phoenix, Arizona. Inquiries can be made to her son Brian at Brian@CatchWhitefish.com

Rickie Lee Noland, 71

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Rickie Lee Noland, 71, born Nov. 28, 1952, in Whitefish, to Jack Noland and Elizabeth Allred Noland. Being born and raised in Whitefish he was able to learn to water ski at four years old and had a love for the outdoors all the years of his life. He was really sick with rheumatic fever as a small child which really irked him as he couldn't always play as hard as the other kids.

He was raised in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and had a brief career in the Army. He married Jullie Waller and had five beautiful children. As a young father he worked long hours for BNSF railroad just like his father. Later he opened Flathead Janitorial with his younger brother.

His favorite career, however, was working for School District 5 and as building head for Hedges Elementary for 22 years where he was loved by all the administration teachers and children. He so much enjoyed seeing the children learn and grow. Even long after he retired a trip out in public with Rick often meant hellos and hugs from people who knew and loved him. He felt like a celebrity and loved the attention.

After retirement, he spent his winters in Quartzsite, Arizona, where he was also well-loved. In fact, Rick was loved by everyone who met him and he loved them right back. He left so many friends and family behind.

He especially loved his children and grandchildren. Family was everything to him. He had such a big heart and so much patience as he taught multiple gen-



erations to drive, fish, work hard, and love God.

He loved to read, hunt, fish, and play games with his family and

friends. He was so often busy helping others and he was always up for an adventure or fun-filled shenanigans on his motorcycle, side-by-side, and Corvette.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Jack; and his daughter, Jessica "Jessie" Noland.

He is survived by his children Jared (Heather) Noland of Kalispell; Kevin (Jeanette) Noland of Missoula; Amy (Charles) Lighter of Glendive; Mandy Noland of Chandler, Arizona; his 17 grandchildren, Kelsey, Parker, Tori, Chandler, Tag, Kayla, Shaylynn, Karleigh, Kaitlynn, Preston, Austin, Ela, Alyssa, Reece, Kirk, Venna and Vallon; his great-granddaughters, Daisy and Holly; his mom, Beth; his siblings, Debbi, Denise, Mark; and many more family and friends.

He was a loving, forgiving, super kind-hearted father and friend who was a great example to us all. He left us way too soon. He will be missed greatly and loved always.

RIP Rickie Lee Noland, Nov. 28, 1952 — Dec. 16, 2023.

A funeral will be held at 9:30 a.m., with a viewing at 9 a.m., on Jan. 3, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Chapel, 1380 Whitefish Stage Road, Kalispell, Montana 59901.

All are welcome who knew and loved him.