

## Viola Marie Sabol, 96

Viola Marie "Markie" Sabol, 96, passed away Aug. 1, at Logan Health Center in Kalispell. She was born on Oct. 3, 1926, in Butte, the eldest of Daniel and Myrtle "Irene" Reynolds' seven children. She grew up and attended schools in the Butte and Anaconda area.

Her lifelong love of horses was borne of the happy times she spent on her uncles' ranch near Butte. She loved to tell stories of her uncles Jack and Jessie and her Aunt Pearl who indulged her need to be on horseback whenever she could.

She was adored by her uncle Jack, who spoiled her and gave her the nickname "Wow." For the rest of her life, she recalled the adventures she had at the ranch, and even remembered the names of her favorite horses, Diana and Chub, right up until her death. She was proud to have ridden her horses in Butte's Fourth of July parade on many occasions.

She moved to San Francisco on her own and worked for Dun and Bradstreet before returning to her beloved hometown of Butte. She met the love of her life, Stephen Sabol, in Butte,



when he worked on the biplanes at the Columbia Gardens.

Their first date was at the Brown Derby at Georgetown Lake. They married in Butte on St. Patrick's Day in 1947 after Stephen returned from service in World War II on a submarine in the Philippines.

They moved to Bozeman, where Stephen attended and graduated from Montana State University. His profession as a teacher took them to Pollack, South Dakota, and then back to Montana, where he taught in Fairfield, Whitehall and Wolf Point.

Along the way, they had four children before landing in 1963 in Kalispell, where they would spend the rest of their lives.

Too social to be content at home, she ventured out into workforce in Kalispell. She worked at several jobs, including Gambles, the Gene Halvorson insurance agency, the Montana Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, the old hospital on Kalispell's

east side and Flathead Valley Community College.

She found her calling at City Hall in Kalispell, where she was the friendly face visitors saw upon entering. She was proud to also work as secretary to multiple mayors, including Norma Happ, LeRoy McDowell, Ed Kennedy, and finally, her son-in-law at the time, Roger Hopkins, before retiring in 1993 after 13 years.

She was tireless, volunteering her time at Kalispell Regional Hospital, attending St. Matthews Parish, and working to ensure holidays and birthdays in her family were celebrated with fanfare and tradition. She was a fashion plate, kept a spotless house, was proud of her Butte and Irish heritage, loved to cook and travel and entertain, and enjoyed meeting people wherever she went.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Stephen Sabol; sons, Stephen and Donald Sabol; brothers, Clarence "Dee" Reynolds, Robert Reynolds and Daniel Reynolds; and her sister, Helen Reynolds.

She is survived by daughters, Kathryn Sabol

of Billings, and Chery Sabol (partner Paul) of Missoula. Grandchildren, Treyson Hopkins (partner Ashlie) of Columbia Falls; Liz Records (husband Jerry) of Whitefish; Daniel Woodward (partner Jessica) of Denver; Lisa Woodward of Great Falls; and Angie Woodward of Billings. She is also survived by great-grandsons, Taylor Woodward, Ric Morrow and Griffin Morrow of Great Falls; Eddie Fooks of Bozeman, and Campbell Records of Whitefish; and great-great-grandson Bryson Woodward of Great Falls. She is also survived by her sisters, Carol Caldwell of Billings, and Phyllis Reynolds of Helena; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

At her request, no services are planned. Memorial donations may be made to Samaritan House or the Humane Society of Northwest Montana. Friends are encouraged to visit [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.

## Molly Ann Doudna Sanderson, 82

Molly Ann Doudna Sanderson, 82 of Polson, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on July 11, 2023, in Polson.

She was born in Shelby, on September 23, 1940, to Linus William and Molly Ann (Herman) Doudna.

She grew up in Cut Bank and attended the University of Montana.

She served as the Employee Benefits Officer for Bank of Montana System as well as the

Treasurer for the National Association of Bank Women's Golden Triangle Group.

She was also very active in the Montana thoroughbred racing community.

She loved Montana and knew more about its history than most people. She was also an avid



reader, often exchanging books with friends in her neighborhood in Polson.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Durwood "Sandy" Sanderson; her daughter, Tracie Sanderson Partee; and her grandson, Maurice Partee.

At her request, the family has chosen not to have a service or memorial. Instead, they will bury

her ashes in Cut Bank with her parents then host a small neighborhood gathering at a later date.

Donations in Molly's name can be made to the St. Luke's Children's Hospital. 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.

## Sally Sandvik (Adams), 80

Sally Sandvik (Adams), 80, passed away on Sept. 1, 2023, in Steilacoom, Washington where she had been living since 2014.

She was born on July 10, 1943, in Seattle, Washington to Frank and Betty Adams at a time when her father was being deployed to England in preparation for the Normandy invasion and her mother was working in Seattle and attending business school.

First Lt. Frank Adams was killed in France on July 26, 1944, and did not live to know Sally. She and her mother returned to their hometown of Whitefish soon after and Sally spent her youth enjoying summers at City Beach, skiing Big Mountain in the winter, and visiting her grand-



parents' farm.

She attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma,

Washington and received a degree in sociology. She also met her husband, Dean Sandvik, at school and they were married on Aug. 23, 1964.

After graduation they moved to Denver to begin their careers. They had two children, Mark and Jon, while in Denver and moved to Steamboat Springs, Colorado in 1971.

She loved getting to know her new neighbors and spent many years supporting the Red Cross swim program at what is now Old Town Hot Springs, Little Toots and

the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club, and with the Auxiliary at Rountt Memorial Hospital.

As her kids grew, she first worked as a ski instructor and then at Grants Juniors, Steamboat Kids and Inside Edge Sports among others. She loved taking her family on summer trips back to Whitefish and having her children spend time with their grandma and great-grandma and swimming in Whitefish Lake.

In 1988, the two were divorced and she spent a few more years in Steamboat before heading out for new experiences living in Palm Coast, Florida for a few years and then nearly 20 years in Nellysford, Virginia.

In 2014, she moved to Steilacoom, Washington

to be close to family where her son Jon lives with his wife, Dierdra and sons, Ryan and Nolan. While in Steilacoom she spent many years volunteering for a program to support the women and girls of Moldova.

She is survived by sons, Mark (wife Stacey), and Jon (wife Dierdra); and five grandchildren, Jessica, Ryan, Addison Nolan and Erik.

Sally will be honored in a small, private ceremony. Friends of Sally are invited to join the family from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Oct. 6, at Haymaker Patio to share memories and celebrate Sally's life.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution in honor of Sally to your local animal shelter or rescue program.

## William 'Billy' Charles Sapa, 53

William "Billy" Charles Sapa, 53, of Columbia Falls, passed



away unexpectedly but peacefully at his home on April 17, 2023.

Billy was born April 29, 1969, in Moorhead, Minn., to Dick and Charlotte (Hanson) Sapa. The Sapa family moved to Columbia Falls and bought the Blue Moon when Billy was 3 years old in 1972. Billy always loved sports and boxed as well as played football, basketball and baseball. He played all of them through high school in Columbia Falls and continued playing baseball at Lower Columbia Community College and then at the University of New Mexico.

Billy has always been active and grew up with a strong work ethic. He kept busy running multiple family businesses including the Blue Moon (Nightclub, Casino and Grill), the Blue Moon rodeo and the family farm. He was also the head coach for the Columbia Falls High School baseball team as well as an assistant coach for the Columbia Falls High School football team.

Billy had several accomplishments including being on the first baseball team from Montana to go to the Babe Ruth World Series, playing Division

1 college baseball on a full-ride scholarship and being drafted by the New York Yankees in 1990.

In addition, he was an avid hunter who shot a Boone and Crocket Kodiak Bear, two Boone and Crocket mountain lions and was one sheep away from the grand slam. He was a true outdoorsman who appreciated any chance he got to hunt and fish. He was also a tremendous sports fanatic and loved coaching and watching his kids activities.

Billy was preceded in death by his brother, James "Jimmy" Sapa; and his loving parents, Richard "Dick" and Charlotte Sapa.

Billy and Tonia raised three beautiful children, Hailey Ann (25), Lane Chadwick (22) and Reggie Brandt Sapa (16). He is also survived by his sister, Charlene, and her three kids Chris, Colin and Catie King.

A gathering for viewing and visitation is open for family and friends on Wednesday, April 26 from 4-7 p.m. at Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. A celebration of Billy's remarkable life will be held on his birthday at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 29 at the Columbia Falls High School gymnasium with a reception following at the Blue Moon.

Please visit Billy's tribute page at [www.columbiamortuary.com](http://www.columbiamortuary.com) to share memories and condolences with the family.

## Gladys Anderine Sather, 98

Gladys Anderine Sather, 98, of Libby, passed away Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023, at Cabinet Peaks Medical Center of natural causes. She was born Sep. 8, 1924, in Lakeside, to Vern S. and Emma (Harrison) Asbridge. Gladys attended Lakeside School and Somers High, graduating from Flathead High School in Kalispell in 1942.

In her youth, Gladys was a proud Girl Scout. As a teenager, she worked as a soda jerk at Kussoff's Candy Kitchen and at Woolworth's, both in Kalispell. Gladys met her future husband, Alfred Sather, at a barn dance in Lakeside. As

teenagers, Gladys and Al won a jitterbug contest at the Grange Hall, taking home prizes of a pound of butter and a dozen eggs. Because her fiancée was in the Army Medical Corps and stationed at Camp Ellis in Illinois, Gladys made the decision to go to Wisconsin to find work. She worked at the Edgerton Shoe Factory in Edgerton, making shoes for the United States Navy. On Feb. 5, 1944, Gladys married Alfred Sather in Edgerton, Wisconsin. They spent

about a month together at Camp Sibert in Alabama before Alfred was sent overseas. Gladys lived there for a few months before returning to Lakeside to stay with her parents, awaiting the birth of their son and the homecoming of her husband after the war. Gladys and Al lived in Somers until 1948, when they moved to Libby to build their home and raise their children.

Gladys was a lifetime member of the United Methodist Church, where she enjoyed helping with

various activities and valued the fellowship she found there. She and Al loved camping, music, dancing and working on home projects together. Gladys also enjoyed reading, knitting, cryptograms, Sudoku and jigsaw puzzles. Her greatest joy came from being with family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband of over 50 years, Alfred; her parents; two brothers, Norman and Ralph; and a sister, Hazel.

Survivors include her four children: Marvin



Sather of Libby, Andrine (John) Haas of Glendive; Jerry (Annette) of Irvine, California; and Lynn (Roger) Diller of Libby; grandchildren Kelli (John) Harrison of Missoula, Joel (Carmin) Sather of Ennis, Heather Haas of Dillon, Amy (Rob) Nash of Belgrade, Olivia (Kevin) Johnson of Inglewood, California, Patrick Sather of Bellevue, Nebraska, Elizabeth Sather of Los Angeles, Leilah (Lance) Isaacson of Spokane and Alan (Shannon) Beatty of Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina; great-grandchildren Kira, Molli, Gavin, Riley, Sam, Jack, Sean, Cailyn, and Natalie;

brother, Jack Asbridge of Castle Rock, Colorado; sister, Frances Emory of Creedmore, North Carolina; sister-in-law Donna Sather of Helena; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and wonderful friends.

Memorials can be made to the Methodist Church in Libby, or to a charity of your choice.

Services will be held at a later date to be determined. Arrangements are under the care of Schnackenberg Funeral Home & Crematory of Libby. Online memories and condolences may be shared by visiting [www.schnackenbergfh.com](http://www.schnackenbergfh.com).

## Janet L. Schalk-Jorgensen, 72

Janet Schalk-Jorgensen, 72, passed away from cancer on July 14, 2023, at Logan Health Medical Center surrounded by loved ones.

She was born March 20, 1951, in Elgin, Illinois, and attended school there, eventually graduating from Northern Illinois University summa cum laude with a degree in education. She taught grade school in Illinois, a reservation school in South Dakota, and was a paraprofessional at Linderman seventh grade. From Linderman, she taught at Kalispell Junior High as a special education teacher, special education department head, and often substituted at various grades in School District 5 after her retirement.

She was preceded in death by her parents Charlotte and Alfred W. Schalk, and is survived by her son, Kai Jorgensen, special friend, Howard Karp, her sister Su (Bill)



Davis, and brother, Bill (Nancy) Schalk, nieces and nephews, and many students

and friends.

"Jann," as her many friends called her, loved to teach, travel, meet new people, and just be outside experiencing the beauty all around her. Her positive attitude toward life was infectious and an inspiration to all who knew her.

Services will be held at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

Memorials in Jann's name may be made to The Humane Society of Northwest Montana, The Glacier Park Conservancy, or the charity of your choice. Friends are encouraged to visit [www.buffalohill-fh.com](http://www.buffalohill-fh.com) to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Raymond Edward Scheulen, 77

Raymond Edward Scheulen, 77, of Kila, passed away on April 27, 2023 unexpectedly at his home.



Raymond was born on Nov. 5, 1945, to



George and Elizabeth (Shaffer) Scheulen, in Meta, Missouri.

Raymond went to school in Missouri and was able to receive his GED. He went on to serve in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era and was honorably discharged.

He met the love of his life Sharon (Sullivan) in Butte, and they married on Nov. 28, 1970, celebrating 52 years together. They had three children: Michael, Lynne and Thomas.

Raymond was able to do the work he loved as a precision machinist for 54 years, starting in Butte and ending his career in Kalispell. After retirement they made their home in Kila.

Raymond loved hunting, fishing, NASCAR, horse racing, golf and just sports in general.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Jeanie and Genevieve; brothers, Kenneth and Daniel. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; children, Michael and wife Ellie, Lynne and husband Robert, Thomas and wife Kathy; sisters, Geraldine, Diane, Linda; and brothers, Richard and Melvin; 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on July 2, 2023 at the Kila Country Church, 150 Cottage Lane with military honors to follow the services. A potluck reception will follow the service and we ask that you bring your favorite dish.

Friends are encouraged to visit [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.

## Joyce Eileen Schmautz, 71

Joyce Eileen Schmautz, born Dec. 1, 1951 in Kalispell, passed away on June 27, 2023 after a long battle with cancer.

She is survived by her siblings, Lonnie Sibley, Lu Ann Borgen and Janet Bustad; her husband, Alan; and her children, Will Schmautz, Seth Schmautz, Kadyn Paya and Winston Hamel. Joyce found great joy in her grandchildren, Avi, Zander, Andres, Elliott, Emma, Owen Schmautz and Louise Paya.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Ellsworth and Kathryn Sibley; and her sister, Judy Sibley.

Joyce attended Egan Primary School and Flathead High School. She furthered her studies at Seattle Pacific University, Eastern Montana College in Billings, and Flathead Valley Community College.

Joyce pursued all she did with a heart to serve others and better the

world in which she lived. She worked as a teacher's aide at East Evergreen School, Kalispell LASER High School and in Santa Barbara, Calif. Joyce and her husband owned and operated Alan Portraits, a photography studio for 17 years. She also worked for the International Lama Registry, served as a missionary with her family in Nigeria, and helped manage the Baptist Guest House in Abuja.

Joyce was one of the early leaders of the Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) program in Kalispell. Her passion for children led her to help establish BSF youth programs in Kalispell as well as in Jos (1990-1992) and Abuja, Nigeria (2005-2006).

Early in the 1980s Joyce and her husband Alan hosted Irish



Catholic and Protestant children for Children's Committee 10, an initiative to ease sectarian tensions in Northern Ireland. Their story was portrayed in a 1984 Hallmark movie entitled "Children in the Crossfire."

Joyce found joy in playing the guitar, piano and singing. In college she performed in musical productions and with the folk group "Tater Wine." Joyce helped lead worship and teach Sunday school at Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Kalispell, Hillcrest Chapel of Jos, Nigeria, The International Church of Abuja, Nigeria, and Faith Covenant Presbyterian Church of Kalispell.

She enjoyed racquetball and competed in tournaments throughout Montana. Later in life she became an avid hiker. In 2021 Joyce wrote, and her daughter illustrated, a children's book "Who Built the Road, Daddy?" (Farcountry Press) which

details the creation of the Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park.

Memorial services for Joyce will be held on Saturday, July 8, 2023. The interment will take place at 10 a.m. at Conrad Memorial Cemetery, followed by a celebration of life at 11 a.m. at Faith Covenant Presbyterian Church, 611 3rd Ave. E. Kalispell. Both events are open to all. The celebration of life will be streamed on Youtube/Faith Covenant Church of Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Rafiki Foundation (PO Box 1988, Eustis, FL 32727, rafikifoundation.org) or Faith Covenant Church (www.faithcov.com).

Joyce will be dearly missed by her family, friends and all those whose lives she touched. Her legacy of love for God and others, compassion and dedication will continue to inspire us all.

## Robert 'Bob' Schneider, 77

Robert "Bob" Schneider, 77, of Missoula sadly left us on Feb. 2 after a brief battle with leukemia. Bob was born on March 23, 1945 in Anaconda to Charles and Elaine Schneider. As a young boy, Bob spent time enjoying the outdoors and playing sports for Butte Central Catholic High School and Glasgow High School. He then went on to attend his beloved University of Montana and received a bachelor of arts in history and a master's in finance.

Bob proudly served in the U.S. Army. During his service, he was stationed overseas in Munich, Germany where his love of travel began. Following his military service, he became a bank examiner for the United States Federal Reserve. Bob went on to work for First Interstate Bank where he worked for more than 40 years as president of the Billings Heights Branch and president and region-

al marketing manager of the Flathead Valley.

His family and an extensive group of friends will remember Bob for his love of fly fishing, Grizzly football, and wine. A true world traveler, he visited 31 countries during his life.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy (Missoula), son Ehren Schneider (Damascus, OR), daughter Danielle Alpert (Barnegat, NJ), stepsons Jason Kabalin (Stockton, CA) and Travis Kabalin (Manhattan), sister Gail Hoodenpyle (Tucson, AZ), and brother Ray Schneider (Tucson, AZ), along with seven grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his brother, Jim Schneider (Scottsdale, AZ) and his



parents.

A celebration of life will be held during the summer of 2023. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in Bob's name at <https://diy.lls.org/BobSchneiderMemorial>.

## Allison Schnitzler, 71



Sadly, and unexpectedly, our loving family member, Allison Schnitzler, 71, passed peacefully in her sleep in her home after sustaining

Goodwin (Barnes), and Myron Leroy Goodwin in Whitefish, Montana. At a very young age, her parents divorced. Her mother, Bernice, had raised her solely on her own, with help from her beloved grandmother Lela Goodwin (Card) while she spent many long hours working with the railroad.

She graduated from Whitefish High School in 1969. She then attended Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell, Montana for

at Rimrock Cafe. She and John divorced after five years of marriage. She later met and fell in love with the love of her life and soulmate, Allen Schnitzler, in 1983. They later wed in 1985 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Through that marriage, she gained children David and Ann. Approximately a year after getting married, they moved to Plymouth, Wisconsin, and together raised Ann, where she worked in customer service at a department store. Upon Ann's gradu-

er, great puzzler, and she enjoyed computer gaming even up to the time of her death. She would do anything for her family; her spouse, children, grandchildren, and fur-children. She was kind to all and a friend to many. She had a heart of pure gold. She and her daughter Ann had become members of a First United Methodist Church in Greenbush, Wisconsin, attending regularly. She will always be known and missed by many for her daily notes, images, and

in her children's and grandchildren's lives. She is preceded in death by her mother, Bernice Goodwin; her father, Myron Goodwin; grandparents, Ross and Lela Goodwin (Card); grandchild, Amy Schnitzler; her Aunt Ruth Goodwin (Oliver); and nephew, Allen Carlson. She is survived by her loving husband of 40 years, Allen Schnitzler (Missoula, MT); son, David Schnitzler (Missoula, MT); daughter Ann Vasser (Missoula,

Melissa Whitaker (Robert) (Bremerton, WA); Half-brother Lloyd (Debra) Goodwin (Puyallup, WA), Half-brother William Goodwin (Ione, A); Half-brother Ross (Martha) Goodwin (Moses Lake, WA), and countless friends. Graveside service to be held at 11 a.m. at Whitefish City Cemetery in Whitefish, Montana on July 13, 2023. Reception to follow at First United Methodist Church in Whitefish, Montana. Memorial contribu-



a fall, in combination with other underlying medical conditions on Monday, June 26, 2023. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, and will be forever missed and loved by all that knew her.

Allison was born on July 11, 1951, to Bernice

two years. She later married John of Whitefish, and from there lived in Wind River, Wyoming where she and John managed a dude ranch. She later moved to Butte, Montana for a short time, before moving to Thompson Falls, Montana where she was a restaurant manager

ation in 1995, they moved back to Montana, briefly living in Thompson Falls, Montana, and finally residing in Missoula, Montana where she worked until retirement as a deli clerk at Rosauers Supermarket. Allison's hobbies included through the years being an avid read-

feel-good posts to friends and family. She had a love of lighthouses. Trips to the beach were her happy place. A lover of Betty Boop, and good ol' country music, most especially Alan Jackson. She enjoyed traveling with her husband and family. She was very active and played an important part

MT); Carolyn Goodwin (Sutherlin); grandsons Gharrett Vasser and Bobby Vasser (Missoula, MT); granddaughter Vicky Vasser-Stephens (Missoula, MT); and grandson Craig Schnitzler (Jackie) of Green Bay, WI. Half-sister Georgianna Kennedy (James) (Wolfe City, TX); Half-sister

tions, or to leave condolences, can be made through Austin Funeral and Cremation Services, 807 Spokane Ave. #300, Whitefish, MT 59937, and tributes can be sent to [www.austinfh.com](http://www.austinfh.com).

14 May 2023 pA7- Daily Inter Lake- Schrage, Delores Frances Caluori

## Delores Frances (Caluori) Schrage, 86

Delores Frances (Caluori) Schrage passed away on Friday, May 5, 2023 at Heritage Place, Kalispell. She was born July 19, 1936 in Burt, North Dakota, to Martin and Margaret Caluori. She was born during the Great Depression at her grandparents' homestead and delivered by her grandmother, Elizabeth (Heck) Schaff, who was a midwife.

Before her first birthday, the family moved to Missoula. In 1955, she married Donald A. Schrage at St. Anthony Catholic Church. After retiring in 1992, they moved to their cabin on Swan Lake.

Delores was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She graduated from Vo-Tech in 1975 in business administration. For 17 years, she worked



at Missoula County Offices of Health and Human Services.

Her favorite pastimes

were researching her family history, jogging and hiking. Delores and Don hiked most of the trails in Glacier Park and the Swan Range, including the entire Alpine Trail from Napa Ridge to Columbia Mountain. They also hiked many trails in the Mission Mountains Wilderness. She and her hiking group resurrected the Jewel Basin Switchback Trail #275.

She volunteered at the Lake View Care Center in Bigfork for 18 years between 1993 and 2016. Delores was also an avid international traveler,

loved to read, cook, play cards and board games, work on jigsaw puzzles and crochet.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Ursula Tyler; brother, Ted Caluori; sister-in-law, Geraldine Caluori; and brother-in-law, Duane Foster. Delores is survived by her husband of 68 years, Don, of Swan Lake; three children, Tina Phillips of Missoula, Linda (Darryl) Thompson of Bozeman and Mark (Jennifer) Schrage of Palo Alto, CA; and five grandchildren, Cassie and Riley Phillips, Lindsey and Ashley Thompson, and McKinley "Max" Schrage; brother, Pete Caluori of Salmon, ID; brother, George (Dottie) Caluori; sisters, Marie Foster, and Martha (Bernie) Gress, all of Missoula; sister, Theresa Caluori, BVM, of

Dubuque, IA; and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to sincerely thank everyone at Lake View, Heritage Place and Encompass Health Hospice for their kind and professional care of Delores.

A memorial service will be held at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 217 Tremont St, in Missoula on June 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Donations for a memorial bench in Jewel Basin may be made to Montana Conservation Corps at [mtcorps.org](http://mtcorps.org) or mail donations to 301 N. Willson Ave, Bozeman MT 59715.

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

## Victor Schroeder, 78

Victor Carl Schroeder, 78, of Yellow Bay, Montana, passed away on Monday, Dec. 26, 2022, at Providence St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, with his wife by his side.

Vic was born Oct. 13, 1944, in Kalispell, the second child of Bill and Ida Schroeder. In 1967 he married the former Christine Hebert. They made their home in Kalispell for more than 30 years. During his working years Vic worked for the City of Kalispell Sewer Department, retiring in 2001 as the head of the department. It was tough work, but he enjoyed the job and the people he got to work with.

In 2000, when Chris retired, they bought a cherry orchard in Yellow Bay, just north of Polson. They ran the

orchard with dedication and love. After Vic retired, he and Chris traveled, getting the opportunity to see much of the western United States. They cherished this time together. Vic also enjoyed being a member of the Yellow Bay Community Club attending functions when he could.

Vic is survived by his wife of 55 years, Chris Schroeder; his oldest brother Arthur Schroeder and his wife Gloria; as well as many nieces and nephews and a couple of beloved canine companions.

He was preceded in death by his parents and younger brother James Schroeder.

Arrangements are under the direction of Garden City Funeral Home and Crematory, Missoula.

## Sandra Lee Aiken Scull, 70

Sandra Lee Aiken Scull, 70, passed away from multiple health conditions on Sept. 17, 2023, joining her parents and precious son Michael in heaven.

She was born on Nov. 3, 1952, in Butte to Elizabeth and Ernest Aiken. She grew up in various locations across the West but spent the bulk of her childhood fishing, hunting, and exploring Montana's many rivers and mountains. After meeting her husband Sam in Colorado, she relocated to the Flathead valley in 1973. She had four chil-



dren that were the light of her life, Ivy, Michael, Samuel and Thomas.

She poured her whole heart into raising her children and dedicated her career to educating young children. She worked at several child care facilities and later opened her own preschool, Woodland Park preschool. Spending her days with little people was her true calling, and she touched the lives of many young children and

families over the years. She was a talented cook and was known amongst family and friends for her many amazing dishes. She specialized in Asian cooking and loved trying new recipes.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Elizabeth and Ernest Aiken; and her son, Michael who passed away at the age of four in 1986.

She is survived by her daughter, Ivy (Drake Burford) of Livingston; son, Samuel (Jennifer Jackson) of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; and son, Thomas of Missoula; her

grandchildren, Devan and Alice of Livingston; granddaughter, Maia Scull of Kalispell; grandchildren, Sophia Scull and Samuel Jackson of Coeur d'Alene Idaho; and her brother, Jim (Nancy Hadley) of Sandpoint, Idaho.

She always had a smile and was willing to extend a helping hand and will be remembered as a loving mother and grandmother.

Friends are encouraged to visit [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolences for the family.

## Jeffrey Len Secord, 64

On Feb. 10, 1958, a mischievous angel with a wicked sense of humor was born to Gladyce and Leonard Secord in Kalispell. Jeffrey Len Secord had a full and fun life but flew from this earth on Oct. 25, 2022, after a courageous battle with malignant melanoma. Jeffrey grew up in Columbia Falls where he graduated in 1976. He often reminisced and laughed about his many childhood adventures including working at Far West gas station which he credited to finding his muscular strength. After graduating, he worked at the ARCO Aluminum Plant for a short time until he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1977. Sergeant Secord excelled in the Marines, especially as a Mountain Warfare Instructor and squad leader. He loved this period of his life and frequently recounted the many escapades he and his comrades created — especially making pancakes for the Sergeant Major of the Third Marine Division. Upon fulfilling his Marine tour, Jeff obtained an electronic engineering degree in

Portland, Oregon. He was extremely proud that he was the first in his family to obtain a higher educational degree. Also, in Portland, he met his value-oriented enabler who he later married in 1987. He obtained an electronics job in warfare training at NAS Fallon, Nevada. As time passed, Jeffrey became more adept and interested in computer mapping and eventually transitioned to this field. He remained in Fallon until 2006 when he took a GIS mapping position for Elko County in Elko, Nevada, where he worked until his death. Jeffrey loved his work and his coworkers. He laughed daily about some antics (often something he caused) that occurred at work.

Jeffrey enjoyed and excelled at physical fitness, mountain biking, playing music on his self-made record player,



and hanging with his dog and his wife, Christa. They had a 35-year marriage filled with friendship and laughter and they adored each other. Jeffrey loved their cabin on Egg Pond, Maine and fully immersed himself in "Maineah" way of life. Jeffrey loved his friends and his family and once Jeffrey blessed you with a nickname, you knew you had a special place in his heart.

Jeffrey is survived by his wife, Christa; mother, Gladyce Secord; mother and father-in-laws, John and Margaret Albrecht; daughter, Samantha (Bubba) Dews; brother, Tim Secord and nephews, Brady and Logan; sister, Mandi (Spencer) Leer and niece, Cassidy; sister, Rilla Presser and nephew, Chad, and nieces, Alyssa and Angie; brother-in-law, Brian Albrecht; sister-in-law, Shauna Lyons; niece Olivia Albrecht; and Tobias Beckworth Secord. He is preceded in death by his father, Leonard Secord; sister-in-law, Carla Albrecht-Allen; brother-in-law, Craig Albrecht; and FitzWilliam Darcy, Gustoff Von Hermpinheim, and

Duncan.

Jeffrey and Christa would like to thank all the friends and family that helped care for Jeffrey during this long illness with meals, blessings, prayers, calls and texts. They would especially like to thank Patrick Rogers and Dr. Kirin Madden, Dr. Louis and Paula Bergeron, Madison Spencer, Denise Carey-Timer, Shauna Lyons, and Kris and Tim Madden. Services will be next spring in Elko and Columbia Falls. The Jeffrey Secord Memorial Facebook page is available to share stories and memories. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Secord/Albrecht Nursing Scholarship (tax ID 81-0375335 P.O. Box 1691 Havre, MT 59501).

Jeffrey lived a life full of a unique sense of humor with those around often laughing hysterically, full of bike rides with the wind in his face and sweat running off his body, and full of love for his home and those in it. Truly we can say of Jeffrey's life, "Now that's some Strong Work!"

## Lawrence (Larry) Dean Semenza, 78

Lawrence (Larry) Dean Semenza, born in Fort Benton on Nov. 16, 1944 died peacefully on March 12, 2023 surrounded by family.

Larry was the youngest son of Helen Holmes Semenza and Lawrence C. Semenza. He is preceded in death by his parents and brother Leonard. He is survived by brother Gene, daughters, Kris and Angie, and five



grandsons, Hayden, Hunter, Dalton, Mitchell and Logan who were his pride and joy.

Larry played Grizzly football at the U of M where he earned a Master of Education. From there he lived a large and beautiful life. He was a father,

a cattleman, a horseman, a farmer, a friend and a mentor to so many. He loved his family, parties, Christmas, making ravioli, playing cribbage, and Montana football, and he will be missed so very much.

A celebration of life will be held this summer in Montana. It will be a party in true Semenza fashion and we hope to see you all there.

## Doris Bernice Seney, 102

Doris "Dorie" Bernice Seney, 102, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Aug. 20, 2023, in Snohomish, Washington. She was born on July 24, 1921 to Joseph and Alma Vachal in Ross, North Dakota. She moved to Minot when she was seven years old.

She graduated from Minot High School in 1940 as a valedictorian. She met the love of her life, LaVern Seney, at a Grange dance and married him on Nov. 18, 1941, in Kalispell, her future home. She found the piece of property she would call home for over 80 years on Lower Valley Road and bought it while LaVern was away during World War II.

The Seney home was the site of countless holidays and a favorite gathering place for family and friends. With a place to call home, she traveled to many parts of the world where she loved to people-watch, but no matter where she went she always said that Lower Valley was her favorite place.

She valued her faith, loved her family, and when possible lent a helping hand to those in need. She was a member of Eidsvold Lutheran Church in Somers, a member of the Mountain View Birthday Club since 1951, a volunteer 4-H leader, a member of the Retired Senior Volunteers, a member of the Sunshine Chorus, and at age 90 she was a regular volunteer with the Kelly Road and



Kalispell Senior Center lunch programs.

When not volunteering, gardening,

singing or traveling, she could be found painting or reading. A petite, but mighty matriarch, she shared her family traditions, her faith, her values and her love with her family and her community. We are all heartbroken to say goodbye to her body but know that her soul is home in heaven with her beloved husband.

She is survived by her daughters, Sherry Mason, Jo Ann (Ken) Fried, Kathi (Brett) Hoyt and Karen (Eyler) Adams. Her legacy includes 12 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, LaVern Seney; her brothers, Harold and Howard Vachal; son-in-law, John Mason; several great-grandchildren, and numerous family and friends.

The memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Sept. 23, at Eidsvold Lutheran Church in Somers. A private family burial will be held later. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a gift to Eidsvold Lutheran Church or the Kalispell Senior Center.

## Filip Michael Serra, 23

Our beloved Filip Michael Serra born in Whitefish to Jessica "Renee"



Hale and Raymond Serra Jr. on Dec. 17, 1999, has sadly passed away while resting in his home in Gillette, Wyoming on Dec. 18, 2022.

Filip is survived by his mother, Renee Hale and Steve Hoffman; his father, Raymond Serra; his brothers Dylan McClain and Erick Serra; his girlfriend, Shae Lynn Adams; his grandmother, Ingrid Serra; his grandmother, Kathie Hale; and numerous other friends and relatives.

Filip was preceded in death by his grandfather, Raymond Serra Sr. of Coram, Montana; great-grandfather, Roger Hale Sr. of Chelan, Washington; and maternal great-grandmother, Sue Libby of Hungry Horse.

Filip grew up in Coram and attended West Glacier Elementary School, then later moved with his family to Kalispell, attending Elrod Elementary School. He concluded his high school education at Campbell High School in Gillette, Wyoming.

Filip was employed at Ruby Tuesday's in Gillette, Wyoming.

Filip enjoyed drawing and showed natural artistic abilities at an early age. He also enjoyed music, cooking and snowboarding.

Filip was loved and will be missed by many.

Please join us for a celebration of his life at 11 a.m. on Jan. 7 at Adventure Church, 348 2nd Ave. W, Kalispell, MT 59901. Bring your favorite dish or dessert and join us in the Fellowship Hall for lunch.

To share condolences or coordinate potluck dishes with the family, via text only, please contact 406-250-6848.

## William Sheehan, 73

William "Bill" E. Sheehan, 73 of Marion, passed away on July 22, 2023, with his loving wife by his side.

It was a peaceful time knowing he would see his Savior in Heaven.

He was born on October 23, 1949, to Richard and Marie (Lollar) Sheehan in Los Angeles, California. He hit the ground running, always looking for the next adventure.

He was proud to serve his country, serving in Vietnam from 1966 to 1969, and was honorably discharged from the



Army.

He was known for his big heart and giving spirit. He will be greatly missed by family and many friends.

Please reach out to Mary to send notes of condolences at blspeteblt@gmail.com. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Valerie Lynne Sheldon (Maochi), 55

Valerie Lynne Sheldon (Maochi), 55, of Santa Cruz, California, and Whitefish, Montana, formerly of Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, died peacefully at home, on March 12, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. She was born Aug. 10, 1967.

A beloved wife of thirty years, she is survived by her husband, Dr. David G. Sheldon of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. Valerie was the devoted mother of Emma Nicole Sheldon, 26, Jordan Marie Sheldon, 24, John "Jack" Walter Sheldon, 22, and Kate Sheldon, 20; cherished daughter of Phyllis and the late Paul Maochi, and sister of Jim (Audrey)



Maochi and Paula (Kevin) Laird.

Valerie was an adventurous soul and enjoyed her time in the mountains. She was an avid skier and hiker and was proud of her job as an ambassador for the Whitefish Mountain Ski resort. She loved to camp in her Sprinter Van with her lifelong partner, David and their dog, Ginger. Nevertheless she remained true to her Pittsburgh roots and was a rabid Steelers, Pirates, Penguins and Panthers fan for life. Her corporal

time on Earth was sadly short, and she will be tremendously missed by many good friends as she is received into Heaven in the Kingdom of Christ.

Well-wishers will be received Monday, March 20, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., at the Warchol Funeral Home, 3060 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA (412-221-3333). A Catholic Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Tuesday, March 21, 10 a.m., at Holy Child Church of Corpus Christi Parish, Bridgeville, PA. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Unbound at [www.unbound.org](http://www.unbound.org). View and add condolences at: [www.warcholfuneral-home.com](http://www.warcholfuneral-home.com).

## Ane Petersen Shields, 71



Ane Petersen Shields passed away on July 23 surrounded by her loving children in Phoenix, Arizona at the age of 71. Ane was a strong and loving mother, daughter, sister, wife, friend and grandmother. Ane made her final transition after a long and courageous battle with cancer that reflected her incredible strength and fight for life despite difficult circumstances — a defining and inspiring quality of Ane's beloved by so many.

Ane was born on March 5, 1952 in Beatrice, Nebraska. Her family lived in Dewitt where she spent her childhood with her parents and two brothers. Ane's grandfather, William Petersen, a Danish immigrant, founded Petersen Manufacturing Company and was an instrumental influence in Ane's life. Ane spent childhood summers at Camp Lake Hubert in Minnesota and

remained a supporter of the camp her entire life.

Ane is survived by and will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 26 years, Earle Robert Shields; her children Robert John Patterson (wife Mariah Leigh Patterson), Jessie Lynn Patterson, and grandchildren Colt Robert Patterson and Jett Richard Patterson. Ane is preceded in death by her children — twin daughters Jackie Lew Patterson and Karen Christine Patterson, son Casey Lee Patterson, and daughter Kathryn "Kate" Ane Patterson. Additionally, she is preceded in death by her parents Richard H. Petersen Sr and Virginia Petersen and her brothers Allen D. Petersen and Richard H. Petersen Jr.

Ane attended the University of Montana in Missoula where she earned her Bachelors of Business and applied her business acumen to her career in her family business. She moved to Whitefish, Montana in the 1970s and was an integral part of the Whitefish community for a long chapter of her life where she raised her children and shared a full life with her dear friends. Her friends will miss her big spirit, steadfastness, infectious laugh, and kindness she brought to so many. She left a big impact in the Whitefish

golf, roping, and horse community where people knew Ane to be a loyal person with a witty sense of humor and realness that created and fostered deep and lasting friendships. Additionally, Ane leaves behind a rich set of friendships and loved ones in Missoula, Montana that she built with her beloved husband Bob after moving there in 1995 that included many full years spent in the community of the Missoula Country Club.

Ane had many passions in life including spending time with her deeply loved pets, reading, raising horses, golfing, spending time with her husband, playing word/brain games, and volunteering/giving back, but nothing brought her more joy than being a mother and grandmother. The love and pride in her children was known by all who knew her and her open expression of her love for them and their accomplishments in life was something she beamed with pride. Being a grandmother and watching her grandsons grow into incredible young men and thrive in the Montana cowboy life that she held so close to her heart was perhaps her greatest joy.

Ane was a strong but sentimental person who understood the finiteness of life. Ane lived a life

walking the path of grief and walking the path of compromised health — and despite all this, she continued to fight and choose a life of love, compassion, and warmth. She inspired many by the way she lived her life. One can imagine that Ane would want to pass along her passion for life, her deep understanding of the preciousness of life, and remind those around her that no matter how difficult the path may be that you walk along in this lifetime — to choose the sweetness in life, to choose happiness, and mostly importantly, to choose love. Ane once posted a picture of her kids online and wrote below the picture, "Things that make my heart feel big." Ane would want us all to remember to surround ourselves with things that make our hearts feel big.

Ane will be dearly missed by all those whose lives she touched and inspired.

A memorial will be held at the Missoula Country Club on Monday, Aug. 21 from 4-7 p.m. Any questions for Whitefish friends please text Carole P. at 406-250-4513.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

## Stoney 'Rocky' Gene Shipp, 55

Stoney "Rocky" Gene Shipp, 55, died after a long battle of health issues.

He was born in Kalispell and later grew up west of Whitefish where he spent his childhood fishing, hunting and exploring the woods with family and friends.

He would later move to Broadus, where he worked for the city and had two children.

His heart belonged in the woods and he would later move from there to Sundance, Wyoming to work in logging while his children finished high school.

You can take the boy out of Montana but you cannot take Montana out

of the boy.

He ultimately moved back to Montana where he could work doing what he loved most, moving logs around with heavy equipment and live in the woods, his happy place.

He is survived by his two children and their spouses. Five grandchildren, his fiancée, his father (stepmother), two sisters, a brother, many nieces and nephews.

A memorial is not planned at this time and family asks that those who knew and cared about Stoney to memorialize him in your own way, but of course, somewhere in the woods.



## James Ronald Short, 77

James Ronald Short, known to his loved ones as Ron, passed away peacefully on July 4, 2023, in Kalispell, at the age of 77. Ron was born on Jan. 29, 1946, in Great Falls, to Orley and Margaret Short.



kind and generous man with a great sense of humor. He was deeply loved by

Ron spent his early years in Belt, prior to the family moving to Livingston in 1950. He completed his high school education at Park County High School and went on to pursue higher education at the University of Montana. After completing his studies, Ron ventured to the Bay Area, where he worked as a certified public accountant for 25 years. However, his heart always belonged to Montana, and he eventually returned home.

his family and friends. Ron was a proud member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and cherished his time spent with his fraternity brothers. He had a special fondness for sunsets on Flathead Lake, had a soft spot for animals, and cherished his wife and family.

In his free time Ron enjoyed following Griz Football, playing golf, fishing and traveling. He had an adventurous spirit and loved exploring new places.

Ron is survived by his loving wife, Kathleen; his brother, Jerome; his sister-in-law, Charlene; his sisters, Peg and Diane; his step-daughter, Kendra, and step-son-in-law, Anthony; his step-son, Charlie, and step-daughter-in-law, Britney; and his grandchildren, Davin and Easton. He also leaves behind numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that contributions be made to the Montana Grizzly Scholarship Association. This organization supports aspiring students in their pursuit of education and aligns with Ron's passion for helping others.

Ron will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of his loved ones. May he rest in peace.

Ron was a patient,

## Janice Sibert, 63

Janice "Jan" Lucille Sibert passed away peacefully Jan. 9, 2023, surrounded by her family. She will be dearly missed, and always remembered as a doting mother, loving grandmother and wife.



and was blessed with three more grandchildren Natasha Victoria Belston

Jan was born Dec. 7, 1959, to Donald and Eva Decker in Kalispell. After graduating from Flathead High School in 1978, she spent her early adulthood working at various serving positions. She was also proud of the fact she managed the Vista Motel in West Glacier. This is where the "Night of the Grizzly" was written. A jack of all trades in her early adulthood, she worked at Happy's Inn. This is where she met the father to her children Glen Larcom, who fathered her two greatest loves: Christopher Dean Larcom (1982) and Jennifer Rose Belston (1984).

(2006-2016) Audrey Jane Larcom (2012) and Logan Michael Larcom (2015). She loved her kids and grandbabies "to the moon and back". She was committed to spending as much time with them as possible, with a love of baking and painting pottery with them.

Jan and Tony were wildly excited to share a trip with her son and daughter-in-law to Hawaii and enjoyed the excitement of attending the 2007 Pro-Bowl. Another true joy she shared was opening sports cards and memorabilia with her grandchildren as well. Sharing the excitement of ripping packs with them was second to none. She was a fan of NASCAR and followed the sport faithfully. She also enjoyed camping and fishing in the Valley's lakes.

Her greatest joy was raising her children and spending time with her parents, siblings and their kids. She enjoyed living in proximity to them in Evergreen, Montana. She married Antony "Tony" Sibert June 22, 1992, after knowing each other since grade school and taking their long-term friendship to the next level. To support Tony's career as a Union Ironworker she shared time between the Flathead Valley and Tri-Cities area in Washington but always called the Flathead home. Tony retired in 2013 and they resumed full-time life in the Flathead Valley, where they enjoyed spending time riding their Goldwing.

She was preceded in death by her parents Donald and Eva Decker; granddaughter Natasha Belston; and father-in-law Victor Sibert. Survived by her loving husband Tony Sibert; son Chris (Kate) Larcom; daughter Jennifer (Reuben) Belston; sister Donna (Kenneth) Lapp; brother Donald "Bud" (Wendy) Decker; and her three grandchildren.

They were blessed with their first grandchild, Kaila Belston, March 12, 2001. She remained incredibly close with her children

Jan requested a celebration of life instead of traditional funeral services. It will be held Jan. 13 at 1 p.m. at Buffalo Hills Funeral Home. Any friends, family, and loved ones are welcome to join in the celebration of her life.

## Joyce LaDeane Newland Siers, 89

Joyce LaDeane Newland Siers was born Jan. 15, 1934, on the family wheat farm in Burleigh County near Driscoll, North Dakota. She passed away on March 1, 2023, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls with her loving daughter, Sheila at her side.

Joyce was the youngest of four and the only daughter of Ole and Emma Newland. At 9 months she contracted paralytic polio which left her with life-long motility challenges, yet she possessed an indomitable spirit complete with a large slice of "I can do it" attitude. This fierce determination served her well in life. She conquered the art of knitting, bowling, sewing, embroidery, card-game playing and many other pursuits.

Joyce graduated high school in Steele, North Dakota, in 1951. At age 19, she caught the eye of



Minnesota.

They have four daughters, Beverly Siers of Sumner, Washington; Mary Rackham (Bill) of Filer, Idaho; Sheila Quimby (Bucky) and Janet Schwegel (Greg) of Olney. She is also survived by eight grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers, one grandson and her husband of 61 years.

Finding themselves empty nesters, they moved to the small community of Dixon where they lived for 35 years. They played a very active part in the senior center. Joyce was the trea-

handsome World War II veteran Don Siers, they were married Dec. 15, 1952, in Oylen,

sure for many, many years. Her contributions to the success of the Dixon Mellon Days were immeasurable.

When Don's health began to fail, they made the decision to move into the Montana Veterans Home in late 2013 and Don passed in January 2014. Joyce continued to live there for nine more years where her enthusiastic presence was welcomed, and she enjoyed many of MVH's events. She loved to play games and took bingo very seriously. She was a frequent winner.

Joyce will always be remembered for her Pinochle shark-like abilities and her joyful spirit. She is buried at the Montana Veterans Cemetery beside her husband. The family has decided to have a full celebration of life at a later date. Columbia Mortuary is taking care of the arrangements for the family.

# Kaye Simons, 87



Kaye Elizabeth Simons died Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023. Born May 19, 1936, she was raised in Whitefish, Montana, the daughter of Dr. John Brimhall Simons and Mrs. Jean Florence Leitch Simons.

She loved telling stories of her Whitefish youth, such as talking her father out of a speeding ticket by complimenting the police officer when she was three years old while they, as a family, drove a critical patient cross-country to the Mayo Clinic. She spoke of help-

ing her father register sex workers for medical checkups, and his reminding her to be polite and respectful. She was proud of her father for building the first hospital and first clinic in Whitefish.

She was closer to her mother, and spoke of her as being wise with money, having excellent taste, and possessing Scotch frugality. Her mother, Jean, was five-foot-one, and always proper in hat and gloves. She did her gardening in 4-inch heels, and when she chaperoned the ski team, she drank the men under the table after the kids were in bed.

Kaye was raised in "The Castle" with her brother, John Brimhall Simons, Jr. She followed him everywhere — to the gravel pit, and the lake (where she once had a cast melt into the water while her big brother played). She was valedic-

torian of her high school class. She told a story of landing a car in a tree on an escapade. She was an excellent skier, swimmer, and pianist.

She loved exciting men and men who told good stories too much. Her first husband was an Armenian English major who couldn't write, but was the best Oriental rug repairman this side of the Mississippi, Charles George Keshian, Sr. He was the father of Harold Kevork "Toschoum" Keshian (64), and Charles George Keshian, Jr. (60) as well as a son John, who they lost in infancy. Larry Burman, her second husband, was also an English major. The father of her daughters, Lewis Libbey Whitchee, was a drinker who, according to Kaye, might have been the greatest skier — albeit unknown — of his generation. Her daughters, Jeanne Elizabeth Simons

(52) and Rachel Elizabeth Simons (50), were with her at her death in Jeanne and Kaye's home.

Kaye was a reader who took pride in reading through whole libraries.

She loved teaching. In Frazer, Montana, on the Fort Peck Reservation, she was loved as the crazy white lady science teacher. She loved baking and had a few exquisite

confections. Her kids all knew she loved them, and that made a difference.

For funeral service information, go to <https://www.justcremationmt.com/obituaries>

# Betty Lou Skare, 94

Mrs. Betty Skare, 94 of Columbia Falls, passed away June 24 at Logan Care Center in Whitefish.

She was born and raised in Barrett, Minnesota. She and her twin sister Beverly were born to Ella and Carl Waugh on Dec. 31, 1928. They also had an older brother Harvey Waugh.

In 1947 she met Orlin Skare at a local roller-skating rink. They married Sept. 18, 1948 in Barrett.

They raised five children, Mike (Margie)



all of Columbia Falls; Marcia (KC) Lane of Casper, Wyoming; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

In 1964, after years of farming in Barrett, they moved the family to Columbia Falls where

Skare of Polson; Don Skare, Debbie (Tom) Hamilton; Gene (Dianna) Skare,

they remained and many of the family members still do.

She was predeceased by her husband of 69 years, Orlin, in January 2018; her twin sister, Beverly; and her brother, Harvey.

She was very fond of sewing, especially for her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed crocheting, embroidery, baking and gardening.

She also worked at the Hungry Horse News for 16 years. She was happy to express to her

physicians that she was a, "strong Norwegian woman," when they commented on her age.

Betty's memorial Service will be at 11 a.m. Monday, July 3, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 401 7th St. W., Columbia Falls.

Interment will take place privately at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell. To send online condolences, please visit [www.columbiamortuary.com](http://www.columbiamortuary.com).

### Craig Skinner, 77

Craig Edward Skinner, 77, of Hungry Horse passed away Jan. 8, 2023. He was born July 2, 1945, in Woodriver, Nebraska to the late Edward Skinner and Mary McGuire.



and lived in the Canyon for 25-plus years, where he attended Hungry Horse Chapel and Coram Community



Craig was a Scottish-Irish man that loved being outdoors. He grew up on a farm in Nebraska and moved to California in 1957. Most times he could be outside without a shirt on so that he could soak up the sun. In high school, Craig was a gymnast, which gave him a physique he carried with him throughout life. He served in the United States Army from 1965 to 1969. After the service, he moved to Oregon. Some of his hobbies included wall-eye fishing, floating and tubing on the water, canoeing, surfing and hunting. Craig was a man of faith

Church. Craig is survived by wife, Linn Wills Skinner; brother, Tom Skinner (Christine); sister, Susan Skinner; brother, David Skinner; brother, Mike Skinner; and brother, Pat Skinner.

In addition to his parents, Craig is preceded in death by son, Aaron; and daughter, Francine.

Services will be held at a later date. To send online condolences, please visit [www.columbiamortuary.com](http://www.columbiamortuary.com).

### Gordon 'Lee' Skinner, 73

Gordon "Lee" Skinner was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on July 17, 1949.

He attended the Rochester Institute of Technology for the American Craftsman. Lee lived in Washington state where he met his wife Marie. They moved to Montana in 1991.

Lee worked as a cabinet and furniture maker, upholstery and Studebaker restorer.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Gee and Dorrie Skinner. Lee is survived by his wife Marie; his brother Doug and wife Gretchen; and mother-in-law Barb Jensen.

He is in heaven with Jesus now and will be greatly missed.

There will be a gathering at Active Ward Ministries of Columbia Falls at 1 p.m. on Jan. 28, 2023, to celebrate his life.

Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat funeral home.

## John 'Jack' Slack, 86

John Stephen Slack, known to all his family and friends as "Jack," 86, passed away peacefully at his home in Columbia Falls on Dec. 15, 2023.

He was born Aug. 3, 1937, in Lewistown, to Steve and May Slack. He married the love of his life, Carolyn Crail in Sandpoint, Idaho. Jack and Carolyn shared a very wonderful 54 years together until Carolyn's passing in 2014.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Roy Slack; sister, Bonnie Craft; and sister, Ila Barta.

He is survived by his daughter, Robin Grosswiler of Kalispell; daughter, Jackie McFarland and her husband, Jeff of Kalispell; daughter, Shannon Slack of Toledo, Washington; and son, John Slack Jr. of



Nehalem, Oregon; grandchildren, Darcy, Trevor, Dieter, Kimberly, Nickole, Jesse, Ashley, Jeffrey, Jackie, Justina,

Janelle, and Jack; great-grandchildren, Tessa, Jager, Kiya and Rylee; great-great-grandchildren, Isabelle, Coleson and Bridger; brothers-in-law, Don and Ron Crail and Ray Biehl; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In the last few years of Jack's life, it was made possible for him to remain at home and live independently with the help of his nephew Bob

Bechtel and his wife. This was much appreciated by Jack.

Jack went into the Air Force at a young age. After four years in the Air Force, he spent most of his life in the woods as a logger, which he loved. His love for cutting timber took him to all the states in the Northwest region. He also owned a successful logging company for several years in the Flathead Valley. He spent many of his weekends and days off doing the things he loved, hunting and fishing with his wife, Carolyn; brothers-in-law; and best friends, Ben Bailey and Gene Hill.

He loved shooting a good game of pool with his best friend, Ben Bailey. After Ben passed, Jack would look forward to Ben's son, John, traveling back to the valley

and meeting him to play a good competitive game of pool.

Jack was very fortunate to have several nieces, nephews and their wives who would meet him to play a round or two or three of pool at the local taverns in the valley.

The last few months Jack enjoyed the company of his nephew, Lee Johnson. He and Lee took many road trips to outlying casinos and enjoyed gambling and a good meal. This meant so much to Jack, he looked forward to these outings. The celebration of Jack's life will be held at The Eagles in Kalispell on Jan. 27 from 2 to 5 p.m. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the Slack family.

## Thomas Henry Sladek, 65

Thomas Henry Sladek, 65, of McGregor, Minnesota, formerly of Kalispell, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023, at his home on his beloved Lake Minnewawa.

He was born Jan. 7, 1958 in Shakopee to Donald and Sally (Peterson) Sladek. He graduated from Prior Lake High School in 1976 and attended Dakota County Area Vocational Institute where he earned a degree in supermarket management. He owned and operated Sladek's Food Pride, a grocery store in Princeton, along with Big Stop Foods, a convenience store in Minneapolis. He also owned and operated Tom Cat Sprinkler and Hydro-Seed, a landscaping and lawn services company in Kalispell. He loved making coffee in the morning as he read the Bible and "Jesus Always."

Thomas lived in Montana the past 17 years and just recently moved back to Minnesota to be closer to his brothers for hunting and fishing. He loved scuba diving in Hawaii and Mexico with his kids and son-in-law. He loved spending time at the end of his dock with his dog. That was his happy place that reminded him of "On Golden Pond." He named his dog Shnikes, which came from his favorite movie "Tommy Boy." As much as he loved the outdoors, he loved spending time



with his family most.

He was preceded in death by his mother Sally

(Peterson) Sladek.

Thomas is survived by his daughter and son-in-law Amanda and Neil Clay of Tampa, Florida; son Brandon Sladek of Bozeman; former spouse Sherri Lyn (Overfield) Sladek of Tampa, Florida; father and stepmother Donald and Arlene Sladek of Buffalo; three brothers and sisters-in-law Donald (Chavonne) Sladek of Rosamond, California, Daniel (Judy) Sladek of Garrison, and Scott (Connie) Sladek of Kalispell; one sister Julie Clarke of Aurora, Colorado; stepbrother and step-sister-in-law David (Shelly) Calof of Buffalo; half-sister Jeanne Alegria of Tucson, Arizona; and many other special relatives and friends who mourn his passing.

Funeral service will begin at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023, at Sorensen-Root-Thompson Funeral Home in Aitkin, Minnesota. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. His family will hold a celebration of life gathering after the service. Go to [www.srtfuneral.com](http://www.srtfuneral.com) to leave a message of condolence.

## Barbara Ann Slager, 94

Barbara Ann Slager of Dayton, Montana passed away at age 94 on Dec. 22, 2022.

Born in Monte Vista, Colorado on Sep. 16, 1928, Barbara was the daughter of Charles and Willa Huckins. Charles was a rancher and Willa was a teacher. Both are members of the Range Riders Hall of Fame.

Barbara graduated from high school in Miles City, Montana. She got her teacher's certificate

at Colorado Women's College, and kept it active through the University of Montana.

As well as traveling all over the world with her late husband, a colonel in the United States Air Force, Barbara taught school on some Air Force bases, and later on in Bondurant, Wyoming and in Whitefish, Montana.

Barbara was an avid skier and golfer. She participated in ranch work, and was no stranger to

handling cows and horses. She was an excellent artist, with a collection of live paintings. She made many improvements on her parents' ranch in Dayton, and she gave of her finances to help others. She was unselfish, the salt of the earth. She liked to play card games, especially cribbage. She loved to talk with family and friends, and everyone loved her. She is missed, but we know she's in a better place.

Barbara had no children, and was preceded in death by her two sisters, Jean and Patricia.

Barbara died peacefully of natural causes, brought on by kidney complications. She was under hospice care at the end.

There will be no memorial service for Barbara, and her ashes will be spread in Broadus, Montana at a date to be determined.

## Carol Y. (Hanson) Slaybaugh, 85

Carol Y (Hanson) Slaybaugh, 85, of Hermiston, Oregon, was born on July 25, 1937, in Kalispell to parents Richard and Josephine (Sundt) Hanson. She died on May 25, 2023, in Pendleton, Oregon, at the age of 85.



She is survived by her daughter, Karen Lockhart; her sons-in-law, James

and Hermiston; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Carol was preceded in death by her husband; two daughters, Kathy Isaac and Kim Davis; her parents, two grandchildren, Jennifer and Jason; and a great-granddaughter Olyvia.

At her request there will be no service. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, Oregon is in care of arrangements. Please share memories of Carol with her family at [burnsmortuaryhermiston.com](http://burnsmortuaryhermiston.com).

Carol was raised in Somers and Kalispell where she attended school. She married Darrell Slaybaugh on Oct. 30, 1954, in Whitefish. Darrell worked in road construction so they lived in Kalispell, Spokane, Washington and Klamath Falls, Oregon. Darrell preceded her in death in 2009 and Carol moved to Hermiston, Oregon in 2013 where she lived since. She cherished spending time with her family and enjoyed playing cards and traveling.



## Virginia Anna (Wolfram) Sluiter, 80

On July 3, 2021, Virginia "Ginny" "Jenny" Anna (Wolfram) Sluiter, 80, shook off her earthly body to most likely teach math in the afterlife.

Born April 24, 1941, near Dewey, Oklahoma, she spent her childhood attending Catholic school and helping around the family farm until they moved into Bartlesville. She attended Oklahoma State University to pursue a degree in mathematics at a time when she was most likely the only woman in the classroom. A favorite photograph of her daughter's was taken the day she graduated with her master's degree surrounded by her sisters and mother. Her shocking black hair in a classic retro style, black eyeliner lining the most beautiful eyes, her elegant hands folded neatly in her lap. She was a double whammy of beauty and brains.

Her early teaching career took her around the world. It was on those travels she met the love of her life, Thomas G. Sluiter, in Germany. They returned to the United States with her teaching kindergarten in Baton Rouge, Louisiana,



and Thomas pursuing higher education at Louisiana State University. Eventually,

they made their way to Dutton, Montana and were married in a small ceremony on Sept. 30, 1970. A couple years later they made their home in Hingham, Montana where they both taught for the Kremlin-Gilford communities and were well loved.

In 1976 a son, Marcus, was born and in 1978 their daughter, Kristen, joined the mix. They passed on their love of travel taking their children to Japan in 1984 on a new teaching assignment. Eventually, they returned to Montana after their beloved cabin in Polebridge burned in the Red Bench Fire of 1988.

There are not quite adequate words to capture the magic that was Virginia in the classroom. Privately, she was a classic introvert but in front of a classroom she was pure magic. She wrapped up her teaching career at Montana State

University-Northern in Havre.

A lover of classical music, a very sharp and dry wit; she was the best champion her husband, children and students could ever ask for. She had a grace about her such that you knew when this woman spoke, to listen.

Her mind was a rich resource of curiosity and wonder and she never tired of learning. She had a very rich inner life and was a measured, fair giver of advice. She survived breast cancer but it left her with memory loss which was an especially hurtful way for such a brilliant mind to go. Even so, in her last years, she retained her lovely manner and wit often having laughing fits with her daughter.

She is survived by her daughter, Kristen M. Sluiter, of Bremerton, Washington and her sisters, Helena Sloan of Bartlesville, Oklahoma and Mary Minton of Little Rock, Arkansas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas, and her son, Marcus as well as her parents, Benjamin and Sarah Wolfram of Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

## David Everett Smith, 72

David Everett Smith, 72, of Kalispell, passed away on Jan. 12, 2023, at Logan Health Medical Center. David was born July 22, 1950, to Richard Charles Smith and Juanita Claire (Johnson) in Kalispell.



W. for over 30 years. He is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his son Chad (Jami) Smith; grandsons Bridger and Hunter Smith of Kalispell; brother Rick (Adrienne) Smith of Polson; and life partner Linda Thompson Smith.

A celebration of life will be held at 9:30 on Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Kalispell Alano Club 153 North Meridian Rd. in Kalispell

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

Dave was raised and attended school in Kalispell graduating from Flathead High School in 1969.

Dave served in the Army reserves and worked at CFAC for 30 years. Dave loved to fish and was a friend of Bill

## Dennis Smith, 77

Dennis Lloyd Smith, 77, of Bigfork, passed away on March 28, 2023.

He was born on March 8, 1946, to Lloyd and Doris Smith in Kalispell.

Dennis graduated from Bigfork High School in 1964 and served two years in the United States Marine Corps. He later received his associate degree from Flathead Valley Community College.

Dennis loved the work he did as a security transporter at The Oregon State Hospital where he worked for 22 years.

Dennis enjoyed baking the best pies and breads, making lefse, listening to polka music, watching cooking shows and feeding all the hummingbirds. He spent most of his life living in the Bigfork area.

Dennis is preceded in death by his parents Lloyd and Doris; siblings Marvin, Noreen, Darrell; and grandson Tommy III.

He is survived by his three children, Debi, Duane, Dalaina and their spouses Dennis, Kerrie, and Tim; his grandchildren, Michael, Kassie, Max, Heyden,



Kaylynn, Kilee, and Tomas; and 11 great-grandchildren.

His friends and family can celebrate his life as we remember



him as an easygoing, fun-loving, great father and grandfather with absolutely the most enviable head of hair.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell. A celebration of life and memorial services will be held at the Little Brown Church (Real Life Church) 125 Swan Hwy in Bigfork, Montana 59911 on April 6, 2023, at 11 a.m.

Flowers can be sent to Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. Thereafter or in lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to NW Montana Veterans Food Pantry 1349 U.S. Hwy 2E Kalispell, MT 59901 or [veteransfoodpantry.org](http://veteransfoodpantry.org).