

Samuel Elmer McCartney, 66

PAGE 17 NOV 2021

Samuel Elmer McCartney, 66, was called home to be with the Lord on Nov. 10, 2021.

He was born to Gordy and Verna McCartney on Jan. 21, 1955, in Kalispell. It's hard to explain how much he meant to all of us because all our relationships with him were different. To his older siblings, he was a friend and a fun brother. To his younger siblings he was our funny, loving, older brother who enjoyed spending time with his baby sisters. Our family spent almost every weekend camping with extended family and in the winter there was hunting and snow catting. Sam made these trips so much fun just because he had such an amazing sense of humor and usually had us all laughing so hard we were crying.

Sam met Deby when they were both young teenagers, but they knew they had something special and on Feb. 1, 1974, they made it official and were married. He worked hard to take care of his family and they welcomed three amazing children into all our lives. He loved being a dad and you could see it in his face every time we looked at him. He instilled in them a deep love for God and how important just being in this crazy family could be, and how doing things together kept us all so very close. We enjoyed all the funny poems he wrote or how he could just say something so straight faced and have all of us laughing uncontrollably. He especially loved

her cane while she was yelling at him and he was laughing so hard he was

crying. That cane still hangs in his shop as a reminder after mom passed away.

When Sam lost his wife Deby after 45 years together, he also lost half of himself. It was so hard for him and he missed her so much that his humor left him and his heart ached. Thankfully, his children were there for him every step of the way and his siblings banded together as well, to help as much as possible. Every day was a struggle for him without Deb and as hard as we all tried, we could not mend his broken heart. All he wanted was to be with Deby again and continue that dance for the rest of their lives.

He was never alone after he lost Deby, but he lost interest in life. He started falling and broke his hip and his back, he came back pretty strong after that and was doing well, until he fell again and broke his other hip. He didn't have the strength to come back this time though and he was called home surrounded by his kids and grandkids. We have no idea how to say goodbye to this man who was such a big important part of all our lives; we weren't ready, but he was. He is now reunited with his beautiful Deby and they are dancing together



be and one day we will be with him again. So to our wonderful dad, grandpa, brother and uncle ... we will see you soon

Sam is survived by his children, Brandi Thompson and husband Danny, Cori Smith and husband Steve, Sam McCartney and wife Alyssa; grandchildren, Malarie Eblen and husband Kirtus, Billy Thompson and wife Shay, Savanna Thompson, Cody McCartney, Hunter McCartney, Haven McCartney, Marissa Smith, Kyler McCartney, Kalyn McCartney, Patty Smith, and Adam McCartney; great-granddaughter, Addison Olson; brothers, Randy McCartney and wife Nora, and Mike

McCartney; sisters, Tawni Norton, Lona Hanson and husband Chris, Lisa Newton and husband Glen, Lori Jo Cousins and husband Trevor and Leann Sampson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Sam was preceded in death by his parents Verna and Gordy McCartney, and his wife Deby McCartney.

A private family burial will take place. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Ruth McCaughey, 101

Ruth McCaughey, 101, died at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish on July 20, 2021.

She is survived by her daughters, Kathleen + and Sharon Nyhus.

Services are scheduled.

Funeral & Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for the family.

Derek McClelland, 28

Derek McClelland, 28, died on March 29, 2021, at his home in Columbia Falls.

He is survived by his children Silas and Brody McClelland.

No services are planned at this time. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Jim Flynn McCauley, 86

Jim Flynn McCauley passed away at the Bee Hive Homes of Kalispell on Dec. 3, 2020, of dementia.

Jim was born May 1, 1934, in Havre to John A. "Mac" and Margaret K. "Maggie" McCauley, where the family ran the McCauley Plumbing and Heating business for many years. He was graduated from Havre High School in 1953 and attended Montana State College in Bozeman in 1954. Jim was a member of the Montana National Guard before enlisting in the Navy in 1955, where he attended the Class A Shipfitter School and served on the AKA90 Attack Cargo ship Whiteside and the AR7 Heavy Duty Repair ship Hector. After being honorably discharged in 1959, he joined the family plumbing business in Havre.

In 1960 he helped to organize the Hill County Search and Rescue, serving the unit for five years, and he participated in searching for lost hikers, hunters and children, as well as assisting in scuba diving for the recovery of drowning victims.

He and Donna Knettel Mangold were married Aug. 18, 1973, at St. Gabriel's Church in Chinook. After moving



to Swan Lake, he joined the Swan Lake Search and Rescue unit and became a life member, having served there for

18 years.

Jim worked for the Montana State Prison Work Camp at Swan Lake as maintenance supervisor for nine years and when the work camp became a boot camp, he became a drill instructor for the Swan River Boot Camp for one year before retiring in 1984.

Jim had many hobbies but especially enjoyed woodworking.

Jim was preceded in death by his wife Donna and stepson Audie.

He is survived by three of his stepchildren, Steven Mangold of Graham, Washington, William Mangold of Chinook, and Debra Mangold of Swan Lake; nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Cremation has taken place. Burial for Jim and Donna will be held Friday, April 2, with a family memorial service.

Judith Francis McCurry, 83

PAG 30 May 2021

Judith Francis McCurry, 83, passed away peacefully on May 24, 2021, after a short illness.

She was born to Lawrence Eugene "Gene" Snider and Ruby Earl (Cofer) Snider, and raised in Lawton, Oklahoma. After graduating from Lawton High School in 1955, she met and married Raymond Edwin "Ed" Okeson Jr., a soldier stationed in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. They were sent to Galenhausen, Germany, serving in the Third Armored Division of the Army, and returned to the USA in the fall of 1958. Returning to Ed's hometown of Hebron, Illinois, with their newborn son, Stanley Gene, they spent eight years there and had three more children, Sharon Elizabeth, Bradley Steven and Laura Anne. In 1967, they moved to Venice, Florida. They divorced in 1970.

In 1988, Judith married Regis S. McCurry. They enjoyed visiting the west, especially Montana where they bought a home and spent the next 21 summers. They had a joyful life together and recently celebrated their 33rd anniversary. She was amazingly creative,



beautiful inside and out and a ray of sunshine wherever she went. Her favorite place

was in her beautiful garden.

Judith is survived by her husband, Regis McCurry, sons Stan Okeson (Diana) and Bradley Okeson (Sherrie), daughters Shar De Joy and Laura Spencer (Eric), her stepson Kevin McCurry (Mary) and stepdaughter Valery Rachal (John), and by her sister Nancy Baxendale. She is also survived by three grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and four stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her sister Barbara Tarpley (Bloyce), brother David Snider (Donnola), and son-in-law Bruce De Joy.

A memorial service will be held June 5 at 3:30 p.m. at Toale Brothers Chapel at 40 N. Orange Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Southern Pines Healthy Pet Clinic, P.O. Box 2021, Hattiesburg, MS 39403.

Jay Vernon McClanahan, 58

PAG 28 Dec 2021

Jay Vernon

McClanahan, 58, was born to Floyd and Rita McClanahan on Feb. 22, 1963, in Lewistown. He passed away Dec. 18, 2021, at his home in Moscow, Idaho, after a lengthy battle with multiple health conditions.

Jay was a lifetime enthusiast of outdoor activities from hunting and fishing to camping and boating. An active athlete as a young man, particularly enjoying baseball and football, he especially loved supporting his daughter's softball endeavors. He quickly became known to many as the super fan at any sporting event later in life. Besides his family, one of his biggest joys was driving the athletic busses for local public schools and University of Idaho and Washington State University athletes and cheering them on from the stands. He will always be remembered as a passionate supporter of our local young athletes.

Jay is survived by his loving wife of more than 30 years, Merida; daughters McKenzie McClanahan of Moscow, Idaho, and Breanna (John) Schaefer of Belle Fourche, South Dakota; sons Kyle McClanahan of Bakersfield, California,



and William (Erin) Steppe of Lewiston, Idaho; parents Floyd and Rita

McClanahan of Columbia Falls; sister Jody (Kevin) Wolf of Columbia Falls; brother Russell (Kara) McClanahan of Pullman, Washington; six beautiful grandchildren and another due in April and numerous nieces and nephews.

A small memorial service will be held Jan. 8, 2022, at Palouse Federated Church in Palouse, Washington, at 11 a.m. A larger celebration of life gathering will be held in Columbia Falls in early summer 2022.

The family has established a memorial fund to help with expenses and to establish a scholarship program for young student-athletes at the Garfield Palouse Cooperative Schools. Donations can be made to Jay McClanahan Memorial Fund at Idaho Central Credit Union.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Short's Funeral Chapel of Moscow and condolences may be left at www.shortsfuneralchapel.com.

Mark Andrew McCullough, 60

PA5 11 Nov 2021
Mark Andrew McCullough passed unexpectedly on Oct. 27, 2021, at the age of 60 in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Mark was born in Bethesda, Maryland, on Sept. 13, 1961, at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center. As a child, he became proficient in climbing and his parents quickly learned the best place to look for him was up. He graduated from Lewiston High School in 1980, and enlisted in the United States Navy. Mark's natural leadership and drive led him to become a respected petty officer 1st Class, specializing as a fire control technician.

While serving in the U.S. Navy, Mark thrived on travel and adventure. One of his favorite Naval experiences was on the USS Gurnard, when the submarine surfaced at the North Pole and he fed polar bears pancakes. His fond love of the ocean and fellow service members propelled countless bedtime stories for his children.

Following the Navy, he continued his education at Lewis and Clark State College, where he met and married Faye Frost in 1987. Together they had two children, Steven McCullough and Briana Nichols. In 1996 they moved to Montana and enjoyed skiing, fishing, whitewater canoeing and picking huckleberries as a family. Although they divorced in 2008, Mark and Faye remained steadfast to their children, and future



grandchildren.

Mark later moved to Lakewood, Colorado, where he met Catherine Hudak. They married in 2020,

and truly enjoyed traveling together. Ocracoke Island, North Carolina, became a favorite camping spot, and they recently celebrated Mark's 60th birthday in Marathon Key, Florida. Mark and Catherine shared a love for unique dining, evening walks, and beach cruising with their dog, Cora Sue.

To many, Mark was known as an adventurer, protector and teacher. He was also a beloved father, bonus uncle, and loyal friend. Mark had a passion for history, a mind filled with endless knowledge, and a heart overflowing with love for his children and grandchildren. Deeply missed by all, Mark's life and legacy will be forever cherished.

Mark is survived by his parents, Darlene and David; numerous siblings; wife, Catherine; previous wife, Faye; their children, Steven and wife Annie, and Briana and husband Craig; and his grandchildren, Hadley, Lochlan and Coen.

Mark's celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Regis S. McCurry, 96

PA4 15 Aug 2021
Regis Sylvester McCurry passed away while doing his favorite chore, yard work, on Aug. 1, 2021, at age 96.

He was born Nov. 7, 1924, and raised in Clairton, Pennsylvania, one of seven children. In 1943 he joined the Navy and served in both the Atlantic on a destroyer escort and in the Pacific on an LCI-landing craft, returning home in 1945. Using the GI Bill, he graduated from Muskingum College in Ohio and soon found employment as an insurance adjuster with Ohio Casualty Insurance Company.

In 1952, Regis married the love of his life, Jean Margaret Rump, and they had two children, Valerie and Kevin. In 1963 the family moved to Sarasota, Florida where he continued his work as an insurance adjuster. Jean died in 1982 after 30 years of marriage and raising their two children. After his retirement from Ohio Casualty Insurance, he worked part time for the city of Sarasota Recreation Department where he started a program for a Senior Softball League and Coed Softball League in 1985. It grew and continues to thrive today.

In 1987, he met Judy Okeson, the second love of his life, and they married in May of 1988. Through their travels, they found and fell in love with Kalispell, then a small town, 30 miles from Glacier National Park. They spent summers there for the next 23 years, buying a summer home there in 1995. He also started a Senior Softball League and Coed Softball League there as well. Even in his mid-'80s, on his 70s-and-up team, he was the team's



designated runner. In 1989 he was hand picked to play for the Goff Greyhounds in the Senior Softball World Series — where

they won the title. He was very proud of his championship ring. He also loved tennis and played doubles into his 90s. Regis and Judy sold the Kalispell house in 2014 but made additional visits to Montana afterward. Judy sadly and unexpectedly passed away in May of this year. They both loved to go and do and see.

Regis was always a gregarious and sports-loving fellow whose mottos were "Life is good" and "It is what it is." He loved the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Florida Gators.

Regis is survived by his daughter, Valerie Rachal, and husband, John; son, Kevin McCurry, and wife, Mary; granddaughter, Ashley DeCoux; sister, Verla Piper; stepchildren, Stan Okeson and wife Diana, Shar DeJoy, Brad Okeson and wife Sherrie, and Laura Spencer; and three step-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his father and mother, Sylvester and Sarah McCurry; sisters, Romaine and Laverne; brothers, Dwaine, William and Bernard, and his grandson, Ethan DeCoux.

Memorial services will be private.

Memorial donations may be made to Southern Pines Healthy Pet Clinic, P.O. Box 2021, Hattiesburg, MS 39403.

Dennis McDaniel, 75,

Dennis McDaniel, 75, of Kalispell, died June 7, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center. Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Helen J. McDivitt, 94

PA7 28 Nov 2021

Helen J. McDivitt, 94, passed away at her home in Kalispell on Nov. 22, 2021.

She is survived by her two daughters, Barbara (Steve) Johnson of Washington, and Loretta (Carl) Holmquist of Colorado; stepchildren, Mary Ann (Jim) Ratchye of Lakeside and John McDivitt of

Somers; sister, Junita Clark, of Bozeman; 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband A.C. "Bud" McDivitt, daughter Jayellen, son Scott, stepdaughter Brosia, sister Katie, and brothers Orland and

Robert.

At Helen's request, no services will be held.

Friends are encouraged to visit the website www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Janet Lee McFadden, 69

PA4 10 Feb 2021

Janet Lee McFadden, 69, went to sleep on Jan. 31, 2021.

Janet was born in 1951 in Whitefish to Leroy and Luella McFadden. Janet got her nursing diploma in the early '70s from attending college in College Place, Washington. She stayed in Washington and worked in a nursing home until she moved back home in '81 or '82, and went to work at the Colonial Manor Nursing Home in Whitefish, until she started at the Montana Vets home from 1996 to 2014. After her retirement in 2014, she dedicated her life full time to the Women of the Moose in Whitefish. She was initiated April 26, 1998. She held several state offices, and some national offices. She participated in several fundraisers for the Moose, until she got so sick she couldn't do it anymore. Her biggest event was Friday night bingo at the Moose where she would serve soup and sandwiches.

Janet will be missed by everyone. She touched many lives



over her 69 years here.

Janet was preceded in death by her grand-

parents Roy and Sarah (Sadie) Flint, and Roy and Rose McFadden, parents Leroy and Luella McFadden, and several aunts and uncles.

Janet had no children. She is survived by her brothers, Roger (Kathy) McFadden and Leroy (Mitzi) McFadden; nephews, Cory and John McFadden; niece, Kari McFadden; and great-niece, Malea Sheffield. A memorial will be held later in July.

The family would like to thank the staff at North Valley Hospital, Heritage Place and Kalispell Regional Medical Center for the care and comfort they gave Janet.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Women of the Moose in Whitefish.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for Janet's family.

Janet Lee McFadden

A memorial service for Janet Lee McFadden, 69, who died Jan. 31, will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 17, at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 269 Second Ave. EN, Columbia Falls.

Michael James McFate, 76

PA5 30 July 2021

Michael James McFate, 76, of Marion, passed away on Thursday, June 24, 2021, in Kalispell with close family by his side.

He was born on June 1, 1945, to John 'Jack' and Hattie (Wood) McFate in Billings. He had eight siblings; John, Al, Betty, Jim, Walt, Pat, Rich and Dave. He attended high school in Park City, Montana. Mike then went on to serve in the Army from 1965 to 1967 and worked for the Burlington Northern Railroad, in Montana, from 1963-1991. Mike had a great passion for the outdoors. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, woodworking and spending time with his grandkids.

He was well-known as Santa Claus, specifically at the Kalispell Center Mall. Mike loved his family and friends deeply, especially Debbie, his wife of 27 years.



Everyone who met him knew he was special, and he was beloved by many.



He is survived by his wife Debbie of Marion;

son Matthew (Shelly) of Laramie, Wyoming; daughters Jessica (Andrew) of Kalispell; Angela, of Billings; Angelina (Justin) of Kenmare, ND and 9 grandchildren: Megan, Caden, Bentley, Rhett, Payden, Tucker, Evelyn, Walter and Juddson.

As Mike's family grieves the loss of such a great man, a celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date.

Shirley McHenry, 81

Shirley McHenry, 81, of Kalispell, died Nov. 1, 2021.

She is survived by her husband Gary, and her children Donna Wood, Robert Terry Jr. and Bryan Terry.

A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

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

Flathead physician Bruce McIntyre dies at age 100

By LYNNETTE HINTZE
Daily Inter Lake

Well-known Flathead Valley physician Dr. Bruce McIntyre, 100, died Aug. 25 at Immanuel Skilled Nursing Center in Kalispell, where he was a resident.

McIntyre contributed to the medical community in myriad ways during his career, and was equally known for his active civic involvement.

After earning his degree in medicine from Georgetown University, McIntyre completed an internship and residency at DC General Hospital, then went back to his hometown of St. John, Washington, where he graduated from high school in 1937. There he took over his father's medical practice, working on-call around the clock, seven days a week, according to a 2007 Whitefish Pilot article.

In 1959 McIntyre and his wife Winogene moved to

Whitefish and he joined a practice there.

The McIntyres "jumped into the new practice with enthusiasm," according to a profile of the couple published in Portrait of Whitefish. "And the couple began getting involved in the Whitefish way of life," the profile noted.

McIntyre was a physician and surgeon in Whitefish for over 20 years.

McIntyre was the impetus behind a clinic that was established in Glacier National Park in 1961, according to the Portrait of Whitefish article. The clinic served Many Glacier, the St. Mary area and Lake McDonald, and even had a helicopter service.

"It was a big chore," McIntyre commented in the article, "but it got us into the park so we could do more fishing, hiking and camping."

McIntyre was the Flathead

County health officer from the 1960s through the '80s, and headed up medical care for the state hospital in Warm Springs as a semi-retirement job.

His professional career also included serving as regional medical director for the American Red Cross for several decades.

McIntyre was named Whitefish Winter Carnival King Ullr VI in 1965, and much later, at age 91 in 2012, he served as grand marshal of the Winter Carnival parade. Both Bruce and Winogene, who passed away in 2013, were very active supporters of the Winter Carnival during the early years.

They were also active in the Friendship Force for several decades and developed worldwide friendships through travel and hosting foreign guests.

McIntyre was an avid downhill and cross-country skier, a licensed pilot and hiker.



DR. BRUCE McIntyre was well-known in the Flathead Valley for his contributions to the medical community and his civic involvement. He died Aug. 25 at age 100. (Courtesy photo)

346A
(Cont)

Bruce C. McIntyre, 100

PA7 Feb Oct 2021

Dr. Bruce C. McIntyre passed away in his sleep on Aug. 25, 2021, at the age of



100 years and 10 months. He was under the care of Immanuel Skilled Nursing Center and Encompass Hospice, and spent his final day with his son and daughter-in-law at his side. His life of service impacted the healthcare of thousands of patients during his years of practice as a physician and surgeon.

Born in 1920 to Dr. Douglas and Rebecca McIntyre of St. John, Washington, he was the youngest of four children. Bruce was raised in this small farming community in the Palouse Country south of Spokane. In high school, Bruce and his older brother Don purchased two used dump trucks and formed a trucking company to haul wheat to market for the local farmers. Both boys worked hard at this business every summer and it paid for a majority of their college and medical schooling.

After graduation from St. John High School in 1937, Bruce attended Whitman College for a year and (then) Washington State College for a year on a pre-law track. Don convinced him he was better prepared to be a healthcare provider like him, his father, and his grandfather, so Bruce transferred to the University of Washington to study pre-med. It was there, while he was student teaching a Human Gross Anatomy class, that he met his wife Winogene (the smartest student in the class he'd later say with pride) over a dissected cadaver. The two were married in October of 1943 and had an interesting honeymoon in Olympic National Park when a bear tried to break into their cabin on their wedding night!

remained in D.C. with Bruce doing his internship and residency at Gallinger (later D.C. General) Hospital and Winogene as a biochemistry professor at the University of Maryland. It was here that the young Dr. McIntyre was exposed to the inner-city poor and destitute, and this experience motivated him to a life of service to the full inclusivity of healthcare offerings to society's most disadvantaged.

In 1948 they moved back to St. John to take over his father's medical practice. Dr. Bruce was the only physician in a large multi-community area, and normally drove daily 48 miles round-trip to the hospital in Colfax, sometimes twice daily to follow-up on his surgical or critical care patients.

After 11 years of practice, and the new birth of their son, they moved to Whitefish as the town needed another doctor. As the junior doc in practice with Dr. T. L. Lockridge and Dr. J. T. Whelan, Dr. Bruce drove to Eureka three times per week to hold clinic and provide healthcare to the furthest reaches of Northwest Montana. In 1964 he took out a mortgage and started the Whitefish Clinic, one of the forerunners of the current Glacier Peak Medical practice. Life was difficult and busy for a small-town doctor and surgeon in the '60s and '70s. Physicians did hospital rounds twice per day along with regular daily practice. At night and weekends they were subject to house calls and, as this was in the era before cell phones, the business phone was also installed in the house. It was normal procedure for Dr. Bruce to come home at night after a house call only to have to turn around and go back out on another urgent call.

became two of his closest friends, along with Charlie and Susan Abell, who was the business manager for the clinic.

From 1961 until the late 1970s, Bruce also served as the Flathead County health officer. He was a tireless advocate for community health and safety improvement, as well as advancing women's healthcare and family planning. He was recognized by the Montana Public Health Association for numerous public health improvements he spearheaded and instituted.

In the early '70s Bruce and Winogene got the aviation bug and became light aircraft pilots, a passion they would enjoy many years and serve them well after they sold their Whitefish home in 1979 and moved to Lakeside. While they would fly every other month to Seattle to visit their families, they also flew regularly between the Flathead and Anaconda where Bruce took a semi-retirement job heading the medical care for the state mental hospital and sanitarium at Galen, as well as medical duty at the state prison in Deer Lodge. This was a nice transition into full retirement.

home, they eventually moved to Village Greens in Kalispell for a few years, and then back to Whitefish. They resided at The Springs initially before finally settling on Buffalo Hill Terrace in Kalispell.

Dr. Bruce was an active skier, cross-country skier, and hiker up to his late '80s. He especially enjoyed singing, speaking German, and socializing with a rowdy bridge club that did just about everything in addition to playing bridge. He was a long-time member of Christ Lutheran Church, and a Christian who truly modeled Christ's teachings of servant leadership, humility, patience and love.

Dr. McIntyre will be remembered fondly by the scores he touched — new mothers he delivered, victims of bear maulings and car accidents he patched back together and saved, terminal cancer patients he helped minimize pain and fear during inevitable transitions, etc. Current doctors remember him at the Kalispell hospital's weekly physician luncheon and lecture programs he attended well into his mid-'90s (even though he couldn't always stay awake). His family remembers the fun he had plowing neighbors' roads and driveways with his snowplow equipped Jeep, always whistling while chopping and hauling wood — his favorite exercise, and how he cherished his two grandchildren. He was humble, kind, intelligent, studious, and all of the virtues one sees in a quiet Man of Greatness.

(Cont) 346B

Dr. Bruce C. McIntyre

After graduation, the couple moved to Washington, D.C. Bruce began medical school and Winogene a master's program in biochemistry at Georgetown University. The war was in full swing and Bruce was drafted to be an ensign and Naval medical student. But at his induction physical the doctor said, "You have a heart murmur," and refused to pass him or to allow him to even get a second opinion. One wonders what this doctor would think today if he knew his patient became a centenarian!

Upon graduation in 1946, the two were the first couple to graduate from Georgetown with advanced degrees. They

Glacier Park and the northern Blackfoot Reservation needed medical care during the summer, so for many years the Whitefish Clinic staffed and ran two clinics staffed by doctors at West Glacier and St. Mary's, and dispensaries staffed by nurses at Lake McDonald, East Glacier Park, and Many Glacier lodges. This was a logistical challenge, but offered Bruce a few precious opportunities to hike in the mountains and fish the pristine lakes.

Keeping doctors in Whitefish then was always a challenge as the work was exhausting and pay was competitively low vis-à-vis larger cities. Bruce was fortunate to have two dedicated community physicians who were longtime partners, Dr. F. Michael "Mick" Ricker and Dr. Del Coolidge. They also

An organization he strongly supported was the American Red Cross where he was the regional director for the northern Rocky Mountain states. Dr. Bruce was also a member of the Burlington Northern Physicians Association, and national president in 1972-73. He served on the board of directors of the Whitefish Chamber of Commerce and was selected by the Winter Carnival to serve as King Ullr VI. He was a long-time active Whitefish Rotarian, Class 1 FAA Medical Examiner, Diplomat on the National Board of Medical Examiners, and Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He was a member and president of numerous hospital medical staffs, as well as the Professional Education Committees of the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association. He received the "Bent Prop" award from the Montana Pilots Association in 1975 for an emergency forced landing without damage to passengers or plane when the propeller left the plane in mid-air.

After retiring, the couple became involved with Friendship Force International and revived the Flathead Valley chapter. This set them off on adventures around the world, and traveling became a wonderful retirement activity. While they loved their Lakeside

This much-loved saint is survived by his son Curt, grandchildren Ryker and Tori, daughter-in-law Sherry and her children Paulette, Annalise, Nicholas, Vincenzo and granddaughter Everly, nephews and nieces Donna McIntyre, Dr. Cam and Dr. Reba McIntyre, Michael Kelch and Marilyn McIntyre, Dr. Scott and Shelley McIntyre, Doug and Linda McIntyre, Peter and Jannie Werle, Lance and Sandra Margeson, Stuart and Toni McPherson, Dr. Wendell Cottle and Barbara McPherson, and Dr. Michael and Janet Boltwood.

A memorial service will be held when the public health effects of the pandemic become less severe.

Friends are encouraged to leave remembrances or condolences at buffalohill-fh.com.

For those so moved, honorary donations may be given to the American Macular Degeneration Foundation, Planned Parenthood of Montana, or the American Red Cross.

Shirley Lavonne (Amdam) McKean, 85

PAS 3 Feb 2021

Shirley Lavonne (Amdam) McKean, 85, passed away peacefully at home with family on Jan. 24, 2021.

Shirley was born Oct. 31, 1935 in Blackduck, Minnesota, to Pete and Birdie Amdam, joining her 13-year-old sister Phyllis. At 6 years old her family moved to the Flathead Valley in Montana. They eventually settled in Somers, where Shirley made life-long friends, including her future husband Les McKean. She graduated from Flathead High School in Kalispell, completing school a semester early, and went to work at First National Bank in Kalispell. This experience led to a long career in banking.

Les and Shirley were married in 1955 at Eidsvold Lutheran in Somers. Soon after, they moved to Anaconda and then settled in Libby for over 30 years where they raised three daughters. After their girls were grown, they lived in several different places including Ketchikan, Alaska, Angel Island, Lakeside and Columbia Falls before returning to Libby. In each com-



munity, they were involved in their local Lutheran congregation, where Shirley led Bible Studies, taught Sunday School and held many leadership positions.

Shirley's love of music inspired her involvement in several singing groups including church choirs, the Libby "Treasure Tones" and Sweet Adelines. She was highly creative, sewing and knitting coordinated outfits for her three daughters and their dolls. She made many quilts for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as sewing Scandinavian folk costumes for "royalty" of the Libby Nordicfest over the years. Shirley's father immigrated from Norway, and the Sons of Norway Lodge in Somers and Libby was an important social group for the family. Shirley taught her family about their Norwegian heritage, baked many Norwegian goodies and learned rose-maling.

In her banking career

at Lincoln Security and United National Bank of Libby, Shirley reached officer positions. She also held a variety of other jobs throughout her life, including Stanley Home Products representative, picking cones for the U.S. Forest Service, and being site manager with her husband Les at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Shirley was sustained by her deep faith and the love of her husband Les, of 65 years. She enjoyed working side by side with Les on many landscaping, remodeling and building projects; their favorite being the family log home on Bull Lake. Over the years they were known for hosting all sorts of potluck and picnic gatherings, which included volleyball, cards, swimming, skating with a lot of laughter and good food. Shirley shared her love and creativity with her family and friends, making holidays and milestones incredibly special. She also enjoyed traveling with family and friends, and went on many adventures, including hunting, fishing, camping, square dancing, cross country skiing, sightseeing, and

exploring new places.

She is survived by her husband, Les McKean; and her daughters, Sherry Ryan (Donald) of Tacoma, Washington, Kathy McKean of Bonney Lake, Washington, and Karen Updike (Greg) of Ketchikan, Alaska; and her six grandchildren, Bethany Johnson (Casey), Megan Kjelland (Juno), Lucas Updike (Lauren), Isaac Updike, Samuel Ryan (Meg) and Stephanie Parton (Alex); and great-grandchildren, Sofie, Tage and Eliana.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, and her sister Phyllis Duvall.

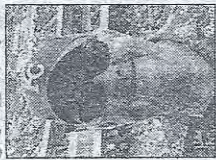
Shirley always looked for the best in people and situations. Her family and friends were so blessed to have her in their lives.

A celebration of Shirley's life will be held at a later date. Memorial gifts can be sent to Christ Lutheran Church in Libby or Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg Funeral Home in Libby. Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.schnackenbergfh.com.

David Arthur McKibbin, 62

the love of his life, Joanne Smith; sisters, Patty Staskal, Mary Pawlos (Bob), and



David Arthur McKibbin, 62, of Kalispell, died Oct. 29, 2021.

Dave was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on April 14, 1959. He made it to Montana as soon as he could, in the meanwhile, he was an artist and craftsman in his wood floor business. Dave was extremely humble of his talents and skills. He was such a hard worker and unbelievably skilled. Any project he worked on far exceeded all expectations.

Dave's caring nature was known by all, as was his sense of humor. He enjoyed the outdoors, sports, travel, all kinds of music, cooking, gardening and collecting art. His interests ran the spectrum. He lived his life to the fullest. There was never a dull moment when you were around Dave.

Dave is survived by

Laura McKibbin (Bob Ball). He also leaves behind his nieces and nephews and numerous friends who will miss him dearly.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents William and Ruth, and his older brother.

Dave's memorial service will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 11 a.m. at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to DeliverFund, 3800 Maple Ave, Suite 500, Dallas, TX 75219; or Fresh Life Church, 120 2nd Street East, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Margaret McKenzie, 92

Margaret McKenzie, 92, of Columbia Falls, died Oct. 10, 2021, at home.

No local services are scheduled. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Leroy Caleb McLaren, 28

Leroy Caleb McLaren passed away Oct. 8, 2021.

Caleb McLaren was born in August of 1993 and grew up in Townsend. The family moved to Delta Junction, Alaska, where he completed middle and high school.

Caleb accelerated in sports and academics in high school; he played basketball, baseball, and football, among other sports, for fun. He went on to play college football at the University of Minnesota-Morris. He then decided to transfer schools to pursue a degree in diesel technology at Montana State University-Northern. While completing this program, he met the love of his life, Sierra Collins. After graduation, he started his career in Bismarck, North Dakota, at Butler CAT before returning to Montana. Caleb resided in Columbia Falls and was employed at Western States as a versatile diesel technician.

As a constant tinkerer from an early age, Caleb loved anything to do with engines and everything that went fast. This fueled his passion for 1970s Ford trucks, nitro cars, dirt bikes, tearing apart engines, and his future career. Caleb spent his free time in Columbia Falls and Kalispell riding dirt bikes, volunteering to be a flag guy and track rep with the Flat Head Dirt Riders and Nirada Raceway.

Caleb was a devoted partner who made the perfect teammate to Sierra. He supported her in all her endeavors, following her to many



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rodeos. They could often be found working side by side on each of their trucks.

Caleb will be remembered for his infectious, quirky smile, always being ready for fun, and never taking things too seriously. He was easy to spend time with and loved the people in his life hard and well. His great big hugs and love were felt by many. Anyone who brushed shoulders with him walked away better from it. Wherever Caleb spent time, he left a lasting impression.

Caleb is survived by his significant other Sierra Collins, his twin brother, Chance (Stephanie), and older siblings Levi (Cassie and son, Jameson), Tanner, Whitney (Erica), and his parents Arthur and Terri McLaren. His extended family includes his grandparents, Chuck and Anna McLane; aunts and uncles, Shari (Randy) Robertson, Cindy McLaren, Richard (Rhonda) McLane, Roy McLane, Lisa McLane and Dave Lukenbill; cousins, Josh (Lisa) Sawyer, Brady and Lizzy Roberson (c: Bjorn and Esben), Franque Robertson (c:

Zara), Justin Lopez, Zach and Jessica Lukenbill (c: Madison and Sawyer), Joey Lukenbill (c: Aurelia and Jude), Sam Lukenbill, Alex Lukenbill, Benjamin Lukenbill, Shaye and Dan Farnsworth (c: Lexie and Logan), Napoleon Clayton, Hannibal and Autumn Clayton (c: Alex and Lincoln). He is also survived by Sierra's family Marsha and Kacey Collins and Bailey Murphy.

Caleb was preceded in death by his grandparents Shirley and Arthur McLaren, great-grandmother Lucy "Nana" Howard, and uncles Wade Sawyer and Frank Lopez.

We will all greatly miss Caleb.

The McLaren family will be hosting a celebration of life on Thursday, Oct. 14, at 2 p.m. at Darlington Funeral Home (3408 U.S. Hwy. 2 East) in Kalispell. Caleb will be laid to rest in the Deep Creek Cemetery in Townsend on Saturday, Oct. 16, at 2 p.m. If he impacted your life, the family would love to see you for the celebrations at either or both locations.

A live feed will be available at the following link <https://my.gather.app/remember/leroy-caleb-mclaren>

Joanne (Boisen) McLaughlin, 85

Joanne (Boisen) McLaughlin, 85, died March 24, 2021, in Kalispell.

She is survived by her children, Leanna Grubaugh, Debi Grilley, Barbara Barnaby, Karen Shepard, Terri Bruyer, Patti Piquett and Keven McLaughlin.

A graveside service will be held in July, the date to be determined, at St. Richard Catholic Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Daniel Cole McMasters, 88

PAB 17 June 2021

Daniel Cole McMasters, 88, passed away in Great Falls on Jan. 11, 2021.

A celebration of life will be held later in Columbia Falls. He will be buried with his wife at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Daniel was born in Philadelphia. After graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Air Force and retired after 25 years of service. He then owned and operated a gas station in California for 19 years. After retirement, he continued to be involved in many organizations, vol-



quartet as a baritone, and many choir events.

Daniel is survived by his daughter, Jane McMasters, of Kalispell; son, Jim McMasters,

unteering his time and efforts to help others.

Singing was a passion of his. He participated in his church and community choirs, a barbershop

of Great Falls; and two grandchildren, Danny Baylor of Havre and Justin McMasters of Great Falls.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Machiko; and son, Samuel.

Memorials in Daniel's name may be sent to Columbia Falls Methodist Church, P.O. Box 27, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Condolences for the family may be shared online at www.SchniderFuneralHome.com.

John A. Mcleod, 64

John A. Mcleod, 64, of Kalispell, died Oct. 13, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

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

Kevin James McMurdo

PBS 17 Feb 2021 Whitefish Pilot



Kevin James McMurdo born in Whitefish, Montana, passed away peacefully in Seattle, Washington, on Feb. 8, 2021. Kevin was 51 years of age.

After leaving high school Kevin went to Alaska and worked on fishing boats.

Then he moved to Seattle, Washington, and

was a member of the bricklayers union for many years.

He is survived by his wife of 16 years Wendy Josephine (Everett) McMurdo; father Reginald W McMurdo and his wife Wendy Lu McMurdo; mother Carol A Hubley (Benson) and her husband Richard W Hubley; identical twin brother Jesse

Allen McMurdo; uncle Martin Ty McMurdo; nephew Jesse Jacob McMurdo and his wife Christine; great-nephew Luke Joseph McMurdo; and several more family relatives.

Services will be planned at a future date.

Gloria J. McMichael 86

Gloria J. McMichael 86, of Kalispell died May 30, 2021, in Kalispell.

A rosary will be said at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home today, June 2, at 6 p.m., with services to be held Thursday June 3, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church at 12:10 p.m. Burial will follow services at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Edgar Milton 'Ed' McMurtry, 84

Edgar Milton "Ed" McMurtry, also known as Dad, Grandpa and Great-Grandpa, passed away Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020, due to complications from COVID-19.

Dad was born July 28, 1936, in Hyannis, Nebraska, to Iva and Harry McMurtry, the third of seven children. They moved to Littleton, Colorado, when he was young.

In 1956 he met the love of his life and they were married in Oct. 1957. They recently celebrated 63 years together.

In 1971, Ed and Mary moved to Stevensville, where they have resided ever since. Ed truly loved his mechanic work. After retirement,

you could still find him out in his garage.

Ed is survived by his wife, Mary, of the family home; his daughter, Deb McDonald (the late Bob McDonald) of Kalispell; son, Tim McMurtry of Stevensville; two grandsons, Bobby McDonald (Erin) of Colorado Springs, Colorado and Brandon McDonald (Keely) of Dutton, Montana; and one precious great-granddaughter, Maggie Louise McDonald.

A celebration of Ed's life will be held at a later date, maybe in June or July of 2021. Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.white-sittfuneralhome.com.

Reginold 'Reggie' McMurdo, 76

DA 7 28 Nov 2021
Reginold Wayne McMurdo passed away Oct. 16, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

He was born to David Rex McMurdo and Vera Fern Everhart of Whitefish.

Reggie was raised and went to school in Whitefish, graduating from Whitefish High School with the Class of '63.

He became an electrician and joined the IBEW Brotherhood of Electricians Union Local 768. He was a member for over 50 years. He was the business agent for nine years. He worked all over the state of Montana and other states.

Reggie was very well known for his building of and racing rails and hot rods. He lived in Whitefish on his property where his friends gathered in his shop for camaraderie, to work on cars and share tall tales. He was a generous person to all and he loved his friends.

During his first marriage his children, Wendy Sue, Keven James and Jessie Allen,



were born.

He is survived by his loving wife Wendy, and

his son Jessie Allen McMurdo of Whitefish, his brother Martin (Ty) of Vancouver, Washington, his

grandson Jessie Jacob McMurdo, his great-grandsons Luke Joseph and Eric James, and his niece and nephew Kelsey and Conner McMurdo. Reggie would also want me to mention his beloved constant companion, his four-legged friend, Tiki.

Jessie was preceded in death by his father David Rex McMurdo, his mother Vera Fern Everhart, his daughter Wendy Sue, and his son Keven James.

There will be a memorial for Reggie at the VFW in Whitefish on Dec. 4 at 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, we would like any donations to go to the Ladies Auxiliary at the VFW Post 276.

John D. McNamara, 81

John D. McNamara, 81, of Eureka, died on Nov. 16, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

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

David Michael McMann, 73

David Michael McMann, 73, of Kalispell, died on Nov. 6, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center.

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

Justin McPheeters, 31

Justin McPheeters, 31, of Hungry Horse, died Dec. 29, 2021.

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

Billy McRavin, 70

Billy McRavin, 70, of Somers, died Jan. 17, 2021, in Somers.

He is survived by his sister Diane Kerekes.

Austin Funeral and Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for the family.

Mavis Irene Heil McNamara, 84

Mavis Irene Heil McNamara passed away on Oct. 29, 2021.

She was born on July 8, 1937, in Walkerton, Indiana, to Paul and Fern Heil. In 1947, the family moved to Montana where they came to settle in the Flathead Valley. Mavis was proud of the fact that they fit 14 kids and seven adults into two trucks and a car. Mavis attended schools in both Whitefish and Kalispell.

In 1954, she married Walter Rufenach and together they were blessed with three kids, Kenneth, Kristal and Kathie. They did eventually divorce, and she later married Lawrence Brunner. In marrying Lawrence, she became stepmom to Roseanne and Larry Jr. Later on in the marriage, they began raising their granddaughter, Mandy. In January of 1984, Lawrence passed away.

On April 22, 1992, she married the love of her life, Del McNamara, and he was by her side until the end. Mom had quite the life and really is the toughest woman we know. In 1968, she was in a head-on collision with a logging truck and survived. That car accident was the first of many "miracles" we had involving her. In 2001, she suffered a massive stroke and when the doctor advised the family to remove her from life support (we listened), to our amazement, she pulled through — living for another 20 years.



Legion. When Mavis married Del, they moved to Eureka, Montana, where

they made many friends. In 2000, Mavis's granddaughter Randie, came to live with them.

Randie lived with Mom and Del until Mom had her stroke in 2001, and Mavis chose to move into Mountain View Manor, the local nursing home.

We always joked that she was the queen of the nursing home; she loved to play bingo and loved to tell jokes and put smiles on the staff and residents' faces. She was known in the nursing home as "the card lady." She was always so thoughtful in giving out cards, ones for all of the occasions. Besides bingo, our mom loved crafts and patrolling the halls keeping everybody in line. Our mom had an uncanny ability to find four-leaf clovers. She could find one with no effort at all, and despite our best efforts, none of us inherited that ability.

Mavis was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Fern, her brothers Max and Jack and Max's wife Shirley. She was also preceded in death by her brother-in-law Don.

Mom lived quite the life; she lived on and took care of a farm with Lawrence. She had a huge garden, which all of the kids hated because they had to weed it. She was also known for delivering calves and, because she was a small woman, used a come-along to deliver them. Mavis was also a master canner of all things. One of our favorite memories of our mom was burning the farmland. We all wanted to burn with her because that was the fun part.

Mom was a very proud member of the Columbia Falls Eagles club and a past president of the Ladies Auxilliary. In addition, she was a member of the American

Mavis is survived by her husband, Del McNamara. She is survived by her brother Paul and sister Myra. Mavis is survived by her children, Kenneth, Kristal and Kathie, as well as her stepchildren, Michael, Roxy and Ron. Mavis is survived by her grandkids, Kenny, Christopher, Cassadie, Chauncey and Randie. She is also survived by grandchildren, Lacey, Kyle, Shane, Aaron and Michael, and numerous great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held this summer.

The family would love to thank Dan, Jodi, Kim and all of the other staff at Mountain View Manor for loving this wonderful lady and taking such good care of her for the last 20 years. We don't say goodbye, we say "Love Love."

Robert 'Corky' Meagher, 71

Robert 'Corky' Meagher, 71, died on Jan. 16, 2021, at North Valley Hospital.

He is survived by his wife Snoma, and children.

A potluck celebration of life will be held on Friday, Jan. 22, at the Columbia Falls Eagles club with military honors at 2 p.m.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

Lora June Mebust, 87

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Lora June Mebust passed into the Lord's eternal presence at the Kansas City Hospice House on Oct. 7, 2021.

Born to Carl "Art" and Leone Peterson in Dillon, Montana, on Oct. 27, 1933, Lora spent her childhood years in Kalispell with summers often at Flathead Lake. During high school, her yet to be husband, Winston, worked pumping gas at the local gas station. Lora loved to share how she asked her dad for a dollar to get gas so she could allow Win the opportunity to ask her on a date. They were married in Kalispell at Bethlehem Lutheran on Sept. 18, 1955.

Two children, Leanne and Kevin, were born in Seattle while Win finished medical school and Lora, a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority, finished her degree in nutrition science at the University of Washington.

Lora and Win moved to Kansas City, Kansas, in 1963 when Win accepted a residency in urology at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Children, Kreg and Kari, were born a short time later.

As Win's career in medicine progressed toward becoming president of the American Urological Society, Lora was a member and eventual president of the KU Medical Center Women's Auxiliary. She was the consummate hostess for Win's staff parties and was part of numerous planning committees for yearly conventions held

by the American Urologic Society. By her husband's side, she was a tiara-graced

queen, a woman of profound elegance, grace and class.

Central to Lora's pride and joy was her family. She always carried photos of her children everywhere she went. As Lora and Win traveled the world, it wasn't uncommon that after luggage was stowed and seatbelts were fastened, the photos would be out before the plane left the ground.

We could write further with seemingly the same breadth of eternity that our mom has now entered. In brief, she loved every moment of being a mom. During her final days as we surrounded her bedside in the hospital, a nurse, being struck by the love that radiated between Mom and her family, asked Mom for the secret to raising her family. Her response was simple, "love." And we, as the fortunate recipients of her love, offer these words in loving remembrance on behalf of those who knew our mom and loved her too.

Lora June Mebust is survived by her sister, Marilyn, and husband, Dick Barney; four children, Leanne Luetkemeyer and her husband Kelly, Kevin Mebust and his wife Janelle, Kreg Mebust and his wife

Cindy, Kari Clark and her husband John; and five grandchildren, Andy Smith-Mebust, Kaleb Mebust, Logan Clark, Aidan Luetkemeyer and Teller Clark.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Oct. 30, at Johnson County Memorial Chapel, 11200 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66210. Visitation is at 9 a.m., followed by a 10 a.m. service. Additional information can be found at <https://www.johnsoncountychapel.com/listings>.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Lora's name to the Mebust Memorial at Philmont Scout Ranch and Explorer Base, <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org>. To make a donation, contact Philmont at 575-376-2281, ext. 1126, or mail a check to Philmont Scout Ranch, Attn: Mebust Memorial, 17 Deer Run Road, Cimarron, NM 87714.

Edward John Medwig, 84

Edward John Medwig, 84, of Kalispell, passed away on Dec. 8, 2020.

He was husband to Minnie for nearly 61 years, the father to Kevin, Cindy, Terry and Cheryl. He was grandfather to Jeremy, Brianna, Jordan, Brooklyn and Taylor and great-grandfather to Aubrey. He also leaves behind his sister, Patricia and brother, Michael.

Ed was the oldest child of John and Sophie, born, raised and schooled in St. Catharines, Ontario in Canada. He was very popular, the life of the party. He worked several jobs, loved to dance and had many hobbies and skills.

He married Minnie Ethel Marshall in 1960 at Saints Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church while working on an architectural degree from Ryerson Institute of Technology in Toronto. Ed and Minnie and their first two children moved to California in 1962 so he could pursue an architec-



ture career and fulfill the promise he had made several years earlier.

"Eddie" was a passionate man and, despite being under six feet tall, he was always the most charismatic and captivating man in the room! He was a proud man with many dreams; he was an engaging storyteller and a tireless volunteer — especially with his devout faith in God at church and as a member of the Knights of Columbus. He always worked hard to support his family and would always push for even more beyond that too. He will be fondly remembered and sorely missed. May he rest in God's eternal peace.

Services will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30, at 9 a.m. at St. Matthew's Catholic Parish, 601 South Main Street in Kalispell.

AUGUST 31, 2021

Development leader dies at 63

By CHAD SOKOL
Daily Inter Lake

Jerry Meerkatz, a longtime businessman who recently retired after leading two Kalispell-based economic development agencies, died after a motorcycle crash in Wyoming on Friday. He was 63.

Until early last month, Meerkatz served as president and CEO of Montana West Economic Development and the Flathead County Economic Development Authority, sister organi-

zations that work to improve the local business environment. The Kalispell native took the helm of the agencies in 2016, with 35 years of experience managing large and small tech companies across North America.

"Jerry Meerkatz was an extraordinary leader who returned to Montana, after a successful career in the high-tech world, to help his family and community," said Glacier Bank Executive Vice President Dennis Beams, who sits

See LEADER, A7



JERRY MEERKATZ, seen in 2016 after he took the helm of Montana West Economic Development, died after a motorcycle crash in Wyoming on Friday, Aug. 27. He was 63. (Daily Inter Lake file)

LEADER

from A1

on the board of MWED. "His contributions and legacy will serve our community well for decades to come. He'll be missed as a leader and friend."

Beams and Turner Askew, a former Whitefish City Council member and longtime FCEDA board member, said Meerkatz was instrumental in the creation of the Glacier Rail Park, which made it possible to relocate downtown Kalispell businesses that rely on rail service and allowed for the development of the Parkline Trail, which is being constructed on the railroad bed that traverses the downtown core.

"Jerry was an incredible man, and we would not have been as successful as we are, had he not been negotiating with buyers and tenants" of the Glacier Rail Park, Askew said. "He had the patience of Job, and it took that to get the job done."

"He brought leadership to the table," Askew added. "He brought a team together that is remarkable. He did the hiring knowing he was going to retire."

Meerkatz's career started and ended in the Flathead Valley. A 1976 graduate of Flathead High School, he worked for a time at automotive shops in Kalispell and spent a summer with the Columbia Falls Aluminum Co. before heading off to college and a career in the business world.

"More important than anything he did professionally, he was just a genuinely good human," said Christy

Cummings Dawson, who worked under Meerkatz for about two years before succeeding him as president of MWED and FCEDA. "I could not ask for a better supporter and cheerleader ... He was always trying to support people, to encourage them and help them expand and grow. He was a big proponent of me taking over after he retired; I could not ask for a better person to have in my corner."

Cummings Dawson said Meerkatz enjoyed spending time with his wife and two children, riding his motorcycle, and welding and fabricating various projects in his garage at home. He was on a road trip with his family when he died, she said.

Kristen Heck, president and owner of LC Staffing in Kalispell, knew Meerkatz for about 15 years as they both served on the boards of Hope Ministries and the Stillwater Christian School. Heck, who also served on the board of MWED, said Meerkatz was "a tremendous asset to our community" who had "a big heart for God and family" and "an achiever work ethic."

Meerkatz also had a natural talent for facilitating collaboration and negotiation among stakeholders in various projects, Heck said.

"Jerry could ask great questions," she said. "And he could keep people talking; Jerry was quite the talker himself, so he just kept the conversation and the relationships moving forward."

Assistant editor Chad Sokol may be reached at 406-758-4439 or csokol@dailyinterlake.com. News editor Lynnette Hintze contributed to this article.

(Cont)

Jerry Meerkatz, 63

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work once again. He worked for the Thompson Group running a start-up company



Jerry Meerkatz was born on Dec. 21, 1957, in Rawlins, Wyoming. His family moved to Kalispell when he was 3 years old. After graduating from Flathead High in 1976, he moved to Phoenix, working full-time, while attending and graduating from DeVry Institute.

He started his career at ITT Courier/Servcom where he and Tori met. They married in 1988 and moved to Houston where he accepted a position with Compaq Computer. There, they had their two kids, Sarah and Jake. After 14 successful years as an executive, and the merging of Compaq and Hewlett-Packard, the decision was made to retire and relocate the family to Montana in 2002. This first retirement only lasted a few months before he went back to work running two separate start-up companies in Vancouver, British Columbia, for five years. His second retirement began in 2008, and during this time he was honored to give back to the community by volunteering and serving on various boards. He especially enjoyed the construction and remodeling projects at both Hope Pregnancy Ministries and Stillwater Christian School with his good friend and business partner, Mark Moerkerke. In 2011 he went back to

in San Jose, California, for three years. Even with all these accomplishments, Jerry's most favorite and most rewarding job was the five years he spent as president and CEO of Montana West Economic Development in Kalispell, where he showcased his leadership, negotiating skills, communication and integrity. MWED was less than a mile away from his house. He was able to come home and have a bologna sandwich for lunch with Tori and Simba daily and this was always so special to him.

Everyone who knew Jerry could speak to his character. He was one of those magnetic people that everyone respected, impacting so many lives without even knowing it. He was generous, kind, loving, encouraging, loyal, thoughtful, hard-working, helpful and, of course, funny as ever. His smile and laugh were contagious and will be forever missed. Everyone will also remember how much Jerry loved to talk. He could start up a conversation with anyone

he met. No matter what store we went into it took an extra 10 minutes to leave because he always knew someone.

Jerry loved doing so many things. He loved working in his newly built shop. He loved welding. He always loved a good project, whether it be home improvement projects or helping others with their projects. He loved riding motorcycles with family and with his motorcycle group, the Ill Begotten Flames. He loved spending quality time with family. He especially felt fortunate living close by his mom. He loved his new puppy, Spencer, and his grand-dogs Hudson, Traeger and Sampson. He loved a double pour of Buffalo Trace with friends. He loved his weekly Thursday date night with Tori at either Spencer's Steakhouse or Brannigan's where they could see their favorite servers and bartenders. He loved looking at new cars, trucks, motorcycles, houses, you name it. We cannot tell you how much time we spent in car lots. On Aug. 27, 2021, the 51st day of his retirement, Jerry was doing what he loved, riding his Harley — a father and son trip that he was so excited to take but unable to finish. Those left to mourn are his wife, Tori; daughter and son-in-law, Sarah

(Cair)
and Steffen Anderson, of Polson; son and daughter-in-law, Jake and Elisabeth Meerkatz, of White Rock, New Mexico; mother, Fran Meerkatz, of Kalispell; sister and brother-in-law, Robin Meerkatz and Frank Panza, of Spokane; mother and father-in-law, Carolyn and Dean Hall, of Scottsdale, Arizona; sister-in-law, Tami Hines, of Gilbert, Arizona; life-long friends, Bill and Cindy Riebe; aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and, of course, numerous friends.

Jerry and Tori celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary one month ago. We have always been such a tight-knit family of six and it is so heartbreaking to know that things are forever changed, but it brings us peace and comfort knowing he met his dad, brother and his favorite dog, Simba in heaven, and will be watching down on us every day until the day we join him.

An open house for Jerry will take place at the Meerkatz home on Saturday Sept. 4, from 2 to 5 p.m., 392 3rd Avenue East North in Kalispell, and condolences may be sent to P.O. Box 703, Kalispell, MT 59903.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

Brandon Lee Meier, 34



Brandon Lee Meier, 34, passed away on Nov. 29, 2021.

Was born on a cold November Day (Nov. 2nd) 1987, at Kalispell Regional.



He was the second son of Dale and Londa Meier and his brother Brent wasn't thrilled. He grew up in a great neighborhood out east of town. He attended Fair Mont Egan School from kindergarten through eighth grade where he played soccer and had many friends. He went on to Flathead High School, continued playing soccer on the select soccer team traveling the state playing. He also played football for the Braves and wrestled.

Brandon graduated in 2006 and enlisted in the United States Army, where he was stationed out of Fort Benning, Georgia, then on to Iraq after basic training. He loved the Army and all the people he met while in. He would have made it a life thing but, while he was home on leave, he lost most of his team in a roadside bomb. That made him change his mind. He had a lot of awards and commendations from the Army but talked very little about it. Upon returning home he wandered, worked odd jobs and felt kind of useless. He was just thinking of going to culinary school when he passed.

Brandon lost his

brother Brent in 2000 and he and Tawnni, his sister, became very close. He was a super "link" to her two kids, Hadley and Daxon. They had many great adventures together in their short little lives; piggy back rides were their favorite.

Brandon was an avid hunter and fisherman and was disappointed this year at not getting anything while out hunting. Brandon had a big heart and was always willing to help a friend in need. He will be missed by many.

Brandon leaves behind his mom Londa Meier of Kalispell, sister and husband Tawnni and Zac Clouse, and niece and nephew Hadley and Daxon Clouse, of Lakeside; his maternal grandma Brenda Ocheltree of Great Falls, uncles James (Fran) Hodgson of Chinook, Aaron Ocheltree of Spokane, Allen (Danyell) Ocheltree of Great Falls, and aunts Carrie Meier of Arizona and Renee Erdman of Florida and there kids.

Brandon was preceded in death by grandparents Mob and Marian Meier and Jim Ocheltree, brother Brent Meier, and dad Dale Meier.

Graveside services will be held Saturday, Dec. 11, at 1 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. No visitation will be held. Lunch will follow at the Kalispell Elks.

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

Darlington Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Terry Mero



Terry Mero of Bend, Oregon, died peacefully Nov. 17, 2021.

Terry was born and raised in Kalispell and graduated from high school in 1960 where he excelled in athletics. He played baseball, was an all-state wrestling champion, a state champion football player for which he received a full ride scholarship to Montana State and graduated with a degree in education in 1964.

He met his wife Barbara in Libby, and married her in 1965. After son Ron was born, they moved to Gold Beach, Oregon, where daughter Julie was born and in 1972 they settled permanently in Bend.

Terry worked at Bend High as a wood shop teacher, athletic director, coached baseball, football, and wrestling. He continued his education at University of Oregon, becoming a die-hard fan and received his Master of Administration degree. He then became vice principal at Bend High, then principal at Pilot Butte Middle School until he retired in 1998.

Terry was a member

at Bend Golf Club for over 40 years, enjoyed golf, travel, sports, hunting, fishing,

working in his yard, and spending time with family and friends. He was a great father and loved being a grandfather to his three grandchildren.

Terry was preceded in death by his parents, his two sisters, and wife Barbara.

He leaves behind his children Ron and Julie, grandchildren Zachary, Hannah, Connor, companion Beverly, and many dear friends. He will be greatly missed.

His family would like to thank everyone for the heartfelt prayers and condolences, and especially Partners in Care Hospice House for the extraordinary care they gave him in his final days.

A memorial service will be held Jan. 15, 2022, at the First United Methodist Church at noon, with a celebration of life to follow at Bend Golf and Country Club.

Cynthia 'Cindy' Membrino, 63

Cynthia "Cindy" Membrino, 63, of Kalispell, died May 6, 2021, at Brendan House.

She is survived by her son Dennis Membrino and daughter Christina Zesk.

No services are scheduled. Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Tara Brooke Metheny, 43

Tara Brooke Metheny, 43, of Kalispell, died June 6, 2021, at Logan Health Medical Center in Kalispell.

Services will be held in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

MEMORIAL

Bertha Meyers

PAS 16 June 2021
 A memorial service for Bertha Meyers, 87, who died Dec. 1, 2020, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 19, at Kalispell First Church of the Nazarene. A luncheon will follow at the church.

John Meyer

PAG 15 Dec 2021

 John Meyer was born in 1933 in Kent, Ohio, to Grace and Russell Meyer and died on Dec. 8, 2021. After graduating from high school there he joined the Navy and served as a radarman on the USS Robert A. Owens. He returned to Kent after his discharge before moving to Los Angeles and beginning work at Crocker Bank where he met his future wife, Beverly Clark. He was transferred to the San Francisco area with his wife and two children, with a third arriving soon after.

He loved to hunt and fish, so the family moved to Montana in 1971, settling in Columbia Falls and living on Highway

2 for over 40 years. He worked on the Alaska pipeline in Prudhoe Bay, in Saudi Arabia, Israel, and finally as a caretaker for property in California. Throughout his life, he was a man who did things his own way, sometimes to the amusement and consternation of his family.

He is survived by his wife Beverly, children Michael of St. Cloud, Minnesota, Carla (Mark) Hillman of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, and São Paulo, Brazil, Gregory of Issaquah, Washington, Sharon (Jason) McDonald of Havre, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. at Darlington Cremation and Burial Services.

Nancy Lee Meyer, 77

PAS 10 Jan 2022
 Nancy Lee Meyer, 77, departed her earthly home to unite with her heavenly Father, Dec. 30, 2021. Born Feb. 28, 1944, to Gilbert and Frances McWhorter of Kila, she was fourth born of nine children, Helen, *Chuck, Hazel, Jo, Russell, Rex, Loni, and Patti (deceased).



cars. Nancy is survived by three sons, Loren Dugan and wife

Nancy married Fred Meyer, and together, raised a beautiful family at their Evergreen home. She was devoted to her family.

Nancy, a huntress, bagged deer, antelope and elk; a gardener, maintained a large well-manicured lawn; a hostess, lovingly developed her property and planned family reunions, weddings, and other gatherings. She loved to sing Karaoke with family and friends, and spent much time camping, huckleberry picking, tating, needlepointing, and crocheting.

Nancy retired as Kalispell station manager at National Car Rental. She traveled the state training new managers and repositioning

Sonia of Boise, Idaho, Sean Dugan and wife Sherri of Bigfork, and Kelly Meyer and wife Dinah of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Her grandchildren, Chandra, Kyle, Tasia, Alec, Haley, Justin and Shonda and great grandchildren Noah, Milo, Adeline, Tinsley, Camden, Emily, Westley, Skyler, Konner, and Gwenevere delighted her.

Nancy was a pillar, a rock, generous, frank, strong, devoted, loving and irreplaceable.

A memorial will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church, 2200 U.S. 2 E, Kalispell, on Monday, Jan. 10, at 1:30 p.m. A potluck gathering will follow in the fellowship hall. Flowers may be sent to the church on the day of services.