

Eila 'Jinks' Mae Vachal, 95

Eila Mae was born to Amelia and Hilbert Jennings in Minot, North Dakota on May 29, 1927, joining brother Ted. She peacefully went to heaven to celebrate Christmas with husband Harold on Dec. 3, 2022 at Expressions Memory Care (Prestige Assisted Living).



Jinks was a member of Eidsvold Lutheran Church for over 60 years.

Even when her mind was failing her, she prayed for us every day, and her church was a primary concern. She was part of the prayer group and helped make hundreds of quilts for Lutheran World Relief. She was often behind the scenes in the kitchen. If a family had a death or serious illness, she would show up with a meal, usually soup. Jinks had a very special gift to sit with friends in their last days. All the kids - of any age - knew the cookie jar would be full, and she was known for her Christmas bread. She also made Christmas

cookies every year with three generations of kids, and the granddaughters carry on that tradition today.

Although Mom missed her house on the lake, she loved her family at Expressions. We are forever thankful that she was so blessed by her "helpers" there who cared for her so lovingly. And we couldn't have asked for more special women in her final days than her Hestia Hospice team.

Jinks was preceded in death by her parents and brother. Her beloved husband Harold's funeral was on what would have been their 72nd anniversary, Sept. 28, 2019.

She is survived by daughter Suzi (Jack) Watteyne; son Dan (Janice) Vachal; grandchildren Cody (Renee) Jones, Danna (Claudio)

Gonzales, Amy (Chad) Wambach and JoeE (Christina) Vachal; and great-grandchildren Clara and Joel Jones, Bryton and Kaden Wambach, Josiah and Anaiah Gonzales, Jasper and Jenavieve Vachal, and Brandi Vachal. She is also survived by sister-in-law Doris Seney; nieces Sherry, JoAnn, Kathi and Karen; sister-in-law Jenny; nephew Paul; nieces Gail and Diane, and many "honorary kids."

Services will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11 at Eidsvold Lutheran Church with Pastor Scott Thompson. Friends are encouraged to visit our website at www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Tricia 'Trish' Valler

My beloved wife went home peacefully to the arms of her Lord Jesus Christ on April 6, 2022. Trish died at home with her loving husband Michael and her dear friend Doris sitting at her bedside.



Flarty, and cousin Carol Morrison.

She worked for many years in property management and book-keeping for single and multiple family dwellings of houses, apartments and mobile home parks.

Trish liked to garden, dance, fish, and write notes and send cards, which seemed to be her life's mission. She had been an avid bowler and horsewoman, riding her Strawberry Roan Tennessee Walker "Cindy" in parades and barrel racing.

Her life revolved around her Lord Jesus Christ and beloved husband Mike who was also her excellent caregiver. She loved people, staying in touch with old and new friends and making them feel special (she was told) by writing and phoning, showing genuine concern. Trish also loved animals, large and small, especially her Yorkie "Teddy," squirrels, and hummingbirds.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sons, stepsister Pamela Owens, and many close dear friends of a disappearing generation.

"Dry your tears of sorrow, please grieve for me no more. That's me, you see, standing with Jesus at Heaven's door."

She was born in Riverside, California, to Jack and Peggy Shaffer, an only child. A few years later, her parents divorced and her mother met and married Palmer Younglove who adopted Trish. She graduated from Polytechnic High School and went one year to Riverside Business College. Trish worked as a long distance telephone operator, a licensed radio dispatcher, and proof-reader/receptionist for the Wall Street Journal. There they nick-named her "Sunshine." (They said her smile lit up every room she entered.)

Trish married Gerald Young (in the Navy) in San Francisco. They had two sons, Bruce and William, both now deceased. The family returned to the Riverside area, moved to Flagstaff, Arizona, and then Kalispell. Several years later and a divorce, she met and married Michael Valler, the love of her life. Her new family included three sons Trish lovingly accepted as her own.

She is survived by her husband, sons Michael (Sandra), Todd (Joanna), and Scott (Heather), eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, nephew William

Barry Vanderstouw, 67

Barry William Vanderstouw, 67, of Ledger, passed away on Dec. 27, 2022 at his home after a long and difficult battle with numerous health challenges.

He was born in Auburn, New York on Oct. 12, 1955, son of the late Cornelius and Bonnie Vanderstouw. He is survived by his three sons, Casey, Jeff, and Ryan, and his daughter, Crystal. He is also survived by four siblings, Wendy, Robert, Karl and Richard including their spouses and numerous nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his seven grandchildren: Viviana, Cadence, Xavier, Cora, Harlow, Eli, and Autumn.

Barry graduated from Port Byron, New York High School in 1973 and served honorably in the United States Air Force until 1979. He served proudly around the globe in a high op tempo status as a C-130 Hercules Crew Chief earning numerous recognitions in support of Tactical Airlift and Special Forces Operations while obtaining numerous military citations. He aspired to the rank of Sergeant.

Upon discharge from the service, Barry returned with his family to Auburn, where he worked at Auburn Steel until 1998. Upon completion of his long tenure at Auburn Steel, he moved with his family to Montana where he pursued a highly successful 20-plus years career in the firearms and gunsmith industry. He initially worked for Kimber of America where he became a firearms salesman, technical firearms specialist, load designer, advisor, and technician. Barry was well-known throughout the firearms industry for his savvy skills and intricate knowledge of custom reloading and rifle



accuracy design and improvement.

Besides professional gunsmithing and custom hand loading, he was

an incredibly gifted mechanic and avid whitetail deer hunter. After his tenure in the firearms industry, he started a career in farming at Golden Grain Farms by Shelby, Montana troubleshooting and repairing various technical farming machinery while further pursuing his gunsmith career with various clients.

He was a wonderful father, mentor, friend, and avid outdoorsman with a strong love for life, friends, family, and the outdoors. Barry had a lifelong dream of living in Montana and successfully pursued those dreams with his drive and dedication. The family would like to note his love and adoration for the Flesch family of Shelby, and how much he loved, was proud, and appreciated being welcomed into their family.

A memorial service will be held in the spring of 2023 at the Whitted Funeral Chapel, 225 6th Ave S., Shelby, Montana 59474. Burial service will be held at Golden Grain Farms preceding the service at 214 Torske Rd. Ledger, Montana 59425. Friends and family are welcomed to a gathering with refreshments immediately after the service. For additional information for the date and time of the service, please contact Barry's son Ryan at (757) 870-8077 or by e-mail: rjvander18@gmail.com. Condolences to www.asperfh.com.

June M. Van Koten, 92

June M. Van Koten, 92, a lifelong resident of Montana, passed away July 18, 2022, in Whitefish.



(Elizabeth), Doug Van Koten, and David Van Koten (Carrie); nine grandchildren; four

She was born June 17, 1930, in Great Falls to George Yoder and Hilda Yoder (Overson).

June was strong in faith and was a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Great Falls before she moved to Whitefish in 2018. Other than being a homemaker for her four children, June enjoyed playing golf while she was a member of the Meadowlark Country Club. June was a talented singer and was involved with the Melodeers in Great Falls.

June's passion was her family, especially her grandchildren. She chose Bestemor ("Grandmother" in Norwegian) as the personalized plate for her car. She showed her love with her cooking skills and made many exceptional red velvet cakes from scratch for family birthdays. Holidays were always filled with home-made lefse, krumkake and sauerkraut soup for special occasions.

June is survived by sons, Darrel Van Koten

great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; brother, Jerry Yoder, of Great Falls; sister, Doris Fabel, of Great Falls; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, June was preceded in death by her daughter, Diane Jensen; and daughter-in-law, Barbara Van Koten.

The family would like to thank the staff at The Springs in Whitefish for providing such loving care during mom's stay.

A celebration of June M. Van Koten's life will be held at a future date at The Springs at Whitefish, 1001 River Lakes Pkwy., Whitefish, MT 59937. Inurnment will be held privately at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, family requests memorials to your favorite charity in her memory. To send online condolences, please visit www.austinhf.com.

Dianne Kay Vickhammer, 72

Dianne Kay Vickhammer passed away on Oct. 22, 2022, at St. Luke's Hospital with her family by her bedside. She battled a brief onset with pneumonia. She was 72 years old.



joys was meeting her daughter, Trena Harris. They were able to meet in Lewiston,

She was born on May 7, 1950, in Kalispell, the daughter of Jack R. Spafford and Helen L. Spafford. She graduated from Flathead High School in 1968.

In 1970 she moved to Spokane, Washington, with her husband. In 1972 she had her first son, Brad. In August of 1975, Dianne welcomed her second son, Todd, into the family. She later moved back to Kalispell where she resided until moving to Idaho. Dianne worked at a number of businesses but spent 15-plus years working for National Flood Insurance.

In 2009 Dianne was diagnosed with Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma and moved to Idaho to be closer to her eldest son and her doctors in Salt Lake City. She successfully beat her cancer and she was very proud of that accomplishment.

In the last few years, one of Dianne's greatest

Idaho, where Trena was raised by her adoptive parents. Dianne also enjoyed spending time with her boys and taking care of her loving cats, Cookie and Frank. Her hobbies included watching football, watching true crime mysteries, spending time with her friends and shopping. Her feisty attitude and perseverance will be missed by friends and family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Helen.

She is survived by her children Trena Harris, Brad (Jennifer) Vickhammer and Todd (Jenny) Vickhammer, and grandchildren Beau, Brycen, Jake, Zach, Cooper and Elly.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations in Dianne's name to the West Valley Humane Society in Caldwell, Idaho.

Jeanne Irene Vining



Jeanne Irene Vining, 81, cherished daughter of Robert Bruce Vining and Helen Bertha Gross

Vining, passed away on Nov. 5, 2022. Jeannie was born in Kalispell on Dec. 19, 1940, raised in Whitefish, and enjoyed many activities and community events in the beautiful Flathead Valley. As a young adult, Jeannie moved to Portland, Oregon to reside at the Martha Washington Girls Hotel which was operated by the Portland Women's Union and worked as an elevator operator at The Heathman Hotel.

She later returned to Whitefish and devoted her life to caring for her parents, after they had retired from their careers with the Great Northern Railway.

Jeannie was a life member of Vista Chapter No. 44, Order of the Eastern Star, and a member of the First Presbyterian Church, where her father served as an elder and her mother served as a deacon. Jeannie always impressed

her parents and friends with her sharp memory. She enjoyed many community activities, her mother's music ("Flathead, The Valley That I Love"), and baking huckleberry pies for friends and family. She often entered crafts in the Northwest Montana Fair and was proud to display the ribbons she won.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her favorite aunt, Irene Nelson of St. Paul,

Minnesota. In her later years, Jeannie resided at Whitefish Health Care and Rehabilitation Center, formerly the Colonial Manor. Services were held at Whitefish City Cemetery.

Please visit www.austinhf.com to send condolences to the family. Austin Funeral & Cremation Services in Whitefish is caring for the family.

Joseph Voermans Jr., 94

Joseph Voermans Jr. died Jan. 1, 2022, of natural causes. He was 94 years old. He is the son of Doris (Sindt) Voermans and Joseph Voermans. Joe was the first of three sons; his brother Jack and brother Jacob are both deceased. He was born in Whitefish and lived in the Flathead Valley his entire life except for a few months when he followed his high school sweetheart, Billie Reichert, to Omaha, Nebraska, to marry her. He worked at Boys Town, but they were called back to the family dairy farm and he worked there until it was sold. During that time, they had two children, Judy and Jennifer. After the sale of the dairy farm, Joe went to work for Red Harding at Whitefish Lumber. He delivered lumber to the site of the new post office and, when the opportunity to work for USPS was available, he took the job. He served the postal service for 31 years in various capacities,

including interim postmaster at Lakeside Post Office. During those years a third child arrived, Jacob. Sadly, Billie died unexpectedly in 1966.

In the alley behind the Pastime where Joe ate his lunch and played some cards, he met Jean Brash, who worked for Leo Fisher. In 1967 they were married and two more children were added to the family, Vance and Paul Brash. The boys filled the 13-year gap between Jake and Jennifer and Jake now had older brothers. The house was full! The boys played Little League baseball and Joe coached and became president of the Little League. Before he even had children, he volunteered for the Boys Scouts and stayed for 38 years.



Volunteering was important to him. In 1999 he was honored as Volunteer of the Year for his many years of giving. His last and best volunteer job was to teach fourth graders how to play cribbage at Ruder and Glacier elementary schools as an R.S.V.P. volunteer. But the volunteer job that caused the most pride was the honor of being the first Queen of the Yetis for the Whitefish Winter Carnival in 1960. He was part of the Whitefish Jaycees and they created the Yetis to the delight and fright of the Whitefish Winter Carnival revelers.

Joe was a Navy veteran and a life member of the VFW. He was also a life member of the Lions Club, serving as charter president of the Whitefish club. He was a member of the Moose Club and the Jaycees. He was a city-county planning board member and a member of the St. Charles Catholic Church Parish Council. In Columbia Falls, he served meals at St. Richard

Catholic Church. He volunteered for the North Valley Food Bank and was "general flunky" for the Columbia Falls Senior Center when his wife, Jean, was the manager.

He was a greater-than-average cribbage player and a mean pinochle player. He taught all his kids to play card games and it was hard to beat the master.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Jean Voermans; and four of his five children, Judy Voermans Willey (Dru), Jennifer Voermans Wheeler (Clark), Jacob Voermans (Michelle), and Vance Brash (Kristie). His son Paul Brash (Linda) is deceased. He has numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as many cousins.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. at the Columbia Mortuary, 1010 4th Avenue W., Columbia Falls.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Steven V. Voigt

March 12, 1950 to May 8, 2022

Mr. Steve Voigt passed away on May 8, 2022, at the age of 72 after a fall at his home in Ridgefield, Washington.

Steve was born and raised in Whitefish Montana. He was a boy scout and merit badge recipient. He participated in many school activities and was quite talented, particularly in football playing linebacker and full back in high school. He was selected for the

Doug Street award in 1967.

Steve was selected to receive an Air Force Academy scholarship but opted to attend the University of Montana where he earned an English degree with teacher certification.

Steve was a teacher and coach for 37 years beginning in Fort Benton, Montana and completing 35 of those years in Belgrade, Montana.

Steve touched the lives of hundreds of stu-

dents during his long tenure at Belgrade High School. Whether on the gridiron, theatre stage or in the classroom, he was a favorite with kids. He truly was a renaissance man and possessed an insatiable appetite for teaching and learning.

Steve was an avid hunter-outdoorsman and brilliant historian. He taught university field classes on Lewis & Clark, Glacier National Park, the Mann Gulch Fire, the Bozeman Trail and

the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

A scholarship in his memory will be upcoming to students from Belgrade High School.

Fern P. Vosen, 95

Fern P. Vosen, 95, passed away due to natural causes at her Kalispell residence on Sunday, Oct. 30, 2022.

Vigil services will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8, at St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church, Havre. Funeral Mass will begin at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022, also at St. Jude Catholic Church. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery.

Fern's family has suggested memorial donations be made in her memory to Logan Health Hospice, 275 Corporate Drive No. 600, Kalispell, MT 59901; St. Raphael's Grotto, 412 3rd Ave. N., Glasgow, MT 59230; or the charity of the donor's choice.

Holland & Bonine Funeral Home in Havre has been entrusted with services and arrangements. Please visit Fern's online memorial page to send a card or leave a message of condolence for her family at www.hollandbonine.com.

Fern was born on Sept. 24, 1927, in Cottonwood, Montana to Oscar and Marie (Verploegen) Thompson. She was raised in the Cottonwood community, attending St. Jude Catholic School, and graduating from Havre High School in 1946. Fern attended the Pratt School of Design in New York, and in 1948 took the McConnel Airline Stewardess Course, which culminated in her working for TWA as a stewardess. In 1949, Fern married John S. Vosen, and in 1961 the couple made their home in Glasgow, where they raised their eight children. There, Fern helped support her family as an artist, worked for AVCO at the Glasgow Air Force Base, and as a saleswoman with Kirby Vacuum, World Book Encyclopedia, Avon, Melaleuca, Tupperware,



Royal Neighbors Insurance, Shaklee, Bosh and Magic Mill, Distillers.

She moved to Kalispell in 2019 to live with her sons Mark and Mike.

Fern was an adventurous, loving and fiercely devoted wife and mother. She imbued her children with creativity and was passionate about her artwork, painting, sculpting, sewing, rug-making, bleeding turnips, creating something from nothing, rock and buffalo bone hunting, gardening and interior decorating, and she absolutely loved dancing.

Fern rode horseback in the 1989 Montana Centennial Cattle Drive, and at the age of 79 rode horseback for 94 miles through the Bob Marshall Wilderness. She was a member of St. Raphael Catholic Church and Altar Society and the Royal Neighbors of America.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John "Jack" Vosen, and parents, Oscar Thompson and Marie Thompson VanderVen.

Fern is survived by her daughters, Sheila (Perry) Vosen-Shorten of Glasgow, Pamela Joe Quinn of Great Falls, Mary Lynn Vosen of Fairfield, and Jennifer (Jack) Thornburg of Bozeman; sons, Gregory (Karen) Vosen of Great Falls, David Vosen of Billings, Mark Vosen of Kalispell, and Michael Vosen of Nashville, Tennessee; 15 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; siblings, Kathleen Stewart and Peter VanderVen, both of Havre; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Gene Vuckovich, 86

Visitation for Gene Vuckovich, 86, who passed away July 12, 2022, in Anaconda will begin



Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church on Wednesday, July 20. There will be one hour of visitation prior to the service at the church.

at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Anaconda. The rosary will be recited at 6:30 p.m. and the vigil will begin at 7 p.m.

Mass of Christian

Longfellow Finnegan Riddle Funeral & Cremation Service is entrusted with Gene's funeral arrangements. You may pay your condolences at www.longfellowfinneganriddle.com.