

James Blow, 68

On Tuesday, July 11, 2023, James W. Blow, a beloved dad, grandfather, coach, teacher and retired Naval Officer passed away at the age of 68.

Born to Agnes and Harry Blow, Dec. 29, 1954. He graduated from Emporia High School, class of 1972, and upon graduation he joined the Navy.

While in the Navy, he earned a bachelor of science degree in computer system science and attended electronic 'A' schools in cryptography.

His first tour of duty was at the Naval Security Group Activity in Keflavik, Iceland. During this tour he was made a dad with the birth of his son, Eric in 1974.

During his time in the Navy, he worked his way from an enlisted to Officer over his 25 year



career. Upon retiring, he settled in Montana where he worked in journalism, photography, firefighting, teaching and coaching.

He loved exploring Glacier National Park and would often spend time hiking and photographing the beauty of the park. Never one to sit still, he was a long time golfer and in recent years became an avid pickleball player.

In his spare time he put his love of coaching to work, coaching football, basketball, volleyball and tennis in youth, middle and high school sports for boys and girls in Montana.

He was always learn-



ing and sharing his knowledge with all. In more recent years, he also took to baking, breads, cookies, bagels, scones, sweet rolls, pies and



shared them with pickleball friends, teammates, neighbors and the kids he coached.

He is preceded in death by his father, Harry; mother, Agnes; brothers and sisters, Harry Earnest, Robert, Nelson, Donald, Darlene, Jack, Roy, Ray and Patricia.

He is survived by his son, Eric (Val and three grandsons, Caleb, Jackson and Tristan);

brother, Harry Blow; sister, Mary Jane Blow; sisters, Shirley Headley, Judith Rice and Brenda Freeman; as well as many nephews and nieces.

Two celebrations of life will be held. The first at 1 p.m. on Sept. 3, 1004 Road 240, Emporia, Kansas 66801. The second being at 1 p.m. on Sept. 9, at Holt Stage Hideaway, 2053 Holt Stage Road, Kalispell. Service and tributes will begin around 1:30 p.m. with light refreshments and hor d'oeuvres to follow.

There will be time for visitors to share stories that celebrate Jim's life. Memorial donations may be directed to Glacier National Park. <https://glacier.org/tribute-gifts/>.

Ronald G. Bond, 86

Ronald G. Bond, 86, died on Saturday surrounded by his family. His mind was as sharp as ever, but over the past few months his body betrayed him.

If you're reading this, you knew what Ron was about. Nobody loved Columbia Falls more than Ron. He loved his friends and neighbors, the Cats and Kats, the unrivaled beauty of the Flathead Valley and Glacier National Park, the surrounding lakes, and the

hiking trails that he and Mary traversed over their 38 years of marriage.

You knew Ron as a teacher, as a musician, as an athlete, as a community volunteer, and mostly, as a friend. You no doubt laughed with him.

What you may not know about Ron is that he was born in Butte and raised in Walkerville,



graduated from Butte High, earned a music degree from Rocky Mountain College, was a starting college pitcher and was enshrined into the Rocky Mountain College Baseball Hall of Fame, taught music at CFHS and West Glacier for decades, established and directed the Columbia Falls Community Choir for 40 years, and coached numerous baseball teams, including the Glacier Twins.

Above all, Ron loved his family, and we loved him back.

We hope you will join us in celebrating the remarkable life of our dad, husband, grandpa, brother and uncle. Bring your stories and, as Ron was prone to do, embellish them for effect.

The celebration will begin at 2 p.m. at St. Richard Catholic Church on Saturday, June 3.

Elizabeth Bonitz, 63

Elizabeth Ann Bonitz, 63, of Columbia Falls, passed away April 17, 2023.

She was born April 28, 1959, in Pineville, Kentucky to the late John W. Wilson and Mary Katherine Wilson (Viall).

Elizabeth was a loving and caring wife and had a passion for animals, large and small. Professionally, she was a microbiologist and medical technologist, with two BS degrees from ASU. In her younger years, she enjoyed playing the piano, and more recently enjoyed boating. Elizabeth and Lew had many cats over the years that she and her husband had adopted/rescued.

Elizabeth is survived



by her husband of 42 years, Lew Bonitz; brother, David Wilson;

sister, Susan Booth Barham; and brother-in-law, Bill C. Barham. In addition to her parents,

Elizabeth is preceded in death by her nephew, John Barham.

Services will be held privately at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made payable to "Humane Society of Northwest Montana," 100 Adopt A Pet Way, U.S. 93, Kalispell, MT 59901.

To send online condolences, please visit www.columbiamortuary.com.

Bonnie Toole Boon, 63

Saturday, God reached down and took Bonnie Toole Boon's hand. She was happily greeted by those who have passed that way before her.

Born on Jan. 18, 1960, to Bruce and Elaine Toole, the youngest of three daughters. She spent her early childhood in Billings until the family moved full-time to their beloved cabin on the Swan River. She attended Bigfork High School, graduating in 1978.

Her path took her down a wild ride, her family was grateful she survived and moved on with her life, and yes, she lived beyond 21 years of age after all.

She married and lived in Bozeman for a short time where her daughter Jessica Marie was born. Bonnie and Jessica



moved back to Bigfork where Bonnie fell in love with a local Somers boy, Rich Boon and off

to viva Las Vegas for a Groundhog Day wedding in 1998.

Thus began their life together filled with hunting, fishing, riding Harleys and being in the great outdoors. They moved from the home they built in Somers to their log home on the hill in Bigfork, where Bonnie took pleasure in watching Rich cut firewood, work his magic on their 3 acres, all while she was picking morels and canning anything that a person could can.

They enjoyed their eve-

nings sitting at the firepit and finishing their day. For many years Bonnie was everyone's favorite daytime bartender, you could find her at the Vista Linda, Dell's Bar, The Tall Pine and then as a baker at Harvest Foods. She had a great following from customers and friends wherever she went.

Bonnie is preceded in death by her father, Bruce Toole; in-laws, Sonny Boon and Joyce Boon; and stepfather, RT Adkins.

She is survived by her soul mate, Rich Boon; daughter, Jessica Mickelson; mother, Elaine Toole Atkins; sisters, Cherie Hansen (finance' Rob Wink), Carrine Toole; grandchildren, Makenzie and Jaxxon; Rich's seven siblings,

Jack, Dan, Tina, Beth, Tom, Sonja, Fred; their spouses and children; local nephews, Patrick Landon, Zac Hansen; as well as three step-siblings, Trevert, Vicki and Shawn Atkins. She had many friends, especially Marilyn Wilkens and Rebecca Gabrielson, her heart was full.

Special thanks to Dr. Ness and Dr. Bromberg and their wonderful staff for their extraordinary care of Bonnie while she fought COPD and lung cancer.

A celebration of Bonnie's life will be held at the A Bar in Bigfork on Saturday, Aug. 19, from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

Judy Sharline Borland, 79

Judy Sharline Borland, 79, passed away on June 23, 2023, in Kalispell.

She was born Aug. 27, 1943, and was the youngest of six children.

She is survived by her loving husband of 33 years, Don Borlan. Her daughter, Penelope Lawson (husband Robert) of Anchorage, Alaska; her daughter, Tiffany Borland of Kalispell; her daughter, Shawna Barnes (husband Kevin) of Jerome, Idaho. Her grandchildren, Marcus Barnes (wife Kathy), Johnny Barnes (wife Devin), and her many great-grandchildren.

She is remembered as



a loving mother, wife and friend. Her cooking and humor will be missed by all.

A visitation will be held for Judy between 5-7 p.m. on Friday, June 30, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

A graveside service will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 1, at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

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

Kathleen (Herman) Bowers, 76

Kathleen Bowers, 76, passed away peacefully with family at her bedside on Nov. 27, 2023. She was born on Nov. 6, 1947, in Williston, North Dakota, to Phillip and Anna Herman.

In 1948, the family moved to Columbia Falls where she grew up and attended school.

She married and divorced twice, having children, Ronda Baker and Arnie Deans. She then met the love of her life, Harry (Sonny)

ers, Eugene Pepper, Donnie, Arnie, Henry and Charles Herman; stepson, Billy Bowers; and great-grandson, Dominik Dooley.

She is survived by daughter, Rhonda Baker; son, Arnie Deans; stepchildren, Karen Jennison, MaryAnn Davis, Patricia Parsons, Harry Bowers, John Oved and Katherine Lanegan; brothers, Robert and Harold Herman; sisters, Rose and Vivian

Bowers and married on June 5, 1980. This union added seven stepchildren to her family.

She loved the outdoors, which included camping, fishing, picking huckleberries and mushrooms. Her favorite pastime was playing with all the grandkids and was also a great-great grandma. She was loved by her family and friends and will be greatly missed.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Sonny; her parents; sister, Mary LaRoque; broth-

Gladeau. Along with 24 grandchildren, 49 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

The family would like to give a special thank you to Dr. Kalbfleisch for many years of wonderful care.

A celebration of Kathleen's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Dec. 16, at the Family Life Christian Church, Kalispell.

Everyone who knew Kathleen is welcome to join us in remembering her and sharing stories.