

Lydia Eastburn, 82

Lydia Ann Eastburn, M.D., 82, died Nov. 1, 2023.

She was a graduate of Temple University Medical School and Loma Linda University's Ob-Gyn residency program. She practiced obstetrics and gynecology at Providence Hospital Anchorage from 1974 until 2002.

Having developed a worsening movement disorder in 1998, she retired and became increasingly unable to live an independent lifestyle. In 2008, she moved to Lakeside with her sister, Celia. She developed painful orthopedic problems and spent her last months in a nursing home.

On the medical staff of Providence Hospital, she was valued for her competence and maturity. Years of on-call availability involved middle of night awakenings for deliveries, emergencies, or just telephone assurance to those unable to manage their anxieties till the fol-

lowing morning, all while maintaining her equanimity. Unlike her male colleagues, she was never one to complain, drink, chew, curse, spit, gossip, or find fault with others. Day in, day out she was there to support her patients and staff.

She was loved and respected by nurses and fellow physicians, who felt the loss of her premature retirement and mourned her departure. She was a clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology, University of Washington College of Medicine, with medical students rotating through her office.

Lydia's interests were varied. Her love of travel took her to some portion of every continent and throughout much of Alaska. She read widely with a special interest in the accomplishments of women.

She is survived by her sister, Celia Eastburn, of Kalispell.

Keith M. Eckelberry, 80

In loving memory of Keith Eckelberry.

Keith Eckelberry, 80, born on Jan. 20, 1943, in Kalispell, peacefully departed this world on Dec. 3, 2023, following a courageous battle with pulmonary fibrosis. He was surrounded by the love of his family during his final moments.

He is now reunited with his parents, Gerald and Joan Eckelberry; his brother, Gary Eckelberry; and grandsons, JT Lowe; and Parker Carvajal, who preceded him in death.

After graduating from Flathead High School, he embarked on a distinguished career at Equity Supply/Cenex, to which he dedicated 34 years of service, retiring as the credit manager.

He left an indelible mark on the farming community in the Flathead, impacting the lives of many. Beyond his professional life, he found joy in pursuits such as bowling, golf, and the camaraderie of Saturday morning breakfasts with friends.

He enjoyed many years of playing golf at Village Greens and greatly appreciated the kindness extended to him there by staff and members alike. He was also an avid enthusiast of remote-control airplanes, and he spent many years building and flying them.

Keith, a dedicated family man, was a source of strength for his children and grand-



children. His passion for sports and family extended to coaching Little League

baseball, significantly influencing his son Rick's baseball career.

He is survived by the love of his life and wife, Sandie, of 43 years; his children, Rick Eckelberry (Gerianne) of Kalispell; Tami Eckelberry Starley of Kalispell; and Marla Carvajal of Phoenix, Arizona; his sister, Marlesse Eckelberry Baines (Bud) of Amarillo, Texas; and Sandie's son, Mike Newell of Deer Park, Washington.

A proud and devoted spouse, parent, and grandparent, Keith leaves behind seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His absence will be deeply felt by family and friends who cherished his company.

Keith Eckelberry will be remembered for his boundless kindness, infectious humor, and unwavering love for his family.

A celebration of Keith's life will be held at 1 p.m. on Dec. 15, at the First Presbyterian Church in Kalispell. Join us as we honor and cherish the memories of a remarkable man who touched the lives of many.

Steven Eckels, 67

Steven Zdenek Eckels died April 3, 2023, at his home in Kalispell. He had retired from teaching guitar for 22 years at Kalispell School District 5, Flathead and Glacier high schools in June 2022.

Steve is survived by his wife, JoAnn Johnson Eckels and two cats, Giggles and Sunshine, Kalispell; his sister, Deanna (Dede) Eckels, her husband Peter Skoro, his son, Tyler Jeffry Eckels, Bayfield, Wisconsin; and three nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Lucille Eckels; and his brother, Jeffry Eckels.

Steve was born in Las Vegas, New Mexico on Aug. 18, 1955. He came from a family of musicians with Czech roots. He took guitar lessons from Johnny Westbrook and received classical lessons from Jesus Silva at the North Carolina School of the Arts. In 1973 he moved to Boston where he worked with his brother as the guitar/bass duo The Eckels Brothers. They released their first of three albums "Fresh Powder," for which Charlie Byrd wrote the liner notes.

Steve received his bachelor's degree of music, major in applied music from Berklee College of Music in 1977, Cum Laude, and his master's degree of music from

the New England Conservatory in 1980, with recognition of his work in Afro-American studies, guitar.

In 1983, he moved to Wisconsin, where he worked with his father at Eckels Pottery. He met and married Julie Hendricks. They moved to Winchester, Massachusetts, where he was hired to teach at Berklee College of Music during the 1984-1985 school year. After that year, they returned to Wisconsin so that Julie could continue her teaching career. Steve attended Northland College to get his music teaching certification and taught guitar and voice there. To this union, Steve's only son, Tyler Jeffry Eckels was born on Aug. 25, 1986. Tyler inherited his many musical talents from his parents.

As a writer for Mel Bay Publications and Alfred Publications, Steven is the author of over 20 guitar textbooks, many of which were the first of their kind. He recorded the CD "Woodland Winds" with



the Native American musician Frank Montano. He taught guitar at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces and became a columnist for "Fingerstyle Guitar Magazine" from 1996-2000.

He was offered a position teaching guitar and "The History of Rock and Roll" at Kalispell School District 5, and moved to Kalispell in 2000. He taught in both Flathead and Glacier high schools. In the summers between 2001 and 2003, he attended Master Classes with Christopher Parkening, which resulted in Steve's CD "Sparks from the 7 Worlds — Classical Guitar Masterpieces." More recently, during the height of the Covid epidemic, he studied online master classes with Carlos Santana. In 2009, Steve received the distinction of National Board Certified Teacher, specializing in Music/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood.

Steve recorded 12 incredibly diverse CDs during his illustrious career. His music can be heard on Spotify, Pandora and YouTube.

While living in Kalispell, Steve played solo and duet guitar for special functions, at local establishments and arts/music fairs. He also formed two very popular bands, Woodstock, and The BelAires. Most

recently he has been playing jazz guitar as a duo in local restaurants. Last year he recorded guitar arrangements of many of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical works.

In June of 2021, Steve and JoAnn met. They married in July 2022, surrounded by friends and family. Since Steve had retired in June of that year, and JoAnn retired as full-time RN in July, they spent almost all their time together, traveling to the Oregon coast and southwest Utah, hiking hand in hand, attending the opera in Seattle, escaping the Montana winter for brief periods in San Diego and Tampa, attending the Glacier Symphony, supporting him and other local musicians during their "gigs," swimming, playing pickleball and ping-pong, working out at the local health club, and so much more.

Since Steve's death, there has been an outpouring of kind words and accolades about him and the influence he had on his students and friends, both personally and musically. He struggled with depression and anxiety for many years and is finally at peace. He will be missed by so many.

A celebration of life will be held April 30 at 4 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Kalispell.

Tolbert Porter Edwards, 83

Tolbert Porter Edwards, age 83, passed away on Sept. 19, 2023, at his home in



Marion, with his loving family by his side.

Tolbert was born on Dec. 19, 1939, in Wichita Falls, Texas, to Clifford P. and Frances (Sudderth) Edwards. He was raised in Texarkana, Texas. Graduating from Texas High School in 1958, then onto the University of Texas and the University of Missouri and Columbia and finally Baylor University with where he received his DDS degree in 1965.

He joined the Army



He became a stockbroker in 1983 until 1986. In 1991 he worked as a real estate developer in northwest Arkansas until 2015. He then moved to Marion for retirement.

He enjoyed mountaineering, traveling, visiting the beach, and investing.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

serving as captain in Lawton, Oklahoma, from March 1966, to March 1968, and then onto Arlington, Texas, for 20 years where he practiced dentistry.

He is survived by his wife Olga L. Edwards; his daughter Sara; his sons Gavin (Gina) and Ryan (Julie); his stepchildren Alex (Heather) and Masha; and grandchildren, Rylie, Connor, and Zane; and sister Velvet E. Glass.

A funeral service will be held at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the Rotary Polio Plus Program.

Family and friends are encouraged to visit the website www.buffalohill-fh.com to leave notes of condolence. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home caring for the family.

Judith Egberg, 81

Judith Eayrs Egberg of Kalispell, passed away on Dec. 28, 2022 at 81 years old, at her home with her loving family by her side.

Judith was born on Dec. 4, 1941 in Kalispell to Clarence and Daphne (McClarey) Eayrs.

She attended school in Kalispell, on March 2, 1962 she married John Egberg in Kalispell. They were blessed with two sons: Jeff and Joel Egberg.

She went on to work at the Great Falls public schools as a librarian assistant. She was a

member of Cornerstone Community Church in Kalispell.

Judith loved crocheting and painting but most of all she created a loving home for her husband and two sons. Her family was the absolute joy of her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents Clarence and Daphne Eayrs, brother Aubrey Eayrs and sister Maralyn Eayrs Van Alstine.

She is survived by her husband John of 60 years; her sons Joel (Aileen) Egberg, Jeff Egberg; her sister Kathleen Eayrs

Price; her grandchildren Amy (Robert) Peterson, Madelyn Aubrey Egberg, Colton

John Egberg, Megan Anne Egberg, Ryan Jeffrey Egberg and Cayla Mae Egberg; and her great-grandchildren Austin and Jayce Peterson.

A visitation will be held on Jan. 6, 2023 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with funer-



al services at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023 at Cornerstone Community Church with Pastor Luke Knoll officiating. Burial will follow the service at Glacier Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers the family requests donating to Feed the Flathead or Cornerstone Mission Fund.

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

Kristie Jensen Erickson, 58

Kristie Jensen Erickson, of Bigfork, Montana passed away on Dec. 11, 2022, after a five and a-half month battle with ovarian cancer. Kristie graduated from Bigfork High School and earned an associate degree from Flathead Valley Community College. After her sister Kari's college graduation in 1988, they packed up Kristie's car and headed to Oregon. Kristie worked for US Bank Equipment Finance in Tigard, Oregon.

One of Kristie's joys was the vast Oregon coastline and beaches. She would either take a motorcycle ride to enjoy God's beauty or walk the beaches. She was always adventuring outdoors and would take her nephew and niece to the coast to explore the sea life (especially Cannon Beach or Rockaway). In Montana, Kristie took her nephew and two nieces hiking the trails of Glacier National Park while running into some wildlife. She loved watching her nieces and nephews grow up through the years by attending any of their events she could.

Kristie was very grounded in her faith. She loved her church (Newberg FourSquare) and was an active member helping with Sunday services and leading women's bible studies and retreats. She met her husband, Todd Erickson, through church and were married in Bigfork on May 18, 2019. They moved to Bigfork that June.

She continued to be very involved in her church in Kalispell (Fresh Life) through bible studies or helping with Samaritan's purse



shoe boxes and more. Even outside through her infectious smile

and bright personality would she share her love for God. One of her favorite songs was "I can only imagine", and she strived to model her life after Colossians 3:12-17. She always was willing to help anyone in need whether a friend she just met or family. Kristie was loved by all who knew her, she will be greatly missed...especially her passion for the Lord and wanting all to know his Glory.

Kristie also shared the passion of gardening with her mom. They created a beautiful display of color and made sure there was room for planting a vegetable garden too. She also just enjoyed seeing the sun rise over the mountains in Montana.

Kristie was preceded in death by her father, James Jensen. She will be lovingly remembered by her husband, Todd Erickson and her mother Marlys Jensen of Bigfork; sister Kim, brother-in-law Marv Gielen of Henderson, Nevada; sister Kari, brother-in-law Todd Friedrich of Newberg, Oregon; niece Kayla, husband Nick Scott; great-nephews Alric and Ansel Scott; niece Kearsten Friedrich and nephew Scott Friedrich.

The family is still in the process of arranging a celebration of life service and will announce the details later. Tentatively this will happen in the late spring time frame.

Patricia Erickson, 101

Our much-loved mom, Patricia Louise Shanahan Erickson, passed away on Aug. 23, 2023, with family at Brendan House in Kalispell at the age of 101. This very special lady lived a long, event-filled life, having accomplished so many things.

She was a real Montana native, born in Nov. of 1921 in Whitefish. Her father, William J. Shanahan was yard master for the Great Northern Railroad, and her mother was Freda Bailey Shanahan. Freda was clerk of court for Flathead Valley and volunteered tirelessly for the women's right to vote and many local charitable projects; began Whitefish Credit Union; was instrumental in starting Flathead Valley College, and building the first independent senior residences in Whitefish, Mountain View Manor.

She was a Girl Scout leader, volunteered and substitute taught at Evergreen Junior High, worked at the Evergreen Food Bank, helped at the Senior Center in Kalispell, and participated in several other charities and fundraisers such as the yearly Heart Drive, Cancer Drive, and many more.

In her very young years she raced speed boats, swam, and played in Whitefish Lake, and spent many summers enjoying her uncle's home on Swan Lake. She



hiked the Flathead Valley, hiked all over Glacier National Park, participated

in many local events and was a talented piano player. The winters were spent skating, sledding, and climbing up that huge mountain in Whitefish and skiing down. They came to know that mountain as Big Mountain, now renamed Whitefish Mountain.

In her later years, after retirement, she hiked the many trails in Glacier National Park with a group of like-minded friends and traveled with them to explore many areas around Montana. She knew so many people, their families, and a great deal of Montana history. Her wonderful remembrances of the early Flathead Valley people and life are truly amazing.

She attended Whitefish schools, graduating high school in 1939. Her parents stressed education and Patricia excelled. She went on to Kinman Business College in Spokane, Washington, later being hired in accounting at Flathead Commercial in Kalispell, which later became Buttrey's Department Store.

In 1965, she began work for Kalispell Feed

and Grain as their bookkeeper. When this closed in 1985 she was hired by Flathead County. One of the most interesting assignments was to catalog all the people of the Demersville Cemetery. Each person had a story and amazing history that was finally put into print.

In May 1946, she married Clayton Erickson, also living in Whitefish, who graduated from medical school in San Francisco, California, becoming Doctor Erickson, a much-loved podiatrist in the Flathead.

To this marriage came five wonderful children still working successfully, living in different locations in the U.S. The children are Carla (Stoney) Moss, no children; Pamela (Cody) Houston, one child; Susan (Earl) Twist, Susan's two children; John Erickson, three children; and Mary (Dave) Rennich, two children. Patricia has eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Her one comment always got us laughing when she said, "I think I did a pretty good job of raising all of you. At least none of you are in prison."

Her father and mother were always active in charitable causes so she took the hint and gave a lot of her time working with several organizations in Flathead County despite having five children. She was a charter member of

Beta Sigma Phi Business Sorority, Kalispell Unit, and a charter member of Calvary Lutheran Church in Evergreen, Montana.

She was an amazing seamstress, too, sewing for all the kids, decorating at home, and making Christmas items. We girls always had new, matching Easter outfits and beautiful school clothes. It was amazing what she could do. She and Clayton were active in the schools and Calvary Lutheran Church in Evergreen and Clayton helped start the hot lunch program at West Evergreen School.

She survived a myriad of children's animal collections including horses, rabbits, dogs, an occasional kitty, wild birds, frogs, a white rat, a small alligator, turtles, snakes, and even a skunk. She always said she missed the horses the most.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Erickson; and grandson, Jacob Rennich.

Patricia has requested no services but will be attended to by Buffalo Hills Funeral Home in Kalispell. The family would like to thank all the staff at Brendan House.

We will always remember her as "Patty Lou" who was a talented Irish girl and an amazing mom to all of us no matter what house you came from. The neighborhood has lost a very valuable person. Thanks, Mom.

Richard Erickson, 78

Richard Simon Erickson, 78, passed away peacefully at home on Nov. 13, 2023 in Libby, Montana.

He was born in Grantsburg, Wisconsin on Nov. 26, 1944 to Reuben and Mabel Erickson.

The Ericksons moved to Missoula in the early 1950's where Richard attended school, graduating from Missoula County High School in 1962.

After graduating, he enlisted in the United States Army in 1963 and proudly served his nation until 1966. He went on to obtain his Bachelors of Science in Forestry from the University of Montana in 1971.

During college, Richard married Rosie



Chord in 1969. Their first child, Eve, was born in 1972. Soon after she arrived, they moved

to Juneau, Alaska for two years.

In 1974, they returned to Montana, settling in Kalispell, where their second child Jason was born. Richard and Rosie lived in Evergreen where their children attended elementary school until they decided to part ways in 1986.

He worked for The Missoulian newspaper for several years in Kalispell, then went on to do contract work for the United

States Postal Service. He eventually made his way to Semitool, where he happily worked until his retirement.

In 1989, Richard married the love of his life, Cheryl Miller. They resided in Marion until Cheryl passed away in 2003. His happiest times were enjoying an adult beverage with Cheryl while sitting at the campfire with their dog Blue.

After losing Cheryl, Richard passed his time pursuing his favorite activities; car rides and exploring the southwest with Blue, fishing, drinking beers at the VFW, and chasing women too young for him.

He is survived by his children, Eve Rutherford

(Brent), Jason Erickson (Amy); step-daughter, Shannon Allard (Brett); step-sons, Michael Jasperson and Cameron Hudiburgh (Ashley); six grandchildren; Walker, Christian, Kiana, Knox, Dirk and Ashley; and three great-grandchildren.

His beloved bulldog Gidget misses him terribly and all the jerky treats he fed to her.

A celebration of Richard's life for will take place from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. on Dec. 2, at the VFW in Libby.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your local animal shelter or animal rescue.

Ralph Ertz, 84

On April 14, Ralph Ertz Sr. went to be with Jesus, and his wife LaVonne.

Ralph lived an adventurous life as an Alaska registered big game guide, and commercial fisherman in Bristol Bay, Alaska. He was a bush pilot, flying highly modified Super Cub airplanes on wheels, skis, and floats. In Montana, he and LaVonne ran a 100-mile long trap line, and continued to trap after relocating to Alaska. He also loved hunting! He was the first archer to place a "grand slam" of all five species of North American deer in the Pope & Young archery record book, taken with his bow. He also shot an Alaskan brown bear with his bow that ranked seventh in the Pope & Young record book. He was honored by noted archer Fred Bear for that trophy, in the 1970s. He also built homes in Anchorage, and drove a bus from Anchorage to Valdez transporting Alyeska pipeline workers. In high school, Ralph was the Montana State Champion wrestler in his weight class two years running, also winning the "Outstanding Wrestler" of the State Tournament his Senior year — earning him a four-year wrestling scholarship to Montana State University. Ralph loved the Lord, and assisted Lavonne's church ministry to Cambodian immigrant children by bringing them to Sunday School in an old school bus. He and LaVonne also took



those children on adventures hiking, fishing, or camping after church

or on Saturdays. They wanted show them God's love! Ralph enjoyed making hand-built wooden stools for his grandkids and rocking the new great-grand babies. He regularly took his grandkids for "duck burgers" (McDonald's) on Saturdays. Even as adults, his grandkids would call and ask him if it was "duckburger" day! Ralph was fond of his black Lab retrievers, of which he had many over the years. His most recent Lab he named Bolivar; Ralph's nickname as a child.

Ralph is survived by his daughter Tamie (Dan) Hollingsworth of Anchorage; his son Ralph Ertz Jr. (Tami) of Bigfork; and daughter Lonita Wainwright Fisher of Georgia. He currently has nine grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. His favorite saying about his faith was "I serve a God of second chances."

He is now reunited with his wife LaVonne (and numerous black Labs) but will be greatly missed by friends and family.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Aug. 12, at 1 p.m. at Hillside Church, 5685 Highway 93 S., Whitefish, MT. Contact ralphertzjr@gmail.com for more info.

Louis 'Louie' A. Eskestrand, 71

Louis "Louie" A. Eskestrand, 71, was suddenly and unexpectedly taken from us on July 29, 2023.

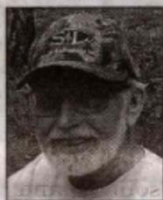
He was born June 27, 1952, in Havre, to Dave Eskestrand and Aggie (Hanson) Eskestrand. He attended Havre Public School, graduating from Havre High School in 1970 and then attended Northern Montana College.

He began his career as a Carpenter at an early age working for Eskestrand Construction with his father for 27 years. He went to work for the City of Havre before moving to Kalispell where he worked for the City of Kalispell as an operator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant keeping Rivers, Streams, and Lakes with clean clear water. He made many good friends at the plant.

Louie married Kathy Hartson Aug. 10, 1974, fathering 3 wonderful children, Jessica, Adam and Amy.

He loved nothing more than to go camping, hunting and fishing with his kids. Many years were spent in the outdoors. He enjoyed long rides in the country, having picnics and some target practice. He and Kathy had a cabin in Beaver Creek Park which he loved dearly, many years were spent enjoying the cabin and park. Fall, Winter, and Spring being his favorite seasons.

Upon his retirement



he and Kathy planned on traveling, but soon found home

was more their style where he enjoyed working in the greenhouses, gardens and of course the chickens. He loved to do crosswords and games on his tablet sitting by the river sipping a beer and eating a sandwich. His quick wit and dry humor will be sorely missed. He was a good man and liked by all.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Dave and Aggie Eskestrand; and sister, Susan Marquardt.

He is survived by his wife, of 49 years, Kathy; his children, Jessica (Steve) Liu, Adam Eskestrand, Amy (Marcus) Johnson; brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Patty Harris; grandchildren, Alex Olson, Violet West and Grayson Johnson; great-grandson, Archer Olson; his niece and nephew, and their families.

There will be no service at Louie's request. In lieu of flowers or charitable donations just tip a cold old one in honor of Louie.

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

Amy Scalf Evans, 51

Born in Kalispell on Aug. 15, 1971, Amy Scalf Evans entered the world as an absolute ray of sunshine in the lives of Jim and Lynn Scalf, on their first wedding anniversary. Amy passed away April 26, 2023, leaving profound sadness and heavy hearts for all fortunate enough to have known her.

Amy grew up in Kalispell and graduated from Flathead High School. Amy was an honors graduate of Washington State University. She was the president of Motor Board and a member of Pi Beta Phi Sorority and later of the Midland chapter of P.E.O.

Amy was a beloved mother, wife, daughter, sister and friend, deeply cherished by all whose

paths she crossed. While she cheerfully answered to Amy, Amy Jean, Ames and Amers, we are certain her favorite term of endearment was "mom." She adored her husband, Robert, and their two children, Avery and Nate, were her proudest accomplishments and greatest joys.

To know Amy was to know her persistent altruism and compassion for animals of all shapes, sizes and sorts. Any chirping, barking, neighing, meowing, peeping, bleating critters in need that crossed her path were immediately welcomed into her life and home. A lifetime love



of horses brought her close to many horses that she rode on many trails, show rings and polo fields across the country. A good day for Amy was to come home covered in horse sweat and hair.

Amy had a loving presence when she entered a room and sheer joy emanated from her beautiful and ever-present smile. She embraced life with exuberance and invited others along with her zeal for life. Amy loved life and her zest for it was contagious. She was incredibly beautiful inside and out.

Amy's happy places were numerous because she brought light and fun everywhere she went. She enjoyed traveling to see family and friends. She loved concerts, sporting

events, and other adventures. She cherished her mountains, lakes and valleys of Montana, the streets of New Orleans, and Amy loved sinking her toes in the sand on the beaches of Mexico and other beautiful beaches with Robert.

Amy is survived by her husband, Robert; her children, Avery and Nate; her parents, Lynn and Jim Scalf; brother, Ryan and Christy Scalf and nephew Kannon; in-laws, Bart and Nena Evans, Gene and McCauley Evans; and too many animals and friends to count.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to any animal rescue, animal shelter, beach and ocean clean-up charities, or a charity of your choice.

David Evans, 64

David Adolph Evans passed away on Aug. 16, 2023, after a courageous eight-month battle with cancer. He was born on Dec. 4, 1958, in Alliance, Nebraska to Adolph J. Evans and Vivian G. Evans. He lived in the Sandhills of Nebraska before moving with his family to North Platte after he graduated from high school in 1977.

From North Platte, he moved to Wyoming with his brother Tom. He met and married Cheri Channel and they had a son, Michael, and the family lived in California for a few years before moving to Whitefish. He worked at Flathead Valley Community College where he met Susan "Sue" Dennis. They were happily married for 18 wonderful years.

He loved math and science, and he was an avid reader. In college, he studied calculus, physics and chemistry. He had a passion for music and was especially fond of the blues, and as a teenager, he taught himself to play the guitar and started his own band.

He loved his dogs, and he and Sue loved to travel, particularly to Lahaina and San Francisco, as well as to



the northeastern part of the country to see David's son and daughter-in-law.

He cared deeply for his family and enjoyed getting together with them at family reunions.

He never met a stranger and could talk to anyone about any subject. He was generous and kind and he was loved by everyone whose life he touched.

He is survived by his wife, Susan of Kalispell; son, Michael (Angie Groves) of Rochester, New York. Brothers, Wayne Benzen (Sheryl) of Denver, Colorado; Arvid Benzen of Oshkosh, Nebraska; Thomas Benzen (Carol) of Drury, Missouri; and sister, Debbie Sunderman (Scott) of Lyons, Nebraska; as well as many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Adolph and Vivian; sisters, Thelma and Elaine (Knoche); and brother, Roger.

David's celebration of life will be held in the spring for his friends and family.

Sally Evans, 90

Sally Joan Evans went to be with Jesus on Dec. 27, 2022.

Sally was born in Big Springs, Nebraska to Joe and Leita Chloupek in 1932. She moved to Careywood, Idaho in 1947 with her dad, mother and younger brother Danny where they bought a small farm. They all worked hard, that's the way of farm life. Sally met Bill Evans while roller skating and married him in January 1951. They bought a small place in Kootenai near Sandpoint, Idaho. He worked at a gas station and then as a radio announcer — Sally was very proud to hear him on the radio station. They sold the place in Kootenai and bought a small farm next to her parents in Careywood, where they started raising their family. It was not an easy life; they had electricity but no running water so water was hauled in 10-gallon milk cans from a shallow well for many years. They raised two sons, Randy and Rory,



who each had two sons. Bill passed in 1999 and she stayed on the farm with Rory and

his family until Rory had to move. She sold the farm and moved to Kalispell where Randy lived. She was a woman of faith and found many new friends in her new church home. Some of her happier times were in Kalispell with her new friends and in the little house that she enjoyed making her home. She later moved to Hamilton with her best friend Hannah, her dog, where Randy and his wife had retired to be nearer their sons and their grandson Camden.

She is survived by her sons and daughter-in-laws Vickie and Karen and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She had a smile and laugh for everyone.

No services are planned per her request.

Barbara Lorraine Eystad, 88

Barbara Lorraine Eystad was born to Selma and Earl Robbins in Chinook, Montana, on June 2, 1934. She passed away peacefully at Logan Health in the presence of her youngest granddaughter on Dec. 26, 2022.

She is preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Lois and Lucille; as well as her husband, Jim; and favorite son-in-law, Ron Newton.

She is survived by Zina and Mike Druesdow, Kay and Tom Goulet, Layton and Debbie Brown, Willie and Carrie Eystad, Tani Newton and Earl Eystad, as well as 12 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

Barbara married Bob Brown in 1951 in the Chinook area and had three children before divorcing in 1955. She was living in Great Falls and working at KRTV when she met Jim Eystad in 1961 who would become her husband of nearly 60 years. Together they had three more children and eventually found their way to the Flathead Valley where they raised their kids. She worked until her retirement as a clipper operator at Plum Creek's Evergreen plywood plant. To keep herself out of trouble, she worked there several years after her retirement as a part-time



member of the janitorial service.

Affectionately known by her family as

"Babs," Barbara enjoyed maintaining her geraniums year round and admiring her favorite peonies between hopping as many garage sales as possible. She loved to spend time keeping up with and spoiling her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and she never missed a single holiday or birthday. Barb always made sure that anyone and everyone she encountered at her home, Super One or Costco, left with at least one loaf of banana bread in hand. Don't be fooled, though. Her attitude was as big as her heart.

The family extends special thanks to Barbara's neighbors Don and Mary, Theresa and Dino, and Pat Winkle for helping take care of her in more ways than one. Your time and love will always be appreciated and it most certainly helped achieve her goal of keeping her own home. More thanks to her nursing staff at Logan Health for their excellent care in her final days. A graveside service will be held in the spring for family and close friends.