

Inge Salmonsens, 96

Inge Salmonsens passed away Nov. 25, 2021.

She was born Sept. 25, 1925, in Denmark, the daughter of Aksel and Ingeborg Christensen. She lived in Thisted and was very close to family there and still communicated with them until the end of her life.

For such a small lady you knew her presence. Inge was always smiling and ready for a new adventure. She could be very stubborn; that was the Dane in her.

She lived to see the Germans invade her country and had a German SS officer live at her home.

She met Carl at a dance in Thisted, Denmark, and three weeks later they were married. Six months later she took a boat to America and they settled in Oklahoma. Later they moved to Hamilton, Montana, and Carl farmed with his brother Sam.

Inge got homesick and took the kids to Denmark



where they lived for six months. When she got back Carl had bought a home in Evergreen

and they lived there raising their children. Later they moved to Kalispell so she could walk or ride her bike to wherever she wanted. She rode her bike into her 80s.

Inge was a seamstress for many people in the community and made many wedding and bridesmaid dresses, quilts and other things. She knitted beautiful sweaters and was still knitting until the end. During her last years she knit hats for schools and hospitals. If she wasn't knitting she was reading. Inge was very active in the Eagles, always working for different charities, taking great pride in this.

The family moved her to Oregon to live with her son Pete and his wife Lori. She loved living

there as they had family gatherings all the time and she was a big part of the family. After a year she fractured her back and ended up in a care center and passed away peacefully.

She is survived by Pete Salmonsens and wife Lori, LeeRoy Salmonsens and wife Susan, and Halie Locke and husband John; grandchildren, Jason, Nathan, Billy, Michelle, Denise, Lisa, Wayne, Megan, Shelby and JC; great-grandchildren, Jacob, Dylan, Tanner, Tucker, Tori, Justin, Tanner, Gwen, Colin, Atticus, Lee, Kenlee and Edison, Violet, Maddie, Kendra, Alexandra, Brantly and Conner; and great-great-grandchildren, Jaxson and Noah.

Burial services will be private with family only.

A celebration of life with friends and family will be held July 9 at the Kalispell Eagles, main ballroom, from 2 to 4 p.m. with finger foods and desserts.

Lanette Ann (Himmelhaver) Sand, 75

Lanette Ann (Himmelhaver) Sand, 75, passed away Sept. 28, 2022, at a nursing home in Flathead County after a long battle with Parkinson's and dementia. Lanette was co-owner of Skydive Lost Prairie.



She was born on July 14, 1947, in Great Falls to Lawrence and Marjorie (Villeneuve) Himmelhaver. She lived in Great Falls, until she moved to Kalispell later in life. She was married to Fred Sand, owner and operator of Skydive Lost Prairie; he predeceased her in death in June of 2021.

Lanette, known as Lenni, worked for Flathead County in the Plat Room as a land specialist, and later years in the GIS department as a Cadastral specialist until her retirement.

Due to the nature of their business, they were very avid skydivers, including the business operations and skydiving adventures.

Lenni is survived by one son, Scott Darling and Debbie (Hovde) Darling of Great Falls; one granddaughter, Jordan McGraw and

Sam McGraw of Las Vegas; one great-grandson, Sawyer Darling, also of Las Vegas; one sister, Linda (Himmelhaver) Grant and Jasper Grant of Missouri; several nieces and nephews and one great-nephew. She also had many, many good and lifelong friendships formed through work and skydiving.

Lanette will be cremated and a memorial service will be held at Lost Prairie in the summer of 2023, with notice to friends and family.

Lanette lived by the motto, as did her husband, "We are not truly dead until we are forgotten. Remember me as long as you can. Don't put me in the ground. My life has been in the sky."

Suggested donations may be sent to any non-profit animal rescue groups of your choice in Kalispell or surrounding areas, in memory of Lenni's love for her dog Emmy.

Marilyn Ann (Gray) Champoux went home to be with the Lord on the last day of summer on Sept. 21, 2022.

Marilyn was born to Alfred and Anna (Jelleberg) Gray on April 17, 1933, in Bottineau County, North Dakota. She joined her big sister, Carol, on the family farm where she spent an idyllic childhood. It was also where she met her lifelong friend, Beverly (Shillander) Jones, in grade school.

After graduating from high school where she enjoyed playing piccolo and being a baton twirler in the marching band, Marilyn went to college at Minot State and earned a degree in physical education. She and Bev continued their adventures into young adulthood and answered a call to teach in Missoula. It was there that they both met their future husbands. Marilyn married Richard Champoux on July 8, 1959, in California while he was pursuing a Ph.D. at UCLA.

The couple moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in 1961 where Rick taught at North Idaho Community College and Marilyn

Eileen Delores (Ohs) Sandefur, 94

Eileen Sandefur passed from this earthly life into her forever home with the Lord on Friday afternoon Sept. 23, 2022.

Eileen was born to Karolina and Oscar Ohs on Dec. 12, 1927, on the family homestead. The farm was located on prairie land east of Malta and south of Saco, Montana, in a small homestead community they called Harb.

She was the youngest of nine children with her sister Elsie being the oldest. Sandwiched between them were seven brothers. Eileen's father and mother had come from Sweden with four of their children on the hopeful promise of homestead land.

Eileen and her brothers attended North Harb school, a one-room affair, three miles from their home which they faithfully hiked each day no matter the weather. When she was 14 years old they moved to Malta, Montana, where she went to jr. high and graduated from Malta High School. Eileen attended St. Paul Bible Institute for a year before returning to Malta to work at the Phillips County Courthouse and help to care for her father.

In 1955 she moved west to Whitefish and married Arnold Quentin Sandefur. They built the family home just south of town all the while Quentin worked on the railroad. They raised three children there.

Eileen loved being a mother and her children lived very memory filled lives growing up in those "early" years of Whitefish. Eileen made many dear friends, was a gracious host, had a good sense of humor, and was quick to put the coffee on. She enjoyed many activities and crafts including ceram-



ics classes at Dalen's, crocheting, quilting, and tended a large garden from which

she cooked many a fine meal.

She and Quentin enjoyed the outdoors and would walk several miles most days. They would take the whole family out to gather firewood or pick huckleberries. When their children were 6-10 years old, they took them on a very memorable hike across the Highline trail in Glacier Park.

Eileen and Quentin were married for 65 years.

Eileen put her faith in Jesus at age 17 around the time of her mother's death. She and Quentin were members of First Baptist Church of Whitefish for many years.

Eileen's smile and inclusive love will be missed by all who knew her.

Eileen was preceded in death by her husband, Arnold Quentin Sandefur; oldest daughter Kathy; and youngest grandson, Brian Cantu. All eight of her siblings preceded her, Elsie, Gust, Carl, Eric, Martin, David, Dennis, and Wally.

She is survived by her son, Larry; daughter, Jan; granddaughter Brooke (and Josh) Block; grandson Brad Cantu; daughter-in-law Shekinah (Brian) Cantu; 10 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews spread all across Montana and beyond.

There will be a memorial for Eileen to be held on Friday, Oct. 28, at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church, south of Whitefish across from Don K Auto, for all family and friends of Eileen.

Delores Ann Sanders, 87

Delores Ann Sanders, 87, of Columbia Falls, passed away May 21, 2022 at home with her family at her side.

She was born Sept. 29, 1934, in Stanley, North Dakota, to Forrest Ball and Mildred Ball (Aardahl).

Delores worked for the Bank of Columbia Falls and Whitefish Credit Union for 30-plus years. She loved camping and the outdoors, especially at Bitterroot Lake. Delores enjoyed campfires and was a great cook. She was also known as a wonderful seamstress and made numerous quilts, which her family were recipients of, gifted



quilts for weddings and graduations. Delores was a member of the quilting

guild. Some of her favorite places to travel in the winter were Kona, Hawaii, Lake Havasu, Arizona, and Fort Meyers, Florida. Delores will always be remembered on Sundays for her fried chicken. She even volunteered her time and energy at the local senior center. Delores absolutely loved spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Delores Ann Sanders is survived by daughters, Debra Horinèk (Ken), Dixie Schultz (Bruce), and Dannelle Dana (Kirk); 10 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; siblings, Pat Kjoson, Myrna Hauglie (Dwight), and Farrel Palazo (Lou); brother-in-law, Carl Sanders (Joyce); and best friend of 50-plus years, Mamie Parpart.

In addition to her parents, Delores was preceded in death by her husband, David Sanders; and granddaughter, Duanna Howard.

Services for Delores Ann Sanders will be held privately at the convenience of the family.

Tom Sawyer, 46

Tom Sawyer passed away suddenly on Jan. 7, 2022.

He was born on Feb. 25, 1975, in Portland, Maine. Tom was an only child of Tom Sawyer of Portland, Maine, and Helen Sawyer of Hackettstown, New Jersey. Tom attended and graduated from Biddeford High School where he played basketball all four years. When he wasn't playing for the school you could find him at Clifford Park or Emery School playing pick-up games. After high school, Tom attended a program at SMTC, and found his passion for cooking. He began his career at Nonantum Resort in Maine, and worked his way up from entry level to executive chef. A highlight of his career includ-

ed preparing meals for former President George W. Bush Sr.

Tom was an outdoors and travel enthusiast who enjoyed every season, and these passions helped him make his way to Montana. He found joy in fly fishing while working at Spotted Bear Ranch and enjoyed skiing in the winter. Tom made friends wherever he went. Being a people person and having a love of music, Tom even tried his hand at being a DJ (T-Sizzle). He shared his enthusiasm for sports with everyone and ensured folks knew he was a fan of the New England Patriots, and was a die-hard Boston



Celtics fan. Tom's dog, Roux, was his constant companion and was loved no matter what mayhem she caused.

Tom was able to create a sense of family wherever he found himself. His last position, as executive chef at Blaine Creek Grill, in Kalispell, was no exception. Not only did he create amazing food, he fostered a sense of community and loving atmosphere for the owners, staff and patrons he worked with. His pride in his craft was felt by all that knew him. He leaves a legacy of kindness and love that will be remem-

bered fondly by all he interacted with.

Tom was predeceased by his father and mother. We know you are dancing with your mom in heaven, and it gives us a bittersweet solace.

Tom is survived by his uncle Robert Childs and aunt Sheila Estes, and many many friends.

Arrangements will be made through Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, and will be forthcoming.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a charity of your choice in Tom's name.

Rulon Schara, 80

Rulon Schara, 80, passed away Aug. 6, 2022, in Rigby, Idaho. His funeral service will be held on Saturday, Aug. 13, at 2 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2211 St. Charles Street, Fort Benton, Montana, with burial to follow at Riverside Cemetery.

Rulon Schara was born in Rose, Idaho, (near Blackfoot) on Oct. 15, 1941, on his grandparents' farm. His father, Reuben Schara (also known as Buck) and his mother, Lucille Catharine Mitchell Schara, had a 2-year-old son, Richard, at the time, and were blessed with a little daughter, Sherma, seven years later. Rulon loved his big brother and especially his little sister.

The family relocated from time to time during his childhood and during his early school years, but Rulon was always a good student. All his life he loved to read and was a whiz at math, which he did without pencil and paper, in his head. It always amazed people. He was a good friend to the libraries in all the towns he lived in. He spent quite a bit of time in Pocatello, Idaho, and had lots of fun memories there. When he was a senior in high school his family moved to Pingree, Idaho, and he attended Snake River High School.

He graduated from there in 1960 and attended Idaho State College.

In June 1962 he married his high school sweetheart, Cherlene Hill. They celebrated their 60th anniversary this summer. They are the parents of six children. Rulon loved his family, and his four living children and grandchildren express tender moments of time spent with him. He especially enjoyed the babies and was thrilled with two new little great-grandchildren born this summer. When he talked about his plans for future hunting, fishing and traveling, they always included plans with the children.

It was a shocking surprise when Rulon passed away on Aug. 6, 2022, at home in his bed. He had heart surgery, but it went well, and everything looked promising. He was making plans for fishing, hunting, traveling and spending time with Sherma and Dean (his sister and her husband) this summer.

Rulon was always recognized to be ambitious and hard working. He could work hard and long days and get much accomplished no matter what he was doing. He



loved farming and always wanted to be a farmer. He loved big machinery and equipment of all kinds, especially trucks, and had from the time he was small on his grandpa's farm. He was extraordinary in his ability to keep them in good repair and operating smoothly. He couldn't wait to buy his own first truck. He spent most of his life and made his living owning trucks and driving many miles over the highways and roads hauling everything including heavy equipment, lumber, fruit, building supplies and everything else. He always was willing to help other drivers or equipment operators to repair whatever was needed. He was well liked and never worked for anyone who wouldn't have gladly hired him again. Whenever Rulon did something, it was well done. In fact, he drove over four and a half million miles in his life accident and citation free. He retired several years ago and spent the rest of his life reminiscing and telling trucking tales to anyone who would listen.

Rulon also loved animals and could make friends with them always. He just had a sense of what any animal needed, and his animals got good care. They were always fed first and doctored whenever needed. He milked cows and talked

to them like they were people.

He loved music, especially country music, and was involved in playing it or listening to it from the time he was little. He played several instruments, his favorite being a guitar and a dobro. The whole family played music together for fun jam sessions and family time.

Rulon was smart and friendly. He was strong physically and spiritually. He had faith and believed in prayer. He would bare his soul in his prayers and his good heart opened in his testimonies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no doubt he is finding great satisfaction in moving on to where so many people he loved have gone ahead.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, parents, brother, daughter, son-in-law and infant son, and many, many friends.

Rulon is survived by his loving wife; sons, Layne Schara of Fort Benton, Joel Schara of Hamilton, and Park (Shawna) Schara of Bigfork; daughter, Jill McElligott, of Rigby; as well as 23 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He accomplished in his life much of what really makes people count and will be remembered by many.

Eugenia "Jean" P. Schlatter, 91

Eugenia P. Schlatter passed away on Dec. 6, 2022, in Melbourne, FL at 91 years old.

Eugenia "Jean" was born on Sep. 3, 1931 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Henry and Genevieve (Boylan) Poehler. After birth, she and her family moved to Menomonie, Wisconsin where she attended grades 1 - 7. Her father, a traveling salesman, moved the family to Havre, Montana in 1944 since it was more centrally located to his clients. Jean graduated from Havre High School in 1949. After graduation she attended Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington where she majored in Mathematics, one of only two female math majors at that time. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics in 1953. After graduation, she returned to Montana and took a teaching job in Great Falls. While in Great Falls she became reacquainted with a high school classmate, Richard H. Schlatter, who was also returning to Montana after a stint with the U.S. Air Force band in



Washington, DC. In 1954 they united in marriage in Havre, Montana.

Richard and Jean made their

first home in Bozeman, Montana; Jean taught Math and English in the Bozeman school district while Richard finished undergraduate and graduate studies at Montana State University in music. In 1957 they moved to Polson, Montana where they both were educators in the Polson school system; Jean taught Math at the high school and junior high levels while Richard managed the high school and junior high band programs. Their family was started in Polson with the birth of both their sons. In 1968, they again moved, this time to Kalispell

where they again both taught in the Flathead school system. Jean initially taught junior high at the Linderman School before moving to the new junior high school where she eventually became head of the junior high mathematics department. Jean taught math in Kalispell until her retirement in 1988; she remained in the Valley until 2004, when she moved to Virginia to be closer to her family. While in Virginia she became a mentor for new teachers entering the Northern Virginia School system. In 2014, she followed family to Florida.

Jean enjoyed music, travel, playing bridge and needlework but relished her time spent with family and her pets. She was an active member of the Episcopal Church and PEO. In addition, she was a member of

the Daughter's of the American Revolution (DAR), Eastern Star, Alpha Phi Sorority and the American Association of University Women.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents and Richard; Richard passed in 1987.

She is survived by her sons Phillip (Ranell) of Melbourne, Florida and Richard H. Jr. (Wini) of Hilton Head, South Carolina and her grandchildren: Peter, Stasia, Marie, Harry and Sam.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Shriner's Children's Hospital Spokane or the Flathead County Animal Shelter.

There will be a memorial service at Christ Church Episcopal in Kalispell followed by interment at the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery on Jan. 7 at 11 a.m.

Denise Rose (Marquart) Schlegel, 53

Denise Rose (Marquart) Schlegel, 53, of Kalispell, passed away June 15, 2022 peacefully at home surrounded by family. Denise was born March 27, 1969 in Sheridan, to Bennie and Audrey (Bullock) Helock. One nine children, they would go on to be raised in the Glasgow area of Montana.

She married her true love, Wayne Schlegel, in Kalispell in 1997 and raised three wonderful children together. She wasn't one to be held back and climbed her way up to Operations Manager at DSG Dakota Supply Group where she worked for 20 years. She loved being outdoors hunting and ice fishing every chance she could, but nothing held a candle to her love of her time with her family.

Denise is preceded in death by her mother Audrey. She is survived by her husband Wayne;



children Casey Marquart, Shelby West and Royce Schlegel and his fiancé Shea Balbach; father Bennie; siblings Gerrie Good, VI Marsh, Pearl, Pete, Bruce, Frank, Keith and Sonny Marquart and grandchildren Reiley and Audrey Love, Jackson Cottingham and Reid Schlegel.

A Celebration of Life will be held Oct. 22, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. at Centennial Farms, 563 McMannamy Draw, Kalispell, MT 59901. Friends are encouraged to visit our website at buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

James L. Schmauch Jr., 76

James L. Schmauch Jr. passed away peacefully in the early morning of Sept. 26, 2022, at the age of 76.

He was born in New Orleans on Aug. 10, 1946, to James L. Schmauch Sr. and Jeanne Abadie Schmauch.

Jim attended grade school in New Orleans and then moved with his family to Kalispell in 1958 where he attended Russell School, Central School and graduated from Flathead County High School in 1965.

In June of 1965 he married Lynette Band and together they had two children, Wendy and Daniel. During the 1970s, Jim coached Little League baseball teams B&B; Stores and A&W; Root Beer, enjoying that time with many young boys including his son, Danny, whom he got to coach and his daughter Wendy who was the batgirl for B&B. He was also very active with Boy Scout Troop 33 as a leader for many years.

In 1966 he went to work for the Anaconda Aluminum Company in the maintenance department and retired from the Columbia Falls Aluminum company in 2006, celebrating 40 years. It was during this time that he became involved in the Aluminum Workers Trades Council, holding the offices of executive board member, president and secretary over a 20-year period. He was also a 35-year member of the Operating Engineers Local 400.

Jim enjoyed his New Orleans heritage with yearly "Seafood Fests" with his family. We flew fresh seafood in from New Orleans, set up picnic tables in the backyard with tablecloths and umbrellas, and fun was had by all.

Jim enjoyed boating and waterskiing. Some of his favorite times and those he mentions often



were the times with his kids and pulling them and all of their friends around on skis. He

had a grin from ear to ear. He enjoyed traveling around Montana, camping and fishing. He married Holly Hullett in 2018 and together they continued to travel and spent their winters in Arizona.

Jim was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Kalispell and served on the Session as an Elder.

He was preceded in death by his parents James L. and Jeanne F. Schmauch, and a grandson Garrett Adam.

He is survived by his daughter Wendelyn (Wendy) Diezger and husband Creg of Kalispell; granddaughter Jordan Gilmour and husband Wyatt of Kalispell; his son Daniel Schmauch, wife Rochelle and their children and his granddaughters Teagan Schmauch, Peyton Schmauch and Huxley Schmauch, all of Missoula; and a sister Judi Gorton and her husband Dan of Kalispell.

Memorial services for Jim will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, at the First Presbyterian Church in Kalispell with Pastor Glenn Burfeind officiating, and a luncheon immediately following the service. There is no visitation. Urn burial will be at 1:30 p.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Ronald McDonald Charity in honor of his grandson Garrett Adam.

Jim, Dad and Grandpa will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Jim's family.

James Lloyd Schrage, 76

James Lloyd Schrage, 76, passed away at Logan Health Medical Center in Kalispell March 31, 2022.

James was born Aug. 18, 1945, in Hardin, Montana, to John and Elsie (Durtsche) Schrage.

He was raised in Powell, Wyoming and immediately after high school enlisted in the United States Army from 1963 to 1966 where he was a part of the 1st Cavalry Divisions Aviation Battalion and would serve one tour in Vietnam as a CH-47 helicopter maintenance technician.

Upon completion of his enlistment, James would become a technician for Columbia Falls Aluminum Company for 35 years. James wed Patricia Collier in 1990 in Kalispell and would spend a wonderful 31 years together raising a family. He could often be found woodworking, golfing and golf club building.

James was preceded in death by his parents, John and Elsie; sisters, Helen Gebhart and Shirley Yonts; and brothers, Bill and Rick Schrage.



He is survived by his wife, Patricia; sister, Diana Schrage-Krahenbuhl; sons, Travis, James, Justin Schrage

and Scott Collier; grandchildren, Jaylene Myers, Nolan Collier, Keri, Robert, Ashley, Tyler and Tara Schrage; and great-grandchildren, Aspyr, Sebastian and Montgomery Myers.

There will be a private family gathering today, April 3. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Memorials are suggested to the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Fund at www.vvmf.org; please donate in the name of James L. Schrage.

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

Ida Schroeder, 100

Ida Schroeder passed away on Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022, at the age of 100.

Ida was born on May 16, 1921, in Kalispell to Carl and Lavina Fritz. She had a twin sister named Irene, older sister Marie, and two brothers Earl and Wayne. Ida attended Birch Grove School and Flathead County High.

She married William Schroeder on May 20, 1939. Ida and William had three sons. First born was Arthur, next came Victor, and lastly was James.

Ida was a hard worker. She worked at the local cherry warehouse, Bitneys Chicken House, and helped out around the farm.

Ida enjoyed sewing, baking and making quilts. She was involved in 4-H and later on enjoyed entering her quilting projects at the county fair and won several blue ribbons. Throughout Ida's life she had many pets including favorite dog Charlie and cow Elsie.

Ida loved spending time with her family. In her earlier years she loved to go snowmobiling and camping with her sons and grandchil-



dren. In her later years you could often find her spending time with her

great-grandchildren doing puzzles, picking flowers, and feeding them various sweets.

Ida was preceded in death by her parents, her four siblings, her husband William, and her son James.

She is survived by her son Arthur and wife Gloria of Kalispell, her son Victor and wife Christine of Yellow Bay, her grandsons Roger and wife Lori, and Jerry and wife Sydney, along with her great-grandchildren Madison, Sarah, Isaac and Wylie.

There will be a visitation held for Ida Tuesday, Feb. 8, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, with services to be held following the visitation. Following the visitation there will be a light luncheon held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the basement.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Dianne K. Schultz, 75

Dianne K. Schultz, 75, passed away on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022, at Polson Health & Rehab.



She was born on April 24, 1946, to Wayne and Beverly Wetzel. She was the older sister to Charlie and Darin. Dianne was raised in Polson and lived by Flathead Lake on Rocky Point. She attended grade school and graduated from Polson High School in 1964. She married Lauren Pearson in June of '64. On Jan. 29, 1965, their first son, Alan, was born in Montana. On April 4, 1967, a second son, Todd, joined the family, born in Bellevue, Washington. Lauren's work took the family to Virginia from 1975 to 1977, then moving back to Renton, Washington, for a year before settling in Sultan, Washington, in 1978.

The boys made her life full — from school projects, homework, games, etc., she enjoyed every minute of their upbringing. Most holidays, it was just the four of them, but with Dianne's love of decorating and cooking, the family did not know anything was missing. She knew how to make every detail special. In 1985,

Lauren and Dianne divorced and Dianne moved back to Polson. Dianne had been working in the banking industry when the boys were in school so it was easy to be hired by Glacier Bank in September 1985, working for Glacier Bank until her retirement in July 2011. She was involved in various community activities associated with the bank, including fundraising for local nonprofits, holiday floats for parades, collecting items for families at Christmas, etc.

Dianne enjoyed being

back in Montana and reunited with a classmate, Bill Schultz. They started dating and married on Valentine's Day 1987. In this blended family, each child was a planned two years apart — Alan, Todd, Lisa, Jon. During the first years of marriage, this union also brought forth their love of buying, remodeling, and selling several homes. Eventually Dianne and Bill bought back the family home on Rocky Point where they continue to reside.

Together, Bill and Dianne have 35 years of beautiful memories. From flipping campers before it was a "thing," 4-wheeling and UTV riding in Montana and Arizona, riding tandem on the trike, exploring new places, camping with friends, hosting Fourth of July picnics/class reunions along with other functions at the lake, and wintering in Arizona for the past 11 years. Their lives were busy and filled with lots of laughter, jokes, campfires, family and friends.

Dianne was preceded in death by her father and mother, and her brother Charlie.

She is survived by her husband and best friend Bill, brother Darin, her children Al (Melissa), Todd (Cristina), Lisa Kinyon (Dan), and Jon Schultz (Kelly), grandchildren Josiah, Danielle, Sam, Trevor and Justin, as well as her fur babies Tootsie, Tobe and Tekka.

A celebration of life memorial will be held in late spring.

In lieu of flowers, she would be happy to have you remember to enjoy every moment of your life, give a smile, and contribute a monetary gift or your time to your favorite charity.

Memories and condolences may be sent to the family to www.lakefuneralhomeandcremation.com. Arrangements are under the care of The Lake Funeral Home and Crematory.

Robert Theodore Schwegel, 70

Robert Theodore Schwegel, 70, of Helena, passed away peacefully at home on the evening of Oct. 23, 2022.

Bob was born Aug. 15, 1952, in Bemidji, Minnesota, to Albert and Betty Schwegel. He attended Blackduck, Minnesota, schools until 1968 when the family moved to Whitefish where he graduated from Whitefish High School in 1970.

Shortly after graduating, Bob enlisted in the Army and attended boot camp at Fort Lewis in Washington and Fort Rucker in Alabama where he was trained as an air traffic controller before being deployed to Vietnam. Bob spent his Army career stationed at many bases throughout the USA, Vietnam and Korea and he trained many soldiers, including his 7 siblings, to the Army way of life.

Bob's daughter Julie was born on Jan. 9, 1978, while he was stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. On June 24, 1989 he married Theora Wallace and gained a stepdaughter Tia.

After 20 years of service, Bob retired as first sergeant while serving at Fort Lewis, Washington, and shortly after he and Theora moved back to Montana. He continued to serve his country and fellow veterans by his non-stop advocating for their benefits and rights. He served as post commander in Eureka, as well as department service officer and other positions within the VFW Administration. He was also a member of the VFW National Legislative Committee.

Bob enjoyed attending state and national VFW conventions until his health prevented long trips. He loved hunting, fishing, telling stories and time spent with his



family. Bob was preceded in death by a nephew Chase Hart, a sister Lori Schwegel, our mom Betty L. Schwegel,

and our dad Albert A. Schwegel.

Bob is survived by his wife Theora Schwegel of Helena, daughter Julie O'Shea (Shane) of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, stepdaughter Tia (Ray) Long of Graham, Washington, brothers Thomas (Clarissa) of Whitefish, David (Penny) of Fairbanks, Alaska, Roy (Cheryl) of Whitefish, Jerry (Christine) of Olney, sisters Luanne Sagen of Whitefish and Lee Ann Giesy (R.D.) of Whitefish, grandchildren Jordan Schwegel of Charleston, South Carolina, Conor O'Shea of Coeur D'Alene, Logan Long of Graham and Cassidy (Chase) Harter of Ellensburg, Washington, along with numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services with full military honors will be held in Helena on Nov 9 at 11 a.m. at Stevenson Wilke Funeral Home at 3750 N. Montana Ave., Helena MT 59602, with viewing at 10 a.m. A reception to follow at the Helena American Legion 3095 Villard Ave., Helena MT 59601.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Whitefish, Eureka or Helena, or the Helena American Legion in Bob's memory.

A bad day fishing is still better than a good day at work. Fish on Bob!

Mary K. Scott



With regret and sadness, the family of Mary K. Scott announces her sudden passing on Aug. 11, 2022, at the age of 81. Mary will be fondly remembered and dearly missed for her wit, sense of humor, unwavering support for the Denver Broncos, and her great pride in her Irish heritage.

Mary was raised in Glasgow working as an educator, then lived in the Flathead Valley work-

ing as a store manager for many years before moving to Great Falls.

She is survived by her husband, Donald J. Scott; daughters, Kerry Almos and Kelly Urts; son, DG Scott; sister, Susan Thomas; brothers, Gordo and Kurt White; and five grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her loving parents, Gordon and Jean White; sister, Jane Petaja; son, Kevin Scott; and great-granddaughter, Hunter Camus.

Cremation has taken place and the family suggests donations in Mary's memory to Meals on Wheels <https://give.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/>. The family thanks the Benefis hospital staff for their professional care in Mary's final days.

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

Dayton Rusby Seabaugh, 83

Dayton Rusby Seabaugh passed away at his home on Feb. 21, 2022. He was born Oct. 9, 1938, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Rusby was an outdoorsman from an early age and often had a beagle by his side. He attended medical school in Missouri and completed his residency in Portland where he fell in love with the West. Portland was also where he met his match in Liz and they were married in 1969. His passion for the outdoors led him to move to the Flathead Valley in 1970 where he started a urology practice. In 1973, he and his family moved to their home on Lower Valley Road where he was a farmer, rancher and physician until his retirement in 2001.

Rusby loved this valley and Montana, enjoying opportunities ranging from lion hunting to walleye fishing. He could tell you every fishing hole, goose landing spot and the best place to buy cinnamon bears. Rusby also loved to talk and found ample opportunity to do so at every gas station, farm store and boat launch. He will be remembered as a skilled surgeon, beloved doctor and for his support of open lands in the valley. He had an infectious laugh, especially when telling a story, an



incredible smile, and a deep love for his family.

He instilled a strong work ethic

and passion for hunting/fishing and the outdoors in all who loved him. Those left behind will carry on that passion. He is survived by his loving wife Liz (of 52 years), sister Sandra, children Brad (Tera), Mark (Lora) and Katie (Kurt), and his grandchildren Hanna, Spencer, Kinley, Tucker, Jack, Beckett and Calder. He made us all proud to be a Seabaugh.

He was preceded in death by his parents and many beloved hunting dogs. To all that knew him, may you always have a Bud Light and a container of maggots in your refrigerator.

His final wish was to "remember all of the great times forever" and his family will honor this with a celebration of life at the Seabaugh Family Farm on April 2 at 3 p.m. Please bring your fondest memory of Rusby.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Flathead County Library (ImagineIF Libraries - Kalispell, <https://www.imagineiflibraryfoundation.org/donate>)

Shirley (Coverdell) Seanor, 82

Shirley (Coverdell) Seanor passed away on June 15, 2022, after a battle with cancer.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 21, at Peninsula Memorial Chapel, 5839 Kenai Spur Hwy. in Kenai, Alaska. Viewing will be from noon to service time at the funeral home. Burial will follow the service at the Soldotna Community Memorial Park. Pastor Frank Alioto will officiate at the service.

Shirley was born Aug. 23, 1939, in Bigfork. She married Henry Richard Arnold of Kalispell in 1957. Two daughters were born from that marriage, Terri Arnold of Aliso Viejo, California, and Lori Matorano, from Melrose, Florida.

In 1996 she married George R. Seanor. There were three stepchildren from this marriage, Rick Seanor and Diana, Ron Seanor and Kris, and Kathy Ruppert and Tom. There are also many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Shirley's passion for



gardening filled the yard and greenhouse with flowers and vegetables every summer. Her flowers were the envy of everyone who saw them. Every Christmas she baked hundreds of cookies that she gave to select friends and contractors that they had known throughout the years. She was called the "Best Cookie Maker in the Area" by grateful recipients. Her many talents included award-winning pine needle basketry, jade carving, painting, stained glass and needlework. She loved music and played clarinet in bands and orchestras on the Peninsula. She also played piano, organ, accordion, guitar and was learning to play the violin. It was said she had more talent in one little finger than many have in their entire bodies.

Shirley greatly enjoyed days when she and

George took their boat out on the inlet and drift fished for halibut.

She was very active and would always make sure she registered 10,000 steps daily on her wrist counter. She loved all animals and her home and heart were open to numerous dogs, cats, a ferret, squirrels and rabbits over the years.

If anyone should like to donate, she recommends Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah; or Clear Creek Cat Rescue, 907-980-8898 (Contact Judy Price) or an animal welfare organization of your choice.

"Every day is a gift. Enjoy it to the fullest. It could be gone in the blink of an eye." — Shirley Seanor

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Forrest and Esther Coverdell of Bigfork; and one sister, Beverly Coverdell Josephson, of Big Timber.

Arrangements by Peninsula Memorial Chapel in Kenai, Alaska.

Whisper Dawn Mari Sellars-Crosswhite, 28

Whisper Dawn Mari passed away Aug. 27, 2022.

She was born to Dennis and Rebecca Sellars in Great Falls on Aug. 31, 1993. She was a force to be reckoned with from the beginning. One time when someone asked her older sister who she was she said, "I'm Whisper's sister."

Her family moved to Martin City when she was 6 years old and she attended school in Hungry Horse and Columbia Falls where she graduated from high school. Whisper was in several Montana Children's Theater productions and she was on the Columbia Falls Swim Team.

Whisper met her future husband, Doug



Crosswhite, when she was 14 and never looked at another man. They were together

for 15 years. They made Hungry Horse their home and started a family. She brought five children into that home, Aiden (12), Carter (9), Olivia and Owen (6) and Calvin (4). She was an amazing mother and loved nature and all sorts of outdoor activities, especially ones that she could be with her husband and children.

She is survived by her husband, Doug; sons Aiden, Carter, Owen and Calvin, her daughter Olivia; brothers,

Chris (Kim) Gilham (Andrea, Darryn and Isabella), Andrew Burd, Mister Sellars (Daughter Gabrielle), and Dennis Sellars; sister, Brittney (James Ekvall) (Chloe, Jamie Lynn, Zuriah, and Rebecca Rose); uncles, Gary (Wanda) Gilham and Doug (Debbie) Gilham; brothers-in-law, Joey (Kari) Crosswhite (Cash and Asher), and Brad (Kristen) Crosswhite (Kai, Kacen and Kieran); and sister-in-law, Alicia Crosswhite (Alayah and Ryker).

She was preceded in death by her mother Rebecca Gilham, grandfather Alan Gilham, uncle Vernon Gilham, and cousin Russell Gilham.

There will be visitation on Tuesday, Sept. 6, from 3 to 5 p.m. for friends at

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7, at the Canyon Community Church in Coram with a graveside committal to follow at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls. A reception will follow back at the Canyon Community Education Building, 185 Coram School Lane in Coram.

It's not goodbye Whisper, your kids and husband have the support of the family and countless others. Sleep well and we will see you again. See you later, love you.

Online condolences may be submitted on Whisper's tribute page at www.columbiamortuary.com.

William 'Bill' Everett Sevesind, 67

William "Bill" Everett Sevesind passed away Jan. 12, 2022, in Phoenix.



Bill was born in Kalispell on June 20, 1954, to Wilbur and Dorothy (Bloom) Sevesind. He lived and went to school in Kalispell his whole life, graduating from Flathead High in 1972.

Two years out of high school he married the love of his life, and they were married 47 years, and had two children together.

Bill worked at Plum Creek for 37 years before retiring in 2016. Then he and his wife became snowbirds, enjoying life together and golfing.

Bill loved to go hunting with his son and friends. He loved going camping and boating with his family. He also enjoyed skiing

and fishing.

Bill really got into golfing after retirement and spent lots of time out on many courses with his wife, friends and grandson.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Marlene (Orr) Sevesind; and two kids, Jonathon Sevesind and his wife Niki, and Jeannie (Sevesind) Roth and her husband Matt; his mother, Dorothy Sevesind; and brother, Gary Sevesind; nine grandchildren, Levi, Kaylee, Blake, Graceanne, Makayla, Cole, Colton, Ben and Keaton; and one great-grandson, Tucker; along with many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, father; and father- and mother- in-law; along with numerous uncles and aunts.

Services will take place at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 26 at First Baptist Church in Whitefish.

Kenneth L. Sharpe

Kenneth L. Sharpe passed suddenly at home on Dec. 5, 2021.

He is survived by his spouse Judy, son Eric (Kayla) Sharpe, daughters Allison (Riley) McCollum and Carolyn (Mike) McLean, and grandchildren Hailey, Brooklynn, Kenley, Paige, James and Daniel.



He was preceded in death by his father Jack, mother Joyce and sister Darlene.

A celebration of his life will be held at the family home on July 23 at 2 p.m.

Bill Shaw, 72

Bill Shaw, 72, passed away June 6, 2022, at home.

He was born Feb. 3, 1950, in Whitefish. In 1962 he moved to Lambert, Montana, and graduated in 1969. Following graduation, he joined the U.S. Army for three years. In 1979, he married Cindy Shaw. Bill then graduated from Montana State University with a degree in construction engineering. They adopted two children, Willow and Eli. Bill worked in the cities



of Lewistown, Montana, Othello, Washington, and Columbia Falls as a city manager. After retirement, Bill began raising cattle and grandchildren.

A memorial will be held on Monday, June 20, at 10 a.m. at Darlington Cremation and Burial Service, U.S. Hwy. 2 East, Kalispell.

A livestream will be available for Bill's memorial service at the following link: <https://my.gather.app/remember/bill-shaw>

Hugh L. 'Dale' Shawhan II, 85

Hugh L. "Dale" Shawhan II passed away in Kalispell on Feb. 19, 2022.

Dale wrote the following obituary of his life in 2020:

He was born on Feb. 8, 1937, to Ernest and Viola (Sis) Shawhan in Great Falls, Montana. In the early years, Dale lived with his parents in Great Falls, Libby, Kalispell and back to Great Falls after World War II broke out, where Dale's father worked for the Army Air Force as a civilian mechanical inspector. In 1946, the family moved to Kalispell where Dale attended elementary, junior high and senior high school. In his senior year at Flathead County High School, Dale met and fell in love with his soul mate, a freshman by the name of Carol Linrude. They dated during his senior year and upon his graduation in 1955, Dale joined the Navy. He received his basic training at the United States Naval Training Center in San Diego. After graduating from basic training, Dale received additional training in Norman, Oklahoma, and Jacksonville, Florida. After finishing his training in Aviation Storekeeper School in Jacksonville, he was transferred to Fleet All



Weather Training Unit, Pacific (FAW-TUPAC) at North Island in San Diego. Dale returned home on leave every chance

he had to see his family and his soul mate, Carol. While on Guam and after several years of waiting for a commitment from Dale, Carol became engaged to another and was married in the spring of 1959.

After discharge, in August 1959, Dale returned home to Kalispell and worked as an engineering aide for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at Hungry Horse Dam. After one year in this position, he was laid off as part of an overall 10% cut back in civil service positions in September 1960. Seeing employment opportunities nearly non-existent in the Flathead Valley and with winter coming on, Dale moved to Southern California and went to work for Equitable Life Assurance Society as an insurance underwriter-trainee. After 18 months he decided that sales were not his forte. He then applied to the

California Division of Highways for an engineering draftsman position and was hired immediately. He worked for the Division of Highways (later reorganized into the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) until retiring after nearly 40 years in 2001. During Dale's career at Caltrans, he held several positions in the engineering administration and planning areas. He finally retired as a senior transportation planner from the Caltrans New Technology and Research Division.

After arriving in Southern California, Dale met Patricia Wilder, a divorcee with four daughters from her previous marriage. They were married in late 1962 and, in August 1965, their daughter Patricia Kathryn was born. Shortly thereafter, Dale adopted Patricia's four daughters and raised them as his own. The family moved to Northern California after the 1971 Sylmar earthquake, which did extensive damage to the family's home in La Crescenta, California, and upset all the children. The family settled in Carmichael (a suburb of Sacramento) and he lived there until 2008 when Dale and Patricia separated and later divorced.

In early 2009, Dale found his soul mate again

after 50 years. Carol was widowed at that time so they decided that this gift of love lost and found was too wonderful to waste any more time by not being together. In August 2009 Dale moved back to his hometown of Kalispell and he and Carol shared their remaining years together traveling around the country visiting family and friends with an occasional shipboard cruise to such places as Alaska and Hawaii.

Dale is survived by his soul mate, Carol, his daughter Patricia "Patti" and son-in-law Jeff Friend, and granddaughters Jessica Lyn Lacourse and Amber Kelsey Lacourse. He is also survived by his four adopted daughters, sister Wilma and husband Paul Kelley, a niece, Sheri Shannon and nephew Dan Kelley and their families.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents Ernie Shawhan, Sis Hellen and stepfather Wallace Hellen.

A special thanks to all the staff at Brendan House.

Services will be held at a later date under the direction of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

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

Jack Reed Sheneman, 93

Dr. Jack R. Sheneman, 93, passed away Dec. 29, 2021, with his wife by his side.

He was born in Kalispell at home to Ralph Sheneman and Lucy Reed. He was their third child and only son.

Jack graduated from Polson High School in 1946. He also earned his Eagle Scout. He attended Montana State University ('46-'52) and graduated from the University of Nebraska Dental School ('52-'56). After an internship at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center ('56-'57), he was stationed at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. While there, he met and married Gloria Madsen, his wife for 63 years.

He graduated from



Saint Louis University Department of Orthodontics in 1967. Jack retired from the Air Force in 1976 as a lieutenant colonel.

Jack established an orthodontic practice in Vancouver, Washington, from 1987 to 1993.

After his second retirement, he and Gloria became snowbirds going between Flathead Lake and Sun Lakes, Arizona.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his middle sister Dorothy Coverdell, his only daughter Dawn Anderson, and two daughters-in-law, Eileen and Thea.

He is survived by his wife Gloria, oldest sister Donna, sons Mark and Jon, eight grandkids and six great-grandkids.

A memorial service will be held this summer in Montana.

Jack's favorite and most happy place was making anyone's smile beautiful.

Sharon Marlene Counsell Shepherd, 74

"Her kindness knew no bounds" was one of the many beautiful sentiments expressed to her family upon Sharon's passing in Kalispell on Feb. 3, 2022.

Sharon was born June 17, 1947, the middle child of Clarence and Helen Counsell. Growing up in a hard-working family, she learned the art of keeping a welcoming home ... cooking, cleaning, sewing, decorating and gardening.

Baptized a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sharon graduated from Flathead High School and the University of Montana with a teaching certificate. She married Jack McKay and they had two sons, Todd and Ryan. Sharon taught in Spokane, Sheridan and Havre.

After her divorce, Sharon met Havre radio broadcaster, Dan Shepherd, and they were married on June 17, 1977. Soon after, Dan formally adopted Todd and Ryan, and the four of them began their life together.

Fellow educators and students have written, "Sharon was a shining light to all who knew her," "She never met a child she didn't like," and "Forever a champion for kids." Having taught at every K-8 school in Havre, Sharon was a dedicated and nurturing teacher. Both during the school year and throughout the summer Sharon could be found developing curriculum, creating art projects, and designing fun learning activities.

A couple of her many teaching highlights included having a wall torn down and creating a



multi-age classroom, as well as taking her students on numerous dinosaur bone hunts with her teaching partner and friend, Dorothy Peschon.

"Sharon's entire life was a work of art." From the classroom to her home, and from weddings and special events to painting and scrapbooking with friends, Sharon's passion and talent for art and decorating graced everything and everyone around her. Her immaculate concept of design and space was tailored for each person, class, event, purpose, and area of their home.

Having served the community of Havre for over 35 years, Sharon and Dan retired and moved to Kalispell to help take care of her parents. Family was always at the center of Sharon's heart. She loved being a mother to her sons, and cherished the times with their families later in life.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Dan; son, Todd and grandson, Ken; son Ryan, daughter-in-law, Carrie, and grandchildren, Shane and Olivia. She's also survived by her brothers, Don and Gary Counsell, numerous other relatives, and many lifelong friends.

Her heart and soul were her amazing grandchildren. Nothing compared to her love for them. She delighted in their calls and texts, receiving photos of their many accomplishments, and sharing with her "kids." When she could,

Sharon and Dan would joyfully travel to watch the grandchildren in their many activities.

Baking and making breakfast for her family were among Sharon's favorite pastimes. She took great delight in coming up with new ways each Christmas to create and wrap presents. Her festive, delicious and wide variety of Christmas cookies will dearly be missed.

Although distance kept Sharon and Dan from seeing their sons and families as often as they wished, she kept their love and connection alive by creating exquisite and comprehensive scrapbooks for each grandchild.

These creations, Sharon's legacy to her grandchildren, are overflowing with photos and mementos from birth through high school years. True works of art and heart, handcrafted by a very loving grandmother, these scrapbooks will be cherished for years to come.

"The world seems dimmer without her smile, laugh and love of life."

A celebration of Sharon's life will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 17, (their 45th wedding anniversary), at Darlington Funeral Home in Kalispell, 3408 Hwy. 2 East. A reception will follow at Village Greens Community Center on West Nicklaus.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to Havre Public Schools Education Foundation.

"Sharon was loved by many, always thought of others first, and was truly one of the most caring friends ever."

Helen Shirliff, 85

Helen Shirliff, 85, Kalispell, passed away on Dec. 10, 2022 after a short stay at the hospital.

Helen was born on Feb. 23, 1937 in Springfield, Missouri to John and Thelma Weaver. After high school, Helen met Bob, and it's been Bob and Helen ever since.

She moved to Kalispell and attended Flathead High School. After high school, she went to work at the local phone company as an operator. In 1957, she married Robert Shirliff. They had two sons, Rob and Bryan in 1958 and 1960. Helen was one of the original working moms and she did a fabulous job. As the boys grew up, the family spent summers at both Echo and Ashley lakes skiing,

swimming and just enjoying the outdoors.

She enjoyed gardening in her spare time. She always had beautiful flowers growing in the garden.

She also enjoyed crocheting. Everyone always had slippers, scarfs and afghans thanks to Helen. She even donated scarfs and hats to military relief.

During her 30-plus years at the phone company, she worked her way up to a supervisory position. She also committed time to community service through the Soroptimist Club.

Helen retired during



the mid 80's. While she was retired, she got a chance to travel a little, spend quality time with her loved ones, and enjoy her golden years.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years Robert; her two sons Rob and Bryan; as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16 at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home; with burial to follow at C.E. Conrad Cemetery. Friends are encouraged to visit our website at www.buffalohillfh.com to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory caring for the family.

Bonnie Joan Lohman Shurtz, 86

Bonnie Joan Lohman Shurtz was born Aug. 15, 1935, in Walkerville, Montana.

In the early morning of Monday, Aug. 1, 2022, while sitting in her favorite chair facing her beloved lake, she peacefully passed away in her sleep. Bonnie lived a wonderful life and was just two weeks away from her 87th birthday.

Bonnie graduated from Butte High School in 1953. While attending, she met and fell in love with her husband Glenn whom she married at the age of 20. He was a Montana State School of Mines engineer whose career took them all around the world including Scotland, Peru and Columbia.

After returning to the states, Bonnie moved back to her beloved state of Montana and settled in the Bigfork area for the remainder of her life. She enjoyed spending time with her friends swimming, golfing, sewing, hiking and playing bridge.

Bonnie believed in supporting the community and giving back. She loved working in the Visitors Center, helping the elderly and supporting her local church.

A couple of weeks before her death, Bonnie enjoyed hosting her entire family at her home on Flathead Lake. The time was spent in laughter and many memory making moments.

Every single year, her five children, seven grandchildren and great-grandchildren filled her house with love, joy,



excitement, and chaos. Her friends in the area always knew when her family was

coming with the emptying of grocery store shelves in preparation of their arrival. Bonnie loved nothing more than spending time with her family.

Bonnie was preceded in death by her husband, Glenn Shurtz, her parents, Frank and Maude Lohman, and her brother Tom Lohman.

She is survived by her sister, Pam Cashl, sister-in-law, Evelyn Lohman, children, Glenn (Sherrie) Shurtz, Pamela (Bubba) Coots, Paul Shurtz, Greg Shurtz and David (Teresa) Shurtz; grandchildren, Charles (Michelle) Coots, Hannah (Sunny) Rathore, Sarah (Janine) DeLuna, Rebekah Lewis, Taylor (Pate) Davis, Steven (Molly) Shurtz and Bryan (Mandy) Shurtz; great-grandchildren, Kasyn Lewis, Everest Rathore, Kylee Coots, Kimberlee Coots and Collins Davis, as well as another great-granddaughter on the way; also many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held for family and friends the summer of 2023 in Walkerville and at Bonnie's home in Bigfork. For details, please reach out to the family.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your local food bank.

Daily Inter Lake
P.A.C. 20 Feb 2022

Laurretta Jean (Lund) Siderius

Laurretta Jean (Lund) Siderius, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Feb. 16, 2022, at Willow Place Assisted Living — Newberg, Oregon.



Laurretta was born to Gerhard Lund and Ellen Black Lund on March 25, 1934, in Jamestown, North Dakota. One of four children raised on the Sweetgrass Hills of Sunburst, Montana, Laurretta attended North Toole County High School, where she excelled as a student and young musician. She fueled her love of music at Rocky Mountain College in Billings where she graduated with a music education degree and met her future husband, Kenneth Siderius.

Upon graduation, Laurretta flew to France to marry Ken who was serving in the Army at Captieux, France. They spent a once-in-a-lifetime year living in France and touring Europe. Laurretta

taught third, fourth, and fifth grades in all subjects at Captieux, played the organ in one of the cathedrals, and enjoyed honing her French language skills. In 1957, Laurretta and Ken returned to the U.S. arriving in Miles City, Montana for Ken's first teaching job. Here they raised four children and Laurretta substitute taught and organized children's playgroups and music groups. The family later moved to Bozeman and ultimately to Kalispell, where Laurretta established her reputation as a first-rate musician and vocalist. Laurretta was particularly proud of the interdenominational boys' choir she helped start in Bozeman. She was a 4-H leader and welcomed all family and friends into her home. If you were hungry, she made sure you left full.

After separating from Ken in 1985, Laurretta completed graduate work in music at the

University of Montana, Missoula and at Silver Lake College, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. After this, Laurretta moved to Milton-Freewater, Oregon to teach and then to Newberg, Oregon and was a constant presence touching her kids and grandkids with love as their lives evolved and changed throughout the years. She was the best damn cook and her chocolate chip cookies could not be beat.

Wherever she was, Laurretta shared her talents with her community, singing and playing both the organ and piano at church, and singing at numerous weddings and funerals and in the Glacier Chorale. For years, she gave private piano and voice lessons at her studio in Kalispell.

Laurretta considered her greatest accomplishment her family and lived for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was a patient teacher, loving mother, and a kind and inquisitive friend. The other lives she touched she enriched beyond measure. Her faith in the

Lord above was unshakable.

Laurretta is preceded in death by her parents, Gerhard and Ellen Lund, and siblings Ellen "Jeanette," Gerhard "Roger," and Ronald Lund.

She is survived by sons Peter, David (Trudy), Steven (Michelle), and daughter Natalie (Darrell Downs) Siderius; grandchildren Maxwell, and Phoebe, Ellen, Jack and Peter Siderius, and Samuel and Emma Downs; and great-grandchildren Taitton and Kaiden Siderius.

Memorial services will be held on Monday, Feb. 28, at 1 p.m., Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, 525 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Memorials may be made to Disabled American Veterans online at <https://www.dav.org/> (Laurretta's brothers served in WWII and Roger was killed in Europe); or,

Rocky Mountain College, Office of Advancement, 1511 Poly Drive, Billings, MT 59102, <https://www.rocky.edu/donate>.

Joan Siderius, 57

Joan Siderius, 57, passed away on Aug. 21, 2022 in Kalispell from stupid cancer.

Joan was born June 18, 1965 in Olympia, Washington. The daughter of Pauline Coveney and Basil Badley, she graduated from Holy Names Academy in Seattle in 1983, and earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from University of Portland in 1987. Joan worked in the Kalispell Regional Hospital (Logan Health) in both the NICU and OB departments, as well as at Sunnyview Pediatrics and Family Born where she served countless families and their babies with her trademark humor and compassion.

She met her "handsome husband," Mike Siderius, while she was working in the NICU at Swedish and he was working for Boeing. The two were married in 1992 in Seattle before settling in Kalispell to begin and raise their family. They had 20 happy years together.

Joan was a member of Trinity Lutheran



Evangelical Church and loved Jesus with all her heart; as well as dancing,

road trips, gardening, and making others laugh. She was fun personified, and an active member of the community who spread love and joy to all she met.

Joan was preceded in death by her husband, Mike Siderius, and her father, Basil Badley.

She is survived by her loving children Joe (Bre), Reid, and Shea Siderius; granddaughter, Josephine Siderius; mother, Pauline Coveney; in-laws, Jerry and Barbara Siderius; sister, Janet Thornton; and brothers, Marcus, Greg, Wally and Matt Badley.

Joan's celebration of life will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church on Sept. 7 at 1 p.m.

The family requests donations to Hope Pregnancy or Relay for Life.

Thomas Siderius, 82

Thomas Siderius, 82, lifelong Flathead Valley resident, passed away at his home on Jan. 7, 2022.

He grew up in Somers and graduated from Flathead County High School. He married his wife Terry Rose in 1962 and was looking forward to celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in July. After marriage, they moved to the farm east of Kalispell where he resided until his passing.

Tom was a lifelong farmer; through the years he milked cows, raised thousands of hogs and had cattle, which were his favorite. Tom raised wheat, barley, peas, lentils, hay and peppermint. In his early years he worked in the woods with his brother and plowed snow on the Going-to-the-Sun Road.

He was active in many organizations, served as an Elder of the First Presbyterian Church, Montana Farmers Union director, Montana Wheat and Barley Committee, and Fairmont Egan School board to name a few.

Tom was a hard worker and it was a trait that he instilled in each of his children, but even during the busiest farming seasons, he shut down the tractor to



watch his kids and grandkids show animals at the fair and rarely missed a ball game.

He loved having visitors to the farm and was always happy to give a tractor ride to see the cows. He had a great sense of humor, a twinkle in his eye and teased everyone he met, something that he'll always be remembered for.

He was preceded in death by his beloved grandson, Coleman.

He is survived by his wife Terry, son Mark (Heather), daughters Lisa (Chris), Jody (Pete), and Jill (Marty); grandchildren, Emma, Libby, Katy, Spencer, Hannah, Rachel, Zachary, Grayce, Lauryn and Beau; and two great granddaughters, Colebie and Avery. He is also survived by brothers Charles, Ken and Jerry, sisters Judy and Maxine, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial service will be held on March 12 at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church.

Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church or Samaritan House.

John "Paul" Sieler, 51



John "Paul" Sieler, 51, was called home to the Lord in an unexpected car accident on Friday, Nov. 11, 2022. Paul was raised by his loving parents Chuck and Linda Sieler in Kalispell, where he also married his soul-mate Enna. Together Paul and Enna raised two beautiful daughters which he referred to as the "best thing in his life."

Paul enjoyed serving his community by working for South Kalispell Fire Department, Flathead County Search & Rescue and Wasilla Alaska Fire Department. He worked most of his life building and repairing campers and RVs for the family business, S&S; Campers and Canopies, and his own company Northwest Custom

Campers (NWCC). Paul was passionate and meticulous in his work and was always so proud when his hard work came together perfectly. Most recently he loved his job for Flathead County managing the waste container sites typically at Bigfork, Somers, Lakeside and Ashley.

Paul was an avid recreational enthusiast and lived life on the wild side. His favorite activity was spending quality time with family and friends in the great outdoors. He was known to turn a "short" hike into an all day adventure with his coin phrase "Let's just

see what's around this next corner." Paul was a true Montana mountain man.

Paul was a born storyteller. There was never a dull moment and always an abundance of laughter when Paul decided to share his wild life stories with friends and family.

Paul had a kind heart and always tried to help, mentor and minister to those who needed it. Paul touched the lives of many and is truly missed.

Paul left behind his father, Allen "Chuck" Sieler and mother Linda Sieler; his true love, Rhowenna "Enna" Brittney Sieler; his daughters, Natasha Sieler (and her significant other Chris), Francine Wiersma and his son-in-law Aaron Wiersma; his siblings

Hazel and Allen; neices and nephews; and many in-laws.

In lieu of a traditional memorial service a "Final Farewell" will be held Saturday, Dec. 10 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Central Christian Church, 248 2nd Ave. E., Kalispell. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like you to write a memory or story you have of Paul. Writing supplies will be provided at the service or can be mailed to 459 Willow Glen Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901. The family also requests spending quality time in the great outdoors with your loved ones in his memory.

Claire Belle Simons, 89

It is with deep sadness and much love that we mourn the earthly passing of Claire Belle Simons (née Waltz) of Kalispell on April 5, 2022, at the age of 89 years.

Born to John and Marie Waltz on Sept. 14, 1932, the doctor announced her birth stating, "She looks like a Honey to me!" Her nickname Honey would follow her and is only trumped by the name she heard most often, Nana. She was predeceased and is now reunited in Heaven with her loving husband of 53 years, Joe.

Claire will be forever remembered by her children, Linda, Sue, Debra, Jay, and Tammy; their

spouses, Art, Pete, Franklin, Lynn, and Steve; along with 20 grandchildren, their spouses, 54 great-grandkids, their spouses, and four great-great-grandkids. In all, 109 called her Mom and Nana.

Claire met Joe in Cleveland, Ohio in 1950, marrying shortly after. In 1958, they moved their young family to Orange County, California. Claire raised her five children and enjoyed a life full of homemaking, cooking, bowling, and card games. She was a leader of a



Girl Scout and Brownie troop there, too. She taught herself to cook by her own experiments and asking her neighbors for help. And now her recipes are shared as legendary amongst family and friends. While in California, she enrolled in nursing school in 1968 and graduated second in her class, going on to become an OB nurse.

In 1971, they moved to Grants Pass, Oregon and purchased a KOA Campground. Claire had so many stories from that short time in Oregon. But her best and most frequently told story was that of dedicating her life to the Lord.

At the age of 40, Claire

came to the Lord after experiencing a vision and hearing the Lord tell her, "If you will seek me with all of your heart, you will surely find me." The next morning, when the altar call was given, she was the first in line. Since that day, she has dedicated all of her life works to Jesus Christ, bringing as many of us along as she could!

Claire and Joe lived in Sequim, Washington for more than 20 years.

A Memorial Service will be held at Easthaven Baptist Church on Friday, April 29 at 11 a.m.

Memorial Donations may be made in the name of Claire Simons to Samaritan's Purse.

Judy Rae Simonson, 71

Our loving mother, Judy Rae Simonson, 71, of Polson passed away peacefully at St. Joseph Hospital on Nov. 28, 2022.



chuckles among those who got to hear it.

Judy is survived by her loving

sons, Mike (Bonnie) Walter, Travis (Nancy) Walter, and Brad (Heather) Walter; her grandchildren, Sheryl, April, Mikala, Brady, Maverick, Brandon, Madison, Mattox, Rokton, and Quaid; her great-grandchildren, Maisy, Rowan, and Aubrey; her brother, Greg Simonson; her sister, Peggy Snyder; as well as nieces and nephews she cared deeply about.

Judy is survived by her loving sons, Mike (Bonnie) Walter, Travis (Nancy) Walter, and Brad (Heather) Walter; her grandchildren, Sheryl, April, Mikala, Brady, Maverick, Brandon, Madison, Mattox, Rokton, and Quaid; her great-grandchildren, Maisy, Rowan, and Aubrey; her brother, Greg Simonson; her sister, Peggy Snyder; as well as nieces and nephews she cared deeply about.

Prior to retiring in 2014, Judy worked at Lake County Abstract and Title for over 25 years as the office manager. She also worked at the Polson Police Department as a secretary and in the office at Linderman Elementary earlier in her career.

A memorial service will be held at The Lake Funeral Home in Polson on Friday, Dec. 2, at 1 p.m., with a reception to follow at Polson Bay Golf Course.

Judy loved flowers and gardening during the spring and summer. She treasured her friends and enjoyed laughing and visiting with them over the years. She adored her three sons and was very proud of the men they became. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren filled her life with such joy, and she always had a treat for them every time she got to see them.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Judy Simonson's name to St. Jude Children's Hospital, an organization Judy felt strongly about supporting over the years.

Judy cared deeply for all the people who entered her life, and she made friends quickly. She was also always quick with a funny zinger statement that would create laughter and

Messages of condolences may be shared with the family online at www.lakefuneralhome-andcremation.com.

Arrangements are under the care of The Lake Funeral Home and Crematory.

Barbara Ann Slethaug, 79

Barbara Ann Slethaug, 79, passed away Jan. 21, 2022.

Barbara was born April 22, 1942, in Kalispell to Erwin and Bernice (Sherman) Slethaug. Her elementary years were in the Kalispell area schools. She attended high school in Polson and Kalispell. She graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, in 1964 with a teaching degree and taught home economics.

Barb taught several years in Great Falls. Later she worked for the state of Montana in the WIC program in Lewistown and Helena. One year she worked for the Heart Association in Washington. When Barb returned to the Flathead area, she worked for Avon and worked on an inventory crew, traveling in Western Montana.

Barb enjoyed traveling, especially to London where she attended

Michael Crawford concerts. Paris was also a destination. When she wasn't traveling, she was dreaming about her next trip. Genealogy was high on her list and she loved to talk about relatives of the past.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Erwin and Bernice, Slethaug, as well as a brother-in-law, Don Knutson, and nephew, Joseph Knutson.

She is survived by

two sisters, Billie (Steve) Moksnes and Joanne Knutson; nephews, Jeff Knutson, Jon (Jennifer) Knutson and Josh (Natasha) Knutson, as well as Erik Moksnes and Karen (Grant) Takahashi and several grandnieces and -nephews.

A memorial gathering will take place in April.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Barbara and her family.

Helmer 'Nels' Sletvold, 67

PAW 23 Jan 2022
 Helmer 'Nels' Sletvold, 67, passed away Jan. 10, 2022.



Nels was born in Oaks, North Dakota, to Gladys and Helmer Sletvold Sr. Nels graduated from Kalispell High School and then joined the Navy. He then met his former spouse of 26 years, Betty, and they moved to Columbia Falls.



Nels worked at the Plum Creek sawmill for over 25 years and raised his family. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and playing pranks on coworkers. Nels had a kind heart and was always there to help.

He was preceded in death by his mother,

father, and brother Perry.

Nels is survived by Betty, and his four children Chad, Ben, Chris and Bill; siblings, Linda,

Fred, Bim, Dale, Juenell and Pam; and grandchildren, Troy, Avaya and Josh.

An ash spreading ceremony is planned this spring.

Austin Funeral & Cremation Services is caring for the family.

Debra Renee Smith, 49

Debra Renee Smith died Friday, Aug. 5, 2022.



She is survived by her youngest son Kyle, husband Joshua, mother Sally Sorenson, stepfather Paul Sorenson, brothers Richard and Coke Crawford Jr., and many other loved ones, family members and friends.

Debra was preceded in death by her oldest son Campbell Smith, and her father Coke Crawford.

Debra Renee Crawford was born in Moscow, Idaho, on March 17, 1973. She lived in Moscow through her eighth grade year, enjoying many years of travel basketball, softball, and spending time with family and childhood friends.

It was in Moscow around fourth grade when Debi and her friend, Debee Rice, came up with unique spellings of their names to set them apart from the other Debbies. Debi was a bright, smart, caring, athletic and loving child. In 1987, she moved with her parents to McMinnville, Oregon, where she lived with her dad as she went through high school. Debi's high school years included stunts on the softball team and a tight-knit group of close friends. In high school, she started working in her free time at Figaro's Pizza. She worked at various Figaro's throughout high school and college and was dubbed the "Best Pizza Maker in the West," by her family, later in life.

Debi graduated high school in 1991 and moved an hour south, to Corvallis, Oregon, where she put herself through college at Oregon State University. Growing up, Debi had always loved and found comfort in drawing house plans, so much that she studied and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Housing Design degree. At OSU, Debi joined Kappa Delta Sorority and once again met a new group of lifelong friends.

Through Debi's sorority sisters, she later met her future husband, Joshua Smith, and they were inseparable. Debi

and Josh were married in July of 1999, and recently celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary. After college, Debi worked in the insurance business a number of years, but always thought of the work as a job, rather than a career.

In September 2002, Debi and Josh moved to Kalispell to follow a career opportunity for Josh. Montana felt like home from the day they pulled into Bigfork with all their possessions in a moving truck, towing their Isuzu Rodeo. On Nov. 21, 2003, their first child, Campbell, was born and Debi found the career that she absolutely loved and excelled at: Debi became a mom. Kyle came along four years later, and Debi's heart and plate were full taking care of her family, but somehow she still found time to manage the books for Josh and Debi's business.

In addition to her children, Debi was also a lover and protector of animals. She kept an extra leash in her car, just in case she came across a lost or disoriented dog on a busy street that needed help finding its home (this happened often). There are too many stories to share that capture Debi's essence and the good times her family shared with her in the Flathead Valley and beyond.

The one constant in all the memories of Debi is her love for Josh, Campbell and Kyle, and how she was always more worried that they were taken care of and had everything they needed more than anything else. Debi Smith will be remembered for her huge heart, electric smile, unrelenting kindness, generosity, style, stunning beauty, and how she always made way too much food for gatherings to make sure everyone had enough of exactly what they wanted. Debi's life ended way too early, but she will be forever loved and missed by her family and friends. Rest easy, Debi, we love you.

Debi will be laid to rest at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell next to her son, Campbell, following a private service.

Eugene E. 'Gene' 'Snuffy' Smith, 94

Eugene Smith, 94, of Kalispell, passed away in his sleep Oct. 27, 2022, at the Whitefish home of his daughter and son-in-law.

Gene was born Sept. 11, 1928, in Rush Springs, Oklahoma, to Roy V. and Ethel F. (Patrick) Smith, the sixth of seven siblings. Gene was raised in Rush Springs, with brief family stays in Texas to help in the war effort during World War II. He graduated from Rush Springs High School.

Gene enlisted in the U.S. Army Nov. 5, 1943. He signed up for artillery, thinking he would spend his time nearby in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Instead, he was sent to Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, then to Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland. He spent three years deployed in Panama during the Korean War and was honorably discharged June 10, 1952.

Gene came to Montana in 1952 to help his sister, Nadine Bolin, and her young children following the death of her husband, Charles, in a hunting accident that fall. Gene moved to Montana permanently in 1953. Gene met his future wife, Louise Meeks, in Kalispell that year as Louise and her parents and siblings attended the church that Nadine and Charles had pastored there. Gene and Louise were married

June 25, 1954, celebrating 68 years of marriage before his passing.

Church was always an important part of Gene's life, from his early days at the Methodist church in Rush Springs, to First Church of God in Kalispell where he met Louise, (later Northridge Heights Church of God,) then Whitefish Community Church of God where his son-in-law pastored, later Kalispell Nazarene, and finally Flathead Ekklesia in Kalispell, where he played his fiddle with the worship team just four days before his passing.

They had three children, Rena, Rick and Melody, as well as seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Over the years they opened their home to many nieces, nephews, and others



retiring from there after 28 years, mainly driving a concrete truck. During those years he acquired the affectionate nickname Snuffy, due to his small stature and resemblance to the popular cartoon character, along with his last name, and his wife's name. Many contractors and construction workers in the valley didn't know him by anything other than Snuffy.

Gene inherited a lifelong love of music and had the natural ability to sing and to play nearly any stringed instrument he was given. He passed that talent and passion down to some of his children and to all seven grandchildren. He enjoyed a lifetime of playing music in the churches they attended, playing with Don Landon and others in many area nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and playing in the treasured family jam sessions through the years.

Gene was a lifelong hunter, and although his main area of hunting was always "west of Kalispell," he enjoyed going east of the mountains in Montana when his family was growing up and hunting big game in Alaska various times with family. Several of the animals also became typical Montana wall décor, but his main goal was feeding his family, and he always succeeded in that. He passed his love of hunting on to his family, and those hunts and lunches around the campfire together, wherever they happened, are

needing a place to live.

In Montana, Gene worked at Glacier Concrete Pipe, and then McElroy & Wilkin Ready Mix,

treasured memories.

Gene was a hard worker, a loving husband, and a devoted family man. Through the years he enjoyed camping trips with family and friends, vacations around the U.S., especially visiting family in the Southwest, and numerous trips to and months living and working with family in Alaska. He and Louise enjoyed two cruises to the Caribbean, and many Hawaiian vacations, including taking family to their youngest daughter's wedding there.

He spent a few years creating oil paintings on canvas and building frames for them. Again, he was self-taught and amazingly creative. He expanded that to wood-working, making numerous wine cork trivets, antler back scratchers, Diamond Willow walking sticks, miniature music box baby grand pianos, foot massagers, decorative mirrors, games, and lots of home décor. Gene designed and built two of their family homes west of Kalispell and helped build homes for both daughters in Whitefish in the 1990s. He did amazing masonry and rock work, building beautiful river rock fireplaces.

As the grandkids came along, Gene and Louise traveled to attend their sports, musical and dance events. He loved practical jokes, for which he was legendary, happy to play with any little kids, and collecting toys and jokes to entertain them when they came to visit.

He liked coffee, Alpine Touch, salt, and more salt. ("It hardens your arteries and makes your back straight," he was known to say.) Soda pop, sweet tea, sugar, and an endless hoard of junk food and candy added to his diet favorites of fried potatoes, corn on the cob and watermelon. He loved to eat out, and to tease the waitresses that became friends through

the years.

He had a lifetime of stories that he loved to remember and tell, and he often started with, "Did I tell you about the time ..." His childhood and growing up years, the Army, hunting experiences, vacations and trips, pouring concrete around Northwest Montana, including on Big Mountain and in Glacier Park, — it all sparked stories.

Gene was preceded in death by his grandparents, his parents, his siblings and their spouses, and Louise's parents and four of her siblings.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Louise; their children, Rena (Larry) Lautaret, Rick (Beverly) Smith, and Melody (Dennis) Ackley; their seven grandchildren, including Lori (Jason) Stoffer, Rachel Lautaret, Luke (Stephany) Lautaret, David (Jill) Lautaret, Taylor (Alison) Ackley, Connor (Kattie) Ackley, and Dalton (Kara) Ackley; and 11 great-grandchildren, who were Grandpa Gene's great delight in recent years, Zoralee, Kyra, Bennett, Ziah, Hunter, Dessie, Efla, June, Emmylou, Harlan and Calvin. Gene was close to his many nieces and nephews, as well as to Louise's siblings, their spouses and their families. He was the patriarch and is so loved and missed.

A family gathering to honor and remember his life will be held at a later time.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Memorials are suggested to Flathead Ekklesia, P.O. Box 3454, Kalispell, MT 59903 (where Gene attended the last few years, under the leadership of his son-in-law, Larry,) or to Kalispell First Church of the Nazarene, 1295 Whitefish Stage, Kalispell, MT 59901.

James Robert Smith, 68

James Robert Smith passed away of natural causes Nov. 15, 2022 in Bremerton, Washington. James was born Nov. 3, 1854 in Havre to Leon and Evelyn Smith. He grew up in Hingham, Montana and graduated from Hingham High School in 1973.

James enlisted in the US Navy in 1974. He was stationed aboard the USS Bristol County LST-1198. While in the Navy, James received the National Defense Service Medal,

Good Conduct Award (2 awards), Expert .45 Cal. Pistol, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and M-14 Marksman. He was discharged from the Navy April, 1983 as an Engineman 1st Class, EN 1, E-6.

After leaving the Navy, James worked at the Bremerton Naval Repair facility repairing and rebuilding torpedoes until he retired. James was diagnosed with Parkinson's 20 years ago. His sister Lynn and

husband John were caretakers for James.

James favorite hobbies were wood-working and fishing.

James was preceded in death by his parents, Leon and Evelyn and his sister Wanda Mills.

He is survived by his daughter, Tasha (Skylar)



Wood of Bremerton; brother Larry (Wanita) Smith of Kalispell; sisters Lynn (John) Paasch and Linda Smith of Bremerton and Pam (David) Wilson of Havre; and many numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations in Jame's name can be made to the North Star School Foundation in Hingham or the Parkinson Foundation.

We were a six pack, now we are a four pack.

Joseph Edward Smith, 72

Joseph Edward Smith, 72, died from complications related to ALS at Logan Health Medical Center in Kalispell on June 6, 2022.

Joe was born to Richard Louis Smith and Marjorie Louise Smith (Cajune) on Jan. 17, 1950 in Mission, Montana.



Joe knew the love of his life, Sue Darling, since sev-



enth grade. They were married a year out of high school and would have celebrated 53 years together on Aug. 20. Together they had three sons, Ronn Joseph, Ryan Lee and Cory Richard. Joe coached his boys in their sports as they grew up. Joe had a passion for sports. He supported the Columbia Falls Wildcat programs, Duke College basketball team, the Raiders, and San Francisco Giants.

Joe also enjoyed fishing, camping, deer hunting, watching bull riding, was a NASCAR fanatic and considered Jeff Gordon his boy. He enjoyed old school country music, loved to eat at his favorite restaurant in every town, enjoyed Sue's pies and preferred homemade cookies slightly burnt. He also took great pride in his yard maintenance.

Joe retired from the Columbia Falls Aluminum plant. In addition, the family ran All Seasons Sport and Cycle and Sunrise Bakery. He volunteered 35-plus years for the

Columbia Falls Fire Department and truly enjoyed his years there serving with his band of brothers on the department. Joe was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the State Fire Chief's Association. He was the first firefighter in Columbia Falls to receive the award. He was also an Air Force veteran. Joe attended Journey Church and had a strong faith. Joe was proud of his Chippewa heritage and was an enrolled member of White Earth Reservation.

The family will miss Joe's quick wit and wonderful sense of humor.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Richard L. Smith and Marjorie Smith; brother, Johnny Smith; brother-in-law, Virgil Hall; sister-in-law, Connie Gamble; and sister-in-law, Donna Walton.

Joe is survived by his caring wife, Sue; their children, Ronn Joseph (Deanna), Ryan Lee (Staci), and Cory Richard (Qian); grandsons, Gavin, Meyer, Roman and Reiss; sister, Nancy Jo Hall; sister, Mary Louise Smith; and brother, Richard Wyman Smith (Lorinda).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Columbia Falls Fire Department.

A celebration of life for Joe will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 31, at Columbia Falls Fire Department, 624 1st Ave. W., Columbia Falls, MT 59912. Family and friends may begin to visit on Sunday starting at 1 p.m. Inurnment will be held privately at the convenience of the family.

Mason DeWilliam Smith, 48

Mason DeWilliam Smith, our beloved son, brother, father, grandfa-



ther, nephew, cousin and friend, left this world much too soon at the age of 48.

Mason was born and lived in Kalispell, but also called Bigfork, Lincoln, and Bonners Ferry, Idaho, home. He graduated in 1993 from Lincoln High School with a small but tight-knit class, most of whom still remain friends.

Mason was a skilled contractor, providing carpentry, drywall and painting services around the valley. Mason thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors; in the summers you could find him camping, fishing, prospecting, riding ATVs, and anything else that the valley has to offer in the warm months. He was a self-taught gui-

tarist and had become quite proficient. Mason is remembered for his warm heart, comedic wit, and fun-loving spirit.

Mason was preceded in death by his parents, Markus Smith and Marcia Stevens; and grandparents, Howard and Laura Glazier, Marion and Vivian Smith, William and Delores (Morton) Sears, and Robert Stevens.

He is survived by his sons, Dakota Farrar and Trenton Smith; daughters, Thelina Conley, Lynae Smith and Nova Pharr; mother, Frances Smith; brothers, Miles Smith and Ryan Smith; sister, Aja Thomas; grandchildren, Marshall, Bailey and Amelia Farrar, and Ren and Khoen Smith; and numerous loving aunts, uncles and cousins.

Services will be held on Friday, May 27, at 2 p.m. at the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home in Kalispell.