

## Robert Dean Upton, 73

Robert Dean Upton "entered into eternal rest" on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. He was born in Ohio, Neb., on June 27, 1936, the third son of Dr. Verne Lewis and Naida May (Roder) Upton. At age 7, his family moved to Hastings, Neb., and, following the death of his father in 1948, at age 12, his mother moved to Lincoln, Neb., where he completed his formal education at Lincoln Senior High School.

Upon graduation he joined the U.S. Navy and served for over 24 years, rising to the highest rank of a non-commissioned officer, master chief. After completing his long and distinguished career in the Navy, he joined the San Diego Union Tribune, applying his knowledge and expertise as a pressman for 16 years. Upon retiring from the newspaper, he moved to Kalispell to enjoy his retirement years hunting, fishing and golfing.

He met and married Fumiko Yamauro Upton in 1962 while stationed in Japan. She preceded him in death in 2001.

After the death of his first wife he met and married Bonnie Sorensen West, Feb.



27, 2005.

He enjoyed traveling, attending concerts, good times with family, friends and neighbors, and his involvement at Stillwater Free Lutheran Church.

Bob is survived by his sister, Jean Behrends, and husband, William E. Behrends, of Houston; a niece, Major Ann Behrends, DDS, and husband, Ron Bolin, of DeRidder, La.; brother, Dr. William H. Upton, DDS, and wife, Betty, of Superior, Neb.; nieces, Pam Hoefs and husband, Dr. Mike Hoefs, DDS, of Lincoln, and Vickie Sweet and husband, Harold Sweet, of Superior; brother Verne's wife, Willie Upton, of Irvine, Calif.; nieces, Nancy Kenney and husband, Jim Kenney, of San Antonio, and Carol Sue Dummit and husband, Bruce Dummit, of Carlsbad, Calif.; and two cousins Bob grew up with, Larry Warren of Scottsdale, Ariz., and Fred Warren of Toano, Va.

Preceding Bob in death were his father and mother; wife, Fumiko; and brother, Verne, who died Aug. 15, 2006.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, at Stillwater Free Lutheran Church, 1401 Church Dr., in Kalispell.

The family suggests memorials to Stillwater Free Lutheran Church or Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Arrangements are under the care of Austin Funeral Home.

## Donald Roy VanBolcum, 78

Donald Roy VanBolcum, 78, "left this world" in June 2009. Donald "Don" was born on Nov. 13, 1930, in Choteau, the son of Joseph and Winifred (Broolsma) VanBolcum.



He was raised on a farm near Fairfield and after graduating from high school, helped his father with the farming and also went to work for the Anaconda Smelter in Great Falls. He moved to Lonepine in 1967 and ranched there, raising shorthorn cattle and hay. He was a very avid horseman, and was seen checking on his cattle often with his favorite little mare "Robin."

He married Donna Redfield-Peterson in 1972.

He worked as a maintenance man at the Hot Springs Nursing Home for a few years and then in 1974, they moved to the Flathead Valley. He worked at the Kalispell Livestock Auction south of Kalispell, and then at Cenex until an accident forced him to quit.

He and Donna divorced in 1985. He stayed in Kalispell and became a very active member of the Eagles for 32 years, going through all the offices, being president five times, was in the Hall of Fame in 1984-85, was inducted into the State Cane Club, and was state president in 1998-99.

Don was preceded in death by his parents; four brothers, Robert "Buster," John "Jack," Lawrence and Harry; and a sister, Winifred.

He is survived by a special nephew, Joe VanBolcum, of Fairfield; sister-in-law, Violet "Vi," also of Fairfield; and a stepdaughter, Diane Stoner and her family, of Whitefish; also surviving are his special Eagles brothers and sisters.

Memorial services for Don will be at noon, Saturday, July 11, at the Eagles in Kalispell.

The family suggests that any memorial contributions be sent to the Eagles of Kalispell, 37 First St. W., Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Don's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to offer condolences and sign Don's guest book.

## Clair J. 'Bud' Vandehey, 83

Clair J. "Bud" Vandehey, 83, died Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009, at his Kalispell residence.

A rosary service will be held at 6 p.m. today, Feb.

17, at Risen Christ Catholic Church. Burial will be held at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Rory Neil VanDeKop, 57

Rory Neil VanDeKop, 57, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. He



was born on May 5, 1952, in Ashland, Ore., to Corneilius and Betty (Reitz) VanDeKop.

Rory was raised in Cut Bank and graduated from Cut Bank High School. He proudly served in the Army.

He owned and operated a muffler shop and service station in Cut Bank for many years; he also owned and operated a flight charter service until moving to Boise, Idaho. He managed a corporate charter service until his retirement in 1996, when Rory and Connie moved back to Montana.

He was preceded in death by his father, Corneilius "Neil" VanDeKop; and his loving canine companion, Renko.

He is survived by his wife, Connie VanDeKop; a daugh-

ter, Toni King, and husband, Greg; a son, Jason VanDeKop, and wife, Laura; two stepdaughters, Tammi Sims and Tiffani Pimley; a stepson, Adam Pimley; mother, Betty VanDeKop; two brothers, Bryce VanDeKop and wife, Brandy, and Paul VanDeKop and wife, Chris; four sisters, Shannon Kalk and husband, John, Lynne Drenniak and Al, Caprice Mann and husband, Mark, and LaReesa Moore and husband, Bryon; three grandchildren, Jeremy, Torrey and Nathan King; as well as a large extended family, including in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and many close friends.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14, at Crossroads Christian Fellowship in Bigfork, with Pastor Jim Holman officiating.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Rory's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to view Rory's guest book, offer condolences and share memories.

## Jerry Van Meter, 83

Jerry Van Meter, 83, passed away on Saturday, April 11, 2009, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. He was born in Guthrie, Okla., on Feb. 13, 1926, to Earl and Edna (Goodnight) Van Meter. Jerry received his early education in Guthrie, graduating from high school there.

He joined the U.S. Navy on March 1, 1944, but due to an injury separated on May 5, 1945. Returning to Oklahoma, Jerry worked on his grandfather's ranch. He was one of the real cowboys. As a challenge he made a long-distance ride from Oklahoma to Hollywood, Calif.

Jerry traveled from California to Colorado where he worked on a dude ranch. During that time he met and married Mary Lou Berry. Jerry began working as a contract underground miner, a profession that he loved and took him all over the western United States.

On March 25, 1978, Jerry married Hazel Joyce in Lyman, Wyo., while he was working at a Trona Mine. Together they enjoyed fishing and rock hounding. Often Jerry could be found sitting in his chair and reading the latest copy of a Louis L'Amour Western novel. Hazel and Jerry split their time between Kalispell and Bullhead City until Jerry's health started to deteriorate. In 1980 they made Kalispell their permanent home.



death by his wife, Hazel.

He is survived by two sons, Donald and David Van Meter; two daughters, Linda Van Meter and

Sandra Muro; two stepsons, Deni Joyce of Dixon, and David Joyce and wife Kathy, of Crookston, Minn.; and five stepdaughters, Jan Joyce and Paula Anderson, both of Kalispell; Jewel Bond of Vernal, Utah, Patty Pagan and husband, Chris, of Lady-smith, British Columbia, and Carol Denny and husband, Virgil, of Hayden, Idaho; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and four brothers, James, William, David and Byron.

Funeral services for Jerry will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, in the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Chapel with Pastor Darrell Newby officiating. Burial will be in the Glacier Memorial Gardens. Family and friends are invited to a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Eagles in Kalispell.

The family suggests memorials gifts to the veterans organization of the donor's choice.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Jerry's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to offer condolences and sign Jerry's guest book.

## Harold Wayne Van Dusen, 73

Harold Wayne Van Dusen, 73, "went home to be with the Lord" on Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009, at his home in Kalispell. He was born Oct. 16, 1935, in Pomona, Calif., to Walter and Lillian Van Dusen.



He met and fell in love with Barbara Peterson when they were both employed by Woolworth's in Huntington Park, Calif. They were married March 10, 1956. In the same year he started working for the post office in South Gate, Calif.

In May of 1969, the family moved to Kalispell where he retired from the post office, in 1992. In the time that he lived in Kalispell, he was very involved in Central Christian Church and served as an elder there.

He was very artistic and painted many pictures for his family and friends. He has also become very well known around town with his window paintings and Styrofoam sculptures for the church and other events. A couple of years ago there was an article in the Daily Inter Lake about his talent in this area.

In 2001, he and Barbara became volunteers at Kalispell Regional Medical Center and have found this experience to be one of the most fulfilling in their lives. He and Barbara have had a wonderful time since they both retired and have done extensive traveling. A favorite spot was the Hawaiian Islands and it was a yearly trip for them.

He was loved by all who knew him and will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara, at the family home; and his two children, David of Seattle, and Cindy (Van Dusen) Block of Kalispell. He has four grandchildren, Joshua and Mitchell of Kalispell, and Angela and Meagan of Seattle. A family highlight this past year was his grandson Josh's wedding to Brooke.

He is also survived by his very cherished son-in-law, Walter Block, of Kalispell,

and his two sisters-in-law Donna and Betty Peterson, also of Kalispell.

Memorial services for Harold will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, at Central Christian Church in Kalispell. Graveside services will be private.

The family suggests contributions be sent to the Kalispell Regional Hospital Foundation at 310 Sunnyview Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Johnson - Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Harold's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to view Harold's guest book, offer condolences and share memories.



## Perry Lamond Van Orden, 53

Perry Lamond Van Orden passed away at home on Nov. 3, 2009, at the age of 53. Perry was born in Dillon to the parents of Ramond Merrill Van Orden and Frances Jean Holt on Aug. 15, 1956.



He grew up in Kalispell and graduated from high school in Belle Fourche, S.D. He attended San Jacinto College in Houston. Perry served in the U.S. Air Force from 1975 to 1980 and separated honorably with the rank of staff sergeant. He served on tours overseas at Kaiserslautern Air Base in Germany and stateside at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Miss. Upon completion of his military service, Perry moved to Houston, where he had resided ever since.

Perry's career involved providing information technology services at notable companies in Houston, including Shell Oil, American General, and most recently Texas Children's Hospital, where he installed and supported medical information systems. Perry was well-respected by his co-workers and managers as a person who could get things done, yet always had a zest for making the office an enjoyable place to work.

Last spring Perry trained and rode in the challenging MS-150 bike ride from Houston to Austin with fellow employees at Texas Children's Hospital to raise money for multiple sclerosis research.

Perry was preceded in death by his parents, Ramond Van Orden and Jean Holt; one brother, Daniel Widdos; and a nephew,

Chauncy Shields.

His survivors include his life partner, Jeff Mogyrody, of 20 years; seven siblings, including brother Bobby Widdos, brother Montie Len Van Orden, sister Pamela Jean Van Orden, brother Martin Allen Van Orden and wife Lisa, sister Catherine Ann Wright and husband Roy, sister Melanie Rae Delamata and husband Mark, and brother Marvin Lloyd Sage and wife Shaw Blanchard; and many loving nieces and nephews.

Perry and his partner Jeff were active members of the International Billiards League for which Perry served as chapter president. He was an avid traveler and often planned entire itineraries around visiting family and friends who lived around the country. Whether on the road or back home in Houston, Perry was never one to miss out on attending a wide variety of performances and concerts, ranging from rock-and-roll to opera, to Broadway Theater productions.

A member of Perry's immediate family had this to say: "Perry was the most loving and giving person. He would have taken care of the world if he could have. When there were problems in the family, he would always give the best advice even if we didn't like it. We knew he was thinking of everyone's best interest. When we had family affairs, Perry orchestrated everything so things went smoothly. If things got out of hand, he would calm everyone down so things would be OK."

The family will receive friends beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, followed by services at 3 p.m. at Memorial Oaks Funeral Home, 13001 Katy Freeway, in Houston.

## Travis Charles Vandersloot, 29

Travis Charles Vandersloot, 29, passed away Monday, March 23, 2009, as a result of an automobile accident near Somers. Travis was born Sept. 14, 1979, in Billings to Robert D. and Cynthia (New) Vandersloot.



As a young man, he grew up in Hardin and Butte, then moved to Columbia Falls at an older age. He attended public schools in Hardin and Butte.

Travis enjoyed golf, snowboarding, music and movies. All who met Travis will miss his smile, caring and loving ways. He will be greatly missed.

Travis was preceded in death by a cousin, Erin Emmert.

He is survived by his father, Robert D. Vandersloot, and stepmother, Nola Vandersloot;

mother, Cynthia New, and stepfather, Gary Emmert; brothers and sisters, Christy Bridwell, Trenn Vandersloot, Justin and Nathan Vandersloot, and Amy, Sarah, Ryan and Eric Emmert; grandparents, Robert C. and Pearl Vandersloot, Robert New, and Virginia McBeth; great-grandmother, Marie Vandersloot; great-grandparents, Joyce and Don Emmert; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins on both sides.

A celebration of Travis will be held at a later date in the Flathead Valley. A funeral service will be in Hardin, with burial at Fairview Cemetery in Hardin.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Big Horn County Historical Museum.

Friends are encouraged to visit the Web site at [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Bullis Mortuary are caring for the family.

## Burnette B. Vanorden, 68

Burnette B. Vanorden, 68, of Eureka, died Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, at her home from natural causes.

Survivors include her children, Delbert Armstrong, David Armstrong, and Leona Armstrong, all of Eureka, and Donald Armstrong of Pom Coast

Fla.; and mother, Mary Burlingham, of Eureka.

Visitation will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31, at the Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home in Eureka. Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4, at the Tobacco Valley Cemetery in Eureka.

## Helen Dagny (Stenberg) Vehrs, 79

Helen Dagny (Stenberg) Vehrs, 79, of Missoula, died peacefully at home in Missoula on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009.



She was born June 24, 1930, in Mankato, Minn., to Sigval and Ragna (Thorson) Stenberg. She grew up on the family farm near Amboy, Minn., where she attended grades one through eight in a one-room schoolhouse in the country. Helen graduated from St. Olaf College with a degree in teaching and moved to Missoula, where she worked for Missoula County High School as a librarian and English teacher.

After a three-month courtship, she married Carson H. Vehrs Jr. on Dec. 29, 1955. The couple lived in Missoula while Carson finished college and then moved to Oregon, where Carson worked in the food service department first at Lewis & Clark College and then at Southern Oregon College.

Mom found great pleasure in creating beautiful gardens and homes wherever the family lived. They moved back to Missoula in 1969 when Carson became director of food services for the University of Montana and then later opened Vehrs Wine Imports. After raising her family, Helen worked as a records clerk at Sentinel High School for 18 years and retired in 1997.

She was a devoted mother who embraced the role of "soccer mom" before the term existed, bravely shuttling her kids and their friends to and from games, swimming pools and parks in the old Pontiac station wagon. Driving was not a favorite activity for Helen, but with her strong character and love for her children,

she always managed to get the gang to where they needed to be.

Helen showed an intense interest in all people she met. Her fantastic dry wit and sense of humor entertained generations of friends and family. More than anything, she loved sitting in her living room chair and discussing the politics and issues of the day. Even during the last few weeks of her life, she continued to make us laugh until we cried saying such things as, "This air bed is like sleeping on a plowed field."

She was very community-oriented and volunteered several places, including Fort Missoula, the writing center at Hellgate High School, the Missoula County Court House and Immanuel Lutheran Church, where she folded bulletins for many years.

She is preceded in death by her parents and her husband of 52 years.

Helen is survived by daughter Teresa Vore and her husband John Vore, and granddaughter Callie Morris, of Kalispell; son John Vehrs and his wife Brenda Vehrs, and grandson Grant Vehrs, of Great Falls; and son Richard Vehrs and his wife Renee, and grandson Justin and his wife Kristen, and great-granddaughter Kylee.

A celebration of Helen's life will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Missoula. A reception will be held immediately following the service in the same location.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to Hospice of Missoula, 800 Kensington Ave., Missoula, MT 59801, or to a charity of your choice.

Cremation services are entrusted to the care and direction of Brothers Mortuary and Crematory in Hamilton. Condolences and memories may be e-mailed to [brothersR@msn.com](mailto:brothersR@msn.com).

## Ellen Adeline (Baldwin) Vander Vloedt, 86

Ellen Adeline (Baldwin) Vander Vloedt, 86, "was taken from her earthly home to reunite with her heavenly father and husband" on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009. A loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister, she passed away at her daughter's home in Kalispell surrounded by her family.



family and friends. Her hobbies also included cooking, fishing, bowling, dancing, crocheting, canning, ironing and reading Danielle Steele books.

She was born in a tepee on the Indian reservation in Ford, Wash., May 16, 1922, to Charles and Adeline (Brown) Baldwin. Ellen grew up throughout the entire Pacific Northwest — Washington, Oregon and Idaho. She started school in Ford, moved to Oregon then completed through the eighth grade in Eagle, Idaho.

In 1938, at 16 years old she met the love of her life, Joe Vander Vloedt Sr. They were married Aug. 10, 1940, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, at the Hitching Post and celebrated 60 wonderful years together until Joe passed away Sept. 6, 2000.

Joe and Ellen had three children, son Joe Jr., and daughter, Marlynna, were born in Wallace, Idaho. Her youngest son, Mike, was born in Osburn, Idaho.

Throughout her life she picked berries, string beans and hops, pulled onions, picked up nuts, baby-sat and cleaned house. She cooked at the Jack Wait mine in Idaho for over a year before going to work at the local store in 1939. She worked in the potato shed in Othello, Wash., for a short time. For several years, Ellen worked at Mary Hay's Pie House and decorated Mary's house during the holidays. The remainder of the time she was a homemaker, raising her children and spoiling her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In 1953 she moved to Othello, where she lived full-time until Joe passed away. She then split her time between Washington and living with her daughter in Montana. She also was able at that time to travel and visit her son in Indiana. The last 3 years she suffered from dementia and was cared for by her daughter Marlynna at her home in Kalispell.

Ellen loved the outdoors, collecting and watching wild birds and working in her rose garden. She loved to spend time with

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Adeline (Brown) Baldwin; husband, Joe Vander Vloedt Sr.; brothers, Jack Baldwin and Jim Baldwin; grandson, Shannon Clink; and great-grandson, Michael Wright.

Ellen is survived by her three children, Joe Vander Vloedt Jr., and wife, Linda, of Moses Lake, Wash.; Marlynna Vander Vloedt and Cole Archer of Kalispell, and Mike Vander Vloedt and wife Maria of Indianapolis; 11 grandchildren, Sherri Fought, Shelli Wright, Shannon Ray and husband Art, Danny Wardle and wife Darbe, Stacey Vander Vloedt and Jesse Gonzales, Shane Vander Vloedt and wife Anne, Ana Maria, Joseph and wife Korey, Andrew, Margaret and James Vander Vloedt of Indianapolis; six great-grandchildren, Amanda Lebacken, Derek Lebacken, Vanessa Sparrell, Mathew Wright and Katelyn and Dylan Ray. She is also survived by her sisters, Elva Howard, of Rathdrum, Idaho, and Mary and husband, Bill Kaiser, of Loveland, Colo.; brother, Del Baldwin, and wife Lee, of Kellogg, Idaho; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be sent to the Agency on Aging, 160 Kelly Road, Suite A, Kalispell, MT 59901. A special thank you to hospice and her caretaker, Janece Milner, who spent many hours with Ellen.

Ellen touched the lives of many people in ways that ensure that she will not be forgotten.

A remembrance and celebration of Joe and Ellen's life will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 30, at the Nazarene Church in Othello, Wash.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Cremation has taken place.

A private scattering of ashes will be held this summer at Lake Koocanusa, where Joe and Ellen fished for many years.



## Melanie Lee Vestre, 51

Melanie Lee Vestre, 51, of Seeley Lake, passed away on Friday, March 13, 2009, at home from complications of pneumonia. Melanie was born May 31, 1957, in Kalispell, to Melvin and Emma Vestre. She grew up on the family farm near Lake Blaine. Melanie attended Cayuse Prairie School in Lake Blaine and then attended Flathead High School in Kalispell.

After high school she opened her own nail salon and continued the business for many years. Melanie won awards and had articles written on the wonderful service that she provided for her clients.

On Aug. 22, 2002, Melanie married Spike Stone at the Kalispell Nursing Home in the presence of Melvin, who was very sick at the time. It meant the world to all that this union came to be in the presence of her father.

Melanie enjoyed everything outdoors, including camping, fishing, hunting, picking rocks and just enjoying the nature with her life partner, Spike. Her favorite pastime was spending time with her grandchildren. The days she spent indoors you could find her reading



her Women's Devotional Bible, sewing or doing nails.

Melanie was a devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt and grandmother and had two very special

"girls" (her dogs Prissy and Sassy) that were her life.

She was preceded in death by her father, Melvin.

Survivors include her husband, Spike; mother, Emma; daughters, Rochelle and Angela and Daniel; son, AJ, and Andrea; brother, Rod; sister, Jackie; two neices; two nephews; six grandchildren; and many dear friends.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at the Mountain Lakes Presbyterian Church with Pastor Louis Stoker officiating. Honorary pallbearers will be AJ, Rod, Coop, Don, Tom, Roy and Stuart.

There will be a luncheon held at the church after the service. We welcome you to come and celebrate Melanie's wonderful life.

## Bernard L. Vickhammer, 82

Bernard L. Vickhammer, 82, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. Bernard was born Aug. 21, 1927, in Malta, where he was raised as a small boy. Bernard was an honorably discharged veteran from the Korean Conflict era.

He owned and operated his own construction business before retiring.

A giving man, Bernard was always making contribu-



tions to charitable organizations throughout his whole life. He enjoyed tinkering with his son's automobiles.

On Oct. 6, 1949, he married JoAnn Cross.

Bernard was preceded in death by his parents, Bert and Vergie Vickhammer; and a brother.

He is survived by three sons, Randy, Daryl, and Steve; sister, Laura; and seven grandchildren.

Private family graveside services will be held.

Friends are encouraged to visit the Web site at [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave condolences for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Merle M. Voigt, 84



Merle M. Voigt, 84, a lifetime resident of Whitefish, died Sunday afternoon, Aug. 23, 2009, at her home, surrounded by

her loving family. Merle was born in Whitefish on May 30, 1925, to Bill and Jen England and was raised and educated in Whitefish, graduating from Whitefish High School in the Class of 1944.

She attended beauty school in Spokane following high school.

She married the man she adored, Vincent Voigt, on March 4, 1946, in Whitefish and they remained here where they raised their family.

A devoted wife and mother, her relationships with family and friends were Merle's life, and her love and care served as the center of her entire family. Through the years, she enjoyed riding her bicycle, playing pinochle with her friends and bowling.

She had been a member of the Women of the Moose.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Jess; a sister, Jean; her husband, Vincent, in 1983; and son, Michael, in 1995.

Survivors include a son, Steven Voigt, of Bozeman; a daughter, Linda Stevens, of Kalispell; a daughter-in-law, Helen Voigt, of Everett, Wash.; a brother, Glenn England, and wife, Christie, of Longview, Wash.; grandchildren, Vickie, Ron, Julie, Jami and Karla; five great-grandchildren, Megan, Michael, Sara, Lucas and Taylor; numerous nieces and nephews, especially Cheryl and Bill Frye, and Cindy Voorhees; and special friend, Patty Flink.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Austin Funeral Home Chapel, with committal services following at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Family and friends may call at the funeral home from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday.

Memorials may be made to Hospice or a charity of the donor's choice.

## Maxine J. Phares Vredenburg, 88

Maxine J. Phares Vredenburg, 88, died at her home on Therriault Creek Ranch, Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009.

She had previously co-owned Tobacco Plains Realty in Eureka.

Survivors include her husband, Edric W. Jr.; and children, Rick Vredenburg and Terry

Brewer, both of Eureka, and Steve Vredenburg of Banks, Ore.

Services will be held at 3 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Catholic Church in Eureka, officiated by Pattiann Bennett.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg and Nelson Funeral Home in Eureka.