

## Allen Lee Bacon, 78

Allen Lee Bacon, 78, died Monday, Aug. 9, 2010, of natural causes at his home in Kalispell.

Private services will be held at a later date.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Della Mae Babcock, 88

Della Mae Babcock, 88, of Kalispell "passed into eternity" March 19, 2010, at the Heritage Place.



She is survived by her sons and their wives, Howard and Dede Babcock of Monroe, Wash., and Bruce and Trisha Babcock of Kalispell; and daughter, Lynn Jacobsmeyer, and her husband, Wayne, of Columbia Falls. Della was blessed with nine grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Bernard Babcock, in July of 2009.

Della was born and raised in Twin Bridges, where she met and married the love of her life, Bernard. In 1956, she moved with her family to

Snohomish, Wash., and resided in that area for 47 years.

In 2003 she and Bernard came back to their Montana roots, and spent the last seven years making many memorable memories with their family.

Della's forte was being a homemaker and loving and caring for (and worrying about) her family. She was a great comfort-food cook, loved music, especially big band; her favorite flowers were roses, and she loved a good joke.

A memorial celebration of Della's life for family and friends will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 9, at the North Valley Community Center in Columbia Falls.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to a local food bank; the American Cancer Society, 3550 Mullan Road, Missoula, MT 59808; or Wings, P.O. Box 7852, Kalispell, MT 59904.

## Lyn Irene Baden, 61

Lyn Irene Baden passed peacefully away June 20, 2010, at St. Patrick Hospital, with her loving family and friends surrounding her.



Lyn's life has been filled with many challenges, which she has met with grace and dignity.

Lyn was born May 31, 1949, in Kalispell, to parents Art and Irene Baden. She spent her growing-up years in Smith Valley as part of an active rural community, and graduated in 1967 from Flathead High School, later attending college in Havre. In 1971 Lyn's life was enriched with the birth of her son Shawn, who has remained a blessing in her life ever since.

A tragic car accident in 1974 limited her mobility and confined her to a wheelchair; at that time she and Shawn moved to Missoula, where they have resided

ever since. Lyn's courage and acceptance of her condition allowed her to pursue a full life, and she touched the lives of many.

Lyn is survived by her son, Shawn Baden, and partner Trina of Missoula; her brother Norman and wife Sandy of Lewistown; and several nieces and nephews, Bob Baden of Texas, Linda Brown of Malta, Brian Baden of California, Mark Smith of Alaska, Steve Smith of New Mexico, Barbara Preston of Washington, Chris Frehse of Lewistown and Doug Baden of Minnesota.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother Gary Baden; and her sister Fay Ann Baden.

Lyn's ready smile and open heart have impacted many along her journey. Her positive attitude and sense of humor will always be remembered. She will be missed by all her family and many friends.

A memorial service will be held 2 p.m. Aug. 7, 2010, at the LDS Church on South Avenue in Missoula.

## Henry Harold Baertsch, 90

Henry Harold Baertsch, 90, of Polson, died Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010, at the Polson Health and Rehabilitation Center, of natural causes.

Cremation has taken place and no services are scheduled.

Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory, Polson, is assisting the family.

## Gladys Carolina (Dixon) Baier, 97

Gladys Carolina (Dixon) Baier, 97, died in Dyer, Ind., on Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7, 2010.

Gladys Baier was born Aug. 1, 1913, to George "Ned" Warner Dixon and Dortha C. Dixon in Aberdeen, S.D.

Gladys moved to Northwest Indiana in July 2008 from Kalispell, her residence for 25 years.

Preceding her in death were her husband Louis H. Baier; her parents; her stepfather, John L. Ruckman Sr.; brother, Frank M. Dixon; brother, George W. Dixon; half sister, Dortha Ruckman German; and half sister, Josephine Ruckman Donnelly.

Surviving her are daughter, Louise E. Tallent; son-in-law, Donald R. Tallent; grandsons, James L. Matthew R. and Jonathan D. Tallent, two half brothers, John L. and Sheryl Ruckman Jr., and Robert B. and Jan Ruckman; and several other relatives including nieces, nephews and cous-

ins. Friends of Gladys are numerous, including Jim Kick, Bridget Pellett, Martha DalSanto, Gwen V. Zackie, Billie, Roselie, Iolie, the Hartsfield Village staff, and the Hospice of the Calumet Area staff.

The celebratory visitation with Gladys' Indiana family will be held at Fagen Miller Funeral Home, St. John, Ind., today, Dec. 17. A memorial service open to all friends will follow. Presiding the service is Pastor Tim York, First Christian Church, Dyer, with collaborative efforts from Pastor James Huff, Bible Presbyterian Church, Kalispell, and Mike Pennanen, Hospice of the Calumet Area chaplain. Local memorial services are pending.

Memorials may be given to Bible Presbyterian Church, 5th Avenue W. and Fourth Street, Kalispell, MT 59901, or one of personal choice.

A memorial service in Kalispell will be announced at a later date.

## Robert 'Buzz' Bailey, 66

Robert "Buzz" Bailey, 66, passed away on June 17, 2010, at his home in Kalispell after a long illness. Buzz was born on Nov. 3, 1943, in San Fernando, Calif. He spent his early years in Newhall. Buzz attended college on a baseball scholarship in San Fernando.

He married Roberta (Harvell) Garrett in 1974 in Reno, Nev. They had two children, Garry Gene Bailey and Amy Elizabeth Bailey.

Buzz worked as a boiler fireman in lumber mills and in the auto parts business before the family moved to the Flathead Valley in 1978. He worked at Stoltz Lumber as a tail sawyer until 1979, when he and his wife became owners and operators in the gaming industry. The marriage ended but Buzz and Roberta remained friends and dedicated parents. Buzz continued in the gaming industry as an owner/manager of various venues in the Flathead Valley, including the Outlaw Inn and the Montana Nugget.

Buzz was preceded in death by his parents, Emma

Ward and George Haskell Bailey; and his son, Garry Gene Bailey (1996).

He is survived by his daughter, Amy Bailey; and his grandchildren, Cody Wyatt, Jade and Kylee; brother, Brian Bailey and Jan; nieces, Teri Bailey and Shari Spokley and Grant of Kalispell, and Liz Greene and Ken of Tennessee; and nephew, Mitch Bailey, and Holly of Kalispell.

Buzz took great delight in taking his grandchildren fishing and camping, and teaching them about safe and ethical hunting practices. He was particularly proud to have been with his eldest grandson, Cody, when he shot his first buck this past hunting season and often spoke of the great shot he made.

Cremation has taken place. All friends and family members of Buzz are invited to a celebration of life potluck at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, July 11, at Lawrence Park Pavilion. Dress comfortably, and bring a side dish and your own non-alcoholic drinks.

**Dorothy Ida Wagner Fredrickson Baker, 93**, formerly of Kalispell, passed away Saturday, May 29, 2010, in Sun City, Ariz. She was born on Dec. 3, 1916, at the J.J. Wagner Farm home near St. John, Wash., to Adrian F. and Ida E. (Steinke) Wagner.

Her family soon moved to Galata, near Shelby. As much as Dorothy loved to dance, on Oct. 11, 1936, in Shelby, she married Nils I. Fredrickson, "not the best dancer, but the one that made me laugh." They were very active in farming and the Lutheran Church. With their building and management skills, and her nursing degree at the age of 49, they improved many Lutheran rest homes.

In 1976, they retired and moved to Sun City.

Dorothy said, "We sure did make the right choice." They took advantage of all Sun City had to offer. Dorothy loved to dance and did not like to miss an opportunity. She would bowl as much as three times a week and was good enough to take home the prize money. With retirement came more time for sewing. She made her own wardrobe and garments

for others.

After Nils' death in 1983, Dorothy stayed active. On April 20, 1988, Dorothy married Louis Baker in Sun City. She and Louie continued her love for travel. Always an expert at tatting and crocheting, Dorothy and Louie spent many a day in hobby shops searching for just the right piece to create beautifully dressed dolls with hand-crocheted clothing.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Nils I. Fredrickson; and a brother, Ross A. Wagner, in 2002.

She is survived by her husband of 22 years, Louie Baker, of Sun City; a sister, Wilma A. Search, of Gillette, Wyo.; and many nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Funeral services for Dorothy will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 5, at Johnson-Gloeschat Funeral Chapel, with burial to follow at C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

Johnson-Gloeschat Funeral Home is caring for Dorothy's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to offer condolences and view Dorothy's tribute wall.

## John Westley Baker, 88

John Westley Baker died at Whitefish Care and Rehabilitation Center on Friday, Sept. 17, 2010, at the age of 88.



John Westley Baker was born on Feb. 14, 1922, in Rexford, to Ralph and Anna (Sakon) Baker. John graduated from Whitefish High School in 1940, where he was an outstanding athlete. In 2006 he was elected to the Whitefish High School Hall of Fame.

During his short tenure at the University of Montana, he participated in athletics until his call to duty to World War II. He received two Bronze Stars and other merits. He served in North Africa and Italy with the 341st Squadron.

On May 23, 1948, he was united in marriage to Helen Sagen. Together they raised two sons, Jim and Rick Baker.

John was a lifelong resident of Whitefish and worked for Great Northern Railroad (now Burlington Northern), starting out as a carman, then a fireman, then a locomotive engineer; retiring after 45 years.

He was active in Boy Scouts and attended the

National Boy Scout Jamboree in Washington, D.C. He was an avid outdoorsman throughout his life, and especially enjoyed fishing. Other hobbies included stamp and coin collecting.

He was a member of the Whitefish VFW Post No. 276, Loyal Order of the Moose, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Flathead Valley Stamp Collectors.

John is survived by his two sons, Jim and Geri of Whitefish, and Rick and Marietta of St. Paul, Minn.; one granddaughter, Heather, and Art Abbott, of Flagstaff, Ariz.; two grandsons, Brandt Baker of Missoula, and Michael Long of Sacramento, Calif.; one great-granddaughter, Lila; and numerous other nieces, nephews and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen; and his siblings, Julia Lamberson, Clara Crawford, Helen Doyle and Ralph Baker.

The family would like to thank the staff at Whitefish Care and Rehab and also Frontier Hospice for the wonderful care they provided our father.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are by Austin Funeral Home.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

## Roberta Iris Brown Bakshas, 88

Roberta Iris Brown Bakshas, 88, a former resident of Columbia Falls, surrounded by family and friends, "was taken



into the arms of her Savior on Oct. 30, 2010," at Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland, Wash.

She was born on July 15, 1922, in Lewistown to Harry and Cecilia Corrigan Brown. She grew up in Grass Range, and was deeply involved with family, church and music. While attending high school, she worked in her parents' creamery. She also enjoyed being a part-time seamstress, hairdresser and musician for the local community.

In 1940, she graduated as class valedictorian from Grass Range High School. She was the concert mistress of her high school orchestra. In the same year, on Nov. 10, the coldest recorded day in Montana history, she married Samuel E. Bakshas of Winifred, which began a lifelong relationship of 64 years.

In 1942, they moved to Seattle, where Sam served at Todd Shipyard as a Merchant Marine. While in Seattle, their oldest daughter, Marjorie, was born. After completion of service in 1946, they moved to Whitefish, where Helen, their second daughter, was born. The next year, they moved to Hungry Horse to join in the construction of the Hungry Horse Dam, later moving to Columbia Falls in 1954.

In 1962, they moved to Pasco, Wash., where she worked full-time at Woolworth's. She then continued her career at Seattle First National Bank until 1984, when she joined Sam in retirement.

Roberta was active with family, church and community organizations. She was a lifetime member of Order of Eastern Star, Vista Chapter No. 44 in Whitefish. She served as mother advisor and on the advisory board for International Rainbow Girls No. 66, Columbia Falls, and

received the Grand Cross of Colors. She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary Order of Eagles, North Valley Aerie No. 4081, Columbia Falls. She was a member of the Homemaker's Club of Columbia Falls and Women of the Moose, Chapter 1204, Kennewick, Wash. She participated in the FLASH group in the Tri-Cities. She was an active member in the Edsel Owners Club of the Tri-Cities and Oregon State.

She sang in the choirs and held numerous positions in both Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Columbia Falls and Lutheran Church of the Master of Pasco. Some of her favorite hobbies were sewing, writing poems, traveling and playing cards with family and friends.

Roberta is survived by her daughter, Marjorie C. Bakshas Gravelle, of Columbia Falls; her daughter, Helen J. Bakshas, of Pasco; grandson, Gregory, and wife, Shelly Gravelle, and great-grandchildren, Josiah, Samuel, Jonathan, Benjamin, Nathaniel and Peter, of Grand Rapids, Mich.; grandson, Anthony Gravelle, of Springfield, S.D.; and granddaughter, Tamara Gravelle McMeans, and husband, Shannon, and great-grandchildren, Meaghan and Travis, of Arlington, Texas. Also surviving are numerous relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Cecilia Corrigan Brown; her husband, Samuel E. Bakshas; her brother, Chester A. Brown; and her sister, Elsie M. Pryce.

Viewing was held on Nov. 4 at Hillcrest Bruce Lee in Pasco. Funeral services were held on Nov. 6 at Lutheran Church of the Master in Pasco, with a reception following the funeral service. Burial was at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Richland.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Shiners Hospital for Children, 911 W. 5th Ave. Spokane, Washington 99204; or to a charity of your choice.

To sign the online guestbook, please visit: [www.HillcrestBruceLee.com](http://www.HillcrestBruceLee.com)

## John Ole Barbo, 83

John Ole Barbo was born in Amarillo, Texas, on Jan. 27, 1927, to John and Kristine Barbo and passed away at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish on Aug. 7, 2010.



The Barbo family moved from Amarillo to Butte in 1932 where John attended primary and secondary schools and graduated from Butte High School in 1945. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Army from 1945 until 1947, and then returned to Montana to join his father and mother at their new home in Martin City.

John worked for the Glacier-Coram Lumber Company which was founded by his father and two partners. He also worked for FK&L Lumber Company in the Canyon area during this period.

John met his future bride, Nerma Reed, through an introduction by a mutual friend and married her on June 8, 1951. They raised three children, Arles "Chris," John and Deana.

In the spring of 1952 he joined the Ironworkers Union No. 598 (Kalispell) and completed nearly 40 years in the trade before his retirement in 1991. He was well respected for his abilities in all aspects of welding and ironwork.

## Fred Byron Barker, 91

Fred Byron Barker passed away peacefully on Oct. 9, 2010,

at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, at the age of 91. He was proud of his age and especially of living to reach 90.

Fred was born Nov. 11, 1918, in Willard, Utah, to Fredrick C. and Rosamond Jensen Barker. He spent his younger years in Willard and then, in 1923, his father moved the family to St. Ignatius. The trip took two weeks and they traveled by covered wagon. Fred received his schooling there and helped his father run the family farm.

In September 1941, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He was stationed in Jefferson Barracks, Mo., when on Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. He was then sent to Payne Field, Everett, Wash. There they prepared P-39s to be shipped to Russia. He was shipped to New Orleans Air



As a child, his first love was his horse, Tillie, which he enjoyed immensely, and spoiled terribly, until his departure for the military in 1945.

John enjoyed all sorts of outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, and camping with family and friends. He was also an avid fly-tying hobbyist to complement his love of fishing and was a longtime member of the Fraternal Order of Masons.

John is survived by his wife, Nerma; daughters, Arles "Chris" Earwood, of Citrus Heights, Calif., and Deana Salfen of Cameron Park, Calif.; and son, John Barbo, of Rapid City, S.D.; along with grandchildren, Troy VanAuken of Citrus Heights, John DeVries of Munising, Mich., Samantha DeVries of Sacramento, Calif., and Kyle Salfen and Kelli Salfen of Cameron Park, Calif.; and great-grandchildren, Conner and Jocelyn VanAuken, of Citrus Heights.

John was preceded in death by his parents John Barbo (1953); Kristina Barbo (1969); and his sister, Elizabeth Barbo (1996).

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 13, at Columbia Mortuary, 1010 4th Ave., Columbia Falls. A reception at the Methodist Church, 117 2nd St. West, Columbia Falls, will follow graveside committal services at Woodlawn Cemetery in Columbia Falls.

Force Base but they had no planes. He then went to New York and shipped out on the Queen Elizabeth. He was among the first Americans to go to England. His unit landed in Glasgow, Scotland.

England gave the United States a large airfield in Shusman Air Force base with English Spitfire planes (There were still no American planes). At this time, the night raids by the Germans were in full force. When the U.S. troops finally got their planes, Fred's unit was moved to an airfield in Bovington. He spent much of his war years as a crew chief for a P-51 Mustang Squadron in the 8th Air Force. Fred told stories of countless nights he spent repainting the planes to try and keep one step ahead of the Germans. The first colonel he crewed under was killed by enemy fire.

Fred went on to be the crew chief for the well-known Lt. Gen. William E. Kepner.

In October of 1945, he returned home to Montana, where his father had bought a farm in the Flathead Valley

after selling the home place in St. Ignatius. Fred helped his father clear the farm ground and then bought his own place close by. His place was a stump ground, located in the Swan River area northeast of Bigfork. With the help of his father and brother, George, they spent nearly 14 years clearing his land.

Clearing the land was a huge undertaking. The land was full of tamarack stumps that required the use of blasting powder to remove them. Because tamarack roots do not rot, there were always lots of sticks to pick every spring year after year.

Fred left areas of the farm with the original trees for the protection of the deer and wildlife. He enjoyed watching the mothers and their babies, and was very protective of them. He also had a huge herd of wild turkeys that he loved. He fed hay and grain to them during the winter

months.

In the early 1950s, he added hogs to his farming. The hog manure was good fertilizer for the land. He raised excellent hogs and regularly topped the market. The Spokane auctioneer would often stop the bidding and say, "Now these are Montana hogs." Fred loved his animals and his many dogs.

He loved to farm. He would say he always tried to make his farm better each year. Fred believed in keeping his land clean. Weeds were his enemy and he spent many hours diligently rogueing his fields for wild oats, spraying the drain ditches and the edges of his fields.

In 1961, he married Kathleen Burtsfield in the Cardston Temple. To that union, there were four children born. The family worked side-by-side for many years and Fred passed on his hard work ethics to his children. He believed hard work built character. Consequently, his kids turned out to be characters who loved to tease him about his "farmer humor" jokes.

He took their teasing in stride for he was truly "a farmer out standing in his field." Those who knew him will miss his grizzly bear and wild poacher-chasing stories.

He is survived by his wife, Kathleen; his daughter, Julia Barker, of Salt Lake City; son, Byron, and his wife, Lonni, and children, Holland, Greer, Reese and Kean, of Eagle, Idaho; son, Craig, and his wife, Melissa, and children, Zach, Kyle and Brandon, also of Eagle; and daughter, Korrine Howard, and children, Addison and Cessaley, of Sandy, Utah. Also surviving are his sister, Marie Cozzetto, of Spokane, and his brother, George, and his wife, Marion, of Canmore, Alberta.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters, Rosamond Caroline Barbara, Julia and Rosa, and brothers, Clark, Jack, Stanley and Alan.

The family would like to thank those close friends and neighbors who provided care, concern and acts of kindness to him over the years. They would especially like to express their deepest gratitude to Fred's longtime friend and neighbor, Alvin Gordon. Fred was able to stay in his home and enjoy the beauty of his farm up until just days before his passing due to Alvin's daily care. They appreciate the love and service he extended to Fred.

The family requests donations be made to your favorite charity.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, at Conrad Memorial Cemetery. A viewing will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15, at Johnson-Gloschat Mortuary.

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

## Harry K. Barker, 86

Harry R. Barker, 86, passed away Wednesday, May 19, 2010, at the Lakeview Care Center in Bigfork. He was born Oct. 30, 1923, in Salt Lake City, to the late Jesse Lee and Mary Pearl Barker. He was the youngest of ten siblings.



Harry moved with his parents to San Francisco in 1940, where he began work in the shipyards. On Jan. 25, 1943, he received his call to active duty, serving in the First Army under General Omar Bradley, with the 146th Combat Engineers, and later in the 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Harry arrived in England on Oct. 17, 1943, and served for a little over two years in various parts of Europe. He was involved in numerous campaigns, including Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. Harry was an accomplished marksman and received many medals and ribbons. One of his most remarkable memories was being one of the first soldiers to set foot on Omaha beach during the invasion of Normandy, and one of the few who lived to talk about it. Harry had seen and experienced many things during the war, but his love and patriotic feelings for his country were never dampened. He stated, "It was worth it; peace is always going to be costly."

After the war, Harry returned to San Francisco, where he met his beautiful bride-to-be, Shirley June Lumley. They met in 1946 at Western Union, where Shirley was working, and were married one year later on April 11, 1947. They lived in San Mateo, Menlo Park, Palo Alto and Cupertino. During this time, Harry worked for Haight Appliances and Goldeens. In 1965, he became

a Mason, and soon after, a member of the Shriners, and in 1970 he became the president of his local Shriner Lodge. In 1973, Harry took a trip to Montana and fell in love with the country. They sold their house in California and he was hired to work in the Physical Plant at the University of Montana Biological Station, Yellow Bay. Harry started his new job on Labor Day, 1974. During his time at the Biological Station, Harry was actively involved in many church and community activities, including the Sea Scout program. He retired from the Biological station in 1989. Harry and Shirley continued to reside in Yellow Bay where he fulfilled his dreams of fishing, hunting and raising Arabian horses along with various other animals. They celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary this April.

Harry loved people and they loved him. He was a wonderful husband, uncle and friend. It was an honor to know Harry and experience his never-ending sense of humor, beautiful voice, and love for life, family and his country. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Harry was preceded in death by his parents and nine siblings.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; and many nieces, nephews, great- and great-great-nieces and nephews.

There will be a public viewing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, June 4, at the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, 525 Main St., Kalispell. Family will be present from 2 to 4 p.m. A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 5, at the Lakeview Cemetery in Polson, with military honors by the Veterans Honor Guard.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Harry's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to offer condolences and view Harry's tribute wall.

## Eunice Namoni Barnes, 95

Eunice Namoni Barnes, 95, died at her home in Kalispell on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2010.

Arrangements are pending with Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory.

## William H. 'Bud' Barker, 75

William H. "Bud" Barker, 75, died from complications of lung surgery on Tuesday, June 29, 2010, with his family, at home in Woods Bay.



He was born to William H. "Harry" and Francis Barker on Feb. 16, 1935, in Butte, where he graduated from Butte High.

He served in the U.S. Navy. He returned to Montana and met and married his wife Marta. He graduated from Montana State University in 1965.

Bud was preceded in death by his son, Tom Barker; his parents; his in-laws; and a nephew, Keith Albright.

He is survived by his wife, Marta; his sons, Sam Barker and Ben Barker, and Ben's wife, Cathy, all of Woods Bay; his daughter,

in-law, Julie Roberts, and granddaughter, Emily, both of Utah; his sisters, Bette Albright and her husband, Herb, Barbara Parker and her husband, Reno, Bonnie Sturgeon and her husband, John, and Norma Neyman and her husband, Don; and a number of nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends. He had a special place in his heart for each of you.

Bud was active in the Lions Club, the Shrine Pipe Band, the Masonic Lodge, and Scottish and York Rite.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, July 9, at the

Community United Methodist Church in Bigfork.

Graveside committal and interment with military and Masonic honors will follow at 12:45 p.m. at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery at 12:45 p.m.

Buffalo Hills Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## John 'Jack' Barnes, 70

John "Jack" Barnes, 70, died Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010, at the Hi-Line Retirement Center of Malta of natural causes.



Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 5, at St. Charles Catholic Church in Whitefish. A luncheon will follow at the Strom Hall. A private inurnment will take place at a later time. Kirkwood Funeral Home of Malta is in charge of local arrangements.

In place of flowers, the family requested memorials to the Kalispell Salvation Army, or the charity of choice. Condolences for the family may be left at [www.kirkwoodfuneralhome.com](http://www.kirkwoodfuneralhome.com).

Jack was born in Kalispell on Nov. 11, 1939, to Ray and Irene (McCauley) Barnes. Jack had lived his life on the family farm east of Whitefish. He worked with his parents on the farm until 1967,

when he went to work at C & C Plywood; he continued there until hurting his back.

While he was disabled, he spent much of his time with the Flathead County Sheriff's Posse. He served as their major for several years. He later went to work at the sheriff's office as a dispatcher, and then a detention officer. Jack worked there until becoming permanently disabled in 1989. He spent his last two years being cared for by the loving staff at the Hi-Line Retirement Center in Malta.

Jack is survived by his wife, Florence; son, Chuck, and wife, Tina, of Gig Harbor, Wash.; three grandsons, Christopher Barnes of Seattle, Tyler Barnes of Iraq, and Jacob Peak of Gig Harbor; two granddaughters, Stephanie Barnes of Kalispell, and Melissa Lime of Whitefish; several great-grandchildren; and the extended Barnes family; and his special friends, Fred and Gayle Hammond, of Sao.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents; an infant son; and his daughter, Missy Barnes-Mueller, in 2005.

## Sally Jean (Stapley) Barnes, 70

Sally Jean (Stapley) Barnes, 70, of Columbia Falls, passed away Friday, April 23, 2010, after a short battle with cancer in Kalispell.



special occasions. She sewed amazing dresses, kept her family clothed in shirts and coats that were made with love, and she sewed realistic, lifelike puppets of birds and wild animals of the Northern Rockies. The puppets and miniature replica mounts have been sold internationally.

Sally was preceded in death by her parents, Loran "Red" and Betty Stapley, and Dolly Lecount; two infant sons; her mother-in-law, Vivian Barnes; and many other members of her extended family.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Anson Barnes; two sons Wendell Barnes and Nona of Clinton, and Harley Barnes and Tanya Luchi of Columbia Falls; four brothers, Steve Stapley and Susan of Columbia Falls, Steve Lecount of Columbia Falls, Terry Lecount and Peggy of Eureka, and Mike Lecount of Troy; four grandchildren, AJ and Chantel Barnes of Columbia Falls, and Zoey Gerber and Aleena Stevens of Corvallis; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, friends and loved ones, including aunts, uncles and family members from the Fredenberg side of her family.

A celebration of Sally's life will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 27, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Interment of her ashes will follow the service at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

The family requests donations in her name be made to Home Options Hospice of Kalispell.

You are invited to go to [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to sign her book and leave personal messages for her family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for her family.

Sally was born on Dec. 27, 1939, in Libby to Loran "Red" and Dolly Stapley. On Jan. 7, 1958, she married the love of her life, Anson E. Barnes, in Kalispell. They were blessed with two sons. She was a faithful member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Vista Chapter No. 44.

She will be greatly missed by all those she loved and those who loved her. Sally gave from her heart with her whole heart, and is remembered by family and friends as always having an open door to everybody, taking everyone at face value. Young and old were touched by her caring and giving. She was "second Mom" to many of her children's and grandchildren's friends.

She loved animals of any kind. Her family likes to tell stories of the deer and skunk that she had as pets when she was a child.

She enjoyed life. Sally had a soft and generous heart. She was a lesson in unconditional love and never had a bad thing to say about anybody.

Sally was an amazing artist who loved to share her gift with others. Whether painting, drawing, baking or sewing, Sally showed remarkable talent. She won blue ribbons at the county fair for her paintings and photographs. She had sketchbooks full of drawings from her life.

She loved to bake and made beautiful cakes, especially for weddings and other

## Joanne Carol Barrie, 58

Joanne Carol Barrie, 58, was "welcomed into the loving arms of her Lord and Savior" on Friday, Oct. 1, 2010, after a courageous nine-month battle with cancer.

Joanne was born March 27, 1952, in Aberdeen, S.D., the only child of George and Wilma Faeth.

Joanne lived in South Dakota, Minnesota and Arkansas before moving to Kalispell in 1968. She graduated from Flathead High School in 1970, where she met her lifelong love, Lloyd Barrie. Joanne and Lloyd were married in July of 1972 and moved to Bozeman to continue college studies. In 1974 she returned to Kalispell for the birth of their son, Matthew. Joanne postponed her studies for 25 years to stay at home as a nurturing mother to Matt, Rachel and Elise. In the mid-1990s, she returned to the University of Great Falls to complete her B.A. in psychology and her masters of psychological counseling in 2000.

Joanne established Cross-Life Counseling services and touched many lives over the past 10 years. Joanne's deep love and devotion to Christ not only led her into the counseling ministry, but also bore fruit through her ministries within the body of Christ at Bread of Life. Ever dedicated to her brothers and



sisters in Christ, her service in worship, fellowship and discipleship were a constant encouragement and source of strength for her church family.

Joanne enjoyed traveling with her family; trips across Europe, train adventures on the Empire Builder, and especially the beaches of Florida, where she delighted in searching for seashells. Cooking was a demonstration of love for Joanne. Family and friends enjoyed many memorable dinners in her home. She also treasured evening walks with Lloyd through the east side of Kalispell and weekly pinochle games with friends.

Joanne is survived by her parents, George and Wilma Faeth of Nampa, Idaho; husband, Lloyd Barrie of Kalispell; son, Matthew of Kalispell; daughter, Rachel and son-in-law, Travis Steindorf, of Kalispell; daughter, Elise of Missoula; and grandchildren, Adam, Jasper and Grace, whom she dearly loved. She is also survived by her aunt, Pat Faeth of Aberdeen, S.D.; and cousin, Duane and Darlene Robinson of Miller, S.D.

A celebration of life service for Joanne will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. A reception will follow at Bread of Life Church, 544 Fifth Ave. W., Kalispell. Friends are encouraged to visit the website [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to leave notes of condolence and support for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## James, Wanda and Jamie Barry

The Barry family — Jim, 63, his wife Wanda, 52, and their son Jamie, 15, died from smoke inhalation at their Columbia Falls



home early Friday morning, Jan. 22, 2010. Initial reports indicate a fire started in the chimney of their wood-burning stove, and the family perished before rescue teams arrived.

James Lewis Barry IV was born Jan. 14, 1947, in Kansas City, Mo., to James Barry III and Anna Popovich.

Wanda Mae (Hawks) Barry was born Dec. 14, 1957, in Chester, to Leo Hawks and Frances Mae Shettel.

James Lewis Barry V, lovingly called "Jamie," was born Jan. 8, 1995, in Kalispell, the youngest of two children born to Jim and Wanda.

The Barrys met in the Flathead Valley and married on Jan. 20, 1990. They made their home in Columbia Falls, where they were working partners in Alpine Builders. The couple enjoyed collecting antiques and restoring old cars together. At the time of their death, they were home-schooling Jamie.

Jamie grew up in Columbia Falls and received his early education at Glacier Christian School. He enjoyed home school, where he was a high school freshman. For the past two years Jamie loved singing in an adult barbershop chorus in Kalispell and was learning to play the guitar.

Wanda grew up on the family farm by Chester. She attended Eagle Creek Country School, and then transferred to the Chester schools, where she graduated in 1976. She earned an associate degree in social work from Flathead Valley Community College. For the past few years she was a certified nursing assistant at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

Jim grew up in Kansas and received his education at Westport. He worked as a carpenter after his 1965 graduation, then married Linda Riggs in 1966. They and their daughters Tina and Wendy moved to Montana in 1975 and lived in Hungry Horse until the couple's divorce. Jim later met Wanda and their new life began in 1990.

The Barrys attended Lion Baptist Church in Coram, where Jamie was baptized.

They were a tightly knit family. Recently Wanda taught Jamie to ski and Jim took him hunting last fall.

When Jamie bagged his first deer, Jim also taught Jamie some carpentry and they were building a chicken coop.

Jamie loved animals, especially doves and baby chicks. He also enjoyed driving his scooter and was an avid Lego builder.

Jim collected antiques, loved to work on old cars and enjoyed hiking, hunting and fishing. He was a talented carpenter who was well-known and respected.

Wanda also loved animals. In addition to her favorite horses and dogs, she cared for goats, ducks, pigeons, chickens, doves and more. She enjoyed skiing, playing piano, reading and restoring old furniture.

The loss of this special family is heartfelt by their loving relatives and friends.

The Barrys are gone, but their memories will linger forever. Wanda is survived by her mother, Frances Hawks of Chester; two brothers, Claude Hawks and Rita of Chester and Adrian Hawks and Janet of Galata; two nephews, Jeremy and Cory; and three nieces, Tammy, Kimberly and Kari.

Jim is survived by his two daughters, Tina Wassam and Dave, and Wendy Persinger and Scott, both of Columbia Falls; seven grandchildren, Bradley, Mitchell, Adam, Nachele, Ashley, Zachary and Ricky; two great-grandchildren, Gage and Alyssa; his mother, Anna Munnholland of Archie, Mo.; a brother, John Barry of East Summit, Mo.; two sisters, Pam Smith of Kansas City, Kan., and Sandy Greenhall of Tonganoxie, Kan.; and his extended family.

Jamie is survived by two grandmothers, two sisters, and numerous nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts and cousins.

The Barrys were preceded in death by their beloved daughter, Carmen, in 1995; Wanda's father, Leo; Jim's dad, James; Jim's sister, Janie Clevenger; and a granddaughter, Alyssa.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, at New Covenant Church, 436 Birch Grove, Kalispell. Burial with graveside services will be 2 p.m. Thursday at the Chester Cemetery in Chester. Arrangements are by Rockman Funeral Chapel in Chester.

## Mardean Tupper Bartleson, 69

A lunar eclipse during the full moon of the winter solstice only happens once in a lifetime. It is only fitting that some-



one as special as Mardean Tupper Bartleson "was called to the Lord's side" in the company of her husband Rod, daughter Colleen, and cherished dog Pepper on such a night. She passed away at 9:11 p.m. on Dec. 20, 2010, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell, from colon cancer.

Mardean Tupper was born in Grass Valley, Calif., on Dec. 1, 1941, and raised by her maternal grandparents, Sherman and Jenny Wallace in Creston.

She graduated from Flathead County High School in 1959 and married Rod Bartleson on Oct. 17, 1959. They moved to Cut Bank that year and have lived there since.

The couple are parents to three children, Mark, Colleen and Neal. Colleen and Mardean even share a birthday! Mardean was a dedicated and committed mother and shared a close relationship with her children throughout their lives.

In 1971, the young couple opened Browning Lumber and Hardware in Browning. The store flourished and has now been in business for nearly 40 years. In those early days it was not unusual for Mardean to be hauling material (and the kids) to and from Great Falls. She was involved in every aspect of the store. Mardean was "The Queen" at Browning Lumber and when she talked, people listened.

Mardean was the ultimate Seattle Mariners fan. She was a highlight when she went to Seattle to attend games or collected her winnings on some "for fun" bets with customers.

She loved to spend time with her grandchildren and

was a big part of their lives. Everyone looked forward to special cards and phone calls from Grandma.

Faith was a pillar in Mardean's life. She was very involved with St. Paul's Lutheran Church for the 51 years she lived in Cut Bank. Her church circle was a monthly highlight for her and she made friendships that she cherished deeply. She spent much of her time in different aspects of service with the church over the years. One of her most enjoyed projects was the Gift Program at Immanuel Lutheran Home. She had faithfully coordinated the donation and delivery of Christmas gifts to every resident.

Mardean was a loving and dedicated wife, mother and grandmother. She was a faithful and trusted friend. Anyone who knew Mardean, because of her soft, gentle and giving spirit, loved her.

Mardean was diagnosed with colon cancer in September of 2009. She endured many trials and tribulations in her fight. She showed grace and endurance throughout the last year. Her faith ran deep and true and gave her strength to the very end.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Rod Bartleson; and her children, Colleen and Dennis Billman of Cut Bank, and Neal and April Bartleson of Kennewick, Wash., and grandchildren, Ashley, Whitney, Austin and Madeline.

Mardean was preceded in death by her son, Mark (1980).

A celebration of Mardean's life will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cut Bank, with burial to follow in the Crown Hill Cemetery.

Memorials in Mardean's honor in lieu of flowers are suggested to Immanuel Lutheran Communities in Kalispell and the Bell Choir at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

## Betty Joyce Barton, 75

Betty Joyce Barton, 75, passed away at Kalispell Regional Medical Center on Saturday, April 17, 2010.



Betty was born Oct. 21, 1934, in Amarillo, Texas, to Clebert and Alveda (Murty) McCrary.

Betty was raised in Campbell, Calif., and married Kenn Barton in San Jose, Calif., in 1951. They had been married for 59 years.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents; son, Chris Barton; and a brother, William McCrary.

She is survived by her husband, Kenn, of Kalispell;

children, Craig and Cindy Barton of Kalispell, and Curtis Barton of Morgan Hill, Calif.; sisters, Carol Rezendez and Wynette Fleming; brothers, Bill Murty, Bob McCrary, Wayne Parsons and Donnie McCrary; 15 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 23, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1100 W. Reserve St., Kalispell.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Betty Barton's name.

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

## Athena Bauer, 94

Athena Bauer, 94, passed away April 15, 2010, following a brief illness, after sharing her love with family and friends



one last time. She was born Athena Arger, July 27, 1915, in American Fork, Utah. She spent her formative years in the Tacoma area. She had an adventurous early life, living for a time in Alaska and Butte, before settling for good in the Flathead Valley.

She persevered through the early loss of her mother and then three husbands, Milton Valison, Pete Pike, and Art Bauer, taking every hurdle in stride and becoming the rock on which others leaned.

She is survived by her three daughters, Catherine Mills, Becka Arnold, and Shirley Pleuss; as well as eleven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren in two more generations. In addition, she will be greatly missed by the families of LaVerne Fredenberg and Dorothy Frense, whom she often called her second family.

Athena was a hard worker

who put in many years in the local potato fields, the Flathead Cherry Warehouse and Snowline Tree Company. In retirement she and Art loved to travel and attend Good Sam gatherings in the summer, and ice fish at Duck Lake in the winter. She was an avid reader and produced beautiful crewel needlework wall hangings.

Her gardening skills were legendary, and she still tended her large potato patch and dug her own spuds to the very end. She introduced many to the pursuit of wild asparagus and loved to pick huckleberries. Known as an expert at Greek cooking and canning, many memorable meals were served across her tables.

Her uncommon knack for dispensing wisdom mixed with wit led to accumulating many dear friends of all ages. While no shrinking violet, she had a way of giving good advice without preaching it. Her body finally gave out, but her mind and spirit never did.

Friends are invited to a celebration of her life at 11 a.m. Monday, April 19, at the Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. In lieu of memorials, the family suggests that you send flowers to someone you love in Athena's memory.

## Ramona Jeanine (Shepherd) Bauer, 59

Ramona passed away suddenly on Saturday, March 6, 2010, near Libby.



Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 13, in the Commercial Building at the Flathead County Fairgrounds.

Ramona was born Sept. 24, 1950, in Oakland, Calif., to Lucile and Henry Shepherd. She and her family moved to the Flathead Valley in 1968, where she finished up her senior year at Flathead High School.

She married Dan Bauer on June 7, 1969. They had four children, Shannon Leroy, Lisa Jeanine, Danielle Leah and Chad Levi.

She was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in August 1968 in Spokane. She was a member of the Whitefish Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Ramona was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt and

friend. She took each of these roles very seriously and made each one of us feel loved, special and protected. One of her greatest loves was her grandchildren. Her eyes lit up whenever she saw them or talked about them. She was a gifted artist, many of her beautiful paintings still hang in her family and friends' homes.

Ramona was an expert gardener, planting a huge vegetable garden every year and canning the produce. She also had a beautiful flower garden, full of many varieties of flowers. She loved going hunting and camping every year with her dear family and friends at Spotted Bear. She loved puzzles and games, especially her crossword puzzles.

She was a very self-sacrificing person; she never told anyone "no" and never complained, no matter how difficult the situation may have been. So many people relied on her generous and kind spirit. She always had a smile on her face and a phone to her ear, sometimes both ears. She had a wonder-

ful, contagious laugh and such a lovely smile. She always looked for the good in others, and for the best side of any situation. She was a beautiful, loving, kind, bright light in our lives. Words cannot express how much we loved her, how much we will miss her.

Ramona had strong faith in the promised hope of the resurrection. (John 11:25, John 5:28, 29) She talked often about seeing her son, Shannon, again. She kept that day always in her mind.

Ramona is survived by her husband of 41 years, Dan Bauer, of Columbia Falls; daughters, Lisa and husband, Charly, Ayidomihou of Columbia Falls, Danielle and husband, Jeff, Sanders of

Kalispell; son, Chad and wife, Joanna, Bauer of Kalispell; grandchildren, Katie Ulrich, Coltin Dodge, Furious Sanders, Peyton Sanders, Jordan Bauer and Dylan Bauer; mother, Lucile Shepherd, of Columbia Falls; brother, Leonard Shepherd, and wife, Sandy, of Hamilton; sister, Irene Crow, of Kila; father-in-law, Roy Bauer, and wife, Flossie, of Columbia Falls; as well as numerous nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her son, Shannon Leroy; and her two grandchildren, Jeremy Dodge Sanders and Jade Helen Ulrich.

A fund has been established at the Whitefish Credit Union for donations.

## Mildred Bauska, 88

Mildred Bauska, 88, of Missoula, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010, at Community Medical Center in Missoula, of natural causes.



She was born Dec. 25, 1921, in Meire Grove, Minn., to Fred and Marion Weisser.

She married Fred Bauska, was a housewife and worked for Pepsi-Cola and a movie theatre in Minnesota.

She was a member of the

Women's VFW. Mildred was a gracious lady and very kind. She loved her very large family.

She was preceded in death by both her parents; and 11 brothers and sisters.

She is survived by two brothers, Gene Weisser of Minneapolis, and Elmer Weisser of Brookings, S.D.; numerous nieces and nephews; and too many other extended family members to mention.

Services will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Livingston, Malletta & Geraghty Funeral Home in Missoula.



## Bruce Gary Beagle, 56

Bruce Gary Beagle, 56, died Nov. 14, 2010, at North Valley Hospital in Whitefish.

He is survived by his mother, Hazel Childers. Memorial services will

be at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at the Whitefish VFW Hall.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Margaret T. Bean, 79

Margaret T. Bean, 79, a Columbia Falls resident, died Friday, March 12, 2010, in Kalispell.

Services will be held

later this spring in Maine.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Howard 'Howie' J. Bear, 75

Retired United States Air Force Colonel Howard "Howie" J. Bear, 75, of Montgomery, Ala., passed away Tuesday morning, June 22, 2010, after a long illness. Col. Bear was born Dec. 4, 1934, in Kalispell, to Marion and Marie Bear. He was raised in Kalispell.

Upon graduation from the Montana School of Mines, he was a high school math teacher, a proud member of the Masonic Lodge No. 42 A.F. and A.M., and a member of the Montana Air National Guard. His dedication to his country led him to a career in the United States Air Force where he provided honorable and distinguished service as a tactical fighter pilot. Col. Bear enjoyed a long and celebrated career in the military as a wing commander and with several command assignments, and he earned numerous decorations and medals, such as the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and other medals earned for distinguished service in Vietnam.

After retiring from the U.S. Air Force and locating to Montgomery, Col. Bear was instrumental in the growth and development of Max Federal Credit Union,

where he provided service as a board member for many years.

We celebrate the life of Col. Bear, a man who loved his country and his family, "Howie" to his friends and neighbors, and beloved "Poppie" to his three grandchildren.

Col. Bear was preceded in death by his parents, Marion L. and Marie K. Bear.

He is survived by his wife, Rae, of Montgomery; his son, Mark, and Robyn Bridges, of Auburn, Ala.; his three grandchildren, Carlyn, Samantha and Sam Bridges Jr., all of Auburn; and sisters, Marilyn Servoss of Kalispell, Meredith Mott of Destin, Fla., and Glenna Small of Kalispell. He was also loved and admired by a host of nieces and nephews.

Graveside services for Mr. Bear will be held at 9:30 a.m., Monday, June 28, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

In honor of Col. Bear's deep love and compassion for animals, the family requests that donations be made to a local humane society.

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

## Paul Joseph Beccari, 75

Paul Joseph Beccari, of Bonner, passed away on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2010, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula following complications from surgery.

He was born on Sept. 6, 1934, in Libby, to Julius Beccari and Madelena Rinaldi Beccari. He was raised in Libby and graduated from Libby High School, where he lettered in three sports. After high school he moved to Missoula and attended the University of Montana, where he played freshman football, and more importantly, met his wife Jean. They were married in Missoula on Nov. 10, 1956, and lived in Missoula, Libby and Spokane, before returning to Missoula in 1969.

The family moved to a home they built on 10 acres in the Potomac area in 1972. Paul and Jean raised their family there and Paul spent years working on his yard, gardens and fences, so that the home was a showplace when he passed.

Paul loved the outdoors, loved to hunt and fish and take drives all over the valley with his wife. In later years he became interested in bird watching. He was an avid sports fan and loved the Grizzlies, Los Angeles Dodgers and Green Bay Packers. He had season tickets to Grizzly basketball and was a "shareholder" (one share) in the Packers.

He was an independent businessman in Missoula. He owned and operated Paul's Southside Chevron Service

Station for 30 years. When he retired in 1999, it was one of the last remaining full-service gas stations in Missoula. He had many loyal customers with whom he had kept in contact with. He said that he always felt lucky to have made so many friends "at his job."

Paul was preceded in death by his wife, Jean; his mother and father; and three sisters, Elizabeth Moderie, Marchita Funke and Joy Moreau.

Survivors include son, Dirk, his wife, Kathleen and grandchildren, Dominic, Sarah and Jimmy, all of Missoula; daughter, Sue, her husband, Jay Erickson and grandchildren, John, Jeff and Julie, all of Missoula; daughter, Paula, her husband, Dan Bock and grandchild, Nathan, of Simi Valley, Calif.; son, Chris, his wife, Shana and grandchildren, Kylee and Tommy, of Kalispell; son, Nic of St. Paul, Minn.; two sisters, Virginia Beaulieu and Gloria Shrewsbury, both of Libby; sister, Julie, her husband, Joe Smith of St. Helens, Ore.; brothers and sisters-in-law, Lew and Allene Morris, and Ron and Lee Hansen; and numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and cousins.

A memorial mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, at St. Anthony Catholic Church, with a reception to follow in the Parish Center.

Cremation and Burial Society of the Rockies Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.

## Lydia Beck, 88

Lydia Beck, 88, passed away on Jan. 18, 2010, at Powell County Memorial Hospital.



Lydia was born on Sept. 1, 1921, in Dodge, N.D., to Carl and Margaret Stuber Singer. She was raised in North Dakota and Montana.

Lydia married Tom Beck in 1946 in Baker.

She worked for the Columbia Falls School District cleaning, cleaned houses, and worked for Columbia Falls Clinic cleaning for over 35 years, retiring at the age of 82.

Lydia enjoyed gardening, raising flowers, having a pretty yard, and shopping at garage sales. She loved to watch her grandson, Chad, race his car, and loved picking berries. She spent most of her time with her children and grandchildren.

Lydia was preceded in death by her son, Ray Beck; three brothers, John, Bill and

Richard Singer; two sisters, Anna Shoppe and Ida Bonnett; and one granddaughter, Kimberly Lundstrom.

She is survived by two sons, Tom and Randy Beck; five daughters, Sandra Lundstrom, Linda Holliday, Rita Hawkins, Wendy Witte and Meredith Tuttle; two sisters, Emma Schopp and Millie Rieger; grandchildren Stephanie Grein, Chad Lundstrom, Lora Blankenship, Michael Steppe, Doug Hawkins, Steven Hawkins, Jessie Beck, Tarryn Beck and Brad Hawkins; six great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

A celebration of Lydia's life will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, May 10, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home with the Rev. Daryl Newby officiating. An urn burial will take place following the service at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. A reception will follow at the Backroom in Columbia Falls.

You are invited to go to [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com) to sign Lydia's book or leave a personal message. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Della Lee Bedford, 60

Della Lee Bedford, 60, passed on May 2, 2010, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, "to be with



our angels." She was born in 1950 in Sioux Falls, S.D., and had resided in Hungry Horse for 23 years.

Della will be greatly missed by her loving husband of 42 years, Dale Bedford; as well as her children, Wanda Bedford, Lawrence Bedford and his wife, Sara; and Tonya Liciaga and her husband,

Mike; and her beautiful granddaughters, Chelsea, Krystal, Tearra and Chev-elle; and her sister, Betty Doering, and husband, Larry; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother, father and other siblings.

Della loved her holidays with her family. She loved her yard, flowers and shopping. She loved to be goofy with her grandchildren; and always put others before herself.

She is going to be greatly missed by all that she touched.

Services will be held at a later date.

## Timothy T. Beesley, 71

Timothy T. Beesley, 71, died Monday, May 10, 2010, at his Columbia Falls residence.

Services will be held at

a later date.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Gilbert J. Beito, 68

Gilbert J. Beito, 68, of Troy, died Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at his home in Troy from natural causes.

He had worked as a logger, construction worker and for the Montana Highway department.

Survivors include his wife, Arlyne Beito, of Troy; two daughters, Mabel Beito of Libby, and

Lynette Rebo of Troy; and an adopted daughter, Rhonda Francis, of Troy.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 21, at the Troy Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 20.

Local arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby.

## Alfred Smith Bell Sr., 82

Alfred Smith Bell Sr., also known simply as "Al Bell", "entered the kingdom of heaven" on Nov. 25,



2010. He was surrounded by the family he loved. He was 82 years old.

Al was born on Sept. 17, 1928 to Robert and Della (Doucette) Bell. He was the youngest of seven children. Emma, Robert, Harold, Kenny, Barbara and Ruth were all born at home.

When he was 13 years of age, he met Alice Marina Daviés at a local roller skating rink. They both loved to roller skate and soon became dance partners. They married in 1948. They were blessed with their first child, Alfred Smith Bell Jr., that same year. They made the move from Massachusetts to Phoenix in 1952.

By the time young Al was old enough to attend elementary school, they decided to become foster parents. They were blessed with 13 foster children over seven years. They welcomed their second child Anne Elizabeth in 1962, and were surprised with their third child, Annette Marie, in 1963. Dreams of becoming a farmer lead them to Somers 1965. Two months later, they landed in Eureka. Originally working as a driller on the tunnel, and for a short time on Kooçanusa bridge, he eventually ended up at Gibbons Garage in Eureka. In 1969, he was approached by Jerry Shaw and offered a job at First National Bank as a teller. He worked his way up to Executive Vice President of that bank. He was a banker for 25 years. He loved people and loved to help them achieve their dreams. As a lender, he was known as a fair and generous man. A man of high integrity, he instinctively knew the people he could lend money to and often made loans on a handshake. He love the Eureka community and loved his family. His dream of becoming a farmer became a reality in 1971. For the next 11 years he was a banker and a farmer. Sadly, in 1981 he and Alice divorced.

In 1982 he sold the farm and bought a place near Crystal Lakes Golf Course, where he became an avid

golfer. He married Virginia Robideau in 1983, and together they loved to golf and travel. Members of the Trinity Lutheran Church, he and Virginia loved to play the hand bells and spread holiday cheer through the Flathead Valley. He was a member of Flathead Valley Aires, and continued to sing throughout his life. Loving golf he was instrumental in organizing and orchestrating the senior mens golf tournament held annually at Village Greens Golf Course. Many people dream of hitting a hole in one, Al was fortunate enough to have three throughout his life. His gregarious nature and endless jokes will be remembered by all who loved him. Quick with a smile and a handshake, he didn't know a stranger. It didn't matter where he moved, it didn't take long for him to know the neighbors and their families. His most recent neighbors are among the best of his friends. Never one to sit still, after his retirement Al started woodworking. He loved to make furniture for Virginia and his children, and often had "orders" for custom furniture as well.

Al loved his family above all, and he and Virginia loved to spend time with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Della; siblings, Emma, Harold, Barbara and Robert; and his son, Alfred Jr.

Survivors include his sister, Ruth; his brother, Kenny; his wife, Virginia; her children, Bryce, Leah, and Myles; and Al's children, Anne and Annette. He is also survived by 21 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30 at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell. Burial will immediately follow service at Glacier Memorial Gardens, and reception will continue in the fellowship hall at Trinity Lutheran Church. Condolences can be sent to Buffalo Hill & Bigfork Funeral Homes, or to 30 Riverstone Dr., Kalispell MT 59901. You can also visit [www.buffalo-hillfh.com](http://www.buffalo-hillfh.com)

Funeral arrangements are by Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

## Forrest 'Bud' Bell, 79

Forrest "Bud" Bell, 79, a former resident of Kalispell, passed away in Spokane, on Jan. 6, 2010.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Jan. 16,

at Cedar Creek Village Banquet Room, 8424 N. Nevada St., Spokane, WA 99208. Contact the family at 509-467-5815 for other information.

## F. Eleanor Bell, 81

Eleanor Bell, 81, died Friday, Nov. 5, 2010, in a Kalispell Hospice facility from complications related to a fall suffered at her home.



Eleanor was born Nov. 24, 1928, and raised in Ontario, Calif., before moving with her husband and five children to her current residence at Lake Five.

Eleanor was well known for her love of animals and had numerous cats, dogs and other creatures of nature. She nursed many young birds, squirrels and other wounded animals back to health in hopes of returning them to their homes. Never one to leave an animal hungry, the raccoons, deer, squirrels and birds will miss her generosity and feeding schedule. Surely they are chattering right now as to why their dinner is late!

Eleanor loved her log house and living in the woods. She spent hours working on her garden and enjoyed the colors that bloomed each spring and summer. Never one to shy away from giving her opinion, she was a great political debater and hard nose Republican. Many will remember being on the losing side while arguing with

Eleanor; she held tight to her ideals and opinions.

Eleanor is survived by her friend and ex-husband, Jerry Bell; six children, Kathy of Ontario, Ore.; Karol of Riverside, Calif., Marty and Christine of Helena, Bruce and Donette of Upland, Calif., Shirley and Arlen Kolodejchuk of Coram, and Paula and Mike Daniels of Salt Lake City; six grandchildren, Timber, Holly, Cody, Emily, Olivia, and Caitlin Woods; as well as two great-grandchildren, Owen and Audrey Hull.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her parents; an infant daughter; and her grandson, Tanner Kolodejchuk.

Upon Eleanor's wishes, no services will be held. A private graveside service for the family will take place Thursday with interment at St. Richard's Cemetery, Columbia Falls.

In lieu of flowers, a donation in Eleanor's name can be made to either the Tanner Kolodejchuk Memorial Fund at Parkside Federal Credit Union, Columbia Falls; or Best Friends Animal Society, Kanab, Utah.

The children of Eleanor would like to thank Dr. Doug Griffith, as well as the nurses at Kalispell Regional Medical Center for their mom's care over the past week.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is assisting the family.

## Virginia Ann (Brooks) Bell, 79

Virginia Bell, 79, passed away with her children by her side June 18, 2010. She was born May 21, 1931, in Ronan.



She is survived by her four children, Jack and Julie Bell of Columbia Falls, Sharon Lukens of Forney, Texas, Vivian Spencer of Terrace, British Columbia, and Ken and Barb Bell of Grants Pass, Ore.; 11 grandchildren; six stepgrandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren and four stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack L. Bell; two sons-in-law, Richard Lukens and Dan Spencer; her parents; three brothers and four sisters.

Virginia "worked hard," as she would say, for many years of her life. She worked on the farm growing up, and later she

cooked in logging camps and restaurants as well as working alongside her husband in cedar mills across Montana, Idaho and Canada.

Virginia was the happiest when she could do something for those around her, whether immediate family, her church family or her neighbors. She sought to serve others in the name of the Lord.

She loved to garden and definitely had a green thumb. Over the years, many enjoyed the fruit of her labor as she cooked, canned and shared the bounty of her gardens.

In her later years, her flower garden continued to bring her much pleasure, especially as those who passed by her window stopped for a moment to enjoy and comment on the beauty they saw.

A memorial service joyfully celebrating her life will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 26, at Columbia Falls Assembly of God Church.

## Rayma J. Beller, 84

Rayma J. Beller, 84, died Tuesday, June 15, 2010, in Kalispell. Born Sept. 24, 1925, at Rexberg, Idaho, she came to Whitefish as a child with her parents, Harry and Anna Wagner. Rayma was raised and educated in Whitefish, graduating from Whitefish High School in 1943.

She later married Jack Beller. She and Jack made their home in Whitefish, where they raised their family. She enjoyed being a mother and liked to cook, can

and garden. She continued to make her home in Whitefish until moving to Kalispell in 2006.

Preceding her in death were her husband, and her son, Wayne.

Survivors include her daughter, Terri Gimello, and husband, Michael, of Columbia Falls; and grandchildren, Adam, Jason, Briana and Kyle.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Whitefish Cemetery. Austin Funeral Home is assisting the family.

## Guin Beller, 85

Guin Beller passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010, at the Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell. She had recently celebrated her 85th birthday with family and friends.

She was born in Whitefish on Nov. 9, 1925, the daughter of Harold and Nora (Ellis) Bailey. She graduated from Whitefish High School and soon after married Donald Gene Beller.

Guin and her husband built a log cabin and raised four children in the Deer Park area after spending a few years following construction out of state. In 1963 they moved to Missoula and then Washington State to once again follow construction work. They eventually moved back to their beloved Flathead Valley and raised another daughter after settling in Kalispell.

Guin was a wonderful cook and worked at the Sportsman and Husky House restaurants.

She enjoyed the great Montana outdoors by camping, fishing and back country horse trips. After retirement, Guin and her husband spent their winters in Arizona and Mexico until a horse accident

made it too hard for Guin to travel. They still were often seen exploring the country back roads of Flathead County.

She was preceded in death by baby Dona, who died of SIDS as an infant; her husband, Donald; brother, Robert Bailey; and sisters, Elaine Cloud and Phyllis Sirucek.

She is survived by one son, Gerald, of Charleston, W.V. She is also survived by four daughters, Karen Hopseker of Newport, Ore., Connie Erickson and Susan Clay of Kalispell, and Sara Artley of West Yellowstone; as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is also survived by sisters-in-law, Bethadele Beller, Eunice McKinley and Della Beller; as well as brothers-in-law, Russell Beller and John Cloud; and her cousin, Pat Erickson of Kalispell.

Memorial services for Guin will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home.

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

## Joseph L. 'Joe' Bellerose, Jr., 66

Joseph L. "Joe" Bellerose, Jr., 66, died Jan. 13, 2010, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. Joe was born



at Burien, Wash., to Joseph and Gladys (Zetterburg) Bellerose on Sept. 3, 1943, and was raised and educated in Burien and remained in the greater Seattle area for a time following school.

He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1963, serving until his honorable discharge in 1965.

He had been an excellent journeyman machinist, working in that field for an extended period of time. A person of many God-given talents, he had been

a photographer, painter, musician, fly fisherman and skydiver, and he built fishing rods as well as fly-tying.

Later in his life, he had attended and graduated from the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. He had been a resident of the Flathead Valley for the past 25 years, and had recently been a resident at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

He is survived by his wife, Tammy; and brothers, Jerry Bellerose of Chillicothe, Ohio, and Kerry Bellerose of Auburn, Wash.; as well as good friends living in the Flathead Valley.

Services will be Thursday at 4 p.m. at the Columbia Mortuary Chapel; visitation will begin at 9 a.m. Thursday morning and continue until service time.

## Robert Bellmore, 91

Robert Bellmore, or better known by his friends as "Uncle Bob," was born in Woods Bay on Oct. 8, 1919, and passed way on Oct. 12, 2010, in the company of his friends and the staff at the Columbia Falls Veterans Home. Bob was very appreciative of the care that he had received at the Veterans Home.

He was very proud of his military service in the motor pool in the South Pacific and spoke of it often. Though he never married, he had many friends in the Bigfork and Woods Bay area.

Bob Bellmore was known for his extensive knowledge of the Woods Bay area and the east shore of Flathead

Lake. Though he lived a simple life, he was very generous with what he had. He loved to hunt elk and deer, and would climb the mountains just to see if the huckleberries were ripe yet. His wonderful neighbors would often give him a ride to town and back, and he thought of many of them as family.

Bob is survived by his three sisters, Opal Campbell of Missoula, Marian Coe of Lebanon, Wash., and Carol Hueter of Napa, Calif., and numerous nephews and nieces.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m., Nov. 5, at the Columbia Falls Veterans Home chapel.

## Charles Edward Bennett, 86

Charles Edward Bennett, 86, died Monday, Nov. 8, 2010, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

Services will be held in Covington, La.

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

## Heolah (Stelling) Benson, 91

Heolah (Stelling) Benson, 91, died Nov. 27, 2010, at the Libby Care Center.

She is survived by two sons, Bruce of Fairview,

and Steven of Libby.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3, at Christ Lutheran Church 200 W. Larch, Libby.

## Barbara Kaye Bennetts, 68

Barbara Kaye Bennetts, 68, died Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010, of ovarian cancer at her home in Elmo.



the fullest.

Barbara also nurtured a life-long love of Native Americans. She worked through the federal government to extend grants to tribes from Alaska to Hawaii. She studied and enjoyed many books on Native Americans. And finally, she built her modest home on the reservation in Elmo, where the people were very kind to her.

She was born in Glendive and spent her first 53 years in Missoula, Helena, and the Flathead Valley, always near four generations of family. She graduated from Missoula schools, including the University of Montana. She succeeded in at least five different careers, including secretary, state legislator, fire lookout, real estate broker, federal employee, and Mom, during which she continually lobbied for women's rights, the environment, Montana's wild places and animals, and the underserved. For the last 30 years, Barbara was an active and grateful member of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-anon; in that capacity, her example doubtless saved many lives.

To say that Barbara enjoyed the outdoors would be an understatement. She loved skiing, backpacking, canoeing, camping, bears and wolves. She also nurtured her organic garden in Elmo. Her grandchildren brought her endless joy. She passed her enthusiasm for all of these pursuits on to them, and they reflect her passion daily. She enjoyed a good adventure: she rode her bike around Flathead Lake as a young girl; skied several miles of the Bob Marshall in the winter; climbed many Montana peaks; canoed the Missouri repeatedly; survived hairy whitewater experiences; and patrolled ski areas. She even insisted on embarking on a five-day hike a few weeks before her death, only to make it one day in before having to turn back. She never stopped living to

She embarked on her next trip just as she wished: on her couch, facing Chief Cliff, holding the hands of both daughters, Bonnie Bennetts-Moul of Santa Monica, Calif., and Stacey Bennetts of Seattle, as well as her never-quite-ex-husband Charlie Bennetts of Woods Bay and Elmo. Her beloved grandchildren Zachariah Moul, Elijah Moul, Finnegan Carroll, and Bazyl Carroll carry her imprint in their souls. Barbara is also survived by her mother Catherine Hay, and her brother Ronald Hay, both of Missoula.

Her father, Clarence Hay, and brothers, Doug and Steven preceded her in death. She leaves behind many wonderful friends and extended family.

A private family burial was held at Natural Cemeteries, at 40060 Montana-83, Swan Lake. She is buried adjacent to Moose Meadow, nestled between two of her favorite hiking ranges, the Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Mission Mountain Wilderness. Even in her death she strove to be in harmony with nature in a cemetery where earth's natural process is used to recycle. For directions, call Natural Cemeteries at (406) 754-0136. Any donations may be made to the Garden of 1000 Buddahs in Arlee at ewanbuddhagarden.org.

A summer celebration of Barbara's life will be held at her home in Elmo in July 2011. Contact the family if you would like to attend.

## Sheri Dee Benson, 62

Sheri Dee Benson, 62, died Wednesday, May 19, 2010, at her home in Whitefish. She was born in Livingston on May 3, 1948, and was raised and educated in Livingston.



While in the eighth grade, she met Benny Benson and they were later married on Sept. 12, 1970. Following high school, she attended Dahl's Beauty School in Great Falls.

Sheri poured her life into being a mother with the birth of her children, Tara and Jeffrey, and was a good and loyal friend to all she knew.

The family later moved to Whitefish in 1987 where Sheri continued to pour her life into her family and be a mother and caretaker to many others, including her

four-pound poodle, Harry, who never left her side.

Sheri is remembered for many vibrant and unique things, among them being a lifelong Elvis fan.

Sheri was preceded in death by twin sons in infancy; and her father-in-law, Robert Benson.

Surviving her are her former husband, Benny, of Whitefish; her children, Tara Benson of Kalispell, and Jeff Benson and fiancée, Stacey Douglass, of Vancouver, Wash.; a sister, Sue Martello, and husband, Jerry, of Livingston; mother-in-law, Donna Benson, of Livingston; and brothers-in-law, Bobbie Benson of Whitefish, and Jeff Benson of Billings.

A gathering will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Great Northern in Whitefish.

The family suggests memorials may be made to your local chapter of The Humane Society. Austin Funeral Home is assisting the family.

## Maurice E. Bernhard, 90

Maurice E. Bernhard, 90, a longtime Eureka resident, died Thursday, Sept. 8, 2010, at Mountain View Manor from natural causes.

He had worked as a logger and cutting Christmas trees.

Services will be at 2

p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, at the First Baptist Church in Eureka. Visitation will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Monday at the Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home in Libby, and from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the First Baptist Church in Eureka.

## Judy Eslick Beslanowitch, 67

Judy Eslick Beslanowitch, 67, died Monday, March 15, 2010.

She is survived by her two daughters, Lora Merz and Danell Glover.

There will be an open

house from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 28, at her home in Columbia Falls to celebrate and share her life. Call 541-391-3132 for more information.



## Jesse Howard Biggs, Jr., 80

Jesse Howard Biggs, Jr., 80, passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010, at his home in Kalispell.



Jesse was born on June 21, 1930, in Baker, Mont., to Jesse and Beulah (Huggins) Biggs.

He was raised in Baker, Laramie, Wyo., and Lafayette, Ind., where he attended schools through the ninth grade. He married Muriel Jean Reaver in 1952 in Lafayette. They were married for 35 years when she passed away.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in January of 1949. He served in Japan and Korea, and was honorably discharged in May of 1952. Jesse was an appliance mechanic and owned his own business, Biggs Appliance and Repair Service, since 1968. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping and fixing anything that was broken. He enjoyed feeding the birds and squirrels in his yard. He also enjoyed singing, working crosswords and talking

politics.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Muriel; and three sisters, Veronica, Carol and Phyllis.

Jesse is survived by his children, Larry and wife, Betty Biggs of Kalispell, Gary and wife, Trisha Biggs of Roscoe, Teresa Sue and husband, Steve Tritt of Richland, Wash., David Biggs of Kalispell, Linda and husband, Kim Briggeman of Missoula, and Rebecca and husband, Michael de Ruiter of Bellingham, Wash.; 14 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, Oct. 18, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home, with a viewing held from 9:00 a.m. until the start of the service. Rev. Tim Bartholomew will officiate the service. Interment will be follow the service at Glacier Memorial Gardens, with military honors being conducted by the Montana Army National Guard and the United Veterans of the Flathead Valley. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family. To send condolences to the family, please go to [www.buffalo-hillfh.com](http://www.buffalo-hillfh.com)

## Riley Allen Birch-Wood, infant

Riley Allen Birch-Wood, infant son of Amy Birch and Patrick Wood, was stillborn on March 22, 2010, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. He weighed one pound and was 12 inches long.

"Heaven's gain was our loss when our angel was called by our Lord. Riley came into this world too soon and was taken too soon. He will be watched over in heaven by our very special friend, Larry Henderson."

Riley is survived by his

parents, Amy Birch and Patrick Wood; maternal grandmother, Dixeen Cornelle; paternal grandparents, Adam and Wanda Krueckenberg; great-aunt, Valorie Galloway; and great-aunt and -uncle, Sarah and Dennis Sargent. He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

Graveside services for Riley will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery.

## Ray Bilile, 66

Ray Bilile, our loving husband and father, "has gone to be with his Lord and Savior" after a battle with respiratory complications.

He was born in February of 1944 in Ronan, where he grew up on the family farm.

He graduated from Ronan High School in 1962, then went on to the University of Montana and graduated from pharmacy school in 1967. He returned to Ronan and ran the farm and started R&R Drug. He owned R&R Drug for 34 years before selling it and retiring to the Bigfork area with his wife Tere. He spent the last years of his life working on their home and working on the board of directors for St. Luke's Community Hospital in Ronan.

He enjoyed hiking, camping and kayaking in new and interesting places around the world, but he was always thankful that "God had put him in the most beautiful place in the world," western Montana. He enjoyed his friends' and families' laughter.

He was preceded in death

by his father, Clarence; mother, Louise; and his sisters, Alice, Evadine and Maxine.

He is survived by his wife, Tere of Bigfork; his sons, Corey of Bigfork, and Brandon and Trevor, both of Kalispell; his brothers, Morris and Roy, both of Ronan; grandson, Jeff, of Billings; and granddaughter, Lyric, of Kalispell. He also leaves behind his beloved dog, Tyson.

"We all love you and miss you and will remember you forever."

A memorial celebration will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 16, at the Mission Mountain Country Club east of Ronan.

The family suggests that any donations be made to the Ray Bilile Memorial Fund in care of Community Bank, P.O. Box B, Ronan, MT 59864.

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

## Ezra Ray Birky, 87

Ezra Ray Birky, 87, died Friday, April 16, 2010, at his residence in Kalispell.

He is survived by his children, Ian Birky, of Coopersburg, Pa., Ellen Lehman of Kalispell, Michael Birky of Columbia Falls, Susan Birky of Boulder, and Vance Birky of Kalispell.

Funeral services will be

held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 21, at the Mountain View Mennonite Church at the intersection of Mennonite Church Road and Fish Hatchery Road. Visitation will be from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, with burial following at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery at 9:45 a.m.

## John Wayne Blake, 45

John Wayne Blake, 45, passed away suddenly on April 20, 2010, in Phoenix, from a massive stroke.

He was born on July 28, 1964, in Kalispell.

He graduated from high school in Richland, Wash., and received his bachelor's degree in computer programming from DeVry University in Phoenix.

John had a career spanning 20 years in the avionics software field, both commercial and military. He worked at General Dynamics in Dallas, and most recently for Belcan Engineering in



Phoenix. He was a brilliant engineer and good friend to many.

John enjoyed many hobbies and excelled in sports, including table tennis (once ranked fifth in the world), and games of chance.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Blair; brother, Michael Blake; and his grandparents.

Those left to cherish his memory are father, Wayne Blake; and stepmother, Carol; Warner Blake, James Blair, Michelle Sevesind, Paul Ulberg, Lorena Blake, Travis Blake, aunts, uncles, cousins, and special friends, Susan Stuart and Scott Miles.

A memorial service and burial will be at a later date at Sunnyside Cemetery in Richland.

## Brenda Kay (Hoerner) Blakney, 51

Brenda Kay (Hoerner) Blakney, 51, passed away peacefully at her sister's house in Columbia Falls on

April 17, 2010, after a short battle with cancer. "She was met in heaven by her parents."

Brenda was born on Feb. 4, 1959, in Kalispell to Cliff and Ida (Pixie) Hoerner.

She leaves behind her loving children and their spouses, Joshua and Angela Blakney of Kalispell, and Beth and Chuck Taylor of Minot, N.D.; her grandchildren, Madison, A.J., Tristen, Gaige, Maddox and Magic; her brothers and sisters, Sharon, Dennis, Cindy, Darryl, her twin brother, Bart, and baby brother, Cliff Jay. She also leaves behind numerous nephews and nieces, too many to name, and lots and lots of great-nieces and -nephews.

Brenda was a great mom and wonderful person. She



was a very hard worker with a great work ethic that she passed on to her children. She was always a child at heart and loved to play with children; most of the time when the adults were visiting and the kids playing, she chose to play with the children.

Brenda had a wonderful zest for life and loved doing things with her family, whether it be taking homemade chicken noodle soup to her children when they were sick — whether they were 2 years old or 30 years old — or just playing on the slip 'n slide with kids of all ages. She taught us all how to stay children at heart and to be very loving and caring. No matter what anyone ever did, she was always willing to forgive.

"From your loving family, we know you will always be with us, and we will always love you."

A celebration of her life will be held at noon on Saturday, April 24, at the LaSalle Grange Hall.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family

## Michael Patriek Bleskin, 61

Michael Patriek Bleskin, 61, of Great Falls, died on Tuesday, April 20, 2010, at a local health-care center of natural causes.



Visitation will be at Hillcrest Lawn Chapel on Friday, April 23, one hour prior to his funeral liturgy at 10:30 a.m. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on April 24, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell. Schneider Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Michael "Mike," "a special child of God," was born Nov. 2, 1948, to Margaret and Albin Bleskin in Kalispell. Mike lived in Kalispell until 1998, when he and his mother moved to New Mexico to live with his sister and her husband.

Mike always had a smile on his face, and loved to go to basketball and hockey games. He also loved to swim with his friends at their pool. In 2002, he and his family

moved back to Great Falls to be closer to family. Some of Mike's greatest loves included The Lawrence Welk Show and country music. Mike had a great knowledge and love for cars and had a great collection. He loved being part of Pete's Auto. He helped pick out ads, cleaned off cars and could name every car on the lot, thus Mike Bleskin, "Manager."

He got involved with Special Olympics through his brother-in-law, Roger, and brought home "the Gold" in walking events and bowling. What an achievement!

Mike is a great blessing to all whose lives he has touched. He has shown us the true meaning of unconditional love.

Survivors include a sister, Marcia Ouellette, and a brother, Peter D. Bleskin, both of Great Falls; and numerous nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his mom and dad; grandparents; and numerous uncles.

The family suggests memorials to Great Falls Hornets, c/o Special Olympics Montana, P.O. Box 3507, Great Falls, MT 59403.

## Robert W. Blevins, 82

Robert W. Blevins, 82, died Monday, July 5, 2010, at his home in Marion. Private family services

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

## John Charles 'Jack' Bloxham, 82

John Charles "Jack" Bloxham, 82, of Great Falls, died of pneumonia in Palm Desert, Calif. on April 16, 2010.



Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Christian Center on Friday. Burial will follow at Manchester Cemetery.

Jack was born on March 13, 1928, to Charles John "Chick" and Ann (Smith) Bloxham in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Jack worked in the auction ring as a young boy with his father. Working with livestock led to buying cattle, bucking horses and race horses, and he taught himself to be an auctioneer. He competed in rodeos for many years. At one time he was a rodeo contractor with Bob Nordtome with Big Sky Rodeo. Jack also owned Bloxham Cattle Co.

In January of 2010 he was inducted in the Montana State Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame.

He was a member of the Elks Club, MLCC, PRCA, and the Lades Country Club in Palm Desert. He loved fly fishing, snow skiing, and spending time with his family and friends.

Jack is survived by his wife, Billie Jean, of Great Falls; daughters, Vickie and Spencer Workman, and Leslie and Allen Stensrud, all of Great Falls; stepsons, Doug and Jody Siderius, and Dan Siderius, all of Kalispell; stepdaughters, LeAnn Siderius of Kalispell, and Laurie and Kelly Quinlan of Hamilton. Jack is also survived by his sisters, Betty Anderson of Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Jerry Rutledge of Wickenburg, Ariz.; 20 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Debbie Thigpen; and his former wives, Jackie and Margaret.

Memorials can be made to Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, P.O. Box 80807, Billings, MT; or Great Falls Easter Seals, 4400 Central Ave., Great Falls, MT 59405.

Condolences to the family can be left at [www.croxford-funeralhome.com](http://www.croxford-funeralhome.com)

## Ben Blumer

A memorial service for Ben Blumer, 86, of Whidby Island, Wash., will be held at 1 p.m. June 4, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

## Sherry L. Bodily, 60

Sherry L. Bodily, 60, died in Kalispell on Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Private family services

are scheduled for a later date. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Paul Reuben Bolken, 71

Paul Reuben Bolken, 71, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2010, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell.



He was born on Jan. 25, 1939, in Arnegard, N.D., to Harold and Dagny (Anderson) Bolken.

Paul began his early education in Arnegard before moving with his family to Springfield, Ore., in 1952. He graduated from Springfield High School in 1958 and embarked on a musical career.

He traveled with many bands and while playing with one Western band in Dunkirk, he met Sue Howell. The couple married on Oct. 27, 1963 in Shelby. Moving back to Oregon, Paul and Sue began their family, while Paul worked in various construction jobs.

Paul was very active in community organizations such as the Moose Lodge, Elks, Sons of Norway and the Kalispell Lions Club. He was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the Shepherds of the Hills Lutheran Church in Sisters, Ore. Paul was a woodworker and musician, he loved driving go-carts and snowcats, and was very involved in genealogy. He was very proud

of the Bolken family tree he had traced back to the 1400s.

After working as a building/fire inspector for the City of Columbia Falls, Paul was medically retired. He and Sue enjoyed traveling in their retirement around the country to visit family and friends. They would winter in Arizona and summer both in the Flathead Valley and North Dakota.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents; an infant brother; and a nephew, Hans.

He is survived by his wife, Sue Bolken, of Whitefish; one daughter, Synnove Bolken, of Puyallup, Wash.; two sons, Anthony Bolken and Paul Kjell Bolken, both of Whitefish; three brothers, Olaf and Luther Bolken, both of Oregon, and Noland Bolken of Georgia; two sisters, Melody Hunsburger of Washington, and Kaja Malouf of Australia; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorial services for Paul will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 13, in the Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Chapel, with Pastor Debra Abbott of Bethlehem Lutheran Church officiating. A reception will follow at the church.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for Paul's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to view Paul's tribute wall and offer condolences.