

## Rosalie Caroline Purvis Engle Vaage, 92

Rosalie Caroline Purvis Engle Vaage, 92, of Kalispell "went to be with her Lord" on Dec. 19, 2013, at Brendan House.

Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 14 at First Church of the Nazarene, 1295 Whitefish Stage Road, in Kalispell.

Rose was born May 30, 1921 in Sidney to Harry

Ellsworth and Lylia Elizabeth (Crawford) Purvis.

She was raised in Glendive where she met and married William S. Engle on Dec. 17, 1936. They had three sons and one daughter, William L. (Irene), Thomas (Helen), Arline Bonner (Cliff) and Keith (Shirley).

On June 6, 1975, she married Owen Vaage.

She enjoyed sewing, playing cards, crossword and picture puzzles, painting and dancing. Rose worked at various jobs; her most favorite was as a foster grandparent at Peterson School in Kalispell.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her four children; her siblings, Vernon and Grace;

three grandsons; and a son-in-law.

Survivors are daughters-in-law, Irene, Helen and Shirley; 17 grandchildren; 47 great-grandchildren; 16 great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Donations may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

## Helen Mary (Walsh) Vacura, 89

Helen Mary (Walsh) Vacura, 89, passed away Sunday, July 27, 2014, at Heritage Place health care community in Kalispell.

Helen was born Dec. 8, 1924, in Nereson Township Roseau, Minn., to John Joseph Walsh Jr., and Elizabeth (Witzman) Walsh. Helen was the first born of five children of Irish and German decent. She grew up and went to school in the Greenbush area on the family farm in Barnett Township and graduated from Greenbush High school in 1943.

Helen married Theodore "Ted" A. Vacura July 15, 1944, in Greenbush, Minn.; they were married for 68 years. Helen and Ted moved from Minnesota to Scobey and lived there for many years and started their family there, having three children — Karen, Kathy and Allen. They moved to Wolf Point where they operated an Enco gas station for three years. They then moved to Kalispell where Ted worked for Landry Oil and for City Service. Helen was a homemaker; she was a great cook and made homemade bread for the family for many years.

Helen worked as a volunteer in the early years at the Kalispell Food Bank. It was here that she met and made many memorable friends.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Bill and Philip



Walsh; and her daughter, Karen Watne, and her husband, Ted.

Helen is survived by daughter,

Kathy, and Ron Lebert, of Kalispell; son, Al, and Shannon, of Kalispell; brothers, Leo Walsh of Baudett, Minn., and John Walsh and Delores of Fargo, N.D.; special friend and sister-in-law, Marilyn Walsh, of Greenbush; grandchildren, Paul and Stephanie Lebert of Kalispell, Janice and Will Brewer of Kalispell, Chris Andersen of Kalispell, Brian Watne of Columbia Falls, Katrina Vacura of Kalispell, and Tori Vacura and family of Anchorage, Alaska; great-grandchildren, Mikayla, Bethany, Daniel and Ashlyn Lebert, Nichole Stevens, Katelyn and Robert Drager, Amber Andersen and Brandon Watne, all of Kalispell; along with many cousins, nieces and nephews in Minnesota.

Helen is loved by so many and will be missed by all that knew her. She will always be remembered for her grace and kindness to all.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Aug. 4 at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home Kalispell, with visitation to be held one hour prior, at noon. Burial will follow services at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

## Kenneth Lloyd Vance, 83

Kenneth Lloyd Vance, 83, passed away Nov. 25, 2014, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center in Kalispell, after a long battle with COPD.

Kenny was born June 22, 1931, in Dagmar, Mont., the youngest of eight children of Julius and Tillie Vance.

Kenny served in the U.S. Army in Korea from 1954 to 1956. He was awarded the Medal of Good Conduct and the National Defense Service Medal for his service.

Kenny's only place of employment lasted 44 years. He started work at the Daily Inter Lake delivering newspapers in 1945. After serving in the Army, he returned to the paper as a pressman where he continued working until his retirement in 1989.

He married May Coverdell on Aug. 1, 1953. They had three children and celebrated 51 years of marriage before his lovely bride passed — exactly 10 years before he did on Nov. 25, 2004.

He is survived by their three children, Richard Vance and his wife Sylvia, Jerry Vance and his wife Mary, and Cindy Otten and her husband Bob. He has six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, with two more "cooking!" He is also survived by his sister, Lois Nyby; his brother-in-law, Don



smoke." He loved watching the Montana Grizzlies

Coverdell; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Kenny enjoyed many things. His favorite TV shows were "The Price is Right" and "Gun-

and NASCAR racing. Dale Earnhart, Jr. was a favorite, and he enjoyed sparring with his daughter and son-in-law on who would win the race each week. Fishing and camping were activities he loved to share with his children and grandchildren. One of his most prized possessions was his 1949 Harley Davidson motorcycle that he purchased in 1952.

A visitation will be

held from 11 a.m. to noon on Dec. 2 at the Buffalo Hill Funeral Chapel, with graveside services to be held at 1 p.m. on Dec. 2 at Glacier Memorial Gardens in Kalispell.

Kenny will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

To send a note of condolence to the family please visit [www.buffalohillfh.com](http://www.buffalohillfh.com). Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Ilene Carol (Merrill) Vail, 82

Ilene Carol (Merrill) Vail, 82, beloved wife, mother and grandmother, passed away March 24, 2014, in Billings at Canyon Creek Memory Care surrounded by family and generous care givers.

Ilene was born June 21, 1931, in Cheyenne, Wyo., the daughter of Edward and Mabel (Harnden) Merrill. She grew up in Cheyenne as a tomboy known as "Teeny," graduated from high school and began working in a feed store, where she met her husband, Dexter Vail. Ilene and Dexter lived in Billings for 14 years before moving to Kalispell in 1972. Ilene raised her four children with wisdom and love, showing us how to live with kindness and humor. While spending most of her time with family, she also enjoyed golfing, reading, knitting and water aerobics.

Ilene was preceded in death by her three brothers, Robert, Delbert and Richard, and husband of 61 years, Dexter. She is survived by her children



Dawnlee and husband Mike Laughlin of Corvallis, Ore., Barbara and husband Rob-

ert Ketchum of Billings, Robin and husband Alex Ancheta of Oak Harbor, Wash., Casey and wife Cathy Vail of Kalispell; sisters Lois Buzard of Federal Heights, Colo., and Elinor Ronish of Santa Clara, Calif.; grandchildren Kori and husband Mathias Forsman of Vancouver, Wash., Justin and wife Miranda Ancheta of Vancouver, Wash., Christina and husband Valentin Solotych of Riverdale, Md., and Karena Ketchum of Billings; great grandchildren Rylee Ancheta, Shalyn Ancheta, Elijah Forsman and Eliot Forsman.

A memorial service for family will be held in May at the Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell.

## Gene J. Van Dort, 66

Gene J. Van Dort, 66, of Kalispell died June 4, 2014.

He was born March 22, 1948, in Dover, Ohio. He was raised in Kalispell and graduated from Flathead High School in 1967.

Gene worked at Plum Creek plywood mill from 1967 to 1975. In 1975, he started Pioneer Log Homes and proudly built over 85 homes in Montana. Later Gene began focusing his talent on finish carpentry. The fruits of some of his work can be seen in the restoration of the Kalispell Hotel and many custom homes in the Valley. Gene's creativity, precision and love of woodcrafting will continue to bring joy to others for generations. Gene also



has a deep appreciation for Montana and Flathead Valley. He made it a priority in his life to show patriotism and honor veterans. He proudly served six years in the Montana National Guard. Gene was revered for his warm smile, quit wit and sense of humor.

He spent 23 years sharing his life with his partner, Terri Thompson. Gene and Terri shared a love for the outdoors. They also found great joy and comfort with their dogs. Gene will be missed and is loved by all who had the pleasure of know-

ing him.

Gene married Holly Glidden in Kalispell in 1966; they were married for eight years.

Gene was preceded in death by his son, Gene E. Van Dort; parents, Earl and Betty Van Dort; and life partner, Terri Thompson.

He is survived by his son, Kevin Van Dort; sister, Dody (Van Dort) White; brother, Jon and Penny Van Dort; granddaughter, Malia M. Van Dort; and nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place.

A celebration of Gene's life will be from 1 to 4 p.m. June 14 at the Eagles Lodge in Kalispell.

## Natoma T. Van Orden, 15

Natoma T. Van Orden, 15, passed away on Oct. 2, 2014, in Kalispell.

Natoma was born Dec. 7, 1998, in Palo Alto, Calif., the son of Maria (Clemente) and Natoma Van Orden.

Natoma was raised in California and Montana. He was attending Glacier High School. Natoma was involved with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Miracle Fields baseball and the Dream Team.

As limited as he was, he was still able to go fishing and camping, play baseball and go skiing. He loved to build things like birdhouses, Lego, models and most recently, he was into robotics. He loved going for drives and seeing new places. He loved playing video games and watching movies.

Natoma is survived by his parents, Maria Clemente and Natoma Van Orden; brother, Fedilino



Van Orden; sister, Maya Van Orden; grandparents, Leticia Reyes and Pamela Van Orden,

and Frank Shields; aunts and uncles, Liz and Rob Baker, Steph and Kaleb Dopp, Andy Shields, and Vince and Valerie Clemente.

Visitation for Natoma will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. today, Oct. 7, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at Buffalo Hill Funeral Home.

Friends are invited to visit the website [www.buffalofh.com](http://www.buffalofh.com) to leave notes of condolence for the family. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

## Robert 'Bob' VanSweden, 87

Robert "Bob" VanSweden, 87, died Sunday, May 25, 2014, at the Whitefish Care and Rehabilitation Center in Whitefish.

He is survived by his

daughter, Tammy Prehn, of Michigan.

A graveside urn burial is pending. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

## Ruth Ann Van Luven, 78

Ruth Ann Van Luven, 78, a 20-year Montana resident, and daughter of Harold and Winifred MacKenzie, passed away Oct. 29, 2014.

Ruth Ann was a retired paralegal and former executive officer for the Republican Women, in addition to being a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother.

She was born in San Bernardino, Calif., 1936.

She graduated from San Bernardino High School, Class of 1954, and went on to attend the Claremont Colleges, Pomona, in California and earned a liberal arts degree. She then returned to San Bernardino and took a position as a legal secretary. She eventually became a paralegal with the Law Firm of Murray & Ames, and concurrently taught paralegal studies at Skadron College. She retired from her chosen profession after nearly 30 years of dedicated legal services.

During this time, she met and married Judge Donald E. Van Luven Jr., on March 23, 1972. Ruth Ann became a very active member of the community and volunteered countless hours of her time to civic organizations such as the San Bernardino Symphony Orchestra, the Civic Light Opera, the League of Women Voters and the Native Daughters of the Golden West. Her efforts with the San Bernardino



Symphony Orchestra led to one of the first "Music in the Schools" programs in Southern California.

In 1995, after Judge Van Luven retired from the Superior Court of San Bernardino, he and Ruth Ann decided to leave California and head north to the great state of Montana. They originally moved to Kalispell, where they lived for more than a decade. In 2006, they moved to the town of Lakeside to be closer to family already living in the area.

Ruth Ann passed away in her Lakeside home while in the company of her husband of 42 years.

She is survived by her husband, Donald; three sons, Kurt, Adrian and Mark; and three grandchildren, Ross, Dana and Nicole.

Pursuant to Ruth Ann's wishes, no formal services will be conducted.

In lieu of flowers or memorials, donations may be made in her name to the Wounded Warrior Project.

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

You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to view Ruth Ann's guest book, offer condolences and share memories.

## Astrid Eve Vang, 27

Astrid Eve Vang, 27, passed away on Dec. 19, 2014.

Astrid was a lovely woman with a beautiful soul. Due to a tragic accident her time with us was cut.

She came into this world unconventionally, arriving in a Ford Courier pickup due to her parents' attempted home delivery. She stayed unconventional the rest of her life.

Astrid loved fashion, boots with heels, and big trucks. Her love of flowers made her an accomplished florist. She loved the mountains, lakes, the smell of rain and the full moon nights. Her love of animals had her excited about getting a blue tick hound puppy she had found. Astrid had started studies at Flathead Valley Community College and was hoping to resume them to become a professional linguistics expert and sign language interpreter. Her interests in other cultures and beliefs made her views broad and open-minded.

The one true love of Astrid was her children, Leif and Daphne. The joy and boundless energy they have overflowed into the lives of all who knew her — Leif the happy little daredevil and Daphne the beautiful pink princess who loves the sandbox.

Astrid touched many



lives with her words and giving of her time. In her favorite time of the year she will be remembered as the many colored leaves of autumn float gently to the ground.

Astrid was preceded in death by her beloved grandfather, Neal Jerome and grandmother, JoAnne Mclean.

She is survived by her son Leif, daughter Daphne, father Marty Jerome, mother Rosemary LaFountaine, sister Summer Jerome, and many other relatives she loved and cared for.

A memorial service for Astrid will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 27, at Austin Funeral Home. A memorial dinner will follow services.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made for the benefit of the children to the First Montana Bank in Kalispell or the Whitefish Credit Union in Whitefish.

You are invited to go to [www.austinh.com](http://www.austinh.com) to offer condolences, share memories and view Astrid's tribute wall.

Arrangements are entrusted to Austin Funeral Home.

## William 'Bill' C. Vanover, 90

William "Bill" C. Vanover, 90, died July 23, 2014, at his Marion residence.

Burial Services will be held in Pennsylvania. A

celebration of life will be held in Marion at a later date.

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

## William Howard Vassar Sr., 77

Howard Vassar, 77, of Polson, and formerly of Trona, Calif., passed away June 6, 2014, at his home after a long battle with cancer.

Howard was born on Sept. 24, 1936, in Amarillo, Texas, to William and Willie Vassar. He grew up in southern California between Trona and Bishop. He worked for his dad sacking salt and driving trucks until he was drafted into the Army, serving in the 101st Airborne, Screaming Eagles.

On Sept. 11, 1961, he married Deanna Marie Garner, settling in Trona and building a family and a successful equipment contracting business, until he retired 1982 and they moved to Polson.

Howard helped build and sponsor Little League football in Trona, as well as sponsoring the high school football team. He was one of the founders of the first motorcycle clubs in southern California — The Sidewinders.

Howard enjoyed many outdoor activities such as motorcycling, dune buggies, water skiing, horseback riding, rodeos, roping, hunting and fishing. His one true passion that he developed over his lifetime was the love of trap shooting. He won the prestigious Butte Rod & Gun Club Medal in 1999 and attended the ATA World Championship in Vandalia, Ohio, with his teammates in 2003. In his career he shot 84,125 single targets, 93,800 handicap targets and 65,250 doubles targets for a



grand total of 243,275 registered targets since 1988.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Charles Vassar; mother, Willie Lee

Vassar; stepfather, Clifford C. Jones; sisters, Margie Conrad and Juanita Vassar; and his brothers, Edward and Bobby Vassar.

He is survived by his wife, Deanna Vassar; children, Renee Morgan and Larry Morgan, Radean Vassar and Ryan Boden, Howard "Howdy" Vassar and Debbie Sargent-Vassar, and Tina Vassar-Buser and Mike Buser; seven grandchildren Chad Morgan, Jill (Morgan) Marlow, Aaron Morgan, Christopher Vassar, Caitlyn Vassar, Amber Caraway and Rainee Vassar; eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Howard is also survived by his brother, John Vassar; and numerous nieces and nephews that he loved dearly.

A celebration of his life will be held at 11 a.m. June 13 at Grogan Funeral Home and Crematorium. Burial will follow at Lakeview Cemetery, Polson.

Arrangements are under the direction of Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory. Memories of condolence may be sent to the family at [www.groganfuneralhome.com](http://www.groganfuneralhome.com).

## Shirley A. Verworn, 79

Shirley A. Verworn, 79, formerly of Missoula, died Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014, at Brendan House in Kalispell.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 8, at Garden City Funeral Home and Cre-

matory in Missoula, with burial following at Missoula Cemetery. A reception will follow in the funeral home's community room. Visitation will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, at Garden City Funeral Home.

## Charles H. VerValen, 82

Charles H. VerValen, 82, died on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014, at his home in Eureka.

A memorial service will

be held at a later date. Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home & Crematory in Libby.

## Benjamin Vaughn Sr., 91

Benjamin Vaughn Sr., 91, a longtime Libby resident, died Sunday, July 20, 2014, at Libby Care Center.

Survivors include his wife, Marliese Vaughn of Libby; daughter, Janice Vick of Tacoma, Wash.; and sons, Ben Vaughn Jr.

of Aurora, Colo., and Jerry Vaughn of Portland.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m., Tuesday, July 29, at the City of Libby Cemetery.

Arrangements are by Schnackenberg & Nelson Funeral Home and Crematory in Libby.

## Cynthia 'Cindy' Dawn Gwynn Viano, 60

Cynthia "Cindy" Dawn Gwynn Viano passed away suddenly of natural causes on June 30, 2014. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Cindy was born on March 29, 1954, in Whitefish. She was the eldest of four daughters born to William and Edna Gwynn of Eureka. Cindy spent her childhood in Eureka, graduating from Lincoln County High School in 1972. She attended college at Flathead Valley Community College, the University of Montana and Carroll College, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in dental hygiene.

She met the love of her life, Larry Viano, while umpiring first base in a softball game. She called him out and he asked her out. They were married on Sept. 21, 1974, in Eureka. They were blessed with a daughter, Marcia Nicole, in 1979, and a son, Timothy William, in 1981.

Her fascination for dental health started as a young child as she watched the dentist prepare her father's mouth



for dentures. Cindy started her career as a dental hygienist in Helena in 1978. She continued

her career in the Flathead Valley for the next 30 years. Cindy not only enjoyed the care she provided her patients, but thrived on the personal connection she made with each patient that sat in her chair.

When Cindy retired in 2010, she enjoyed traveling and motorcycle trips with Larry. She loved spending her time quilting, sewing and volunteering at the Community Kitchen. In 2009, with the birth of her first grandchild, Wilbur Dylan Davis, retirement took on a whole new meaning. She spent as much time as possible with Wilbur, his sister Roma Kay, who arrived in 2012, followed by grandson, Bridge Viano in 2013. She loved taking them for walks, playing in the park, baking, singing, reading, FaceTiming and

giving them rides on the vacuum. She was the best "Nonna." Her grandbabies joy and love for her was beyond the moon and stars. Because she was a Facebook fanatic, she shared it all with us.

Cindy was a wonderful cook. Italian by marriage, she mastered the art of Italian cooking. Her pizza, spaghetti and biscotti will be missed by all who were lucky enough to partake. Each Christmas Eve, the family celebrated "Italian style" with fish and spaghetti.

She read many books on old English and Montana history, and was a Lewis and Clark buff who retraced much of their travels throughout the Northwest.

Cindy loved sports and was a lifelong baseball and football fan. In Cindy's mind, "Go Griz" was not only a cheer but was a way of life. For many years, the Viano tailgate was the place to be at every home Grizzly game. Fabulous food, fun people and of course, Cindy keeping it all going with her amazing organi-

zational skills.

Cindy was a true animal lover and encouraged others to adopt homeless pets. She loved her dogs and trained them to be good hunters and retrievers. Her dog family, past and present, were always a large part of her life, from going on walks to playing fetch, and especially showering them with love and attention. "Many will greet her when she arrives in Heaven, but Saco and Dusty will miss their best friend so very much."

A talented quilter and artist, Cindy made numerous quilts to give as gifts to loved ones and as donations for various causes. As a quilt is a patchwork of different images, Cindy was the thread that held all people in her life together. A wonderful lady who will be missed by so many people. The thread has broken but we will honor her by remembering the light and the love she brought into so many lives.

Cindy was preceded in death by her father, William Gwynn.

She is survived by her husband, Larry; daughter,

Marci and son-in-law, Phil Davis, of Eugene, Ore.; son, Tim and daughter-in-law, Nina Viano, of Kalispell; and the lights of her life, her grandchildren, Wilbur and Roma Davis, and Bridger Viano; her mother, Edna Gwynn of Eureka; and sisters, Susie McRae of Bozeman, and Shelley and Tom Shay, and Kelley and Terry Comstock, all of Eureka. She is also survived by all her beautiful and brilliant nieces, nephews and many people who loved her as family.

A celebration of Cindy's life will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8 at the Majestic Valley Arena Pavilion in Kalispell, with the Rev. Pattiann Bennett of Eureka officiating. The

reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions go to the Arthrogyposis Multiplex Congenita Support, Inc., and the SMA Foundations would help support two of her brilliant and beautiful nephews. Spinal Muscular Atrophy Foundation, 888 Seventh Ave., Suite 400, New York, NY 10019 or Arthrogyposis Multiplex Congenita Support, Inc., P.O. Box 1883, Salyersville, KY 41465.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Cindy's family. You are invited to go to [www.jgfuneralhome.com](http://www.jgfuneralhome.com) to view Cindy's tribute wall, offer condolences and share memories, as well as [caringbridge.org](http://caringbridge.org).

## Alma L. Vilhauer, 99

Alma Lorentina Vilhauer passed away peacefully on Sept. 20, 2014, at The HealthCenter in Kalispell, with her daughter, Audrey Lapka and grandson, John Reis at her side.

She was born on March 6, 1915, to August G. and Maria (Klooz) Heupel on their farm near Leola, S.D. Alma was the oldest of 10 children; she had seven sisters and two brothers. She attended first through eighth grades in a rural school near their farm. She lived there until her marriage to August J. Vilhauer on March 17, 1936. They moved to Leola for a short time before renting a farm northeast of Long Lake, S.D. In 1941, they purchased a farm 17 miles west and 1 mile south of Leola.

In 1963, August and Alma sold the farm and moved to Aberdeen, S.D.



August used his carpentry skills in his semi-retirement while Alma, as always,

took such loving care of their home, cooking wonderful meals and sharing them with any and all who would stop by for a visit. Alma was a very loving, caring, compassionate person and an amazing cook. She baked the most marvelous goodies and was the best baby sitter anyone could ever have. There was nothing to be mended or sewn that Alma couldn't fix and she did it beautifully. She crocheted many afghans and booties for friends and family which are cherished by all. Alma enjoyed bowling for a good many number of years.

She bowled on a league and also traveled to many national tournaments with five of her sisters. They had great times and many good memories as they traveled and bowled together. They became known and mentioned in the Nationals as the "Leola Sisters."

Alma was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Aberdeen where she was a long-time member of the Altar Guild and sang with the "Friendship Singers." She was previously a member of St. James Lutheran Church in Leola, and Salem Lutheran Church in rural Leola.

In 2000, Alma moved to The Homestead in Aberdeen where she lived until moving to Bigfork to live with her daughter, Audrey and husband Gary Lapka in 2001. She resided with them in Bigfork and spent winters with them in Hawaii until

moving to St. Joseph Retirement Community, an assisted living home in Polson, in 2006. She became a resident at the Lake View Care Center in Bigfork in October 2008, where she was living at the time of her death.

Survivors include two daughters, LaDonna (Robert) Sommerville of Clive, Iowa, Audrey (Gary) Lapka of Bigfork; one son, LaRue Vilhauer of Glasgow; three sisters, Viola Smolnisky of Aberdeen, Ann Quinn of Rapid City, S.D., and Irene Lightfoot of Watertown, S.D.; one brother, Harold Heupel of Laramie, Wyo.; 13 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, August J. Vilhauer; her parents, August G. and Maria Heupel; four sisters, Olivia Young, Lillian Rath, Irma Mulbeter and Vivian Snow; one brother,

Edgar Heupel; one daughter, Juliet Meyer; two sons, Leslie Wayne and Larry Vilhauer; four grandchildren, Joseph Meyer, Markus, David and Colin Reis; and one great-grandchild, Ashley Reis.

There will be a visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10, at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 S. Main St., in Aberdeen, as well as from 10 a.m. until service time at the church. Alma's funeral will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11, at Zion Lutheran Church,

1732 S. Main St., in Aberdeen, with Pastor Marsha Sylvester officiating. There will be a reception at the church following the services, immediately followed by graveside services at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Aberdeen.

Arrangements are under the direction of Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory in Polson, and Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home in Aberdeen. Memories and condolences may be sent to the family at [www.groganfuneralhome.com](http://www.groganfuneralhome.com).

## Shirley Ann Visser, 81

Shirley Ann Visser, 81, "passed into the loving arms of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" on July 20, 2014, after a short illness.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband Harold.

She is survived by sons Harold Jack and wife Sue, and Dennis and wife Annette; daughter Julie and husband Brian, all of Michigan, and daughter Cindy and husband Dan Lucas of Kalispell. Shirley has 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A visitation was held July 21 at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home. A cel-



ebration of life service will be at 2 p.m. today, July 22, at the First Church of the Nazarene on Whitefish Stage Road.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Church of the Nazarene Children's Ministries.

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

## Aaron Vorhies, 64

Aaron Vorhies, 64, of Olney, died Monday, Jan. 27, 2014.

He is survived by six children, Eric Vorhies, Mark Vorhies, Chad Vorhies, Phillip Vorhies, Siara Vorhies-Loveless and Xavier Vorhies.

Military honors will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, at the Whitefish VFW. A memorial service will be at 5 p.m. Friday at the Olney Fire Hall.

Arrangements are entrusted to Austin Funeral Home.

## Harold H. Volkman, 86

Harold H. Volkman, 86, of Somers, died on Nov. 2, 2014.

A longtime resident, Dad could often be seen walking Somers Road picking up trash.

He was born July 7, 1928, in a log cabin near Leroy, Mont., to homesteaders John and Ada Volkman.

He enlisted in the Army during World War II and, after serving, married Virginia Miller of Kalispell in 1949. They had three children which he raised alone in Somers. "Thank you, Dad."

He made a living as a carpenter and was president of the Carpenter's Union and a member of the American Legion.

He loved hunting, fishing, storytelling and his family.

He was preceded in death by four sisters and four brothers, including Leonard L. Volkman; and a son-in-



law, Rod J. Baker.

Dad is survived by his children, Dave Volkman and wife C'Ann of Salt Lake City, Vic Volkman and wife Diane of

Columbia Falls, and Ada Baker of Kalispell; seven grandsons, five granddaughters; nine great-granddaughters, and nine great-grandsons, with one on the way.

"Love You Bunch."

A special thank you to Lake View Care Center.

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.



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Alma Lorentina Vilhauer passed away peacefully on Sept. 20, 2014, at The HealthCenter in Kalispell, with her daughter, Audrey Lapka and grandson, John Reis at her side.

She was born on March 6, 1915, to August G. and Maria (Klooz) Heupel on their farm near Leola, S.D. Alma was the oldest of 10 children; she had seven sisters and two brothers. She attended first through eighth grades in a rural school near their farm. She lived there until her marriage to August J. Vilhauer on March 17, 1936. They moved to Leola for a short time before renting a farm northeast of Long Lake, S.D. In 1941, they purchased a farm 17 miles west and 1 mile south of Leola.

In 1963, August and Alma sold the farm and moved to Aberdeen, S.D. August used his carpentry skills in his semi-retirement while Alma, as always, took such loving care of their home, cooking wonderful meals and sharing them with any and all who would stop by for a visit. Alma was a very loving, caring, compassionate person and an amazing cook. She baked the most marvelous goodies and was the best baby sitter anyone could ever have. There was nothing to be mended or sewn that Alma couldn't fix and she did it beautifully. She crocheted many afghans and booties for friends and family which are cherished by all. Alma enjoyed bowling for a good many number of years. She bowled on a league and also traveled to many national tournaments with five of her sisters. They had great times and many good memories as they traveled and bowled together. They became known and mentioned in the Nationals as the "Leola Sisters."



Aberdeen where she lived until moving to Bigfork to live with her daughter, Audrey and hus-

band Gary Lapka in 2001. She resided with them in Bigfork and spent winters with them in Hawaii until moving to St. Joseph Retirement Community, an assisted living home in Polson, in 2006. She became a resident at the Lake View Care Center in Bigfork in October 2008, where she was living at the time of her death.

Survivors include two daughters, LaDonna and Robert Sommerville of Clive, Iowa, Audrey and Gary Lapka of Bigfork; one son, LaRue Vilhauer of Glasgow; three sisters, Viola Smolnisky of Aberdeen, Ann Quinn of Rapid City, S.D., and Irene Lightfoot of Watertown, S.D.; one brother, Harold Heupel of Laramie, Wyo.; 13 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, August J. Vilhauer; her parents, August G. and Maria Heupel; four sisters, Olivia Young, Lillian Rath, Irma Muhlbeier and Vivian Snow; one brother, Edgar Heupel; one daughter, Juliet Meyer; two sons, Leslie Wayne and Larry Vilhauer; four grandchildren, Joseph Meyer, Markus, David and Colin Reis; and one great-grandchild, Ashley Reis.

There will be a visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10, at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 S. Main St., in Aberdeen, as well as from 10 a.m. until service time at the church. There will be a reception at the church following the services, immediately followed by graveside services at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Aberdeen.

Alma was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Aberdeen where she was a long-time member of the Altar Guild and sang with the "Friendship Singers." She was previously a member of St. James Lutheran Church in Leola, and Salem Lutheran Church in rural Leola.

In 2000, Alma moved to The Homestead in

Arrangements are under the direction of Grogan Funeral Home and Crematory in Polson, and Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home in Aberdeen. Memories and condolences may be sent to the family at [www.groganfuneralhome.com](http://www.groganfuneralhome.com).