

Tonya Dee Gamble-Dahl, 43

Tonya Dee Gamble-Dahl, 43, of Kalispell, died June 14, 2016.

She is survived by her husband, Frederick "Clayton" Dahl; children, Jeramy Gamble, Tilly Gamble, Tully Gamble and Dylan Gamble; and

parents Donna and Dave Gamble.

A memorial service will be from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 21, at the city library.

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

Melanie Rae Sage Dalimata, 51

Melanie Rae Sage Dalimata was born July 26, 1965, to Francis Jean Holt Sage and Elmer R. Sage in Bozeman.

She passed away surrounded by friends and family on Oct. 6, 2016, after a fierce and valiant battle with cancer.

She was the 10th of 11 children. She grew up near Sturgis, South Dakota, before moving to Livingston. She graduated in Oregon and began working with the MMDD for the state of Idaho. After reading a poem in a magazine, "Common Ground" by Ron Ridenour, Melanie was drawn to the Glacier Park canyon where she tended bar at every watering hole in the area. It was through this journey that she met Mark Dalimata and they were married in Idaho May 1, 1998. Mark and Melanie were truly soul mates and were together over 20 years before she passed away.

She had a feisty fight-



ing spirit. She loved kids, wind chimes, the color purple, hummingbirds, eagles and chickens and Mother Earth. Her favorite flower was "kid picked." She loved the movie "Men in Tights," Sid from "Ice Age," and any music from "1920 to 2525." She loved life and making people smile. She honored her Catholic faith and embraced her Native roots. Melanie's spirit will be carried on in others as she was an organ donor.

She was preceded in death by both her parents Francis and Elmer, brothers Danny and Perry, and her granddaughter Mariella.

She is survived by eight brothers and sisters, her husband Mark and his family, and numerous brothers and sisters of circumstance. Her caring and

committed heart lives on in the people from "The Canyon" whom she truly loved. She never knew a stranger, only a friend whom she had not met.

Melanie will lie in state for viewing at Our Lady of Snows Chapel in Nyack until Wednesday, Oct. 12. Services will be performed at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Columbia Falls. Interment near her mother Francis "Jean" will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery. An informal potluck celebration of her life and legacy will be held at 350 Kickbush Lane in Martin City following the services.

Melanie loved flowers but her preference for donation is to Neighbors in Need-Kalispell. She would want us to relay to all the travelers coming to visit. "God be with you and Mary love you."

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Betty E. Daley, 91

Betty E. Daley, 91, died Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at Immanuel Lutheran Home in Kalispell.

She is survived by her

husband, Carl Daley.

Services are pending. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

David Lee Danner, 73

David Lee Danner, 73, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Ronan on Feb. 27, 2016.

Dave was born in Bowling Green, Ohio, on April 23, 1942, to Ruth and Don Danner. When he was 8, his dad moved the Danner family to Montello, Wisconsin, where Don had landed a new job with Wisconsin Telephone Company. Dave always considered Montello his "boyhood home," although the family moved frequently and he spent his growing-up years not just in Montello but also in Corsicana, Texas, Marshfield, Wisconsin, and Indio, California.

After graduation from Indio High School in 1960, Dave moved to Madison, Wisconsin, with his parents.

Soon after, he continued the family military tradition. Following in his dad's and his brother Frank's footsteps, Dave enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Extremely proud of his Navy years and honored to have served his country, Dave spoke fondly of his time on the USS Canberra in the Pacific.

When he finished his tour in the Navy, he moved to Sacramento, California, where his parents had relocated. He was a body man for Cal Tran (California Department of Transportation) in Marysville for decades. He loved working on cars and trucks, fixing the big plow rigs for Cal Tran



by day and restoring cars and trucks by night and weekends. A lifelong fisherman, Dave was attracted to the great fishing in Montana and vacationed there to fish for the trophies with brother Frank. After retiring from Cal Tran, it was an easy decision for Dave to move to Big Sky Country. He worked for a few years in the auto industry as a service manager and spent a couple of years as an appliance delivery specialist with Sears. Being near great fishing was a priority, and Dave was on Montana lakes year-round with his friends and his brother.

With a one-ton pickup and a fifth wheel, he made the trip back to Montello to visit old friends a few years ago. He visited the old family home, the athletic field where he pitched his first ballgame, and he spent time over coffee with numerous friends, sharing stories of growing up in small town America in the 1950s. He recently bought a new truck and trailer, making plans to do one more trip "back east," but he was called to his heavenly home before he had the chance.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents and his brother.

Marvin 'Pete' Elden Darling, 87

Marvin "Pete" Elden Darling, 87, of Columbia Falls died peacefully in his home on Tuesday, February 2, 2016.

Pete was born December 29, 1928 in Priest River, Idaho to Charles Edward Darling and Mabel Iva Kronkright. Pete came to Columbia Falls with his family in 1929 when he was 9 months old. He attended school in Columbia Falls and was a former Wildcat Football and Basketball alumni. Pete had his first forest job, a summer assignment as a fire guard in the old Coram district, in 1944 when he was still in high school. He worked briefly in the Spotted Bear District in the summer of 1958. He signed on permanently with the Forest Service in 1960. During his career in the U.S. Forest Service Pete had many jobs including law enforcement and fire control officer.

Before that, Pete made his living working in area lumber mills and helping Columbia Falls contractor Bob Sanders build houses. Pete oversaw the operation and upkeep of the Woodlawn Cemetery for years and was a long time board member. He was a founding member of the Wildcat Athletic Endowment Association in 1996. He also spearheaded a project to build rocking horses for the Toys for Tots program. Pete built dozens of the horses on his own time and with his own money over the years.



In 2011, the Columbia Falls Lions Club named him "Citizen of the Year."

In 2015, the Columbia Falls Chamber of Commerce gave him the Community Spirit Award for showing pride, dedication and support to the community.

Pete was a walking encyclopedia of the town history and was quick with a smile and story.

Pete is survived by his son Chuck Darling and wife Maryleigh, daughter Judy Benson and husband Steve; grandchildren Evan Darling of Whitefish, Charlie and Eve Darling of Bigfork and Kara and Bill Gustafson of Columbia Falls; great-grandchildren Skylar and Billy Gustafson and Hunter and Tanner Darling; lifelong friend Martha Kassel; nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends.

Pete was preceded in death by his wife Irene; his parents Charles and Mabel Darling; brothers Lester, Clare (Bud), Floyd (Flip), Vic, Donny and Richie.

There will be a visitation for Pete from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8, at Columbia Mortuary. A funeral service will be held at noon Tuesday, Feb. 9, at Columbia Mortuary. Burial will take place at Woodlawn Cemetery following the service.

Harriett M. 'Hattie May' (Almond) Damm, 83

Beloved sister, mother and friend, Harriett M. "Hattie May" (Almond) Damm, 83, formerly of Kalispell, resided in Oak Hills, California, at the time she passed away on Dec. 23, 2016.

Harriett was born on June 18, 1933, in Savage, Montana. She was a daughter and seventh child of John and Carrie (Leivestad) Almond.

Harriett was preceded in death by her parents, John and Carrie (Leivestad) Almond; brothers, John Almond and Roy Almond; and sisters, Mary (Almond) Pust and Edith (Almond) Damm.

She is survived by her three sisters, Annie (Almond) Klempel of Bigfork, Ida (Almond) Larson of Camp Verde, Arizona, and Florence (Almond)(Don) Dvorak of Wikieup, Arizona; and her seven children, Lois (Mel) Peterson of Martin City,



Marilyn (Tracy) Hall of Hamilton, Sandra Judd of Vancouver, Washington, Edna (John) Collins

of St. Cloud, Florida, Edward (Kathy) Damm of Oak Hills, Lorna Borgen of Peyton, Colorado, and Eugene (Marian) Damm of Ararat, North Carolina. She is also survived by 17 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Viewing is immediately one hour prior to services which will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, 525 South Main St., followed by interment in C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, Kalispell.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for Harriett's family.

Dorothy Mae Danford, 86

Dorothy Mae Danford, 86, passed away in Kalispell on Dec. 23, 2016, surrounded by her family.

She was born on July 6, 1930, in Creston to Anna (Sullivan) and Frank Keller on the farm her grandparents homesteaded.

Dorothy attended grade schools in Creston (Echo) and Lower Valley (Rousselle and Hodgson) then graduated from Flathead County High School in 1948. She worked as a machine bookkeeper at Conrad National Bank in Kalispell after graduation.

Starting at age 11, she was active in Lower Valley 4-H clubs with sewing, garden, beef and junior leadership projects for eight years. She made the majority of her clothes after learning to sew, including an award-winning navy blue wool suit. For her third year, deciding she wanted to feed out baby beef, she joined the boy's 4-H Livestock Club. For six years she showed Black Angus and Herefords in Kalispell, Butte and Missoula, winning many blue and purple ribbons, Reserve Champion and Grand Champion Showmanship.

When her older brother Francis purchased his first car, she taught herself to drive then headed to Kalispell at the age of 14 to get her license. Being told she was too young, she drove home and returned two years later to obtain an official



drivers license.

On Oct. 13, 1951, she married Neil "Nick" Danford in Kalispell.

During the years farming with her husband in the Lower Valley she always had a large garden, canning the vegetables, fruits and the Lake Koochanusa salmon Nick caught. She sold flowers from her beautiful flower garden at the farmers market and drove the grain truck to town, in addition to attending to her children's various school and 4-H activities.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband Neil, and brother Francis Keller.

She is survived by her daughter Cheryl (Reed) Larson of Parker, Colorado, and son Robert (Terri Peterson) Danford of Lower Valley; grandchildren, Marissa (Carl) Jaeger of Denver, Samuel Danford of Kalispell, and stepgrandson Tory Quinnell of Missoula.

There will be a visitation for Dorothy from noon to 1 p.m. on Friday Dec. 30, with services to follow at 1 p.m. at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, officiated by Pastor Kurt Rau. An interment service will follow chapel service at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery. There will be a reception to follow interment services at Sykes' in downtown Kalispell.

Dorothy Irene Burchett Barnes Darrow, 96

Dorothy Irene Burchett Barnes Darrow passed away Feb. 25, 2016, at the age of 96.

She was preceded in death by her sisters Audna B. Greene (Gaines) of Denver, Colorado and Lola Smid of Everett, Washington; daughter Charlotte Barnes Brogdon of Great Falls; and son Dennis George Darrow, who was lost at birth.

She is survived by children Wanita Barnes Parker (Spencer) of Crescent City, California, Clarice Barnes of Kalispell, Allon Barnes (Tracey) of Lewiston, Idaho, Georgeanna Ardiss Darrow Hartung (Ron) of Kalispell; 14 grandchildren; 28 great grandchildren; and eight great-great grandchildren.

Dorothy was born on March 9, 1919 in Geraldine, Montana. Her grade school years were spent at South Eagle Butte School House. She often walked three miles each way in the spring and fall and was sometimes allowed to ride the horse, when her Papa wasn't using him for farm work. During the wintertime, she stayed with the teacher. In her high school years at Fort Benton, Dorothy boarded with different families before graduating in 1937. There, she also spent a short time working for Montana Power Company. In that same year, she married Wade E. Barnes. They worked at several farms near Great Falls and Portage, Montana. Dorothy and Wade had four children before divorcing in 1948.

In June 1949, Dorothy and George Darrow were married in Missoula. They had two children and spent most of their married life living in



Kalispell where Dorothy worked for Immanuel Lutheran Home and privately for many

families. Upon their move to Deer Lodge she worked for Galen and Warm Springs, eventually giving it up to take care of her mother, Cora A. Burchett, who passed away in 1972.

After George retired, he and Dorothy enjoyed their time traveling to

visit friends and family. She was a member of the FOE for many years, Kalispell VFW Post 2252, Crescent Rebekah Lodge 22, and attended Central Christian Church in Kalispell.

A public viewing will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 29th at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home, with a graveside service to follow at 3 p.m. in Glacier Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Central Christian Church in Kalispell.

Della Davis, 53

Della Davis, 53, of Missoula, passed away suddenly on Thursday, April 7, 2016, in Hamilton.

Della was born on July 2, 1962, in Kalispell, to parents Lynn and Harold Davis. She graduated from Eastern Washington University in 1994 with a master's degree in developmental psychology. During her life, she worked as a teacher, an office woman, a home health aide, and a certified nursing assistant, always looking for a new way to care for people.

Della had three children, Aaron Davis, Kristen Owens and Richard Owens, whom she loved with all her heart. She was proud of everything they accomplished. Most of all, though, she was proud of her grandchildren, Kandis and Jayden Davis, who were the light of her life. She loved finding presents and trinkets for them and listening to them talk and laugh more than anything else in the world.

She is survived by her



two grandchildren, Kandis and Jayden Davis, her three children, Aaron Davis, Kristen

Owens and Richard Owens; her brothers, Randy and Dan Weed; her sisters, Danene Thornton, Kari Galassi and LaDawn Weed; her mother, Lynn Weed, of Bigfork; and her aunt and uncle, Pat and Kenny Weed; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Lorna Avery; her stepfather, Earl Weed, who was the only father she ever knew; and the father of her youngest two children, Brandan Owens.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 17, at Epworth United Methodist Church in Kalispell. A potluck at the church will follow. Later, there will be a private funeral service at Glacier Memorial Gardens for her family.

Lois Davidson, 86

Lois Davidson, 86, of Polson, died Oct. 19, 2016.

Services are pending for Saturday, Oct. 29,

with burial at Lonepine Cemetery in Bigfork.

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

Donald Gene Davisson, 77

Donald G. Davisson, 77, passed away on July 24, 2016, at Deaconess Hospital in Bozeman after a lengthy illness.

Survivors include his children Don Jr. of Big Lake, Alaska; Duane (Barbara) of Sun Valley, Nevada; and Wendy and Richard (Karen), both of Kalispell; along with 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; sister, Dixie Jorgensen, of



Columbia Falls; and nephews, Shawn and John, of Kalispell.

He was preceded in death

by his parents Erwin Davisson and Gladys Greenlund, brother Tim, and grandparents.

There will be a celebration of life at a later date.

Jane E. Milton DeBuys, 82

Jane E. Milton DeBuys, 82, of Bigfork, died Dec. 29, 2016, at Lakeview Healthcare Community.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Viola 'Vi' Dedman, 96

Viola Dedman, 96, passed away Tuesday, April 13, at Bee Hive Homes in Columbia Falls.

She was born February 19, 1920, Viola Luetta Childers to William H. and Bessie Thomas Childers in Whitefish.

Vi learned to cook when she took her first job cooking for ranch hands. "I was lucky," she said, "the ranch hands were so hungry they would eat anything." With the coaching from her mother, Vi became a wonderful cook. You could stop in at dinner time, and she always had enough.

When Herb and Vi first moved to Bigfork, they bought and ran Darrys Marina, now the Sitting Duck. In the beginning of their new business, they lived above in the apartment. The noise became too much. Even on their days off they still heard the restaurant and bar patrons. They bought a single-wide mobile home to get away from the noise.

In their first years there, they had lots of company. One summer, everyone decided to come visit at the same time. For over a week, they had 24 guests at one time. It was one long party, and "Mom" loved it. The more the merrier, she

always said.

Vi lived for her family and her cards. She loved playing any type of game. Vi taught all of her children and grandchildren to play cribbage. She put twigs and rocks together with the grandchildren and made rock families. She was the only person in the family who could not swim, and guess who was always asked to take the kids swimming: Vi. She lived a good life and enjoyed her family and friends.

When Herb and Viola first moved to Billings, Vi walking with her four little kids tried to find a house or apartment to rent. No one wanted to rent to anyone with kids. They had walked all day and finally came to a grocery store called Mrs.



Wright's. They went in and Vi asked Mrs. Wright if she knew of anyone who would

rent to her family. Mrs. Wright sent her to see a Mr. Leeper, who had a house. They went to see Mr. Leeper, who had a house for sale. Vi said, "But I don't have any money." When she and the kids walked away, she had bought their first house for \$5.00 down and \$5.00 a month.

When Herb came back from his bus-driving job and she told him she bought a house, he thought she was nuts, but boy was he proud to own a house. It is still lived in today. It is very small now and Herb and Viola added on to the original house, even a two-car garage.

Herb was gone on another run for Greyhound when it started to get cold, and the new addition did not have a roof on it. Well, Viola (afraid of heights) put the roof on that house all by herself, with the kids running around down below.

There are many such stories. She was quite a remarkable woman. "We will miss her."

Viola was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Herbert Dedman; a son, Roy; and two grandsons, Donald and Richard.

She is survived by two daughters, Maxine McGowan of Elk Grove, California, and Hazel Ann Conway, of Woods Bay; a son, Lyle Dedman, of El Segundo, California; grandchildren, Roy, Gary, Shawn, Jennifer, Rich and Cathrine; great-grandchildren, Jacob, Britney, Lacy, Ethan, Donald, Dean, Angela, Bella, Ryan, Nora; and several great-great-grandchildren.

There will be a celebration of life get-together from 1 to 3 p.m. on April 19 at the Raven, 15321 Montana 35, Woods Bay. If you would like to come, please call Hazel at 837-0269.

Gibson 'Gib' Delano, 55

Gibson "Gib" Delano, 55, passed away Dec. 30, 2015, in Casper, Wyoming.

He was born July 15, 1960, in Bozeman.

A loving and generous father and husband, Gib had a genuine concern for all. Gib was proud of the time he spent in the Coast Guard, finishing top in his class and getting a letter of commendation as Master at Arms on the Dauntless for his service. He was a ship captain of a gambling ship and seemed to excel at everything he did. Gib loved playing the guitar, water skiing, sports, and spending time with his family and pets. He will be missed.

Gib is survived by his daughter, Laura, wife of many years, Sylvia Delano, and Joshua Betcher, all of Casper, Jenny Betcher of



Montana, sister Becky Olsen of Monroe, North Carolina, brother Gary John Delano of Indigo, California, and their families.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hazel and Gary Lee Delano.

Graveside services will be held in the summer in Helena, to be announced.

In lieu of flowers there will be a fund set up for Gib's minor daughter Laura's college fund.

Bustard's Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Avis Bernice DeLong, 97

Avis Bernice DeLong, longtime Flathead Valley resident, passed away Aug. 15, 2016, in Las Vegas at the home of her son James.

Avis was born March 27, 1919, in Tolt, Washington, to Forrest and Naomi (Gudge) McElhoe. She went to college in Bellingham, Washington, and became a school teacher.

Avis married Daniel C. DeLong July 17, 1942. During the war she taught school at Castle Rock, Washington. She saved her money and everything Dan sent home so that she and Dan would have money when Dan returned from the war. After the war they settled in Kalispell.

Avis taught junior high school in Kalispell for a year. After her son Larry started the first grade, Avis taught school again at Swan River, Bigfork and Lakeside. They raised purebred Black Angus in Bigfork and Creston for many years.

When Dan retired from farming and ranching, they became snowbirds for 25 years, spending the summers in the Kalispell area and winters in Arizona. They made many friends during those years. Avis was an excellent cook, knitted many sweaters, afghans, mittens, potholders and anything else you could imagine. She also knitted pictures and made her "churchgoing

clothes." Avis even knitted while fishing from a boat, and she usually caught more fish than Dan. Avis was a very good homemaker; she took care of two boys, husband, cooked meals, cleaned the house and graded school papers 'til 9 o'clock. She then would drink a cup of tea and go to bed. She seemed to be doing something all of the time. Avis and Dan were avid gardeners and they canned and froze a lot of produce from their gardens.

Avis is survived by her two sons and their wives James (Carol) from Las Vegas, and Larry (Wendy) of Everett, Washington; two grandsons of Las Vegas (Charlie and Allen); and two sisters-in-law, Lillian McElhoe of Albany, Oregon, and Bernice McElhoe of Kenmore, Washington.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and three brothers, Harold, Forrest Jr. and Harry; and sister-in-law, Frances McElhoe.

There will be a visitation for Avis from 4 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 25, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home Kalispell, with a graveside service to be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 26, at Glacier Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Kalispell.

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

Roy Milton 'Pat' DeLong, 94

Roy Milton "Pat" DeLong, 94, passed away on Dec. 28, 2016, surrounded by his family at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls.

Pat was born on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1922, in Falls City, Wisconsin, to Milton and Ruth (Tibbetts) DeLong, the third of seven children. He attended school in Somers and Dayton and graduated from Flathead County High School.

At 18 he worked at the railroad tie mill in Somers until he went into the military. Pat enlisted in the U.S. Marines in October 1942 and served in the South Pacific. He was honorably discharged in August 1945. He participated in operations at Cape Gloucester, New Britain, Peleliu, Palau Islands and Okinawa Shima Ryukyu Retto. After being discharged he worked at the mill in Polson.

On July 6, 1946, he married the love of his life, Betty Benson. They would be happily married for the next 68 years until Betty's passing in 2015. Initially, they lived in Somers where their first son, Clinton, was born. In 1950 they purchased their cattle ranch in Hot Springs, and they had two more children, a son, Kelly, and a daughter, Darla. Family was very important to both of them.

In addition to having their ranch, Pat worked at the sawmill in Plains for 20 years, getting up early each morning to milk 10 to 12 cows before leaving for the mill. Ranching was Pat's passion; it was common to hear him whistling or singing a song while on his John Deere tractor. He enjoyed hunting bobcats with his hounds and fishing. Pat and Betty both adored the animals on the ranch and always had a special dog. The farm was their pride and joy. They resided there for 50 years.

Pat was an active member of the Hot Springs community. Pat served 18 years as a Sanders County commissioner. He was a member of the Masons, the VFW, and served on the Chamber of Commerce.



He was also on the school board and chairman of the Hot Springs Refuse Garbage District. Pat went on to get his bro-

ker's license and opened DeLong Realty on Main Street in Hot Springs.

After retiring Pat and Betty downsized and moved to Polson in 2000. Here they enjoyed the retired life and continued their love of gardening.

Pat always followed politics closely and enjoyed a good political discussion, as all who knew him could attest to! Pat will be very deeply missed. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, father-in-law, son and brother.

Pat was preceded in death by his wife, Betty; his parents, Milton and Ruth DeLong; and brothers, Russell and Dennis.

He is survived by his three children, son Clinton and wife Karen DeLong of Kalispell, son Kelly and wife Lori DeLong of Columbia Falls, and daughter Darla and husband Tom Allen of Kalispell; five grandchildren, grandson Chad and Gayle of Clancy, grandson Corey and KayAnn of Charlo, grandson Tracy and Andrea of Gig Harbor, Washington, grandson Marc and Brenda of Kalispell, and granddaughter Angela (Allen) Burns and Jeremy of Whitefish; seven great-grandchildren, Riley, Clay, Grant, Nathan, Greta-Marie, Aiden and Emma; sister, Theoria Engstrom; brothers, Darcy, Joe and Don; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A public gathering will be held at a later date in the spring as well as a private family burial service.

To send a note of condolence to the family please visit www.buffalo-hillfh.com. Arrangements are under the direction of Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and Crematory.

Benjamin Gus Denna, 39

Benjamin Gus Denna died June 12, 2016.

He was born May 18, 1977, in Quincy, California, the youngest of six children. In September of 1979, his family moved to Kalispell, where Ben attended grade school and middle school at Evergreen and Flathead High School. He met his future wife, Addy Sherwood, in 1995, and they were married March 18, 2000. Together they had three children who were his whole world.

Ben has always had a love of sports and the outdoors. Taught at an early age by his father, he enjoyed hunting. Some of his fondest memories were hunting with his dad, brother, nephews and sons. He loved that he was able to take his son hunting for his first time last year. Ben was a grand fisherman, who didn't eat fish. Unless he kept them to bring home to his dad, he believed in catch and release — he always said, "If you let 'em go, you can catch them next time."

Ben liked playing sports, but his greatest pleasure was watching and coaching his children in all their sports and activities. He treated his whole team like they were his own kids. When the players began to have self-doubt, he knew how to build them up and help them discover their self-worth with kindness,



compassion or just being goofy. He always wanted them to have fun and enjoy the game.

He recently discovered he loved to hate golf and was excited to teach his sons so that they could all go together.

For 16 years he worked as a machinist, loving his job and bringing home custom creations for his children.

Ben was preceded in death by his two nephews, Brian Webb and Donny Hall.

Ben is survived by his three children, Kaileigh, Gabriel and Trenton, of Kalispell; his parents, Maynard and LaVonea Denna, of Kalispell; his siblings, Connie Hall of Bassano Alberta, Larue Drager of Spokane Valley, Washington, Brenda Webb, Barbara Denna, and Maynard Denna Jr. of Kalispell, along with many extended family members and friends.

A funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 18, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Kalispell, with a viewing one hour prior. A graveside service will follow at 3 p.m. at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Fred Denton, 90

Fred Denton, 90, died March 1, 2016, at Whitefish Care and Rehabilitation Center.

He is survived by his wife, Harriet Denton; and children, Gail K Wolf, Kathleen D. Brown and Jonathan D. Denton.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday March 5, at Columbia Mortuary. A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Columbia Mortuary is caring for the family.

Mary Louise De Pue, 93

Former longtime Flathead Valley resident, Mary Louise De Pue, 93, died Sunday, April 17, 2016, in Kalispell, surrounded by loving family.

Mary was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1922, and moved west in 1952 with her husband, Don, and three oldest children Jerry, Mike and Jean. The family settled in Whitefish for several years, but later followed Don's woods work to Lincoln and Missoula before a return to Whitefish in 1968, this time with younger daughters Joanne and Toni. Mary and Don worked side by side to establish DePue Excavating and to build their home on State Park Road. On weekends, they packed the girls in the pick up and set out for one of the area lakes — Dollar, Woods, Beaver, Murray, Timber, or another — or took Sunday drives throughout the valley, up north into Canada or anywhere a person might be apt to find a good piece of pie or weekend smorgasbord.

A cancer diagnosis for Don in the early 1970s required Mary to join the workforce, first as a sales clerk at Village Square Gifts in Whitefish for employers Don and Lois Jensen, who graciously gave Mary her first job and subsequently became dear friends, and later, following the loss of husband Don to cancer in 1978, at retail stores in Kalispell, including the gift shop at Glacier International Airport and the Salvation Army thrift



store. After living and working in Kalispell for more than two decades and upon her retire-

ment at age 80, Mary moved to Libby (2002), where she enjoyed the quiet pace of life, the friendly people and the beautiful scenery of the Libby area.

Mary's family is grateful to the staff and aides of the Libby Care Center and of Edgewood Vista and Frontier Hospice of Kalispell who showed tremendous concern, compassion and tenderness toward Mary in her end-of-life care.

Mary is survived by sons, Jerry and Marie of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, and Mike and Diane of Libby; and by daughters, Jean DePue Paschke and Dan of Kalispell, Joanne of Seattle, and Toni of Libby; as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life is set for 2 p.m. Sunday, July 24, at Libby's Riverfront Pavilion. All who knew Mary are welcome to attend. A private interment at Glacier Memorial Cemetery on the date of her 76th wedding anniversary will reunite her with husband Don, to whom she remained forever devoted.

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

Doris Schon DesJardins, 96

Doris Schon DesJardins, 96, of Whitefish, died Sept. 12, 2016, in Whitefish.

No services are planned at this time. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

John Leo Desjardins, 73

A celebration of life service for John Leo Desjardins, 73, who died Nov. 21, will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Jehovah Witnesses Hall at 1414 Woodland

Ave. Kalispell.

To send a note of condolence to the family, please visit www.buffalohillfh.com. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Burke W. Despain 64

Burke W. Despain, 64, died April 9, 2016. Burke was born on Sept. 10, 1951, in Roosevelt, Utah, to Weston Griffith Despain and Pauline Marsing Despain.

After graduating from Duchesne High School, Burke joined the U.S. Army, where he served in the 82nd Airborne division.

Burke met and married Chris in 1976, in Salt Lake City. They had three children together.

In 1993 Burke and his family moved to Whitefish, where they enjoyed hunting, fishing and hiking. Burke worked at MDM Supply/DSG for almost 20 years and made many friends there.

Burke was preceded in death by his father, Weston Despain, sister Kathey Ivie, and brother Keven Despain.

He is survived by his wife, Chris; sons, Jason and Jared; daughter, Zena; grandchildren, Audrey and Nathan; his mother, Pauline, and stepfather, Buddy Bird; brother Terry and sis-



ter-in-law Marilyn Despain; sister Ronda Despain; and many nieces, nephews and in-laws.



The family of Burke would

like to thank everyone who helped during this trying time, whether you offered prayers and emotional support, drove over to help search, flew your personal airplane over the river or just lent an ear when we needed it. We will not forget the sacrifices that so many gave through this all.

Burke's sense of humor and loving kindness will be missed by all who knew him.

There will be a memorial service at 11 a.m. Friday, May 27, at Canvas Church, 255 Summit Ridge Drive, Kalispell, with a light reception to follow.

Body of missing Kalispell man recovered from Idaho river

trackers to the banks of the South Fork of the Clearwater River, but river conditions had been too hazardous to send in divers.

Despain was taken to Blackmer's Funeral Home in Grangeville, Idaho and his family was notified.

Despain had been an outside salesman for Dakota Supply Group in Kalispell for many years.

Kalispell.

Despain had been reported missing on April 9 in the area of Hwy 14 milepost 21, where he and his son Jason were camped. His son woke up the following morning and was unable to locate his father.

Authorities believed early on that Despain likely drowned after he was traced by canine

STITES, Idaho (AP) — The body of a Kalispell camper who was reported missing in April has been recovered from the river in Stites.

The Idaho County Sheriff's Office was notified on Friday afternoon about a body in the river at the dike in Stites.

Deputies recovered the body of Burke Despain, a 64-year-old man from

Raymond Herbert Devine, 67

Raymond Herbert Devine, 67, died Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016, in Kalispell.

He is survived by his

wife Yvonne Devine, and son Mike Devine.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Byron William 'Bill' Devitt, 73

Byron William "Bill" Devitt, 73, formerly of Kalispell, died Aug. 19, 2016.

He was born July 11, 1943. He and his wife, Sharon, were married 33 years until she passed. After her passing, he moved to Arizona to be closer to his children.

He is survived by his children, Byron D. Devitt, Lisa Nowlin and Derrick Devitt, four grandchildren, and his sister, Bonnie Goltz.



Byron D. Devitt, and mother Orpha Devitt.

His final resting place will be at the Conrad Cemetery in Kalispell, where his wife was also laid to rest.

Preceding him in death was his wife, Sharon Devitt, sister Jo Ann Martsfield, father

Roberta 'Bobby' DeVoe, 94

"Heaven has welcomed a loving and gentle soul" as our beloved Mom, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother passed away Aug. 25, 2016, at her home in Somers surrounded by her family.

Bobby was born in Kalispell on Jan. 25, 1922 to Frank and Winnifred (Phair) Hyde. Her birth was followed four years later by that of her sister Betty. She was baptized in the First Presbyterian Church and remained a member at the time of her death. She went on to BYU where she met the love of her life, Robert "Bob" DeVoe.

Bob and Bobby were married in Yuma, Arizona on Oct. 11, 1942 when Bob was stationed in San Diego during World War II. After the war they remained in California where Bob finished school and began a long career with MacGregor-Brunswick Sporting Goods. They eventually moved to Whittier, California where they raised their two children, Deborah and Steve.

Bobby spent many years supporting her family in all their activities, serving as a Girl Scout leader, Cub Scout den mother, little league team mother and accompanist for church choirs, as well as pianist during church services. Although her family always came first she also worked as a legal secretary, then as a secretary/office manager for a large insurance company.

"The Bobs" loved Montana and their Montana family and friends. They returned every summer and eventually built a summer home overlooking their beloved Flathead Lake. After retirement they became snowbirds, spend-



ing winters in Hemet, California. They spent many happy years traveling and playing golf. After

Bob passed away Bobby returned to live in Somers, down the street from her sister Betty. She continued to play golf and volunteer at the Kalispell food bank until the age of 87.

Bobby loved spending time with her family and shared her love of music, reading and gardening with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was always ready for a game of Skip-bo or dominoes and the games could be very competitive! She was the last remaining family member of her generation and was revered by her many nieces and nephews who never failed to call or visit when they were in the area.

Bobby was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Bob and sister Betty.

She is survived by her son Steve (Ana Elena), daughter Debbie (John); grandchildren Tracy (Jim), Wes (Andrea), and Travis (Racheal); great-grandchildren Ezra, Avery, Lucas and Calvin; many nieces, nephews, cousins and their families as well as longtime friend and neighbor Betty Lou Stoops.

Our family would like to thank Dr. Sarah Robinson for her loving care of our mother as well as the caring staff at Heritage Place and the dedicated Home Options Hospice nurses, caregivers and volunteers.

Cremation has taken place and a family celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

Barbara DeZort, 75

Barbara DeZort, 75, of Cut Bank, died March 8, 2016, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

She is survived by her sons, Cal and Doug DeZort, both of Cut Bank, and Les and Dale DeZort, both of Kalispell.

A viewing will be

from 6 to 8 p.m. today, March 11, at Whitted Funeral Home in Cut Bank. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 12, at the Presbyterian church in Cut Bank. A reception will follow at the church.

Natalie Dietrich, 20

Our beloved Natalie accidentally let slip the reins of life on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016. Cause of death was an accidental drug interaction. Her short 20 years were filled with passion, intelligence and an infectious respect for people and animals of all kinds.

Natalie was born April 21, 1995, in Billings. She attended Rimrock, Rose Park and Poly Drive elementary schools, Lewis and Clark Middle School, and graduated from Billings Senior High School in 2013 as a member of the National Honor Society. She was a junior in economics at Montana State University, was consistently on the Dean's List, and was a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success at the time of her death.

Natalie had an adventurous soul and loved the outdoors. She packed a lot of living into her 20 short years. Treasured time was spent with family skiing, hiking and boating at cabins in Red Lodge and at Echo Lake in the Flathead Valley. During the summer of 2015 she arranged for a trip to Australia with International Student Volunteers and spent four weeks on that continent and one week on the island of Fiji. She left not knowing anyone on her trip and returned with many close new friends. Natalie's particular passion was horses and riding. At age 10 or so, she wrote the following poem:

"I AM" by Natalie Dietrich

*I AM horse crazy and curious
I WONDER why people are racist
I HEAR the ocean waves hitting the soft sand
I SEE the world fighting everyday
I WANT peace on earth
I AM horse crazy and curious*

*I PRETEND I can fly over the mountains with my horse
I FEEL faint when I see blood
I TOUCH my parents with my flute
I WORRY about my family dying
I CRY when someone special to me leaves
I AM horse crazy and curious*



*I UNDERSTAND why people get hurt
I SAY random stuff
I DREAM of living until I'm 100
I TRY not to hurt people's feelings
I HOPE to be a famous horse rider
I AM horse crazy and curious*

From this time until college, she competed on various horses, including Andalusians, quarter horses and thoroughbreds. Natalie started with Western Pleasure and graduated to eventing, including cross country, dressage and show jumping. Natalie grew up and grew skilled along with her mounts, showing great promise and garnering many awards along the way. In the aftermath of a tragic barn fire that killed two of her horses along with many others, Natalie was forced to grow even more as she helped heal and was healed with the love and support of her "barn family."

Natalie is survived by her sister Rachel (fiancé Andrew Flack) and her parents, David and Janis Dietrich of Billings; her grandmothers Anne Dietrich of Billings and Joyce Corbett of Kalispell; many aunts and uncles who all loved her dearly; numerous cousins with whom she shared special bonds, and close ties; and innumerable friends. No one who knew Natalie will ever forget her clear-eyed and level-headed intelligence, compassion, humor, spirit and smile that would light up a room.

Services will be held Saturday, Feb. 6, at noon at American Lutheran Church, 5 Lewis Avenue, Billings. Memorials for Natalie may be made to the Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter, 1735 Monad Road, Billings MT 59101, (yvas.org); the Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter, 1549 E. Cameron Bridge Road, Belgrade, MT 59714, (heartofthevalleyshelter.org) or the Natalie A. Dietrich Scholarship Fund administered by the Billings Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1255, Billings, MT 59103, (billingscommunityfoundation.org).

Ronald Kent Dickinson, 57

Ronald Kent Dickinson, 57, passed away at his home on Sept. 7, 2016. Ron was born in Billings. He attended schools in Billings and Kalispell and graduated from Thompson Falls High School, where he participated in football and basketball. Ron worked in the logging industry until he was injured over 30 years ago.

Ron loved the outdoors and was an avid hunter and fisherman. He told great stories to anyone who would listen to his adventures. His stories were always humorous and entertaining.

Ron's wife, Mary, loved him unconditionally and took exceptional care of him for over 20 years.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Joe and Gladise Dickinson, and Paul and Lillian Pabst.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; son, Jeremiah; granddaughter, Emily; parents, Bill and Eleanor; brother, David; sisters, Paula Dickinson, and Jennifer Anderson and her husband Bob; and numerous aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and longtime friends Ken and Rita Peiffer.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Salvation Army Center, 110 Bountiful Drive, Kalispell.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Salvation Army.

Rhianna Leigh Dilworth, 22

Rhianna Leigh Dilworth, beloved daughter of Tim and Doni Dilworth and sister of Sierra Dilworth, passed away peacefully on Sept. 17, 2016, at the age of 22, from an undiagnosed heart condition. She is also survived by her maternal grandfather Bob Gerhard of Kalispell, and paternal grandparents Mike and Pat Dilworth of Frisco, Texas, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Rhianna had a genuine compassion for others and an eagerness to share her faith in Christ that made those who knew her know that she really cared for them. She touched many lives in her much-too-short time on this earth and those who got to know her could tell she was a special girl. She was a devoted daughter and sister who adored her younger sister and enjoyed swimming, hiking, camping, kayaking, climbing trees and introducing Sierra to the outdoors that she loved so much. She even followed her dad around on some of his hunting trips. She had an affinity for animals that ranged from the family pets to the creatures she would find in the woods.

Rhianna was born in Salt Lake City and spent most of her first seven years in Utah. She traveled around the world for a year in a backpack with her parents when she was 2 years old. This experience, along with her explorations with her Aunt Ginni during many visits and trips, instilled an adventurous streak in Rhianna that lasted the rest of her life.

After moving to Michigan she attended Hartland High School where she graduated with honors in 2012. During her high school years she competed in speech and downhill skiing and



was a state finalist in both activities her senior year. She also trained horses with her mom

and competed in local horse shows. With her love of all things Celtic, Rhianna fulfilled a dream with a graduation trip to Ireland and Scotland.

She attended Hillsdale College in Michigan from 2012 to 2014 as a biology major. Rhianna loved the stimulating environment at Hillsdale, whether in conversation with students and professors or sitting in a tree in Slayton Arboretum studying or playing her flute. When her family decided to move to Montana in 2014, she preceded them to the Flathead Valley that summer. She began her studies at the University of Montana in January of 2016 to take advantage of their prestigious wildlife biology program and specialize in the study of birds.

She spent the last summer of her life traveling to Alaska with her family, assisting with a woodpecker research project in the Bitterroot National Forest, backpacking in the Jewel Basin with her dad, and training her new puppy, Ranger. Rhianna lived life to the fullest and did so with an enthusiasm, energy and concern for others that made her family proud. She was a wonderful young woman who was taken from us too soon.

There will be a visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7, at Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home at 525 South Main Street, Kalispell, MT 59901, and funeral at 11 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 8, at Easthaven Baptist Church at 2010 Whitefish Stage Road, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Donald Elsworth Diggins Jr., 88

Donald Elsworth Diggins Jr., 88, of Bigfork, passed away Feb. 29, 2016.

Don was born in sunny Los Angeles on Oct. 23, 1927. His father, Don Sr., was an assistant director at Gotham Products in LA, born in Illinois and his mother, from Oklahoma was named Stella May Knox Diggins. Don grew up with a love for film, theater and the actors and actresses of his era, as he was surrounded by the burgeoning film and television industry in the L.A. community.

Don moved to Bigfork in 1993 to enjoy his retirement years and was a frequent sight in Bigfork, whether having coffee at one of the cafes, walking up and down Grand



Avenue or taking tickets and payment as a volunteer for the Bigfork Community Players,

early Children's Theater, or Cowabunga at the Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts.

He took his volunteer job seriously and tallied ticket counts and cash to the penny at every performance. He was always on time, reliable and would arrive after walking from the Little Jon Apartments in his powder blue three piece suit. Always a smile, a story or fable, and a lively spirit emanating from his blue eyes.

Teresa Marie Disney, 51

Teresa Marie Disney, 51, of Kalispell, died July 27, 2016, in Kalispell.

She is survived by her sons, Matthew Allen Disney and Tyrel James Disney, and daughter, Britney Marie Disney.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 3, at the Nazarene Church in Kalispell. Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory is caring for the family.

Patti Dimler-Hulett, 74

Our loving mother, Patti Dimler-Hulett, 74, passed away March 26, 2016.

Patti was born in Elgin, Oklahoma, on Dec. 15, 1941.

She had worked hard her whole life. She was always there, always doing for her children. Our mother was very giving to all. Many of our friends called her Mom.

She gave to St. Jude Children's Hospital every month. This was her character — a loving mom, devoted grandmother and loyal, hard-working friend.

She is survived by her children, Billy, Benny, Deana and David; her grandchildren, Kensie, Davie, Adrian, Pagie, Morgan, Shyanne, Traveler, Grace and Faith, and David Jr.

As her grandson said, "We are going to miss you for a long, long time."

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, followed by a potluck reception at Family Life Christian Church, 1075 Foy's Lake Road, Kalispell. For questions or more information, call 250-0273 or 270-7221.