

Jo Ann Baranko Vagg, 90

Jo Ann Baranko Vagg, 90, passed away peacefully on Easter Sunday, surrounded by family, in her Lakeside home.



She was born to Joseph and Edna Baranko Feb. 22, 1930, in Albion, Nebraska. They moved to Great Falls in 1935 where she attended school and graduated in 1948. Jo Ann went on to work for a home decorating company, L.M.H., until she married Douglas Vagg in July of 1951. They lived in Power, Montana, where Douglas was a school teacher. In the summer, they would move to Saco, where they farmed. They had two children, Douglas Dean in 1952 and Arlyss Ann in 1955.

Douglas and Jo Ann moved the family to Seeley Lake in 1964 where Doug was a school teacher and Jo Ann was active in school activities. She was study hall monitor and field judge for high school and junior Olympic track meets. When Doug and Jo Ann retired, they decided on the beautiful community of Lakeside. Shortly after buying their retirement home, Doug was killed in an automobile accident, leaving her widowed at the age of 55. She filled her time by being active in her community. Jo Ann continued her commitment with Eastern

Star where she served as worthy matron, as well as many other offices. She became an active member of the Lakeside Chapel, by serving on the board of trustees, the pastor parish relations committee, and the women of the Lakeside Chapel. She organized the flower arrangements for the altar committee, donated and maintained the flowers outside the gathering place, and made the candles for the community Christmas Eve luminaries. When she wasn't keeping herself busy with all of that, she could be caught playing cards at the Vista Linda, practicing tai chi, sewing or baking pies.

Jo Ann is preceded in death by her parents Joseph and Edna Baranko; husband Douglas; Vivian Vagg; and daughter Arlyss Ann Farra Whicker.

She is survived by brother Joseph Dean Baranko and sister Margret Irene Clayton; son Douglas Dean Vagg; grandchildren Sarah Jo Vagg, Cameron Douglas Vagg, Mary Catherine Hamilton (Mike), Heidi Jo Farra, and Aleta Louise Farra (Ben Demaray); and great-grandchildren Grace Amaya Warne, Julia Arlyssa Warne, and Connor Joseph Danmyer.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at the Lakeside Chapel.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Florine 'Flo' (Gassert) Van, 87

Florine "Flo" (Gassert) Van, 87, of Kalispell, passed away Sept. 10, 2020, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center.

Florine Mae Gassert was born on June 30, 1933, in Livingston to Charles and Florine Gassert. She attended schools in Gardiner, Livingston, Columbia Falls, and graduated from Flathead County High in Kalispell.

Florine married John Van on Aug. 1, 1953. They lived in Alabama briefly while John served in the United States Air Force before returning to Kalispell. Together, they were active in many community programs. She was a den mother for the Girl Scouts, and was involved in Kalispell PeeWee baseball, Babe Ruth baseball, and the Kalispell Lakers for many years. She did everything, from keeping score, running the concession stand, painting fences, and mending skinned knees. She worked as a legal secretary at Korn, Walterskirchen, and Warden for several years. After her retirement, she still kept busy.

Florine and John raised llamas for many years, showing them at the fair, and even hiked into Stanton Lake with them. She was a member of the Flathead Valley Jazz Society and treasur-



er for the Flathead Jazz Stampede for numerous years. Florine

was also a member and officer of the Kalispell Eagles. She spent many evenings in the Eagles kitchen cooking and prepping for monthly dinners and various special events. On Sundays you could find her volunteering at bingo. Florine and John loved the Bigfork Inn and would go there many Friday and Saturday nights for dinner and dancing. Florine touched many lives and will be dearly missed by friends, acquaintances and family.

Florine was preceded in death by her loving husband John, parents Charles and Florine, brother Robert, and sister Margaret.

She is survived by her children, Marlene Linstead (Rex), Chuck Van (Wendy), Jack Van (Tara), and Ted Van (Tanya), in addition to many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a great-great-granddaughter. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Phyllis Eileen (Heggie) Valentino, 74



"My Wife, The Lifelong Teacher, and Cancer"

"Mrs. V, Mrs. V, Hi Mrs. Valentino, how are you? You know you were my most favorite teacher. I always looked forward to going to your class. I knew it was only for one hour a day but I could hardly wait to get there. You were always so kind, so understanding and so caring. If I heard this conversation between my wife and her ex-students I heard it a hundred times. From Northern Montana to Southern California we would be out shopping or having a meal and I would sit quietly by and listen to what was being said. Regardless of the students' background the conversation was always the same. It didn't matter if the student had a gang background, lived on the streets or came from a wholesome family, the conversation was the same. A few times even I had to fight back tears.

In addition to being a classroom teacher for 50-plus years she also taught adult education classes two nights a week as well as summer school for 25 years. It was not uncommon (on adult ed nights) for her to put in 12 to 14 hrs per day. The types of classes she made a career out of teaching included opportunity room classes, special education classes at promise classes, partial day classes and in house suspension classes. After school she would hold independent learning classes where she would work one on one with students who had trouble learning the basic concepts of the curriculum. Basically, she taught the types of students that a number of other teachers preferred not to have in their classes. This was usually a result of large class sizes or that

as close to being a non-teacher as she ever wanted to get. When she was a department chair she

would get a prep period and a chair period as part of her six period day of teaching. That meant she only was teaching four regular periods a day. She worked with the counselor's office to have students sent to her for assistance if the counselors thought that the students could benefit from being with her. She would work with students during the two periods she didn't have her own classes. She loved being around students who needed help or students who had problems of one sort or another. She was so student oriented she even changed my own teaching philosophy. When I just started teaching I was a subject-oriented teacher. I figured as long as I did a good job covering the curriculum I was doing my job. I really didn't concentrate on focusing if the students were really learning or not. If they failed they failed; it wasn't my fault. I did my job; they didn't do theirs.

By the time I finished the teaching portion of my career I really cared if each student had learned enough about the curriculum that they might use it somehow later in life. I went from being a subject-oriented teacher to being a student-oriented teacher. I still believe we need a lot more student-oriented teachers in our public schools today, especially at the elementary, junior high and high school levels. Subject-oriented teachers should only exist at the college level.

stomach and her bone marrow. She was given six months to a year and a half to live. She passed on Jan. 19, 2020. During that period of time she was on constant chemo and was told she would be on it for the rest of her life, and she was. She still continued to substitute teach. She had built up such a reputation for herself as a substitute teacher that she became the first teacher the Bigfork School District would contact when they needed a long-term sub. She never said no.

The Wife

The first 17 years we taught, I taught and coached. One night at dinner in front of our kids she asked me how much longer I was going to coach. I said probably until I retire. She said, "OK, you have to make a decision." I said, "What decision?" "I am a full-time mom, a full-time wife, a full-time teacher, a full-time house keeper and all you do is coach and teach. You need to decide if you want to continue to coach and be single or do you want to start being a father to our kids and a husband to me?" That ended my coaching career; at least I got 17 years in. It turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made. The time I was putting in coaching was now going to be used to spend more time with my kids, my wife and our pets. And, on top of that, I got to reminisce about the championship teams that I had coached. Thanks to the wife. She never passed up an opportunity to teach or make others think about what was really important.

people to live a few more years, but what would be wrong with spending the same time and money on finding a cure or cures? I would hate to think it's about money.

A celebration of life will be held on Feb. 1 at Scottibelli's from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

My Wife's Chronological Career

September 1968-June 1969 — Student teacher at Washington Junior High Pasadena, California

September 1969-June 1976 — Junior high teacher and student council adviser at Northrup Elementary School, Alhambra, California

September 1976-June 1986 — Special Education teacher at Mark Keppel High School Alhambra, California

September 1986-June 1987 — Long-term substitute teacher in Special Education at Kalispell Junior High School, Kalispell

September 1987-June 1988 — Special Education teacher at Bigfork Junior High, Bigfork

September 1988-June 2003 — Special Education teacher and Department Chair at Mark Keppel High School Alhambra, California

September 2003-December 2019 — Substitute teacher in Bigfork Schools, Bigfork (averaged 3 1/2 days a week)

Arrangements have been entrusted to Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home of Kalispell.

(Cont'd)

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students had some kind of an attitude problem. It was also because it is difficult teaching mainstreamed classes when some students should be in self-contained special education classes. Pull out programs for mainstreamed special education students does not work. Her classes usually averaged between 16 and 20 students, but she was always able to give a lot of personal attention to each student and keep them on task.

Over her 50-plus years she was a junior high teacher, a high school teacher, an adult education teacher, a resource teacher and a summer school teacher; but always a teacher. She did put in a few years as a special education department chairperson, but that was

The Cancer

In 2001, two years before we retired, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was a fast moving cancer. It had spread to such a point that a team of doctors had to go in and remove both breasts, all of her lymph nodes and use half of her abdominal muscles to build two new breasts. The operation was known as a double-Tram-flap procedure. It lasted seven and a half hours. She spent the next two years receiving chemo and radiation treatments that always caused her to become extremely tired. But she continued to teach.

At the end of those treatments she was told that there was only a 2% chance that the disease would ever return. In 2014 it metastasized into her

The End

On Jan.19, 2020, at 4 p.m. my wife passed away. She lost her 18-year battle with cancer. I think cancer is the ugliest disease a human being can be diagnosed with. My wife fought the disease for 18 years, went through three major surgeries and finally lost the battle. I thank the pharmaceutical companies for spending time and money on finding many treatments for cancer and allowing

Dick Martijn (DV) van Leijenhorst

PB4 16 Dec 2020 Whitefish Pilot

We regret to announce the passing of Dick Martijn (DV) van Leijenhorst, 55, of Whitefish, on Dec. 1, 2020. Dick passed away at home from heart failure.

Dick was predeceased by his father Johannes Maria (Hans) van Leijenhorst. He is survived by his mother, Henriëtte Maria (Jetty) van Leijenhorst-Houtepen and his brothers Peter, Jan Matthijs, Sander and their families.

Devy, born Dutchman in Amersfoort, The Netherlands, March 15, 1965, moved for work to Detroit, Michigan in 1999, after completing a master degree in social geography and having held several jobs. In his role as external IT support engineer for a Dutch software company he helped U.S. companies in installing and operating software systems, being the first line contact in the U.S. to the Dutch company. In his spare time he went skiing with the ski club, fishing

salmon and trout on Great Lakes with friends or flying in a glider. Visiting his family in the Netherlands often coincided with a weektrip in autumn with the family in the Alps.

Loving the outdoors, especially mountain trips and skiing, he finally moved to Whitefish in 2016 joining and getting involved at the Glacier Nordic Club as well.

Cremation has already taken place. The funeral service will be held in Weert, The Netherlands. His ashes will be buried at the cemetery, Sint-Martinuskerkhof, in Weert, The Netherlands.

A tribute website page is provided by Columbia Mortuary (<https://www.columbiamortuary.com/tributes/Dick-vanLeijenhorst>).

Condolences may be sent to Jan Matthijs van Leijenhorst, Adriaan van Ostadelaan 1, 2343 EL, Oegstgeest, The Netherlands. (jmv1@casema.nl)

Reta Sue (Rankin) VanBemmel, 85

PA4 23 Oct 2020

Reta Sue (Rankin) VanBemmel, 85, passed away on Oct. 19, 2020, at Heritage Place in Kalispell.

Sue was born on July 23, 1935, to Mike and Dorothy (Davis) Rankin in Archer, Nebraska. She was raised in Grand Island, Nebraska, where she also graduated high school.

Sue married her husband Mr. Joe VanBemmel of 43 years on Oct. 16, 1969, in Eureka. She held different jobs in hospitality such as cleaning hous-



es. She also worked for Immanuel Lutheran Home, followed by her position at Buffalo Hill Terrace as the dining room manager.

Sue enjoyed camping, riding four-wheelers and going for long drives, and the love of watching her grandchildren as well as her great-grandchildren.

Sue was preceded in death by both her moth-

er and father; her first husband, Roy Bjornrud; her husband, Joe VanBemmel; her brother, Jack Rankin; her sister, Phyllis Nelson; her son, Albert Bjornrud; her son-in-law, Ray Peterson; and her granddaughter, Breanna Conrad.

Sue is survived by her daughters, Bobbie Conrad (Todd and granddaughter Alyssa), Dorothy Bates of Anchorage, Alaska, Deb Peterson of Eureka, Kathy McFarland (Reid) and Barb Penny (Kurt); her daughter-in-law, Teri;

her sons, Roy Bjornrud and Rick VanBemmel (Carol) of Iowa; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We would like to thank everyone at Heritage Place for taking such great care of our mom.

Services are being held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, in Kalispell.

Friends and family are encouraged to visit www.buffalohillfh.com to leave letters of condolences.

Loy Everett VanBrunt, 100

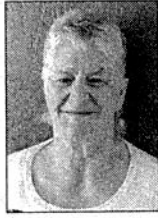
Loy Everett VanBrunt, 100, died on July 31, 2020, in Kalispell.

Services are pending.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Penny Rae (Noble) VanDort, 69

Demonstrating inter-minable strength through a lifetime of health struggles, Penny lost her battle with cancer on May 1, 2020.



Penny was born to Marlie and Betty (Wuest) Noble on May 26, 1950, in Sunnyside, Washington. Shortly after, the family moved to Libby, Montana, where Penny attended grade school until she was 10. From there they moved to Kalispell and

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she finished out her education graduating from Flathead High School in 1969.

Penny married her husband Jon on Aug. 5, 1967. They had their first child Janet in March of 1968, followed by their son Jack in August 1972.

Penny was a caregiver to her core. She was instrumental in providing child care for her grandchildren in their early years and worked many years as a Home Health Professional with Home Options.

Although Penny suffered from many health issues most of her life,

she still had a smile on her face and was an inspiration to many.

Penny was preceded in death by both her parents, her siblings Paul Dagget and Noni Marquis, sister-in-law Deloris Whyte, and brothers-in-law David VanDort and Gene VanDort, and nephew Gener VanDort.

She is survived by her husband Jon VanDort; her brother and sister-in-law Tim and Brenda Noble of Libby; her sister Wendy Barnhart of Puyallup, Washington; her daughter and son-in-law Janet and Greg Lake, son Jack VanDort; five

grandchildren all from Kalispell, Ashley and Cole Hadley, Hayden Hansen, Austin Hansen and Levi VanDort; and two great-grandchildren Owen and Olivia Hadley; also many nieces and nephews and many wonderful friends.

We would like to thank the staff at The Retreat, Sarah at Renaissance Senior Care, Frontier Hospice, Buffalo Hill Funeral Home and friend Cindy Upwall for everything they did to help make her comfortable in her final days.

A celebration will be sometime in July.

Jaqueline 'Jackie' Dee VanDyke, 74

Jaqueline "Jackie" Dee VanDyke, 74, of Kalispell, died Nov. 20, 2020, in Kalispell.

She is survived by her

husband Ben.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Jay Van Dyke, 76

Jay Van Dyke, 76, of Whitefish, died Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020, at his home.

A viewing will be held Friday, Nov. 13, at 10:30 a.m. at Darlington Cremation and Burial

Service, 3408 U.S. 2 E. in Kalispell. A memorial service will follow at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment will take place at Glacier Memorial Gardens.

Billy Vanzant, 74

Billy Vanzant, 74, died July 25, 2020, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. Services are pending.

Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Virginia Gail Vaughn (Gilchrist-Burghardt), 64

Virginia Gail Vaughn (Gilchrist-Burghardt), 64, our beautiful mom GiGi, and dear friend died on Dec. 10, 2020, at the University of Washington Medical Center with her three children by her side.

Gail was born in 1956 to Robert and Virginia Vaughn in Burbank, California, and lived there until she and her husband Scott moved to Montana in 1978 to make their home. They raised their three children in Bigfork. Gail got her teaching degree in 1991 from the University of Montana, Missoula. She would later earn her Master in Educational Technology degree and a second Master in

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Educational Leadership degree. She was a beloved teacher in Polson elementary schools for 27 years devoting countless hours to shaping



the hearts and minds of her students with unending patience and kindness. Her devotion went beyond her students to the staff and families of Cherry Valley and Linderman elementary schools. She deeply impacted every person that crossed her path with her radiant personality, acceptance, guidance, friendship and lust for life.

In memory of Gail, we ask that you hug your child, grandchild, friend, or sit and listen to the birds. Time waits for no one.

Donations can be made to: <https://www.flatheadlakers.org/student-water-shed-education> and read about her involvement at <https://www.flatheadlakers.org/lakers-community-stories/iz8y01gr5lrp-8mqmt50bo22m94ohd> and <http://www.valleyjournal.net/Article/15878/Polson-teacher-recognized-with-first-Lakers-Education-Award>

Gail's unconditional love for her children, grandchildren, family, friends and students will be cherished always. Her

infectious smile will forever be in our hearts.

Gail was preceded in death by her parents Robert and Virginia, and brother Larry Vaughn.

She is survived by her loving son Sean Gilchrist and his wife Heather of Whitefish, daughters Jamie Congdon of Kalispell, and Ashley Crowe and her husband Mike of Columbia Falls; her four precious grandchildren, Aubrey, Taytem, Connor and Austin; sisters, Bobbie and Sandy from California; and many nieces and nephews who loved her dearly.

A celebration of life will be planned for this summer (2021) and announced at a later date.

Ernest Arthur Veigel, 60 and Timothy George Veigel, 58

P A 6 11 June 2020
Timothy G. Veigel, of Kalispell, was born on Aug. 14, 1961, and passed away at Kalispell Regional Medical Center on Nov. 20, 2019, from health complications.

Ernest A. Veigel, also of Kalispell, was born on Dec. 1, 1959, and passed away at Harborview Medical Center on April 28, 2020, from a long-term battle with health issues.

Both brothers were born in Lincoln, Nebraska, to Arthur and Dorothy Veigel. After Arthur retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1973, the entire family returned to Kalispell. They both graduated from Flathead High School and decided to stay here where they lived their lives, made



homes, raised families and had careers. Ernest worked most of his life for Plum Creek and Timothy made a career in the automotive business.

They both were taught at a young age to live off the land and loved to hunt, fish, track, pan for gold and fix vehicles. Ernest enjoyed making furniture in his spare time and Timothy loved to paint.

Ernest is survived by three children, Wesley

Palin, Michael Palin and Melissa Thomason, all from the Flathead Valley. He leaves behind 11 grandchildren as well as many stepchildren, step-grandchildren, nieces and nephews who will miss him greatly.

Timothy is survived by his wife, Carlene Veigel and eight children, Jennifer Horn, David Cobbler-Veigel, Andrew Love, Alan Love, and Jacqueline Veigel who still live in the Flathead Valley, and Dustin Love of Bozeman, Joshua Humphrey of Missoula, and Cody Love of Minnesota. Tim also leaves behind 22 grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews who will miss him greatly.

Both brothers were preceded in death by their father Arthur, mother Dorothy, and sister Patricia.

The family did all their camping, hunting and fishing at Thompson River. It was a tradition that everyone met back up at the campsite at noon to discuss what they did during the morning. For that reason, there will be a celebration of life at the summer campsite on Saturday, June 20, at noon. Signs will be posted for those who are not sure how to get there. Don't forget to bring your own chairs. A private spreading of ashes will take place at a later time.

Robert H. Veitch Jr.

Robert H. Veitch Jr. passed away from natural causes June 5, 2020.



Bob was born on Feb. 11, 1931 to Robert and Ruth Veitch in Butte.

He attended high school at the Missouri Military Academy and then graduated from the University of Montana with a business degree. While attending the University of Montana, he met and married Donna Pitts and they had one son, Robert Veitch III.

Bob worked for Burlington Northern Transport for over 30 years. His job took them to many states, Wyoming, Washington and Montana.

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Bob enjoyed golfing, playing cribbage and taking family vacations to the cabin on McGregor Lake. After retirement, Bob settled in Columbia Falls and spent summers at the cabin.

Bob is survived by his daughter-in-law LaRae Veitch; grandsons Casey (Alyssa) and Tanner Veitch; great-grandchildren Cooper and Lila; and partner Evelyn Cousineau.

He was preceded in death by his wife Donna and son Robert.

A private family gathering will be held at a later date.

Memorials in Bob's name may be made to Columbia Falls Senior Center.

Darlington Cremation and Burial Service is caring for Bob and his family.

Quentin F. Vitt, 88

Quentin F. Vitt, 88, of Kalispell, died Sunday, March 22, 2020.

He is survived by his wife, LaDonna, and his children, Lance Vitt and Cathryn Iverson.

Services will be

announced at a later date.

Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory.

Dayle R. Vondal

PA6 27 Dec 2020
Dayle R. Vondal received his angel wings Dec. 20, 2020, at North Valley Hospital, following a bout with cancer.

He was born to Henry and Lylia Vondal on the family farm in Neche, North Dakota, the oldest of four and the only son. His sisters always said he was the favorite.

They resided there until the beginning of World War II, when they moved to Santa Rosa, California, where his parents worked to support the war effort. Dayle worked delivering papers and taking care of his younger sisters.

After the war they moved back home to North Dakota. Dayle finished school and worked many different jobs to help support the family. He went back to school to become a dispatcher for the railroad. He went to work in Washington, where he met the love of his life, Reba Barnes. They married on Aug. 9, 1958. They welcomed their first daughter, Susan, in July 1959, and their second daughter, Jeanne, in September 1962.

Dayle worked at many depots throughout the Northwest, settling in Lincoln County, Warland, Eureka and Fortine. He was very active in the community, from being on the school board, to coaching baseball and refereeing basketball. He was also involved in the Fortine Community Church.

Dayle and Reba moved to Whitefish after the depot was shut down, and



he worked there until retirement.

Dayle loved music, sports, dancing, and all the

pretty ladies. He attended the local youth concerts and sporting events. Dayle was a member of the Gideons and the True Life Church.

Reba passed away in 2011. Dayle stayed in the family home, volunteering at the food bank, North Valley Hospital, and anywhere else he was needed.

He moved to The Springs at Whitefish after suffering a fall. It never slowed him down. He enjoyed his time there. Whether it was bingo, a day out, exercise or happy hour, Dayle would round up his crew and get them going.

Dayle is survived by his sisters, Connie (Skeeter) Hunt and Judy Vondal; his daughters, Susan Truman and Jeanne (Jim) Swanson; his grandchildren, Jake (Nikki) Truman, Katrina Truman and Dylan (Taryn) Meargher; and great-grandchildren, Willow, Abel, Zaniel, Jake and Carson.

He will be sorely missed. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

Johnnie Eugene Veltum, 61

Johnnie Eugene Veltum, 61, died Jan. 20, 2020, at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his

wife Diane.

Services are pending. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Christina Anne Vlieland, 58

PA5 4 Oct 2020
Christina Anne Vlieland, 58, passed away on Sept. 26, 2020, in Hungry Horse.

Chrissy was born April 15, 1962, in Arock, Oregon, to Walter and Pauline Baltzor.

In July of 2004 she married the love of her life Jeffery Vlieland. She and her husband shared the passion of hunting, fishing and the outdoors. You could often find Chrissy and Jeff out on their boat enjoying the views and each other. She was loved and thought of as family by her community of Hungry Horse, where she resided with her husband for the last 17 years.

Chrissy was a very social person who adored her friends. She had a



contagious energy and passion for life. She loved her work at Vaqueros Mexican Restaurant

where she stayed for 15 years.

Chrissy is survived by her husband Jeffrey, sister Angela and children Sidney, Daniel, his fiancée Julie, Amelia, and her husband Colin, and Russell, and grandchildren Millie and Castin.

Christina was loved by many and will be missed by all.

Services are pending at this time.

Columbia Mortuary in Columbia Falls is caring for the family.

Randell 'Randy' Joseph Vogel, 84

Randell "Randy" Joseph Vogel was born on Feb. 4, 1936, in Plentywood, Montana, to Joe and Alice Vogel.

He died Nov. 9, 2020, in Kalispell at 84 years of age after many years of courageously dealing with cancer.

Randy went to school in Plentywood until graduation in 1955. He then attended Eastern Montana College of Education in Billings, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Business Education degree. Randy taught for one year at Billings Business College. In April of 1980 he received a Master of Business Administration



degree from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.

Randy married his high school sweetheart

Donna Simonis on June 8, 1958. Donna's dad Franklin Simonis was instrumental in getting them together.

In 1960 Randy and Donna moved to southern California and Randy started working for Suburban Water Systems and stayed with them until 1992, working his way up to vice president of the company.

Randy and Donna had

two children, son Todd and daughter Marla. Randy then went to work for Southern California Water Company as a vice president and continued working for them until December 1999.

After retirement, Randy and Donna moved back to their beloved Montana to retire on Swan Lake outside of Bigfork. Randy and Donna enjoyed a good life and did lots of traveling for the water company and personal travel to six continents.

Randy is survived by his wife Donna of Bigfork, son Todd and wife Audrey of Ridgefield, Washington, grand-

daughters Holly Vogel of Ridgefield, Washington, and Alexis Holdoff of Ridgefield, Washington, son-in-law Omar Giamelo of Seattle, and grandsons Cameron of Seattle and Miles of Tucson, Arizona.

Randy was preceded in death by his daughter Marla Giamelo, parents Joe and Alice Vogel, sisters Eleanor Greff and Mary Jean Bestland, and brother Jerry Vogel

A celebration of life will be held at a future date.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that any donations be made to Bethel Chapel, Bigfork Food Bank or the Bigfork Children's Theatre.

Gertrude Martha (Thomas) Vogt, 82

Gertrude Martha (Thomas) Vogt, born Oct. 3, 1937, passed away on Monday, June 15, 2020, in Kalispell.

Gert raised and is survived by her three sons and family, Brian Vogt of Kalispell, Glen Vogt and Diana Rahdert of Bigfork, and Neal and Kim Vogt of Pewaukee, Wisconsin. She is also survived by her 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Gert was preceded in death by her parents Carl and Anna Thomas, and four siblings.

As a child Gert grew up in Waukesha, Wisconsin, where her family owned a grocery store and they lived behind the shop. She graduated from Waukesha High School in 1955 and soon after became an expert insurance and medical transcriber working for Fireman's Fund in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and then at Montana Human Resources in Kalispell for many years.

Gert was a longtime



and dedicated member of the United Church of Christ in Kalispell. Gert was

best known for three things — her love of sweets and anything chocolate and sharing them with family and co-workers; second, she was an avid knitter and all her family received her colorful pieces, including cozy afghans; third was certainly her spiffy attire and large array of colorful jewelry. She will be remembered for her gentle demeanor, quiet nature and laughing blue eyes.

Family will celebrate her life with a gathering in October 2020. Because she loved watching her grandchildren and little kids perform, any donations in her memory would be appreciated by giving to the Bigfork Playhouse Children's Theater.

Andrew 'Andy' Volkens, 73

Andrew "Andy" Volkens, 73, died Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020, at Libby Care Center.

Rosary will be said at 7 p.m., Sunday, Jan.

26, at Schnackenberg Funeral Home in Libby. Mass of the Resurrection will be at 11 a.m., Monday, Jan. 27, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Libby.

Betty Jean Votapka, 94

Betty Jean Votapka, 94, died on April 13, 2020, at Wel-Life in Kalispell.

Services are current-

ly pending at this time. Buffalo Hill Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Galina Voronina, 83

Galina Voronina, 83, of Kalispell, died Friday June 19, 2020, at her home.

She is survived by her daughter, Valeriya Sasser.

A private service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the care of Johnson-Gloschat Funeral Home and Crematory.