



Peter Chapin

January 11, 1947 - May 16, 2025

Peter Chapin, former Butte resident and Montana Standard writer, died May 16 in Vero Beach, Fla., just three weeks after being diagnosed with chronic myelomonocytic leukemia, a rare blood disease. He was 78.

Peter was born Jan. 11, 1947, in Rochester, N.Y., the third child of Janette and William Chapin. His father was killed in a plane crash in 1962 when Pete was in high school. He earned a degree in English from the University of Denver—instilling his attraction to the West-- and served two years in the U.S. Army, training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., in early 1970.

He began his journalism career in Rock Springs, WY, then came to Butte in fall 1974 and worked the next 10 years at the Montana Standard. He was in charge of the weekly entertainment section and wrote a humor column and features, often taking his own photographs.

With his wife, the former Linda Lockmer, and their four children, Pete moved in the fall of 1984 to Deer Park, Wash., where he had purchased the weekly Tribune newspaper. He sold the paper in 1989 and he and the family returned to Butte where he again worked for the Standard 1990-96.

After a divorce in 1997, he moved to South Florida "after dreaming of a palm tree and no snow", he joked with his kids and they teased him about it ever

after. But he stayed. He lived and worked at papers in various cities, including Lakeland, before settling permanently in Vero Beach, where he was fond of spending time at the Botanical Garden (lots of palm trees!).

Peter was a history buff and frequently traveled to Civil War battle sites in the eastern U.S. and other historic places. At the time of his death, he had just completed a mystery novel set in Butte in the 1920s. He last came to Butte in September of 2024 to do research for his book and see former co-workers and friends. He said at the time that he felt more at home in Butte than most other places he'd lived, but it was just too cold!

His brother said that in his quiet way, Peter was a special guy with a personality that didn't easily reveal his wonderful qualities.

He is survived by his children, Peter Chapin of Denver, Holly Hughes of Caldwell, Idaho, Anne Chapin of Billings and Eric Chapin of Tampa, Fla., and by his sister Anne Kennedy of Canandaigua, N.Y., and brother Bill Chapin of Daytona Beach, Fla. Ex-wife Linda died in May 2024. Cremation has taken place and memorial services are pending in New York and Florida.

Tribute Wall

EK

“ While going to school, I was one of the kids working in the office at tje Montana Standard, developing film etc. Peter was always the nicest, most kind person, and even insisted on doing a story avout me restoring a car. I never forgot his kindness and professionalism. RIP Peter...

Ed Konda - July 02, 2025 at 06:03 PM

BS

Pete hitched onto The Standard as a sports writer and did good work before moving to news and entertainment. Possibly the best dry sense of humor I've ever been around. Fun to work with, great guy. Traders will remember his "Milton The Marmot" saga that parodied "Who Shot J.R.?" Of the "Dallas" TV drama. Peaceful rest, Pete.

Bruce Sayler - July 03, 2025 at 12:48 PM

BS

Readers will remember ...

Bruce Sayler - July 03, 2025 at 12:50 PM

CM

I have known Linda and Peter for years. Linda and me were good friends at Butte High. So sorry to hear of their passing! Rest in Peace! :
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Carolyn (Lyman) Mickelson

cmariemickey - July 07, 2025 at 05:29 PM

SH

On a whim this evening, I entered the name Peter Chapin in a computer search. I saw the same tilt of the head, the same smile, the same hairline that had once held blonde hair. Peter was, perhaps, the first friend I made on my own. He was a 100%, through and through, good kid. We live on neighboring streets and walked together from 1st grade at Martin B. Anderson, School, on Cobb's Hill. We'd play, with his boxer dog as happy company, in Peter's backyard, then had a snack of cookies. It somehow set the standard for friendship. I thought of Peter from time-to-time since; hoped he'd fared well. Apparently, that was so. Thank you, Peter's family. While doing historical research, I found that the Chapins and Hewitts served together during the Revolution, then both came in the Federalist era into western New York State. Perhaps that easy childhood friendship and the lingering memory were merely echoes of what war-time buddies had establish long ago. God bless thee and keep thee; let His countenance stay with thee all thy days.

Sharon Hewitt - November 23, 2025 at 11:31 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - July 02, 2025 at 10:37 AM