

COMMUNITY

A LOOK AT BORDERLAND

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OBITUARIES

Helen Magdalene Oster, 94

Helen Magdalene Oster, 94, of International Falls, Minn., died Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014, at Good Samaritan Society-International Falls. The former Helen Niedzweicki was born May 26, 1920, in Tenstrike, Minn., to Kazimiera and Kajetan (Anciszewski) Niedzweicki. Helen graduated from high school in 1937. She worked for MD&W in Ranier, Minn., as a stenographer clerk. Helen was preceded in death by her parents, Kazimiera and Kajetan. Helen is survived by her caring friends and caretakers at Good Samaritan and her St. Thomas Church friends. A memorial mass will be conducted at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, at Good Samaritan Society-International Falls. Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com. Arrangements are with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

Lester P. Gooler, 91

Lester P. Gooler, 91, of International Falls, Minn., died Monday, Nov. 17, 2014, at Rainy Lake Medical Center. Funeral services with military rites will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at Evangelical Covenant Church, International Falls. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at Green-Larsen Mortuary. Interment will be at Ericsburg Cemetery, Ericsburg, Minn. A complete obituary will be announced when arrangements have been completed. In memoriam donations are preferred to Koochiching County Senior Center, 307 Fourth St., International Falls, MN 56649. Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com. Arrangements are with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

Robert (Bob) LaFond

Robert (Bob) LaFond, of Circle Pines, Minn., passed away Monday, Nov. 17, 2014. Mass of Christian Burial, is planned for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at St. Joseph of the Lakes Catholic Church, 171 Elm St., Lino Lakes, Minn. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service.

Former Falls man elected to state House

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Dave Baker, formerly of International Falls, was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in the Nov. 4 election. As a state representative, he will represent District 17B, which includes most of Kandiyohi County, as well as the communities of Willmar, Spicer, New London, Atwater, Sunburg, Pennock and Kandiyohi. Baker, who is married to Mary Baker, lived in International Falls from 1982 to 1994. During that time he managed the Paulbeck's

Super Valu grocery store and was general manager of the Holiday Inn. "It's like home to us and Rainy Lake is a magical place," he said of Borderland, where family still live. He noted his wife's brothers Phil, Steve and Kent Paulbeck, as well as Dave's sister Jennifer and husband Steve Windels, live in the Falls today.



Dave Baker

The couple moved to Willmar to work with a large hospitality company and he started his own business in 1999. Baker Hospitalities owns and operates a hotel, restaurant and cruise line business on Green Lake, near Spicer. They owned and/or sold other businesses during that time including Melvins on the Lake, Colonial Inn and Northern Inn Hotel and Suites. Baker recently served on the Minnesota Restaurant Association Board of Directors and was the chair-elect of the

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce before deciding to run for office. Baker also served as president of the Willmar Municipal Utilities Commission for seven years. Dave and Mary Baker have three children, Olivia, Alex, and Dan, who died in 2011. The Bakers started the Dan Baker Foundation to support individuals and families fighting addiction. More than \$120,000 has been donated to organizations helping with programming, facilities and educational opportunities for schools.

FUNERALS

Leroy Allen Peck, 72

Memorial services for Leroy Allen Peck, 72, of International Falls, who died Monday, Nov. 3, 2014, were conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, at Green-Larsen Mortuary, International Falls. Officiating was the Rev. Irv Arnquist. Honorary pallbearers were all his loving family and friends. Interment will be at Greenwood Cemetery, Bemidji, at a later date. Arrangements were with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

Robert Lawrence Piekarski, 64

Memorial services for Robert Lawrence Piekarski, 64, who passed away Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014, were

conducted at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, at Green-Larsen Mortuary. Pastoral Minister was Pat Bjorum. Arrangements were with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

Florence Patricia Rask, 82

Funeral services for Florence Patricia Rask, 82, who passed away Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014, at Good Samaritan Society-International Falls, were conducted at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, at Green-Larsen Mortuary. Officiating was Deacon Frank Zaren. Casketbearers were James L. Rask, Dean Rask, Ed Rask, Marvin Rask, Leonard Rask, Kenny R. Rask, Kelly Rask and Jodi Besch. Honorary pallbearers were Brad Bruce and Lynn Bruce. Interment was at Forest

Hill Cemetery, International Falls. Arrangements were with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

Katherine Marie Perala, 79

A memorial Mass for Katherine Marie Perala, 79, of Ash Lake, who died Tuesday, Oct. 14, was conducted at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 17, at St. Thomas Church, International Falls. Fr. Ben Hadrich and Deacon Fran Zaren presided over the Mass. Greeters were Bobbie Boyum and Marilyn Berlin. Serving as usher was Frank Watkinson. Readers were Mary Perala and Kevin Anderson. Musicians were May Ann Kalar and Betty Opdahl. Joeleen Kennedy and Marge Veeder were Eucharistic Ministers. Presentation of Gifts was

by Marilyn Berlin, Nancy Johnson, Carol Stegmeir, Jackie Glowack, Sharlene Howe, Joanie Ecklund and Susan Savard. Patty Bjorum gave the Eulogy. Cremation services were provided by the Cremation Society of Minnesota.

Valerie Jean Sjoblom, 68

Memorial services for Valerie Jean Sjoblom, 68, of International Falls, who died Monday, Nov. 3, 2014, were conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, at First Lutheran Church. Officiating was Pastor Irv Arnquist. Music was by Joe Belanger. Interment will be at Ericsburg Cemetery, Ericsburg, at a later date. Arrangements were with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

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