

COMMUNITY

A LOOK AT BORDERLAND

The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community.

Call the Journal at 285-7411

OBITUARIES

The Journal publishes paid obituaries in Wednesday and Saturday editions and on its Web site at www.ifallsjournal.com.

Obituaries must be submitted by 10 a.m. Tuesdays to be published in the Wednesday edition, and by 10 a.m. Thursday to be in the Saturday edition.

All obituaries must be prepaid before they are published.

Obituaries can be faxed to the Journal at 285-7206; e-mailed to tammiec@ifallsjournal.com; or mailed to The Journal at 1602 Highway 71, International Falls, MN 56649.

We encourage electronic delivery of obituaries and any accompanying photos.

If desired, The Journal will e-mail or fax a proof of the obituary to the funeral home handling the service.

For more information, call Tammie Calder at 285-7411.

May Rose Bancroft, 89

May Rose Bancroft, 89, of International Falls, Minn., passed away Sunday, July 14, 2013.

May was born May 21, 1924, in Ray, Minn.

She returned to International Falls after living many years in the Twin Cities, and was a longtime resident of the Good Samaritan Society-International Falls.

May enjoyed shopping, dining out, cooking, baking, flower gardens, birds, and spending time with family and friends.

She was joyfully surprised to be named the Valentine Queen in 2011 and getting to ride in the Fourth of July parade.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George Bancroft; daughter, Sandy Pratt; parents, Carl and Charlotte Tilander; and siblings, Burt, Carl, Ted, Dick, Ralph and Roy Tilander, and Arlene Salmi.

Survivors include brothers, Robert (Arlys) Ti-



lander of Oregon and Wilbur (Sherry) Tilander of Ray; sisters, Bernice Fults and Ione (Onie) Tilander of International Falls; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

May requested no funeral service. Her ashes will be placed with her husband at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, Minn.

Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.

Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., is handling her final arrangements.

Ellen Norma Urban, 83

Ellen Norma Urban, 83, passed away Wednesday, July 3, 2013, after her battle with dementia, at Lake-Wood Care Center, Baudette, Minn.

Ellen was born Feb. 10, 1930, in Ericsburg, Minn., at the home of her parents, Oswald and Erna Drechsler.

She lived her entire life in the International Falls area.

She married the love of her life, Frank Urban, in 1957.

Throughout her life, Ellen worked at Pearson's Bakery, Sheridan Motors, and retired from the Super One Bakery after being there over 20 years.

Ellen had many hobbies including baking, knitting, ceramics, playing cards, fishing, and actually liked being outside mowing the lawn.

She helped her husband build their cabin on Rainy River and always loved her dogs.

Ellen was preceded in death by her parents, Oswald and Erna Drechsler; her husband, Frank Urban; sisters, Hilma Bass, Gerda Urban and Alice Miller; brother and sisters-in-law, Tony (Marie) Urban, Ed Urban, Julius Urban, Kash (Almina) Urban, Joe Urban, Clarence Bass and William (Bing) Miller.

She will be sadly missed



by all of her family including her sister, Mae (Lloyd) Arveson of International Falls, Minn.; nephews, Barry (Cheryl) Miller of Littlefork, Minn., Tim (Lisa) Urban of Bemidji, Minn., Bill (Dee) Miller of Niceville, Fla., and Brian (Steph) Mathews of Bemidji, Minn.; niece, Sue Mathews of International Falls, Minn.; brother and sisters-in-law, Hank (Audrey) Urban, Josie Urban and Nancy Urban; and many nephews and nieces.

A memorial service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday, July 19, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, International Falls.

Interment will be at Forest Hill Cemetery following the service.

Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.

Arrangements are with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

Glenn Arnold Earnest, 55

Glenn Arnold Earnest, 55, of San Jose, Calif., passed away Monday, June 17, 2013, due to a hit-and-run bicycle accident near his home in San Jose.

Glenn was born May 20, 1958, in International Falls, to Garland "Beaver"

and Alice Earnest.

He grew up in International Falls and graduated from Falls High School.

After getting a degree at the Anoka Technical College, he was offered a job in the computer industry in San Jose.

Nicholas 'Nick' Samuel Kantos, 75

Nicholas "Nick" Samuel Kantos, 75, of International Falls, Minn., passed away Saturday, July 13, 2013, at his home.

Nick was born July 20, 1937, in Chisholm, Minn.

He grew up in Hibbing, Minn., and graduated from Hibbing High School in 1955. He attended Bemidji State University and completed graduate work at the University of Wisconsin, Superior in 1965.

He moved to International Falls in 1966 where he had lived since.

Nick married Sharen Jacobson on July 11, 1959, in Chisholm.

He worked as a guidance counselor at Falls High School for 30 years, was the guidance counselor at Littlefork-Big Falls High School

for 10 years, and worked as a realtor for Island View Realty for 15 years.

He loved his family, spending time at "the" cabin, farm and condo.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting, curling and reading.

He was a member of the Elks Club, Fort Frances Curling Club, Fraternal Lodge 255, AHEPA Lodge and Minnesota School Counselors Association.

He was a past president of the Kiwanis Club and Fort Frances Curling Club, chairman of the State Counselor Conference, was a past church council member at Zion Lutheran Church and council member of Boy Scouts of America.

He enjoyed helping thousands of students achieve their career goals, while

always maintaining a professional approach and look. He was also a great friend.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel and Lina Kantos; and son-in-law, Joe Novotny.

Nick is survived by his wife, Sharen Kantos of International Falls; son, Craig (Lori) Kantos of Waupaca, Wis.; daughter, Jill Kantos of Minneapolis, Minn.; grandchildren, Cole and Parker Kantos; brothers, Tom (Rose) Kantos of International Falls and Sam (Joan) Kantos of Pequot Lakes, Minn.; numerous nieces and nephews; and also three granddogs.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the 11 a.m. memorial service Thursday, July 18, at Zion Lutheran Church.

In memoriam donations are preferred to the Com-



munity Cancer Walk, Rainy Lake Medical Center Chemotherapy Department or Zion Lutheran Church.

Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.

Arrangements are with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

Mary Jo Gerlach, 61

Mary Jo Gerlach, 61, of International Falls, Minn., died Friday, July 12, 2013, at her home.

Mary Jo was born Jan. 18, 1952, in Duluth, Minn.

She grew up in International Falls and was a lifelong resident.

She graduated from Falls High School with the Class of 1970. She then attended Itasca Technical College for two years for radiology.

The former Mary Jo Hobbins married Scott Gerlach on March 4, 1972, at St. Thomas Catholic Church.

She started work at Falls Memorial Hospital in the radiology department in 1972. She worked there until 1999, when she started at St. Mary's Clinic in International Falls.

Mary Jo was a fabulous

cook and baker. She loved traveling, especially spending time in the Caribbean. She enjoyed shopping, and collecting purses and home décor items. She took great pride in her home and finding collectibles.

She loved animals and had a special place in her heart for her three cats.

Mary Jo loved spending time with her family and friends.

She was a member of St. Thomas Church as well as a member of the Radiology Association as she was a registered radiology technician.

Mary Jo was preceded in death by her parents, Francis and Dorothy Hobbins; nephew, Allan Gerlach; father-in-law, Allan Gerlach; and grandparents, J.T. and Grace Gardner, Martin

and Catherine Hobbins, and Emma and Joe Kantor.

She is survived by husband, Scott Gerlach of International Falls; daughter, Tiffany (T.J.) McGillis of Woodbury, Minn.; granddaughter, Torun Grace; two step-grandchildren, Kelsie and Kevin; sister, Shelley (Glenn) Hedlund of Prior Lake, Minn.; mother-in-law, Adeline Gerlach of Grand Rapids, Minn.; brothers-in-law, Jim (Betty) Gerlach of Pulaski, Tenn., and Brent (Jean) Gerlach of Grand Rapids, Minn.; many nieces and nephews, and special friends that supported her through her breast cancer journey.

A Celebration of Life Mass will be conducted at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, at St. Thomas Catholic Church.

The family would prefer



memorials in her memory to the Borderland Humane Society or to Run for Hope-Homeless Shelter Project — started by her 7-year-old granddaughter, Torun Grace.

Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.

Arrangements are with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

Eugene 'Gene' Willard Percy, 89

Eugene "Gene" Willard Percy, 89, of International Falls, Minn., passed away Thursday, July 11, 2013, at his home.

Gene was born Feb. 25, 1924.

He grew up in northern Minnesota and settled in Littlefork, Minn., in 1938. In 1998, he moved to Big Falls, Minn., and then moved to International Falls in 2000 where he had lived since.

He and his father worked together and owned a road construction company where he was a Cat operator. He was also a logger and truck driver, and collected scrap iron. He had a repair shop in Littlefork where he

sold hydraulic hoses and chokers.

He married Madeline "Madge" Sampson on Sept. 23, 1947, in International Falls. They were married for 60 years.

Gene loved deer hunting and fishing. He enjoyed gardening, was very proud of his yard, and he loved mowing.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Chester and Julia Percy; wife, Madeline Percy; infant brother; one step sister; three step brothers; and two grandsons, John Paul Dougherty and Paul Francis Mismash.

Gene is survived by sons, Randy (Barbara) Butts of

Mesa, Ariz., and Willard (Patricia) Percy of Inver Grove Heights, Minn.; daughters, Sybil (Terry) Dougherty of Plymouth, Minn., Gale (David) Paulsen of Frederic, Wis., Julie (Gary) Torgerson of Cape Coral, Fla., and Audrey Mismash (Sande Anderson) of Two Harbors, Minn.; 14 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the 10 a.m. funeral service Friday, July 19, at Littlefork Lutheran Church.

Interment will be at Oakley Cemetery, Littlefork.

The family would prefer



memorials in his memory.

Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.

Arrangements are with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

Elizabeth 'Betty' Anne Miechkota, 69

Elizabeth "Betty" Anne Miechkota, 69, of International Falls, Minn., passed away Thursday, July 11, 2013, at St. Luke's Hospital, Duluth, Minn.

Betty was born Sept. 13, 1943, in Duluth.

She grew up in International Falls and graduated from Falls High School in the Class of 1961.

She went to nurse's training at La Verendrye Hospital in Fort Frances, Ontario, from 1961 to 1962, and remained in Canada until 1977.

She then returned to International Falls with her

three daughters and began work in the Insulite division of Boise Cascade until 1984. She then worked at United HealthCare until retiring in 2012.

She enjoyed gardening, took pride in the local Borderland Humane Society and was active with Cause for Paws.

She loved spending time with family and friends.

She loved her two puppies, "Sadie" and "Sidney."

She was preceded in death by her parents, and sister, Donna Rutledge.

Betty is survived by

daughters, Kim Haldorson of Duluth, Brenda (Jeff) Hamilton of International Falls, and Peggy Miechkota of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; grandchildren, Joseph and Jennifer Christie; sisters, Peggy Frykman of International Falls, Janice (Al) Butler of Duluth, Bev (Art) Beckmark of Siren, Wis., and Mary Lou (Mark) Olson of Sartel, Minn.; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial gathering was conducted from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, at Green-Larsen Mortuary, with prayer service at 6:30.



Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.

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

Detroit Lakes, Minn.; step mother, Grace (Johnsen) Earnest; several nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

A graveside service is planned for 2 p.m. Thursday, July 18, at Forest Hill Cemetery. In case of rain,

service will be moved to Green-Larsen Mortuary.

Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.

Arrangements are with Green-Larsen Mortuary, Inc.

Morris.

Glenn is survived by sisters, Marie (Todd) Morris of Lakeville, Minn., and Louise (Jerry) Dion of International Falls; brother, Delbert Earnest of International Falls; sister-in-law, Julia (Lucca) Earnest of