

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.

Charlotte May Saari, 84

Charlotte May Saari, 84, of International Falls, Minn., died Wednesday morning, March 4, 2015, at St. Luke's Health Center, Duluth, Minn.

Charlotte was born May 26, 1930, to Charles A. and Martha Hess in International Falls where she had since remained a lifelong resident.

She graduated from Falls Senior High School in 1948 and went on to attend and graduate from St. Barnabas School of Nursing in Minneapolis, Minn., in 1952.

Charlotte attended and graduated from Rainy River Community College in 1984 with an associates of arts degree.

Charlotte married Bernhard Saari Sr. in June of 1962 in International Falls at the Calvary Methodist Church.

She spent 40 years as a registered nurse working at the Falls Memorial Hospital before retiring.

Charlotte was an active member of the Faith United Church of Christ and helped in the Release Time program and Sunday School in her early years.

She was a member of the Elephant Eaters mission group, was an active member of the AARP Icebox of the North Chapter, a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and for many other charities.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and



her husband, Bernhard Sr. Charlotte is survived by sons, Bernhard (Sonia) Saari Jr. of Gulfport ,Miss., and Charles (Traci) Saari of International Falls; three grandchildren, Charlotte, Emily and Anthony.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 12, at Faith United Church of Christ, International Falls.

Visitation will be one hour prior.

Interment will be in the Veterans of Foreign Wars section of Forest Hill Cemetery, International Falls.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Faith United Church of Christ Endowment Fund or to Meals on Wheels in International Falls.

Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.

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

Kenneth Myran Bangen, 87

Kenneth Myran Bangen, 87, of International Falls, Minn., passed away peacefully Sunday, March 8, 2015, at Sanford Medical Center, Bemidji, Minn., following a brief illness.

Grampa Kenny, or Gramps, to many, was born July 28, 1927, to Sidney and Ovedia Bangen, in Wilton, Minn.

Growing up in Holler Addition of South International Falls, he loved to reminisce about his childhood shenanigans and school days there. He enjoyed many a drive-thru of the old neighborhood and could to this day name family homes on the block, as well as what went on in and around them, from way-back-when.

Kenny served overseas in the United States Army during World War II, and proudly shared many an Army story.

He was a 1945 graduate of Falls High School.

Kenny began his career as an electrician at M&O paper mill and retired from Boise Cascade as electrical supervisor after 42 years of service. Many an eyebrow

was raised as to his skills as the "color-blind electrician," but he had his own method all figured out.

On June 10, 1951, he married Elaine Mae Nelson, whom he met a couple years earlier working as a mill secretary. Although he didn't really think he had a chance with such a beauty, he took one. After 49 fun-loving years, "Nellie," as he called her, preceded him in death in 2000.

In his younger years he was a motorcycle enthusiast, traveling much of the U.S. and Canada. He loved snowmobiling, hunting and fishing, and thoroughly enjoyed telling of his adventures with his family and friends.

Cruising along in his pickup, a bit on the slower side, Kenny covered International Falls and surrounding areas along with his side kick and brother, Cam.

He was a great storyteller to anyone with an open ear, had a most humorous quick wit, didn't mince words and told it like he saw it (no matter who was around to hear). He never missed a thing. Ever.

He was a creature-of-habit — everything on schedule. His Saturday nights were spent with Lawrence Welk. For many years, he spent every morning in the same booth at the Chocolate Moose for breakfast. He rather enjoyed being spoiled.

He is survived by his daughters — Bonnie (Dave) Harris and Tammie (Kevin) Calder; grandchildren — Adam (Tara) Harris, Jacob Harris and Megan Harris, Matthew Calder (Nathalie Donaldson) and Tanner Calder (Samantha Luoma); great-grandchildren — Addison Rae Harris, Piper Jo Harris and Frederick Jace Calder; sister, Norma (Mel) Ramsey; sister-in law, Ann Bangen; and many nieces, nephews and friends. He adored each and every one of them.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents; in-laws, Harold and Ethel Nelson; and brothers, Cameron Bangen and Duane Bangen.

He was the best dad, gramps, great-gramps, brother, uncle, and friend. In his own gruff, but tender



way, he left his mark on so many. We are grateful and better for it.

His friends at River's Edge Villa became family to him and we are thankful for that.

A Celebration of Life memorial gathering is planned for 2 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at Ranier Community Building, Ranier, Minn.

Interment will be alongside his wife at Forest Hill Cemetery, International Falls.

Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.

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

Jennifer Lee Vacura, 40

Jennifer Lee Vacura passed away Feb.28, at the Sanford Medical Center in Fargo, N.D..

Jennifer, daughter of Arlen Vacura of Greenbush, Minn., and Lujean Irwin, of Motley, Minn., was born on Oct.19,1974, in Grand Forks, N.D.

Following high school, she attended the University of North Dakota and graduated with a masters degree in medical laboratory science.

At the time of her death she

was laboratory manager at Rainy Lake Medical Center in International Falls. She will be greatly missed by her co-workers and her work family.

Jennifer passed two days after being diagnosed with a brain tumor. She was 40 years of age.

Jennifer is survived by her parents; son, Zackary Vacura of Crookston; sister, Kristina (Heath) Schafer, Grand Forks, N.D.; nephew, Gene Davis, Grand Forks, N.D.;

maternal grandmother, Bettylou Stelck, Motley, Minn.; uncles and aunts, Gary (Debby) Vacura, Ervin Vacura, Mavis Gonshorowski, Brad (Renee) Irwin; several cousins; and beloved dog, Toby.

She was preceded in death by paternal grandparents, Edward Jr. and Lillian Vacura and maternal grandfather, Gene Irwin.

A private family memorial service will be held this spring when flowers again bloom.



"Goodbye Butterfly, may you soar among Angels."

Belvia Arch, 93

Belvia Arch, 93, of Los Angeles, Calif., passed away into the presence of his savior and Lord Jesus Christ Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015.

Belvia was born Feb. 18, 1921, to William B. Arch and Pearl (Torply) Arch in Oelwein, Iowa.

While still a small boy, his mother passed away and he moved with his dad to Minnesota in the mid 1920s.

Belvia's dad married Mary Brollard in International Falls in 1931. From that union came three sisters and three brothers.

During his high school

days, Belvia played the bass fiddle in a band and was nicknamed Snow Ball.

Not long after graduation from Falls High School, he joined the United States Army, serving overseas during World War II.

Belvia left the Army with an Honorable Discharge in 1945 and moved to Los Angeles, where he met and married Avonne Jackson.

He worked for the San Fernando Valley water and power department for a number of years.

In the 1960s he started driving taxi cab in Los Angeles and in 1977 he was one of the original 100

independently licensed cab drivers who formed United Independent Taxie, "The Green & White Cars."

He also played the bass fiddle in a number of night clubs over many years.

His faith in God was firm and tested through many trials over and over through the years.

Belvia is survived by his wife, Avonne; four daughters, Cheryl Leathers, Darlene Arch, Millicent Williams and Julee Arch-Graham; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; sisters, Joanne (Wally) Radbourne and Herriette Arch; brother, Larry (Son-



ja) Arch; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were conducted Tuesday, Feb. 3, in Inglewood, Calif.

www.ifallsjournal.com

BACKUS COMMUNITY CENTER
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit us – www.backusab.org – or FaceBook – Backus AB

March 15.....	Border Concert Association - "Rebecca & Kuba" 7:00 pm
March 20.....	Top the Tater Dinner, 5:00 – 6:30 pm Sponsor – McDonald's Restaurant
March 20.....	Backus Performing Arts Series – James Sewell Ballet Performance of "Guy Noir" at 7:00 pm
March 22 & 29.....	Junior Borealis Bards - "This is a Test" Performance – 2:00 pm in The Dungeon at Backus
March 27.....	Ethnic Food Festival – 5:30 – 7:00 pm
March 29.....	Borderland Musical Showcase – Concert at 3:00 pm
March 29-April 1.....	MTS Academy Connections Education 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
April 3.....	Backus Office Closed
April 10.....	Minnesota Deer Hunters Banquet 6:00 pm
April 13.....	Top the Tater Dinner, 5:00 – 6:30 pm Sponsor – Mike Katrin
April 13.....	Border Concert Association - "Six Appeal" - 7:00 pm

Community Cafe ~ Tuesdays and Thursdays
5:30 – 6:00 pm

Solution Monday – Mondays at 3:00 pm,
Board Room 103

Open Gym, Free – 3:00 – 5:00 pm
March 7, 14 & 21 – April 4, 18 & 25

Backus Performing Arts James Sewell Ballet "Guy Noir" Friday, March 20 – 7:00 pm	Ethnic Food Festival Friday, March 27 5:30 – 7:00 pm
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CITIZENS FOR BACKUS/AB

BACKUS
Community Center

(218) 285-7225 | 900 5th Street | Int'l Falls MN
www.backusab.org | Facebook: Backus AB

"Backus is fully accessible to persons with disabilities – Please call our office for specific accommodations."
218-285-7225

International Falls
Figure Skating Club

celebrates...

40

MAGICAL YEARS

Saturday March 21st 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday March 22nd 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

Come join the International Falls Figure Skating Club
Celebrating the 40th Annual Ice Show at the Broneco Arena
Advance tickets available at County Market Super One, City Drug

Sanctioned by the USFSA

City Drug

Bridal Registry

Cassie (Bramhall) Thompson & Ryan Thompson
Reception May 9, 2015

Nicole Ball & Nathan Nelson
May 16, 2015

Britni Hendrickson & Jason Gapp
May 30, 2015

Baby Shower Registry
Baby Manahan

Parents: Gina & Mike Manahan

Free gift wrapping & a large selection of Hallmark cards.

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www.citydrugstore.com
314 3rd. St.
M-Sat 8 a.m.-6 p.m.