

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. Thursdays 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.

Darlene Gail Ann Clark, 75

Darlene Gail Ann Clark, 75, of Littlefork, Minn., died Monday, May 4, 2015, at Rainy Lake Medical Center, International Falls, Minn.

Darlene was born Sept. 1, 1939, to John and Mary Plasky in Fort Frances, Ontario.

She grew up, graduated, and attended nursing school in Fort Frances and later moved to International Falls.

Darlene and Clinton Clark were wed in Reno, Nev., on April 12, 1983.

Darlene worked in the Neonatal Unit at La Verendrye General Hospital in Fort Frances as well as with the native community, Koochiching County nursing home and later for the Good Samaritan Society where she retired as a charge nurse.

Darlene loved gardening, cooking, and raising her two grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Mary; brother, John Plasky Jr.; and sister-in-law, Judy Plasky.

Darlene is survived by husband, Clinton Clark



of Littlefork; son, Brian (Laura) Clark of Littlefork; daughter, Kim (John) Pierce of Mahtomedi, Minn.; stepson, Dan (Linda) Vellieux; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brother, Larry Plasky; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

A memorial luncheon is planned for noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at the VFW in International Falls.

Memorials are preferred to Rainy Lake Medical Center Chemo Department or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.

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

Madeline Joy (Berryman) Villalta, 82

Madeline Joy (Berryman) Villalta, age 82, originally of Ranier, Minn., died Sunday, May 3, 2015, at St. Francis Hospital, Shakopee, Minn., surrounded by her family after a short battle with cancer.

Maddy raised her family in International Falls, Minn., and moved to Burnsville, Minn., in the 1990s.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Archie Villalta, who died in 1997.

She is survived by a sister, Marvel (Berryman) Blais of International Falls; and a brother, Patrick Berryman, of Sturgeon Lake, Minn. She is also survived by her children, Linda Kukowski (Allen) of Chisholm, Minn., Catherine Rocco of Burnsville, Minn., John Vil-

lalta of Monument, Colo., Joan Skifstad (Curt), of Walla Walla, Wash., and Patricia Schwob (Simon) of Minneapolis, Minn. She is also survived by 15 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Maddy and Archie were married in 1950 in International Falls.

Known for her Italian cooking and clean house, Maddy was often described as "feisty." Her kitchen table was always full of friends who were looking for a cup of coffee, her famous blueberry pie, and good conversation.

Her grandchildren will remember her spaghetti-making lessons and her friends and neighbors will remember her colossal platters of Christmas cookies. She was a strong believer of being with friends and family during

the holidays.

In the mid 1980s, Maddy worked at Falls Elementary School, where she was a teacher's aide. She loved working with the kids, and told many stories in her later days about those she remembered.

She also worked as a nurses' aide at Falls Memorial Hospital and as a waitress at the Thunderbird Lodge. More recently, Maddy worked at Sam's Club in Burnsville for several years in the late 1990s.

Maddy loved traveling, and had been to Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Alaska, Las Vegas, Hawaii, and to see family in Colorado and Washington state. Most recently she enjoyed a trip to Alaska on a cruise with 27 family members to celebrate her 80th birthday, which she called the best



birthday celebration of her life.

Even in death, Maddy's generosity shined as she donated her body to Mayo Clinic for education and research.

A memorial celebration for her family will be planned at a future date.

Her family encourages those who knew her to make donations to a charity of their choice, in her name.

FUNERALS

Gary Lee Holm, 68

Memorial services for Gary Lee Holm, 68, who passed away Monday, April 27, 2015, were conducted at 10 a.m. Friday, May 1, with full military rites at Evangelical Covenant Church, International Falls.

Visitation was held one hour prior.

Officiating was the Rev. Darren Olson.

Music was by Dave and Jill Austin.

Honorary pallbearers were Tom Holm, Jeff Dun-

bar, Pat Porter, Josh Taylor, Dennis Monrean and Larry Sundsvold.

Flag presentation was given by Wayne Sampson and Terry Randolph.

Interment was at Forest Hill Cemetery, International Falls.

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

James Arthur Sirois, 77

A Celebration of Life for James Arthur Sirois, 77, of International Falls, who

died Sunday, April 26, 2015, was conducted from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at Elks Lodge 1599, with a Service of Remembrance at 3.

Officiating was Fr. Ben Hadrich.

Music was by Joe Belanger and Joy Grantham.

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

Robert Dwight Smalley, 66

Memorial services for Robert Dwight Smalley, 66, who died Friday, April

10, 2015, were conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 2, with visitation at 10, at Green-Larsen Mortuary, International Falls.

Officiating was Hospice Chaplain Pat Bjorum.

Music was by Ben Sundin and Erik George.

Honorary pallbearers were Jim Lucca, Danny Carr, Steve Rutkowski, Harley Droba, Rick Houghlum, Dennis Vohler and Tom Eck.

Interment will be at Forest Hill Cemetery, International Falls.

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

RLMC Auxiliary honors volunteers

BY MARGUERITE DAVISON

Chief executive officer of Rainy Lake Medical Center, Dan Odegaard, was the guest speaker at the annual spring luncheon of the Rainy Lake Medical Center Auxiliary. He spoke of the many "exciting" changes and renovations taking place at the facility. RLMC auxiliary volunteers were honored at the April 30 event at the AmericInn.

RLMC Auxiliary presi-

dent Beverly Beck led in the prayer for hospital auxiliaries. Bea Brown, auxiliary volunteer director, presented the following awards: 100-hour pins to Beth Johnson, Josephine Johnson, Joan Pearson and Linda Tiland; 500-hour pins were awarded to Mary Ann Lien, Carol Vohler and Bea Brown; 100-hour pins to Sonia Wegge, Carolyn McDougal and Helen Bilig; and a 3,000-hour went to Rose Morin.

President Beck presented a check for \$5,000 to CEO Odegaard who thanked the auxiliaries for all their work.

Lifetime memberships were awarded to Sadie Darvell, Joan Frick and Lavern Geer.


Last, but definitely not least, Donita Ettestad, chief nursing officer, awarded the very surprised Connie Lacher as Auxilian of the Year. Ettestad read the nominating letters of praise written by Chris Polus, Gail DeVall and

Melanie Waskul.

Auxilian Kelly Millerbernd thanked the members and, in turn, Brown thanked Millerbernd for all her hard work.

As a tradition, the afternoon ended with a solo by Margarete Kostiuik, singing "God Bless Our Volunteers."

The program noted a quotation by Sherry Anderson: "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."



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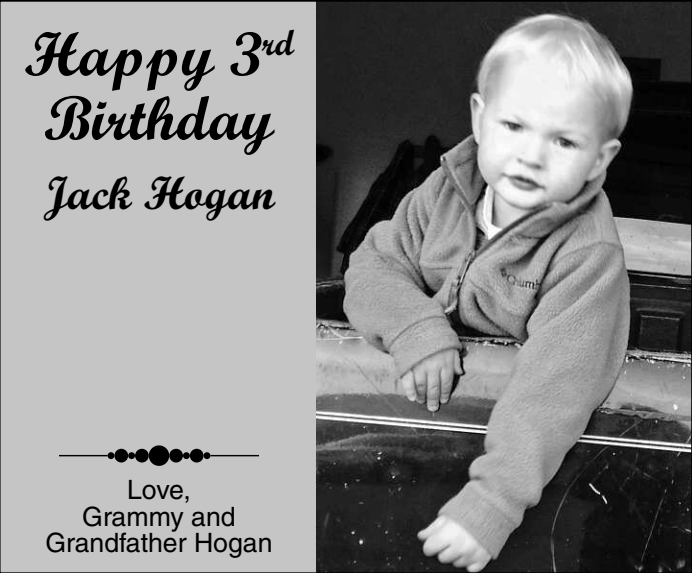
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Happy 3rd Birthday
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Love,
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