# 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.

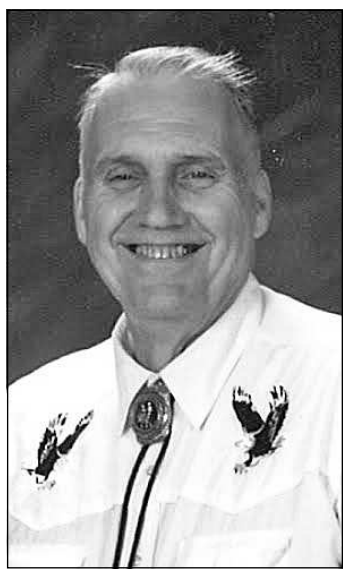
Obituaries can be faxed to the Journal at 285-7206; e-mailed to tammiec@ifallsjournal.com; or mailed to The Journal at 1602 Highway 71, International Falls, MN 56649.

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.

# Dennis William Bush, 72



Dennis William Bush, 72, of Loman, Minn., born May 19, 1941, passed away Tuesday, March 18, 2014, at his home with family by his side, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

He was born and raised in the Littlefork, Minn., area.

Dennis was a devout Christian, a great listener, and confident speaker.

His greatest attribute and what he was most remembered for was his ready smile.

Dennis graduated with honors and was a class valedictorian from Littlefork High School.

He attended St. Olaf College and also the University of Minnesota.

He worked at numerous places, including Boise Cascade in International Falls and St. Helens, Ore.

Dennis' many passions included camping, the Gideons, and his many different groups that he belonged to and chaired.

After being introduced to square dancing, it became one of his greatest passions. He was always promoting square dancing wherever he went.

Dennis leaves behind his loving wife of 20 years, Annette, and her six children; his children, Sherri, Dennis Jr., Mike, Kristi, Kenny, Chisa and Matthew; and stepchildren, Johnny, Lisa and Tommy. Dennis deeply loved each and every one of them. He also leaves behind his brother, Larry and his wife, Dianne and their two children, Laurie and Brian; and numerous grandchildren.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Hazel and Harry Bush, and his grandparents.

Visitation was one hour prior to the 11 a.m. funeral service Friday, March 21, at Littlefork Lutheran Church.

Interment is at Riverside Cemetery, Loman.

Many thanks go out to Dr. Havens, Fairview North Star Hospice, many nurses, volunteers, Pastor Andy Berry, and all family and friends who selflessly helped out during Dennis' illness. The entire family wishes to thank each and every one of these wonderful people.

In memoriam donations may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com.

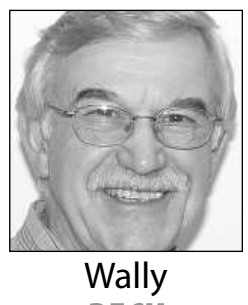
Arrangements were with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

## ROTARY GUEST

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Wyatt LaVigne, doctor of physical therapy and certified athletic trainer, was the guest of Rotarian Kathy Hultman at a recent meeting of the International Falls Rotary Club. LaVigne, physical therapist and athletic trainer at Rainy Lake Medical Center, gave a presentation on concussion management.**

# Wood ashes for the garden



Wally PECK

MASTER GARDENER

One thing we have after a winter like this is a lot of wood ash! Questions Master Gardeners get asked are: Does wood ash help the garden? And how much wood ash can I put on the garden?

Wood ashes can benefit the soil in vegetable gardens and flower beds; however, they can also do harm that will last for years if improperly applied. It is very important to know your starting point when applying wood ash. Use ashes that come from firewood only, never from treated lumber, plywood, or manufactured boards.

When wood burns, nitrogen and sulfur are lost as gas and what remains contains calcium, potassium and many other trace elements necessary to plant growth. Ash contains around 3 percent potassium by weight, more if you burn all hardwood. Potassium, also known as potash, is the K in NPK, the way fertilizers are sold.

When wood ash comes in contact with water, potassium hydroxide is formed. This compound is highly alkaline and has the potential to raise the pH of the soil very quickly. It is the same as putting limestone on your garden or flower bed. The difference is that ash works very quickly, whereas limestone takes much longer. So it is very important to know the pH of the soil you are putting ashes on.

If the pH of your soil is 6.5 or higher, avoid using wood ashes. In fact, wood ash can push the alkalinity so high that some plants will not grow at all. Some examples are blueberries, azaleas or potatoes. If you like scabby potatoes, put on wood ash! Soils in this area range greatly from sandy, acid soils to alkaline, clay soils.

So test your soil first or get a soil test done. Bags are available at the Extension Office on the Beltrami Fairgrounds for sampling your garden, flower bed or lawn. The results will let you know the soil's texture, what the nutrient levels are, the pH, and how much of which nutrient to add to the garden, flower bed or lawn. If your levels of potassium are already high, wood ashes will not be beneficial.

Wood ashes can also be used to repel insects, slugs, or snails. Sprinkled around the base of shrubs and plants, ash draws water from their bodies and kills or repels them. Used too often, it will raise the soil pH too high so caution is needed. Different perennials and shrubs require soils with varying pH levels. Again, do not use ash on acid-loving perennials.

Wood ashes will also help the compost bin by maintaining a neutral condition so the heap does not go acidic. Sprinkle a little between layers of compost as your pile builds.

Do not use wood ash directly on gardens that are newly planted. When seedlings contact wood ash, the salts and alkalinity may kill the seedlings. It is better to sprinkle broadly and rake in well before planting. Never exceed 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet of garden. It is easy to use too much. Oh yes — wear a dust mask and gloves.

The Jug Liquor's
Spring
START-UP SALE
Saturday, March 22 thru Saturday, March 29

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24 pk. cans
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Windsor
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1.75
$14.99

Miller High Life Light
24 pk. cans
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Korbel
Brandy
1.75
$16.99

Pabst
24 pk.
12 oz. cans
$15.49

Kahlua
Midnight
750 & Liter
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Buy One Get One FREE

Miller Lite
24 pk. cans
$17.99

Bogle Wines
Cab, Pinot Noir, Chard, Merlot
750
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# Franken seeks entrants to poetry contest for students

## Contest theme is 'Celebrating the Veteran in My Life'

**SEN. AL FRANKEN STAFF REPORT**

In recognition of the Month of the Military Child and National Poetry Month in April, U.S. Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., announced he is hosting his third annual poetry contest for Minnesota students. The theme of this year's contest is "Celebrating the Veteran in My Life."

"With the Iraq war over and America's role in Afghanistan winding down, there are thousands of students all across Minnesota who truly understand the sacrifices veterans and their families have made for our country," Franken said.

"Some of them are children of current service members, while others know men and women who have served. This poetry contest will allow students to honor those veterans and to put into their own words what those sacrifices have meant to them."

The contest is open to all children of military families in Minnesota grades kindergarten through 12, with three age categories: Kindergarten to sixth grade; seventh to ninth grades; and 10th to 12th grades.

Winners will be chosen in each age category. Those selected will receive an invitation to attend a reception at Franken's St. Paul office. Guests include Franken; Minnesota Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Larry Shellito; Minnesota Poet Laureate Joyce Sutphen; Minnesota National Guard Major General Rick Nash; and Minnesota Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius.

Top winning poems in each category will be framed and displayed in Franken's offices in St. Paul or Washington, D.C. The overall winner in each age group will receive an autographed book by famed Minnesota author Garrison Keillor.

Those wishing to participate in Franken's poetry contest should submit a poem by April 18 to poetry@franken.senate.gov or by mail to: Office of Sen. Al Franken, c/o 'Poetry Contest', 60 Plato Blvd. E., Suite 220, St. Paul, MN 55107.

Participants may submit only one entry, with a maximum word count of 250 words. Each entry must include the name of the child, the parent/guardian's name, a phone number, and the name of the child's school. Clearly indicate the participant's age category.