

# COMMUNITY

## A LOOK AT BORDERLAND

The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community.  
Call the Journal at 285-7411

### Thomas R. Vellieux, 80

Thomas R. Vellieux, age 80, of St. Paul, Minn., passed away Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013, at Sholom Home East and Hospice Care, St. Paul. Born Feb. 16, 1933, in International Falls, Minn., he attended St. Thomas Aquinas grade school and Falls High School. After high school he traveled to St. Paul to find work. Soon thereafter he met Beverly Bowers and they became best of friends traveling around the state with the FOK Drum and Bugle Corps. Tom played the xylophone and Bev played the snare drums. They married in 1955 and

had six children. Tom initially worked for Pepsi Cola and then became a truck driver for Hawkins Chemicals. He eventually finished his career with Sperry Univac (Unisys). His interests included music, sports (especially hockey) and his pet dogs. The Falls was always dear to him where he would spend his summer vacations with family. He is survived by his children — Shelly (Gunner) Schiltgen, Tommy (Christine), Denise Hauer, Guy (Joan,) Gary and Greg; eight grandchildren — Dustin (Deanna), Angie, Matt,

Brittney, Carena (Mike), Steve, Melissa and Lauren; seven great-grandchildren — Zach, Isabella, Blair, Alexa, Kayden, Finnegan and Basil; two sisters, Doris Ann Halverson of International Falls and Mary Lou (Larry) Schaaf of Faribault Minn.; and sister-in-law, Donna Vellieux of International Falls. He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Frances; siblings, Robert, Gloria and Ronald; and brothers-in-law, Leonard Gordon and Cubby Halverson. Mass of Christian Burial is planned for 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 27, at Church of the As-



sumption, St. Paul. Interment will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at Forest Hill Cemetery, International Falls. A family and friend gathering will follow at 4 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, with a Mass at 5.

### Michael Wayne Dagen, 39

Michael Wayne Dagen, 39, of Bemidji, Minn., died Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013, at his home. Memorial services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27, at Cease Funeral Home, Blackduck, Minn., with Pastor Tom Reagan officiating. Inurnment will be in Lakeview Cemetery, Blackduck. He was born July 1, 1974, in International Falls, Minn., to Wayne and Nancy

(Higgins) Dagen. He grew up and attended school in International Falls, graduating in 1992. He attended Winona Tech before moving to Scottsdale, Ariz., where he worked for Delta Cargo for several years. He returned to the Falls and later moved to Grand Forks, N.D., where he worked for Hugo's and Menard's. He moved to Bemidji in May of 2013 and had worked for Menard's.

He enjoyed fishing, online gaming and deer and grouse hunting. He enjoyed his vehicles and spending time with his three nieces. He is survived by his sister, Melissa (Max) Gullette of Blackduck; three nieces, Kaydre, Rayni and Farah; two aunts; an uncle; and numerous cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Wayne and Nancy. Messages of condolence



may be sent to ceasefuneralhome.com.

### Opal D. Tessier

Opal D. Tessier, of International Falls, Minn., passed away Monday, Sept. 23, 2013, at Ridgeview As-

sisted Living. A memorial service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at St. Thom-

as Catholic Church. A complete obituary will follow. Condolences may be left

at www.greenlarsen.com. Arrangements are with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

### Duane 'Dewey' Bangen, 81

Duane "Dewey" Bangen, 81, of Fridley, Minn., passed away Friday, Sept. 20, 2013. Dewey was a life member of Fridley Veterans of Foreign Wars 363.

He is survived by his wife, Ann; children, Michael (Lynn) Bangen, Brian (Jackie) Bangen and Michelle Juszak; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brother,

Kenny Bangen and sister, Norma Ramsey, both of International Falls, Minn. He was preceded in death by his parents, Sidney and Ovedia; and brother, Cameron.

A memorial service is planned for 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, with visitation one hour prior, at St. Philip's Lutheran Church, 6180 Highway 65, Fridley.

### Joanne Parson, 72

Joanne Parson, 72, of Littlefork, Minn., formerly of Big Falls, Minn., passed away Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013, at Littlefork Care Center. Joanne was born March 25, 1941, in International Falls, Minn. She grew up in International Falls. Joanne enjoyed crochet-

ing, preparing meals for family and friends, gardening and picking berries, traveling, and going to casinos. She was preceded in death by her husband, Valent Parson; parents, John and Doris Bishop; son, Andrew Parson; brothers, Gary Bishop and Jeffrey Bishop; and sister, Marlene Fleagle. Joanne is survived by

children, Patrick (Danille) Parson of Everett, Wash., Amy Messmer of Sturgis, S.D., Valerie Parson of Backus, Minn., and Rocky Parson of Chisholm, Minn.; grandchildren — Alicia, Katie Jo, Rachael, Michele, Mandy, Sabrina, Zach, Daisy, Rocky Jr., Timmy, Robert and James; numerous great-grandchildren; and sister, Virginia

(Marty) Werner. A Celebration of Life is planned for 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27, at Green-Larsen Mortuary. Interment will be at Evergreen Cemetery, Big Falls. Condolences may be left at www.greenlarsen.com. Arrangements are with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

#### 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.

### Jon Jan Reiners, 77

Jon Jan Reiners, 77, of Black Diamond, Wash., passed away peacefully Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013, at his home overlooking Lake Sawyer. He is survived by two daughters, Holly Bowden and Robin Espinosa; and two grandchildren, Caitlin Jean and Cameron Jon. Jon was born to Walter and Heloise (Lemmon) Reiners March 19, 1936, in International Falls, Minn., and the loving husband to his wife Carol Jean (Haro) Reiners of Chisholm Minn., until her passing in 2004. He retired from Kenworth Truck Company with over 30 years of dedicated service. Viewing will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29, at High Road Church, 25610 Lawson St., Black Diamond, followed by his service beginning at 3.



Reception for family and friends will follow at the Black Diamond Eagles Club, 32618 Railroad Ave., Black Diamond. Burial will take place at 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 30, 2013, at the Black Diamond Cemetery, 24431 Morgan St., Black Diamond. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Providence Hospice of Seattle, 425 Pontius Ave. N., Seattle WA 98109; www.providence.org/hospiceof-seattle.

#### FUNERAL

##### John Lloyd Wenberg, 92

A Celebration of Life service for John Lloyd Wenberg, 92, of International Falls, who died Saturday, Sept. 14, 2013, at Good Samaritan Society-International Falls, was conducted at 1 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, at Zion Lutheran Church. John served in the United States Army in the South Pacific during World War II. Military rites were accorded by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars club and flag presentation was by Wayne Sampson. Presiding minister was the Rev. Stephen Olson with John's nephew and godson, the Rev. Gary Sartain, as

preacher and eulogist. Donna Barg, accompanied by Joe Belanger, sang the solos "Softly and Tenderly" and "Just a Closer Walk With Thee." A luncheon followed the service in the church parlors served by the church women. Interment was in the VFW section of Forest Hill Cemetery next to his wife, Betty Jane Wenberg, who died in March 2013. Margarete Kostiuik sang "Nearer My God to Thee" at the cemetery. Condolences may be left at the online guestbook at www.greenlarsen.com. Arrangements were with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

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Backus is fully accessible to persons with disabilities – please call our office for specific accommodations.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Additional funding from the Marshall N. Knudson Family Community Fund.

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