

OBITUARIES

Kathleen Kobs

Kathleen 'Kathy' Sharon Kobs died at the age of 84 at home, with daughter, Kris, by her side on June 11, 2022. She also had a wonderful week with her son and then grandson prior to her departure to her final destination.



Kathy is preceded in death by her husband, Don Kobs; and is survived by her daughter, Kris; son, Kurt; daughter-in-law, Ginger and their son, Hunter; her grandson, Kurt; and two great grandchildren, Audrina and Troy.

Kathy taught at the Edmonds School District for over 30 years. She retired and moved to her beloved home in Minnesota in 1997 with her husband, Don. They engaged in many activities together including square dancing, dinner parties, volunteering, stain glass class, yoga, and having family/friends back to the lake. After Don's death she stayed on at her home in the woods solo and continued to enjoy visits from friends and family, volunteering at the Pine River Backus Elementary, working in her garden and going kayaking, she learned to use some of Don's tools and made a few woodshop projects, continued with her Shutterfly projects, even took lessons to operate the pontoon boat. She travelled solo to Germany as well.

Kathy was diagnosed with cancer just prior to the pandemic and came to live with her daughter and grandson in Washington for additional support. She adored the company of family and friends until she made her move back to Minnesota early April.

Kathy had a long love for her place in the woods, calling it her Shangri-La. Her goal was to be there at the end of her days. Her goal was achieved. She had a good time taking pontoon rides, visiting with friends and family during this time at her beloved home.

Kathy's family plans to have a celebration of life at a later date. If you would like to memorialize her, please send a donation in her name to the following organization of your choice:

Pine River Backus Schools, Attn: Jolene Bengtson, PO Box 610, Pine River, MN 56474 (provides scholarships to students who have a host of challenges in life); Faith in Action for Cass County, PO Box 152, Hackensack, MN 56452 (provides rides to people who don't drive); Pine River Area Food Shelf, PO Box 1, Pine River, MN 56474 (provides food to people in need in the Pine River Area).

Arrangements with Kline Funeral Home, Pine River.

Robert Stephan



Robert "Bob" Stephan, age 80, of Pequot Lakes, passed away on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at his home. He was born to Arthur and Hazel Stephan on January 11, 1942, in Riceville, Iowa. Bob proudly served in the U.S. Army from August of 1960 to August of 1980. He served in Vietnam, Germany and Korea and obtained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 2 (CW2).

Bob is survived by his wife, Kathleen; son, Chad (Jennifer); grandchildren, Madison and Savannah; sisters: Linda Baseman (Grant), Carol Lorence (Bill Thomas), Judy Stilipek (Jim); brother, Steve (Kitty); and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Garry (Sue).

Services will be 11 AM on Friday, July 8, at Pleasant Hill Community Church, rural Pequot Lakes. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 PM on Thursday, July 7, at Kline Funeral Home, Pine River, and one hour prior to the service at the church. Committal Service will be on Monday, July 11 at Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Camp Ripley.

Cynthia Mercer-Nelson



Cindy passed away at home Thursday, June 23rd surrounded by family. Most of you will remember her as a charismatic community member always ready to lend her capable hands to any project and help anyone in need. Her tender heart and love for all living things shined through in her green thumb (some of you may remember the tomato lady), and her love of animals knew no bounds, even being expansive enough to include conducting snapping turtle rescues with the trusty shovel she traveled with for that exact purpose. In her free time, you could find her socializing with friends and family, talking business strategy or kayaking a local lake, always keen to take in the beauty surrounding her. Although she will be missed by many, we encourage everyone to consider our luck that fate allowed our paths to cross with such an incredible person, even if all too briefly.

Her Celebration of Life will be held July 18th at 2 p.m. for any that wish to join at Timberwood Church in Nisswa.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Pequot Lakes.

Kevin Loren Holm

Kevin Loren Holm, age 58, of Glendive, MT, formerly of Bemidji, MN, died Friday, June 24, 2022 at Billings Clinic Hospital, Billings, MT with his loving children and sister & brother-in-law at his side.

Kevin Loren Holm was born on May 11, 1964 in Buffalo, Wyoming to Loren & Margit (Dörnor) Holm. He spent his early childhood in Buffalo then his family moved to Backus, MN where he met the love of his life, Dawn Plehal. Kevin married Dawn on November 19, 1982. They raised their 3 daughters in Bemidji, MN. He graduated from Staples Technical College in 1987 for diesel/heavy equipment mechanics. Kevin worked for Beltrami Industrial Services for 20 years, ending in 2007. He moved to Williston, ND in 2007 to work for Halliburton during the oil boom. After Halliburton, he moved to Glendive, MT to work for Gibbs Crane Service until his death.

He is survived by his daughters, Trina Holm of Bemidji, MN, Trista (Chris) Holm-Gundel of Murfreesboro, TN and Trish (Michael) Jedlicka of Kenai, AK. Siblings: Karen (Tom) Bristow, Katy (Steve) Botz, Kyle (Pam) Holm. Mother-in-law Shirley Plehal. Brother-in-law Steve (Kathy) Plehal. 7 grandchildren, Hayden Jedlicka, Alex Olson, Rory Jedlicka, Alana Hummel, Andrew Olson, Adam Olson, and Aubrey Hummel.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife Dawn Holm; parents Loren & Margit Holm; brother Keel Holm; father-in-law James Plehal.

Memorial service pending.



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LOOKING BACK

50 years ago, July 6, 1972

Hackensack's Paul Bunyan Sweetheart Day parade is set to consist of 60 to 80 parade units.

The Echo conducts a "Name the Loon" contest, in which the winning selection chooses the official name for the Loon in the paper's logo. The winner also receives a free five-year subscription.

40 years ago, July 8, 1982

Pequot Lakes' Bean Hole celebrates its "at least 30 years" anniversary, as the city struggles to pinpoint when festivities actually began.

(PHOTO) Ed Burger catches a 7-pound walleye on the southern end of Cross Lake.

25 years ago, July 10, 1997

Brian Sandell is hired as Pequot Lakes' newest police officer.

The inaugural "Grandpa's Run for the Walleye" takes place in Crosslake.

10 years ago, July 5, 2012

Pequot Lakes City Council member Cathy Malecha resigns, citing personal reasons.

The Nisswa Lightning clinch the Victory League North Division title with an 11-1 win over Cuyuna Range.

- Compiled by Dan Determan, Staff Writer

PAGES FROM THE PAST

60 years ago, July 6, 1962

(Headline) Nisswa Summer Theatre opened Tuesday for the season

Crow Wing State Park, covering 1,255 acres at the confluence of the Mississippi and Crow Wing rivers, will be dedicated at a flag raising ceremony Sunday, July 8.

50 years ago, July 6, 1972

(Headline) Carl Anderson is elected new chairman of school board.

The Reverend Dudley

JOURNAL

Keach, formerly pastor of the Winnebago Charge is the new minister here of the First Methodist Church.

(Photo) Art Deshayes, Emily artist, was recently commissioned to do three generations of family portraits for Mrs. Anna Mae Hooks, a summer resident from Chicago.

- Compiled by Travis Grimler, Staff Writer

BIRTHS

Essentia Health-St. Joseph's Medical Center, Brainerd

Peyton and Brandi Nelson, Brainerd, a girl, Nova Rae, 6 pounds, 1 ounce, June 3, 2022. Grandparents are Jason and Stacy, Crosby, Kelly and Jacoby Kelm, Pine River, Amber Goninan, St. Cloud, and Timothy Vian, Texas.

Jon Mobeck and Sarah Ramirez, Crosslake, a boy, Grayson John Ramirez Mobeck, 6 pounds, 15 ounces, June 3, 2022. Grandparents are Kathy and Jaime

Ramirez, Pismo Beach, California, and Ruth and John Mobeck, St. Louis Park.

Derek and Brittany Sonenstahl, Backus, a boy, Beckett Lee, 8 pounds, 7 ounces, June 12, 2022. Grandparents are Bill and Amy Erickson, Walker, and Darren and Donna Sonenstahl, Backus.

Lakewood Health System, Staples

Ashley and Dylan Delong, Pine River, a girl, Mazi Armella, 7 pounds, 12 ounces, June 21, 2022.

Pelican Lake Conservation Club makes donation



Contributed

The Pelican Lakes Conservation Club donated \$3,900 to the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office on June 9 to buy a thermal imaging camera. The camera will mount on a vehicle near where a spotlight would go on the K-9 truck to be used for search and rescue. Accepting the donation are Sheriff Scott Goddard, left, Deputy Tyler O'Brien and K-9 Roxa with Pelican Lakes Conservation Club President Jim Fogarty.

Nisswa Lions taking orders for peaches

NISSWA — The Nisswa Lions Club is expecting delivery of peaches for their annual peach sale the last week in July.

Those who want a box of peaches may purchase one for \$40 each. The club will take cash or check, no cards.

Peaches may be picked up at the Nisswa Fire Hall at 25636 Main St. in downtown Nisswa.

More information is available by calling 218-963-2620 or by following the Nisswa Lions Club Facebook event.

Essentia Health offers COVID-19 vaccine for children under 5

BRAINERD — Essentia Health pediatricians encourage COVID-19 vaccination of children ages 6 months through 4 years after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that everyone in this age group should receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

"COVID-19 has been one of the biggest public health threats in a century, with millions of people tragically losing their lives prematurely across the globe," Dr. Jonathan KenKnight, an Essentia pediatrician, said in a news release.

"Now that COVID vaccinations for children above 6 months old have been approved, we can help prevent serious illness and hospitalization among our youngsters," he said. "We urge you to reach out to your pediatrician or family practice provider to discuss vaccination opportunities for your child."

The CDC's approval follows guidance from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, as well as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Essentia will administer the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for this age group in a three-dose series.

The initial two doses are administered three weeks apart followed by a third dose given at least eight weeks after the second dose.

At Essentia, vaccination appointments are required and can be made with the child's primary care provider or pediatrician. Schedule through the MyChart patient portal (preferred) or by calling 833-494-0836.

Appointment availability will vary by location.

Essentia Health recognizes that parents may be wondering if vaccination is the right thing for their child. Accordingly, they encourage parents to reach out to their child's primary care provider or pediatrician with any questions or concerns.

Brainerd High School Class of 1981 announces August reunion

BRAINERD — The Brainerd High School Class of 1981 reunion will be Saturday, Aug. 6 at Dunmire's on the Lake (formerly Iven's on the Bay and Northern Cowboys).

Cocktail hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner is \$30 per person through pre-registration and \$40 (cash only) per person at the door. Meals sold at the door are limited.

Dinner includes a chicken, steak and shrimp pasta buffet;

Caesar salad and dessert.

To register, send a check or cashier's check to Class of 1981 to BHS Class of 1981, Brainerd MN 56401. Include a note or check memo with the names of attendees. The registration deadline is Friday, July 22.

Class members can join the Facebook group Brainerd MN Class of 1981.

Questions can be directed to Trudi Bjork at brainerdclass1981@gmail.com.