



Obituaries

Donald Kozitka

Donald Jay Kozitka, 78, of Staples, died, July 9, 2009 at the Lakewood Health System Care Center in Staples.

Funeral services were held July 13, at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Staples with Rev. Muriel Hachfeld officiating. Burial was in the Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples.

Arrangements were with the Brenny Funeral Home in Staples.

Donald was born July 12, 1931 in Staples, to Conrad and Viola (Lehmann) Kozitka. After his schooling he entered the U.S. Army serving his country in Guam and Korea, where he earned the Bronze Star during the Korean War.

Returning to Minnesota Don worked for a variety of companies including the Ford company, a paper plant in St. Paul and Burlington Northern Railroad until his retirements. He enjoyed working with wood and especially loved to be with his children and grandchildren camping and fishing.

Don is survived by two sons, Donald R. "Butch" Kozitka, of Staples; Duane (Natalie) Kozitka, of Zimmerman; six daughters, Dawn Reiersen, of St. Cloud; Ann (Denny) Rach, of Aitkin; Susan Paul, of St. Cloud; Carol (Gary) Larson, of Browerville; Patty Kozitka, of Aitkin; Belinda Kozitka, of Staples; one sister, Grace Stewart, two brothers, Jerry McArdle, and David McArdle; 12 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, his foster family, Clarence and Christine Thornquist and their two sons, Delose and Donald.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Eva Medeck; Shirley Kozitka Oltman; two brothers, Raymond Kozitka and Harold Kozitka.

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Life Currents now online at www.staplesworld.com

50th SURPRISE Birthday Party for Tim Miller!
Saturday, July 18, 7:30 p.m.
Gary's Place, Staples

Happy 90th Birthday, Mom!
July 18, 1919 - July 18, 2009
We all love you
Carol and Keith, Charlie, Margery and Ken, Margaret and Kenny, 7 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 5 great-great grandchildren.

Erma White



Erma Vera White, 91, of Verndale, died July 7, 2009 at the Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples.

Funeral services were held July 11, at the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Verndale with Pastors Daryl Jacobson and Brian Harris officiating. Burial was in the Wing River Union Cemetery in rural Bluegrass.

Arrangements were with the Johnson Memorial Home in Wadena.

Erma was born Sept. 1, 1917 to James E. and Margaret M. (Rappensparger) Crabtree in Tenstrike. She attended Quiring School in Beltrami County. She was employed at Baudora Nursery. On Oct. 4, 1941, she married Leonard E. White in Wadena.

Erma served as a mem-

ber of the Women's Prayer Fellowship of the Verndale Alliance Church and the Hope Chapel Alliance Church. As a homemaker her hobbies and interests included gardening, sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilting, rug-making, candy-making and baking.

Erma is survived by her three sons, Charles (Donna) of Verndale; Gene (Linda) of Sebeka; William (Connie) of Portland, Ore.; two daughters, Inez (Kermit) Line, Ruth (Randy) Steinkopf, both of Verndale; one son-in-law, David Steinkopf of Champlin; 18 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; one daughter, Eva Steinkopf; one brother, Everett Crabtree; and three sisters, Martha TenEyck, Della Butts, and Eva Coe.

Honorary pallbearers were Erma's granddaughters, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Pallbearers were Edwin White, Roger White, Leroy Line, Bradley Line, Daniel White, Jayson Steinkopf, Michael Steinkopf and Leonard Steinkopf.

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Rosa Johnson



Rosa Johnson, 100, of Staples, died July 12, 2009 at Lakewood Health System Hospital, Staples.

Funeral services are at 11 a.m., on Thursday, July 16, at Faith Lutheran Church with Rev. Stephen Sveom officiating. Burial will follow services at Poplar Cemetery in Leader. There will be a lunch following burial at the Leader Community Hall.

Arrangements are with the Brenny Funeral Home in Staples.

Rosa was born July 27, 1908, in Bemidji, to Thomas and Rosetta (Beaumont) Wold. After graduating high school in 1926, Rosa taught school for a number of years. She married Clifford Johnson in 1932. She enjoyed following her children's sporting events, bingo, fishing, reading, crossword puzzles, board games, playing cards, especially 500 and pinochle.

Rosa is survived by one daughter, Lucille (Walter) Sowers; one son, Leon (Lona) Johnson; three sisters, Lillian Valenzuela; Betty (John) Sunde; Barbara (Tom) Mills; one brother, Thomas; 12 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

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Robert Kurpius

Robert "Bob" Kurpius, 76, of White Bear Lake, died at his home on July 13, 2009.

Funeral services are Thursday, July 16, at 10:30 a.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake; visitation Weds., July 15 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Johnson-Peterson Funeral Home, 2130 2nd St., White Bear Lake.

Bob was born Aug. 19, 1932, in Staples to Anthony and Mabel (Fitzgerald) Kurpius. He graduated from Staples High School Class of 1950. He graduated from the U of M with a degree in engineering and also spent two years studying at Yale. Bob also served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy.

On June 17, 1967, Bob married Marilyn Stern in St. Paul. They made their home in White Bear Lake, while Bob worked as an engineer for the MN Dept. of Transportation for 34 years.

Bob is survived by his wife; one daughter, Jayne one son, Joel; all of White Bear Lake; two sisters, Betty Belling; Dorothy (Dot) Kyllingstad; both of Staples; one brother, Terry Kurpius of Wildwood, Fla.; and many extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; father and mother-in-law; and one brother-in-law.

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James Holtzman

James D. Holtzman, 62, of Staples, died July 10, 2009 at his home.

A memorial gathering for Jim is planned for Thursday, July 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Brenny Funeral Home in Staples.

Arrangements are with Brenny Funeral Home in Staples.

Friends are welcome to attend a reception at Lefty's after the memorial gathering.

Jim was born Feb. 18, 1947. He was a Vietnam Veteran and a member of



Staples Fire Department for many years.

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Anniversary

60 years

Don and Mary Burrows celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at Dower Lake on July 11. Attending the celebration were 70 of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Engagement

Ohrmundt, Helmin

Danny Ohrmundt, son of Bob and Sue Ohrmundt of Wadena; and Jenny Helmin, daughter of Dave and Ruth Helmin of Milaca, announce their engagement.

Danny is a 2002 graduate of Wadena-DC and Jenny is a 2003 graduate from Milaca.

An August 29, 2009 wedding is planned at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wade-



na. The couple will reside in Verndale.

Student achievements

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD has named the following local students to its dean's list in recognition of academic achievement, spring semester, 2009:

• Jason Borgstrom, Pillager; Jordan Houselog, Staples; Zachary Johnson, Motley; Kassie Martin, Staples; Jennifer Mueller, Staples; o Dominic Squires, Motley.

Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL INCLUDED:

Born to Joshua and Stephanie LaVack of Backus, a baby girl, Riley Belle, weighing seven pounds 15 ounces on July 6, 2009.

Born to Cody and Amanda Robinson of Motley, a baby girl, Korianna Jolee, weighing seven pounds five ounces on July 7, 2009.

Born to Eric and Jessica Eisel of Browerville, a baby boy, Troy Grant, weighing nine pounds two ounces on July 7, 2009.

Born to Jonathan and Jamie Schneider of Pine River, a baby girl, Sophia Anne, weighing six pounds on July 8, 2009.

Born to Nathan and Erin Tomlinson of Motley, a baby boy, Joseph Nathan, weighing eight pounds nine ounces on July 8, 2009.

Born to Kyle Frisk and Amie Neelan of Motley, a baby boy, Owen Timothy, weighing four pounds 11 ounces on July 8, 2009.

Born to Christopher Williams and Danielle Hanson of Crosby, a baby girl, Layla Diane, weighing six pounds three ounces on July 9, 2009.

Born to Chad and Maureen Crenna of Brainerd, a

baby girl, Kendal Jo, weighing seven pounds 14 ounces on July 10, 2009.

Born to Ryan Richards and Jaime Stockman of Pine River, a baby girl, Brea Marie, weighing six pounds 12 ounces on July 12, 2009.

Born to Bradley and Colleen Mulhollland of Pequot Lakes, a baby boy, Francis Ray, weighing eight pounds 10 ounces on July 12, 2009.

Born to Steve and Kimberly Becker of Verndale, a baby girl, Isabelle Rose, weighing seven pounds 11 ounces on June 10, 2009 at Tri-County Hospital in Wadena.

She is welcomed home by her big sister Morgan and big brother Jacob.

Born to Melodie Pope and Brian Peterson of Wadena, a baby boy, Bryant Zane, weighing six pounds five ounces on July 1, 2009. at Tri-County Hospital in Wadena.

Born to Lonnie and Kaylene DeWald of Staples, a baby boy, Carson Loyal, weighing eight pounds, four ounces, on July 6, 2009, at Tri-County Hospital, Wadena.

Student Achievements

CHAD BREVER, Staples, has earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

BERNADETTE SHAFFER, Staples, was named to the dean's list at St. Olaf College, Northfield, for the spring 2009 semester. She is the daughter of Bob and Kathy Shaffer, Staples.

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY named the following local students to its spring dean's list: Karen Feia, Cushing; Kaycia Johnson, Cushing; Amy Piekarski, Motley; David Brenna, Staples.

MELISSA ROBERTS, Cushing, recently graduated from Bemidji State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration.

ZACHARY KOSKINIEMI, Staples, has been named to the President's List for the 2009 spring semester at Minnesota State Community and Technical College.



Five generations

Five generations recently gathered for a family photograph. Front, left to right: Joshua Pfaff, great-great grandson of Long Prairie; Karen Hopp, great-grandmother, Staples; Jennie Boyer, great granddaughter holding Anthony Hillerud, great-great grandson; Pearl Hoemberg, great-great grandmother of Staples holding Adam Hillerud, great-great grandson of Long Prairie; Amanda Pfaff, great granddaughter holding Tori Pfaff, great-great granddaughter.

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