

# OBITUARIES



**EDNA IRENE KARNES**

**HOULTON** - Edna Irene Karnes 93, passed away Dec. 3, 2015 at a local healthcare facility. She was born Jan. 16, 1922 in Auburn, the daughter of Leon and Ida Mae (Gagnon) Morris.

Edna was graduated from Edward Little High School, Class of 1940. She worked at Bath Works during the war and there she met her husband Gilbert Karnes. They married in 1946 and enjoyed 48 years together. She raised their four boys with soft hands and a tough heart. Edna was a member of the Houlton United Methodist Church for 60 years. She was a member and past president of the United Methodist Womens Club, the Thursday Bible Group and the Outreach. Edna was member of the Houlton Garden Club, the Four Seasons Senior Citizens, the Rachel Circle and the Ebbett Circle. She was well liked by many and had an infinity for caring for others. She volunteered weekly at the Good As New store and during Christmas season at the Salvation Army.

Edna is survived by her four sons; Gerald "Moose" Karnes and his wife Leitha of Houlton, Gilbert Karnes and his wife Susan of LaGrange, Steven Karnes and his wife Susan of Chesapeake, VA, Chalmer Karnes and his wife Sandy of Houlton; eleven grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren; a sister Lucille Wiers; several nieces and nephews; four special friends; Ann Brown, Audrey Green, Rhoda Veysey and Evelyn Goding. She was predeceased by her parents, her husband Gilbert Karnes, four brothers, four sisters and a grandson Richard Karnes.

Friends may call at the Houlton United Methodist Church Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015 1:00PM until the time of the service 2:00PM with Rev. Victor Han officiating. Interment will be in the Evergreen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made in Edna's memory payable to the Houlton United Methodist Church c/o Dunn Funeral Home 11 Park Street Houlton, 04730. Online condolences and guest book: [dunnfuneral.com](http://dunnfuneral.com)

## MAXINE LAVWAY DRUMMOND

**PRESQUE ISLE-** Maxine Lavway Drummond 72, passed away unexpectedly Dec. 2, 2015 at her home. She was born April 14, 1943 in Presque Isle, the daughter of Lewis and Geraldine (Crouse) Drake.

Maxine worked as a secretary at Presque Isle City Hall, Maine Potato Growers, and The Aroostook Medical Center.

Maxine is survived by her husband Richard Drummond of Mars Hill, three sons; Mark Lavway and his wife Rose Mary of Westfield, Jeff Lavway of Mapleton, Bruce Lavway and his wife Danielle of Sinclair, two step-sons; Richard Drummond and his wife Lisa of Windham and James Cyr of Bethel, three step-daughters; Jean Schildhauer and her husband Joseph of Houston, TX. Susan L. Cantara and her husband Chris of Biddeford, and Tanya Eliog of Bethel, a step-son-in-law Donald Sloan of Austin, TX., three brothers; Barry Drake and his wife Gayla of Poland, ME., Gary Drake of Chapman, and Larry Drake of Presque Isle, a sister Alma Hitchcock and her husband Gilbert of Caribou, two grandchildren; Chad and Peter, a great-granddaughter Cameron, step-grandchildren; Allison and Joseph Schildhauer, Madison Cantara, Emily and Anna Drummond. She was predeceased by her first husband Pete Lavway and a step-daughter Tamara J. Sloan.

Friends may call 9-11AM Saturday, Dec.5, 2015 at Duncan-Graves Funeral Home, 30 Church Street, Presque Isle where funeral services will be held at 11AM. Interment will be at North Main Street Catholic Cemetery.

Online condolences may be shared at [www.duncan-graves.com](http://www.duncan-graves.com)



**CLAUDE R. "CUBBY" CONDON**

**FORT FAIRFIELD** - Claude R. "Cubby" Condon, 75, husband of Delia (Driscoll) Condon, went home to be with the Lord, Wednesday afternoon December 2, 2015 at a Bangor healthcare facility, following a very brief illness. He was born January 22, 1940 in Easton, the son of Fred and Velma (Harmon) Condon.

Cubby attended Fort Fairfield schools and was married to Delia Driscoll on October 16, 1959. He had been employed over the years by Vahlsing Enterprises, Potato Service, and many years at Michaud and Michaud, retiring from Buck Construction as a truck driver. Cubby was a dedicated member of the Presque Isle Bethany Baptist Church where he served as deacon and served the Lord any way he could.

Mr. Condon is survived by his wife of 56 wonderful years, Delia Condon; one son and daughter-in-law, Darren and Shelly Condon, all of Fort Fairfield; two daughters and sons-in-law, Betty and Stan Foster of Fort Fairfield and Gloria and David McCleary of Bridgewater. Cubby was the middle child of 12 siblings and also leaves behind two brothers, Clifford and Roger Condon, both of Easton; three sisters, Vera Driscoll of Easton, Barbara Mersereau of Connecticut, and Brenda Bell of Bradley; five grandchildren; five great grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Friends may call Sunday December 6, 2015 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Giberson-Dorsey Funeral Home, 144 Main Street, Fort Fairfield. The funeral service and celebration of love will be conducted Monday December 7, 2015 at 12:00 noon at the Bethany Baptist Church, 24 Second Street, Presque Isle with the Rev. James Ackerson and Rev. Bud Fancy officiating. A time of continued fellowship with refreshments will follow in the church reception area. Spring interment will take place at Pine Tree Cemetery, Easton. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may contribute in Cubby's memory to the Condon Family, 10 Maple Grove Road, Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742. Envelopes will be available at both the funeral home and church. Online condolences may be expressed at [gibersondorseyfuneralhome.com](http://gibersondorseyfuneralhome.com)



## Candle lighting to be held in Sangerville

**SANGERVILLE** — A Worldwide Candle Lighting observance will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at Hall's Christmas Tree Farm, 816 Douty Hill Road. For one hour, at 7 p.m., candles will be lit in every time zone around the globe to produce a 24-hour wave of light that gradually moves around the planet. The observance commemorates and honors children who have died from any cause, transcending ethnic, cultural, religious and political boundaries.

Organizers said they have contacted churches, civic groups, hospitals and community leaders to invite them to participate in the remembrance at the tree farm or to hold their own gatherings in churches, town halls and in their own homes with their families.

Free candles with the Worldwide Candle Lighting message attached will be handed out at the tree farm. Linda Hall, who lost her young son in a climbing accident in Colorado, will play the harp from 1 to 3 p.m. The remembrance will last until 8 p.m. For information, visit Facebook or call the farm at 564-3603.

**Donna L. McGreevy-Denson, 59,** passed away Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at Eastern Maine Medical Center. She was born March 11, 1956 in Millinocket, the daughter of Donald P. and Olivia M. (Steeves) McGreevy.

Donna grew up in Millinocket, and was a graduate of Stearns High School, class of 1974. She was also a graduate of Forsyth Technical Community College, class of 1984. While growing up, she developed a love of athletics, which matured into that of becoming an avid (ravid!) fan of the New England Patriots. Donna was also a lifelong devotee of the theater, and was a thespian her entire life. After high school, Donna joined the Navy, and served for four years, taking her honorable discharge in 1978 after the birth of her son. She spent the majority of her life taking care of the elderly and the sick.

In addition to her mother of Millinocket, Donna is survived by two children, Shawn Pope Denson of Martins Ferry, Ohio, and Ashley

Elizabeth Sanders and her husband Joshua of Jeffersonville, Indiana; four grandchildren, Lillian Rosemary Denson and Kimber Leann Denson, Cameron Dale Sanders, and Samantha Christine Sanders; two sisters, Christie J. McGreevy of Millinocket, and Letricia Gillis of Toronto, Ontario; a step brother and sister in law, Ernie Steeves and his wife Cathy of Orono; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by her father, step father, Ernie Steeves, Sr., a brother, Donald Scott McGreevy, and a sister, Susan Dorine McGreevy.

Memorial services will be held 7 P.M. Friday, December 4, 2015 at the Lamson Funeral Home, 11 Tamarack St., Millinocket with the Rev. Regginal Adams officiating. Spring interment will be at the Millinocket Cemetery.

Gifts in memory of Donna may be sent to EMMC CancerCare, 33 Whiting Hill Road, Brewer, ME 04412.

Messages of condolence may be expressed at [www.lamsonfh.com](http://www.lamsonfh.com).

## BY LISA GUTIERREZ

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Cole and Elizabeth Donelson quit their jobs, sold all their furniture, put their wedding gifts and other sentimental keepsakes in storage and on Aug. 18 set out from Kansas City on the trip of their young lives.

Between now and next August they plan to visit all 59 U.S. national parks, sharing their adventures on social media and, they hope, inspiring others — especially their peers — to partake of the great outdoors.

The things they've seen so far.

The early morning fog in the Great Smoky Mountains. The picture-postcard sunrise at Cadillac Mountain in Maine. Pools of crystal-clear water at Zion National Park in Utah.

At Niagara Falls, Elizabeth grinned and clapped like a birthday girl when she felt the mist on her face.

At the top of Wheeler Peak in Great Basin National Park, they looked down on yellow Aspen trees just beginning to change into their fall colors.

And they probably know the Starbucks menu by heart now.

"We sometimes spend an embarrassing amount of time hanging out at Starbucks because we're blogging," Cole said.

A few days ago he wanted to kayak at the Everglades, but Elizabeth was less eager. She's not a big fan of "unpredictable" wild things like bears — and alligators. But she is a good sport.

So she kayaked with her husband through the mangrove-clogged waters, watching for alligators around every corner, hoping one wouldn't try to climb aboard.

"I'm kind of a homebody in general," Elizabeth said. "So this is a big challenge for me."

Pending Thanksgiving on the road last week away from loved ones challenged them, too.

Thank goodness for Golden Corral, they told people following them at @switchbackkids on Twitter and on Facebook.

"One of the big goals of our trip is not just to have a personal adventure but to share our adventure with everyone we can," Cole said. "People hear that you're going off on a year of travel, and they immediately think, 'I could never do that.'"

"Honestly, we were really lucky with how things fell into place. But I challenge people to at least consider that whatever your dream is ... think about it. It might be

more possible than you think."

Cole and Elizabeth found out how "possible" this trip is when they started their research and found online that another couple — another husband-and-wife team from the KC area of all places — had already done it.

Don and Shelly Hafner, who live in Johnson County, set out to visit all 59 parks on April 1, 2014 and finished their trip on June 5, 2015. They chronicled their year-long trip on Twitter, too, using the hashtag @59NationalParks.

Shelly Hafner, an avid photographer, created a portfolio along the way of images of the parks "that we don't think many people have," Don Hafner said.

They completed their trip in an RV, which they used to access 41 of the 59 parks; the rest of the parks they reached by plane. They advised Cole and Elizabeth before the younger couple set out.

The Donelsons both grew up in the St. Louis area — he in Wildwood, she in Washington. They met at the University of Missouri, where he was a business and journalism major and she majored in education. They graduated in 2012.

Jobs brought them to Kansas City, and they got married about a year later.

Until they both quit to take this trip, Elizabeth was teaching sixth grade in the Park Hill School District and Cole was working at Cerner.

They're both outdoorsy. One day on a hike they started talking about bucket lists and realized they both wanted someday to visit all the country's national parks, not realizing at the time that there are 59 of them — "90 percent we had never heard of before," Cole said.

"Then somehow it evolved into the crazy idea of the visiting all those parks within one year," Cole wrote on their blog. "This year of full park immersion would be full of backpacking, trail cooking, kayaking, mountain biking, camping 6 nights a week and any other adventures that come our way."

"And finally we decided our best option was to take the most irresponsible and non-conventional step of our lives: press pause on our careers and take on the challenge and adventure of our lives. Carpe diem style."

They dubbed themselves "The Switchback Kids" and created a website and a Facebook page where people can follow them. Their Instagram page is stuffed with photos.

**CALAIS** - Carmelita "Carmen" Losmagos Diffin, 74, passed away Tuesday, December 1, 2015. Carmen was born in Paranaque Rizal, Philippines, on December 19, 1940, daughter of the late Gonzalo and Aurelia Losmagos.

Carmen was passionate about her family and friends. She had great love for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was an active member of her community, spending many years as part of the American Legion Auxiliary and the V.F.W. Auxiliary. Carmen was lovingly referred to as "Nana" or "Ate" by those closest to her. Nana loved to travel and cook, and will be remembered by many for her now famous Lumpia. For all those that were lucky enough to be part of her life, we will always remember her for her humor, love, kindness, and grace.

Nana was predeceased by her husband of 30 years, Richard Diffin Sr. Surviving are her sister Abrelita Gurney and husband John of Auburndale, FL; a brother Albert Jaime and his wife



**CARMELITA "CARMEN" LOSMAGOS DIFFIN**

Sharon of the Philippines; two daughters, Carmela Warren and husband Bill of Calais, Carlota Verge and husband James of Brewer; two sons, Richard Diffin Jr. and wife Stephanie of Newport News, VA, and Randal Diffin and wife Jessica of Barrington, NH; five grandchildren, Jaime Mitchell and special partner Ian O'Hara; Christie Fish and husband Joshua, Randi DeWitt and special partner Samuel Hayward, Kristen Diffin, and Aurelia Diffin; three grandsons, Derrell Diffin, Jordan Verge, Dominic Diffin; great-grandchildren, Ava, James, and Alex; a nephew Aron; and numerous loving relatives and friends.

Visiting hours will be held 12 noon until 1 p.m. Saturday, December 12, 2015 at Mays Funeral Home, 26 Church St., Calais, where a funeral service will begin at 1 p.m. with Father Kevin Martin officiating. Burial will follow in Brewer Cemetery, Robbinston.

Condolences and memories may be shared at [www.maysfuneralhome.com](http://www.maysfuneralhome.com)

# Couple quit jobs to visit all 59 national parks

finished we could be proud of what we had accomplished."

They only eat out one or two times per week when they get tired of fixing meals on a camp stove. They grocery shop and carry perishables like meat in an ice-filled cooler. They eat eggs for breakfast, granola bars if they're in a hurry; sandwiches for lunch. They've made tacos, chili and Ramen noodles with sausage for dinner.

So far the weather hasn't been much hindrance because they planned around it.

"You don't want to be in Glacier National Park on the border of Canada when it's January," Cole said. "Not just because you'd be cold and miserable, but a lot of the parks close specific areas in the season. Sometimes they close the whole park."

They already ran into one glitch at Isle Royale National Park on Lake Superior when they didn't realize that the ferry running to the park stops at the beginning of October, "and we were trying to get in in the middle of October," Cole said. "So when we saw that, we had to do a whole re-route of our second leg."

The first stop on their trip was at Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado. From there they looped through the Southwest, back to Kansas City and St. Louis to catch up with family and friends, then headed to parks in the Northeast before the cold set in.

From Maine they worked down the East Coast, through Virginia and South Carolina to Florida. "We basically raced the winter weather down to Florida," Cole said.

The trip has not only tested their resourcefulness, "but it's definitely a big relationship test to travel with anyone, even for a short amount of time," Elizabeth said.

They counted up that in the first six weeks of their trip they spent only six hours apart from each other. One thing they've gotten good at: disagreeing.

"You can't put off an argument," Elizabeth said. "You can't just leave the room or leave the car or leave the tent."

They will stay in the Virgin Islands for the next nine days — the longest stay of their trip — and Elizabeth is ready.

As much as she enjoys hiking and biking around mountains, she loves warm beaches more.

Perhaps the best part? No alligators.