

NEWS/OBITUARIES



Alice McColley
February 23, 1942 —
May 24, 2025

Alice Ann McColley, age 83, of Wahpeton, ND, passed away on May 24, 2025, at Serenity Living of Sebeka, Sebeka, MN. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, June 5, 2025, at 2 p.m., with visitation one hour before the service at Vertin-Munson Funeral Home in Wahpeton. Pastor Shandon Klein will officiate the service.

Alice Ann Swanson was born on February 23, 1942, at Breckenridge, MN to C.R. “Whitey” and Edith (Klosterman) Swanson. She was baptized at the Fairmount Methodist Church. Growing up, Alice attended school in Fairmount, ND, and graduated from Fairmount High School in 1960. In 1964, she married George McColley. Their daughter Debra was born in 1966. The family traveled the world and moved often, making their home from Spain to Texas as George

was with the United States Air Force. When George retired in 1997, the couple returned to his hometown of Indianapolis, Indiana. George passed away in 2001.

Alice returned to North Dakota to live closer to her extended family, making her home in Wahpeton, ND, for a time. When health issues, including Parkinson’s Disease, prevented her from living on her own, she resided at the MN Veteran’s Home in Fergus Falls and Serenity Living in Sebeka, MN, where she received excellent care.

Alice was an avid reader who could “make words sing” in her writing, and always “tested” herself with difficult puzzles. She loved fishing, shopping, and traveling.

She is survived by her daughter, Debra (Lee) Crase of Columbus, Indiana; her sister-in-law, Carmen Swanson of Fairmount, ND, sisters; Constance Smith, Carrollton, MO, Dorothy (Peter) Hermes, Ashby, MN and Carol (Bill) Kessler, Portland, OR; as well as many nieces, grand nieces, nephews and grand nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; brother, Ron Swanson; and brother-in-law, Jim Smith. Burial will take place in Tipton, IN. Vertin-Munson Funeral Home in Wahpeton is in charge of arrangements.



Sherman Johnson
October 16, 1931 —
January 20, 2025

Sherman Johnson passed away on January 20, 2025.

On June 7, 2025 a funeral will be held in Amor at Zion Lutheran Church Amor Visitation is from 10-11. Service will be held at 11:00. Lunch will be served following service.

Zion Lutheran Church Amor, 36051 Co Hwy 74, Battle lake, Minnesota 56515

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Beginning on the night of May 31, 1921, thousands of white citizens in Tulsa, Oklahoma descended on the city’s predominantly Black Greenwood District, burning homes and businesses to the ground and killing hundreds of people. Long mischaracterized as a race riot, rather than mass murder, the Tulsa Race Massacre stands as one of the worst incidents of racial violence in the nation’s history.

In the years following World War I, segregation was the law of the land, and the Ku Klux Klan was gaining ground — not only in the Jim Crow South, but across the United States. Amid that charged environment, Tulsa’s African American community was nationally recognized for its affluence. The Greenwood District, known as “Black Wall Street,” boasted more than 300 Black-owned businesses, including two movie theaters, doctors’ offices and pharmacies.

On May 30, 1921, a young Black man named Dick Rowland entered an elevator in an office building in downtown Tulsa. At some point, Rowland was alone in the elevator with its white operator, Sarah Page. It’s unclear what happened next (one common version is that Rowland stepped on Page’s foot) but Page screamed, and Rowland fled the scene. The next day, the police arrested him.

Rumors about the incident spread quickly through Tulsa’s white community, some members of which undoubtedly resented the prosperity of the Greenwood District. After a story published in the Tulsa Tribune on the afternoon of May 31 claimed that Rowland had attempted to rape Page, an angry white mob gathered in front of the courthouse, demanding that Rowland be handed over.

Seeking to prevent a lynching, a group of some 75 Black men arrived on the scene that night, some of them World War I veterans who were carrying weapons. After a white man tried to disarm a Black veteran and the gun went off, chaos broke out.

Over the next 24 hours, thousands of white rioters poured into the Greenwood District, shooting unarmed Black citizens in the streets and burning an area of some 35 city blocks, including more than 1,200 Black-owned houses, numerous businesses, a school, a hospital and a dozen churches. Historians believe as many as 300 people were killed in the rampage, though official counts at the time were much lower.

By the time Governor James Robertson declared martial law, and National Guard troops arrived in Tulsa by noon on June 1, the Greenwood District lay in ruins. Survivors of the massacre worked to rebuild the neighborhood, but segregation remained in force in Tulsa (and the nation) and racial tensions only grew, even as the massacre and its lingering scars were left largely unacknowledged by the white community for decades to come.

In 1997, the Oklahoma state legislature created the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 (later renamed the Tulsa Race Massacre Commission), which studied the massacre and recommended that reparations be paid to the remaining Black survivors. City officials continue to investigate the events of May 31–June 1, 1921, and to search for unmarked graves used to bury the massacre’s many victims.

Retiree is ready to make time for herself

DEAR ABBY: I have spent 40 years serving the public and my country, putting other people first and feeling guilty if I didn’t. However, I am becoming resentful of the demands for my time.



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

qualified. **DEAR ABBY:** The floor I work on has a cluster

I’m retired, and my husband still works. We have always split the expenses 50–50, even though I make less than 40% of his income. Once I retired, my share of the household chores and errands increased from 75% to 90%. I wanted to make life easier for my husband, but now he expects me to run personal errands for him, too. All the wear and tear and gas usage is borne by my car, which is considerably older than his.

I have a friend and walking partner who has been having different issues she needs help with. She has always talked about the close friends she has known for decades and sees regularly. They all live about 20 minutes away and are retired, in good health and able to drive. I offered her my help in the past, but now she and her friends think I should be her go-to person since I live closer to her than they do.

I have my own schedule and routine now. I like having some days free to do what I feel like and not have to fulfill demands from others. How do I let people know MY time is valuable and discourage them from expecting me to help them? — TOO NICE AND HELPFUL

DEAR TOO NICE: It is not a crime to tell someone you don’t have time to do what they want you to do. It’s time to sign up for some assertiveness training so you can learn how to say no. (No, I’m not kidding.) If you do as I suggest, it might even improve your marriage. Your doctor or health insurance company can refer you to someone

of offices surrounding a central kitchen area. Fifteen of us share the appliances, including a hot water reservoir with a tap. The building is old and has lead pipes, so a service brings in large plastic bottles for a water cooler. Usually, whoever arrives first in the morning fills the tank on the water heater from the cooler, and we all use it to make hot drinks during the day.

I just found out that a new employee has been filling the tank from the contaminated tap! When I asked her about it, she said that the microplastics in the water jugs were more dangerous than the lead in the pipes. She’s very committed to this idea and is not going to budge. I don’t think this is right. I will heat my own water from now on, but how should I warn the others in the office? The source of our tea water seems like a silly thing to start an office tiff over, but I also think people need to know their water is unsafe. — NOT DRINKING IN NEW YORK

DEAR NOT DRINKING: I agree the employees in your office should know about this. At least they will be on notice about which “poison” they are consuming. Report this to HR or your employer, so the announcement can come from on high and you can stay out of the line of fire.

DEAR ABBY is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Robert Lenzen
July 13, 1956 —
May 26, 2025

Robert J. Lenzen, 68 of Hankinson, ND passed away Monday, May 26, 2025 at his home in Hankinson. Visitation will be Saturday, May 31, 2025 from 1 to 2 p.m. followed by the funeral mass at 2 p.m. all at St. Francis Convent Chapel, Hankinson. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery, Hankinson.

Robert (Bob) Joseph Lenzen was born July 13, 1956 to Maurice and Julia (Birnbaum) Lenzen at St. Francis Hospital, Breckenridge, MN along with his twin brother Ronald (Ron) Lenzen.

Bob started his life on a farm west of Hankinson and at the age of 4 moved with his family to the Lenzen farm SW of Hankinson, a dairy, grain and feed crop farm. Growing up he helped with feeding calves and later milking cows.

He played football in high school and graduated from Hankinson High School in 1975. After graduation he

worked for Paul Zietlow construction. He attended NDSSS from 1977-1979 and graduated from the electrical technology program. He then went to work for Minnkota Power Company based out of Grand Forks. He worked on a substation crew. In 2000 Bob retired and lived out his retirement years in Hankinson.

Bob was a member of St. Philip’s Catholic Church and served on the church council.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Gerard.

His family left to mourn him are his twin brother Ron (Robin) Lenzen; Hankinson; sisters Paulette (Keith) Martin, Westhope, Marcy (Kevin) Lech, Mandan and Nadine (Quentin) Larson; Hankinson; sister-in-law Marge Lenzen, Hankinson; niece Danielle (Scott) Gnadt, Horace; nephews Jeremy Martin, West Fargo, Josh (Jenni) Lenzen, Hankinson, Cameron Lenzen, Hankinson, Kendrick Lenzen, Fargo, Matthew (Skylar) Lech, Brooklyn, NY, Adam (Carli) Lech, Bismarck; step nephew Gavin Gereszek, Hankinson; great nephews Henrick Lenzen, Jack Gnadt, Silas Lech; great nieces Thia Lech and Henley Lenzen; and many cousins.

God bless the memory of Bob!

Online guestbook:www.frankfamilyfuneralhome.com

Casey John Cimbura
March 23, 1982 —
May 1, 2025

Casey John Cimbura, a 43-year-old resident of Denver, CO, passed away on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at his home.

Casey was born to Craig Cimbura and the late Lisa Grant on March 23, 1982, in Breckenridge, MN.

Celebration of Life is at Wahpeton Park in the Rosemeade Chalet on June 28, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

District 25 Republicans Ratification Meeting

Purpose: To ratify the results of the May 10th Reorganizational Meeting.

Tuesday, June 10th @ 7:00pm
Wyndmere Community Center

Membership dues are \$25 and may be paid on or before the meeting day.

NOTICE TO VOTERS OF FAIRMOUNT FIRE DISTRICT RICHLAND COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA OF SPECIAL MEETING AND ELECTION TO AUTHORIZE EXCESS TAX LEVY

Notice is hereby given that the governing body of Fairmount Fire District, Richland County, North Dakota has declared by resolution, that the amount of taxes which may be raised at the maximum rate authorized by Chapter 18-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is inadequate for the necessary requirements of the fire district and that it is necessary to levy taxes in excess of said limitation for the purpose of meeting current expenses. The issue of approval or rejection of a 8 mill excess levy for tax years 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, and 2034 will be presented to the voters at a special meeting called for that purpose on June 10th, 2025 at the Fairmount Community Center at 9 o'clock AM, the total amount of income for the year 2024 was \$138,463.50, the total expenditures for the year 2024 were \$141,426.28. The estimated expenditures for each of the years for which the excess levies are sought are \$150,000.00. The aggregate amount of the tax levy which the board seeks authority to make for each year is \$128,000.00. The aggregate amount of the tax levy permissible without special authority from the electors for each year is \$49,000.00. The amount of tax levy in excess of the statutory limit which the board seeks authority to make for each year is \$79,000.00. Total revenue as stated above includes revenue from all sources and not only revenue from the current year's tax levy.

Dated this 29th day of May, 2025.

Kyle D. Kutzer
Secretary/Treasurer of Board
Kyle D Kutzer

HANKINSON'S 10TH ANNUAL MUSIC FEST 2025

JUNE 6-7 HISTORIC DOWNTOWN HANKINSON, ND
Hankinson, North Dakota is located 60 miles south of Fargo on I-29
Take Exit 8 and travel 3.5 miles west on ND-11



TWO FULL DAYS OF MUSIC & DANCING

BAND SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY, JUNE 6		SATURDAY, JUNE 7	
Noon-1:30 pm	Leon Olsen Show	Noon-1:30 pm	Matt Hodek's Dakota Dutchemn
1:30-3:00 pm	Matt Hodek's Dakota Dutchemn	1:30-3:00 pm	Leon Olsen Show
3:00-4:30 pm	Leon Olsen Show	3:00-4:30 pm	Matt Hodek's Dakota Dutchemn
4:30-6:00 pm	Matt Hodek's Dakota Dutchemn	4:30-6:00 pm	Leon Olsen Show

ADMISSION: \$20/DAY OR \$30/2-DAY PASS

KICK OFF PARTY:

THURSDAY, JUNE 5 | 6:30-10 PM
\$10 ADMISSION | MUSIC BY LARRY RYSAVY

FREE RV PARKING - NO HOOKUPS | CONCESSIONS & FULL BAR AVAILABLE
For more information: 701.899.3087 | www.hankinsonnd.com/musicfest.html